

# Romany Routes

The journal of the Romany & Traveller Family History Society



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A family photo from the album of new RTFHS member Jane Cooper. The matriarch in the centre is a Boswell. Find out more on page 267.



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## Ronald Willson: the only Romany to have played cricket professionally?

By David Willson



I have recently been in touch with Sussex County Cricket Club. My late father used to play for them. They are in the process of writing a book about the county cricketers of my father's era and he is to be included in this. They tell me that, after checking many sources, they believe my father, Ronald Henry **Willson** (1933-2017), is the only Romany Gypsy to have ever played first-class professional cricket and county cricket in Britain.

After doing National Service in the Royal Air Force, Ronald emigrated to Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) in 1960 and he played one game of first-class cricket there before becoming the coach of the Rhodesian national cricket team. This is a photo of my father when he first played cricket for the Sussex Second Eleven.

He was born in Newhaven, Sussex, in 1933 and he died in Harare, Zimbabwe, in 2017.

**The Editor adds:** "Did any members of your Romany, Traveller or Fairground family take part in any sports at a county, national or international level in times past?"

We have reported before in *Romany Routes* about Billy Joe Saunders who was a member of the British boxing team at the Olympics in Beijing in 2008 and also the equestrian Phoebe Buckley who took part in the 2012 Olympics in London. An earlier Romany Olympian was Clifford **Chilcott** (1898-1970). He was in the Canadian wrestling team that participated at the Olympic Games in Paris in 1924. Born in Blackpool, Lancashire, Clifford had a distinguished British Romany heritage, being the son of Georgina **Young** and Edward Watts Chilcott and the grandson of Dorelia **Boswell** and Albert Young (aka **Heron/Herne**) of the Blackpool Gypsy community. You can read more about him in *Romany Routes* Volume 10 No. 3 (June 2011).

Whose names can you add to this honours board of Romany sportsmen and women? Please let us know about them: my contact details are on the inside front cover."

# Can you help...?

...Romany and Fairground community in Northallerton, Yorkshire?

**David Willson writes:** “Does anyone know anything about a community of Romany Gypsies and Showmen and women who lived or still live in Northallerton in Yorkshire? In recent months I’ve discovered some 15 related families all living in and around that town. When I did a Google search on the subject, sites came up that talk about Northallerton being a headquarters of some kind for Travelling people but they don’t say when. Can anyone help?”

...Are they Job and Moreni Smith? Or Henry Loveridge and Sarah Smith?



**Tracey Waters says:** “I have a bit of a mystery with this photo and wonder if any RTFHS members can help.

I’ve seen the photo in a number of places on the internet with the people in it named as Job and Moreni **Smith**. But a member of my family has inherited an original print of the same photo from her mum Tilly who died in 2011 aged 100. She is certain that the people in it are her great-grandparents, Henry **Loveridge** and Sarah **Smith**.

Henry Loveridge and Sarah Smith have been hard to find in family history records so far. So did they in fact go officially by the names Job and Moreni Smith? Or have the people in this photo been misidentified? Does anyone know anything about the photo?

If they are Henry Loveridge and Sarah Smith, it would mean that they are the likely parents of my great-grandfather Stephen **Parker** aka William **Ellis**. Tilly’s daughter is sure that my Stephen is the brother of her grandmother. He was certainly a member of her family. She has photos of him in her family album – but he died so long ago, back in 1935, that he is only a distant family memory.”

The reason for writing this article about my Wards was in the faint hope that there may be RTFHS members out there who would be able to pass on to me any information, no matter how small, that they may have on my Ward family, in particular, Harold (or Harry or Henry), his son Charles and his grandchildren Charles, Jane, William and in particular Henry?

**The Editor adds:** “If you are researching the Ward family and have any information to offer Steve, please contact me in the first instance. My contact details are on the inside front cover. Thank you. The Doe Family Tree book that Steve mentions is currently out of print but author Stephen Doe is working on an updated and expanded second edition. Look out for announcements in *Romany Routes*, on the RTFHS website and on the RTFHS Facebook page when this book is available again.”

## What do you know about...?

### ...Mrs Bacchus and the Cheshire Boswells?

An item in the *Liverpool Echo* of 29 May 1930 reports:

*“LINK WITH GIPSY QUEEN. A direct link with the famous Boswell tribe of Romanies exists at Sandbach, Cheshire. Living in one of the pretty almshouse is a Mrs Bacchus, an old lady whose great great grandchild is a direct descendant of the famous gipsy queen of the Boswell tribe. The child has also two great-grandfathers, one great-grandmother, and its grandmother. With the exception of the great-grandmother, who was a daughter of Mrs Bacchus, and who died last year, there are five generations living. Mrs Bacchus, who attains her 90th year next year, celebrated her diamond wedding nearly ten years ago. She had lived all her life in a little thatched cottage until she was granted an almshouse.”*

**The Editor says:** “Do you know anything about Mrs **Bacchus** and her connections to the **Boswells** of Cheshire and surrounding counties? Please contact the Editor - details on the inside front cover - if you do. And if you come across any references to Romany, Traveller or Fairground individuals during your research who aren’t directly related to you but who you find intriguing, please tell us about them so we can share them with other RTFHS members.”

# The Wallser Family

By Stephen Smith

In *Romany Routes* Vol 14 No. 4 (September 2019), Anne Stevens posed the question as to whether her Romany roots may come from the **Wallser** family, who married into the **Scotts**. Research into the Wallser family will leave the matter undecided, I would suggest. They did not have Romany roots, but to the authorities of the day, they were travelling hawkers and were often classed in the same manner as Gypsies.

The Wallser family may well have come across from Germany in the 18th century: John Wallser (born about 1746) appears to have settled in Stepney, London, working as a turner. His first wife, Sarah, died and on 9 July 1780 he married Mary **Tedder** at St Paul's, Deptford. Having already three children (Thomas, Sarah and William), he had three further children with Mary (Mary, John and Martha). It was from his eldest son Thomas (born in 1765) that the following family have descended.

My account starts with Thomas Wallser (1824-1877) who married Sarah **Gruby** at the Parish Church, Bethnal Green on 24 November 1838.

They were both described as minors, meaning they were under 21 years of age. Thomas' occupation was recorded as hawker, and his father (also Thomas) was a box-maker. Both signed their name with an X. Thomas and Sarah lived in the East End of London for most of their lives. They had ten children:

## 1. Thomas John Wallser (1839-1922)

Thomas was born in Mile End on 18 November 1839 and christened on 26 December at Saint Dunstan's, Stepney. He served as water boy for Tom **Sayers**, the bare-knuckle fighter and at the age of 14 joined a circus, possibly **Sangers**, where he played Beeswing the Clown. He married Eliza **Oldridge** at Stoke Damerel, Devon, in 1869. In 1875 he was travelling around Plymouth in Devon, working on **Purchase's** Waxworks. In 1881 they were living at 12 Martin Street, Plymouth; the census simply records him as a traveller. In the early 1880s he opened the Fancy Fair on Phoenix Street, Plymouth. The police voiced their concern about the morals of some of the young girls who frequented the fair. In 1891 Thomas and Eliza



### About the author

Stephen Smith is the editor of the Fairground Society journal *Platform* and has written several books on fairground history with co-author and fellow researcher, Kevin Scrivens. They are also trustees at the Fairground Heritage Centre in Devon, home of the Fairground Heritage Trust. Between them they have built a family tree of travelling showmen and women with over 30,000 people included.



Thomas Wallser and his relations: back row, left to right, Thomas with his common-law wife Susan Snook. Middle row: Harriet Gaskin nee Wallser, Thomas' sister; Susie Wallser, Thomas' daughter; and Mary Ann Rodda. Front row: Harriet Wallser, another daughter of Thomas. This photo, courtesy of former RTFHS member Carolyn Prola, was first published in *Romany Routes* in December 1997.

# Mendoza and Montague

By Anne-Marie Ford

In the autumn of 1869 a stabbing at Chatteris was reported in the *Cambridgeshire Independent Press*:

*"Dozer Gray (20) was charged with wilfully and maliciously wounding Montague Gray with a knife, at Chatteris, on 28th August last...[they] were both Gypsies itinerant chairbottom-menders, and in the body of the court were several of the tribe, easily distinguishable by their bronzed features, jet hair, and flashing eyes to match, eagerly awaiting the result of the trial, in which they were evidently deeply interested.*

*The facts of the case are easily told - on 28th August the prosecutor and the prisoner, the former having claimed to have won a pint, which the prisoner said he had not lost; but he certainly lost his temper, for, without any provocation, he rushed upon the prosecutor, threw him down, kicked him, and stabbed him. The prosecutor called out to a young man, 'Leverage, come to me; he is stabbing me.' Leverage (Loveridge) went to the rescue, pulled the prisoner from the prosecutor, and then it was discovered that the latter was bleeding profusely from the arm. He was taken, in a very weak state, to Dr. Farrow, a*

*surgeon, who stated that he found a severe wound in the left arm, four inches in length, and probably half-an-inch in depth; a small artery was cut, as was a tendon. The use of the hand was lost, the prosecutor could not use it. One rib was fractured. A large knife (handle and blade in one), was produced, and the spots on it were...blood. The prosecutor was under the doctor for about ten days. Verdict: guilty. The prisoner was sentenced to three months' imprisonment with hard labour."*

Dozer Gray, a tramping Gypsy, was brought up on remand, and was, noted the *Cambridgeshire Chronicle and Journal* of 11th September 1869:

*"...charged with cutting and wounding Montague Gray at Chatteris. He was committed for trial at the next Quarter Sessions and his barrister said 'he could not ask for bail, as his client had attempted to escape from prison the previous evening.'*

*The custom was that when prisoners were in the lock-up they were excused for a little in order to exercise in the yard, a police constable being with them. Unfortunately, the*



## About the author

Anne-Marie Ford is the great-great granddaughter of Thomas Boswell, and a descendant of Bucklands, Smiths and Lees, as well as the Boswell tribe. She writes and researches monthly articles for the website Gypsy Genealogy, through which she can be contacted, and has written two books for the RTFHS about the Stanley tribe, which is her specialist area.

# Who are they...?

Photos for identification



**The Editor writes:** "This photo comes from the family album of RTFHS member Penny Daws. It's one of a number of photos she has of members of the East Anglian **Gray** family. Penny kindly sent them to us following our appeal in the December 2019 *Romany Routes* for photos that the author and RTFHS member Mike Harmer might be able to use to illustrate his forthcoming second book about Romany life in Norfolk in times past. Penny doesn't know who this man is. If you do, please get in touch: my contact details are on the inside front cover."



**The Editor says:** "This photo comes from my own family photos. The elderly woman on the far left is my Romany Gypsy great-grandmother Pamela **Sillers** nee **Mullenger**. Her daughter Muriel is sitting in the centre. But who is the woman wearing the glasses and the boy on the right? They look as though they may be attending a wedding together, in the late 1920s or early 1930s. My family belonged to the Blackpool Gypsy community but originated in East Anglia. Their

close relatives include Romanies of the name **Robinson, Young, Boswell, Lee, Heron** and **Smith**. Do you recognise the woman with the glasses or the lad in his school-cap? Please contact me if you do."

# The sad fate of a Showman's children

Contributed by non-member Maurice Hewins

Maurice Hewins is a volunteer at the Rural Life Centre at Tilford near Farnham in Surrey, the venue of a Romany Weekend in June every year. He's kindly sent us a number of news items in the past, discovered during his studies of historic Surrey newspapers. He has also complemented the story below with a present-day photograph of the grave of the Corbett family which stands in Manor Park Cemetery in North London.

**From *The Newsman*, 24 November 1923:**

*"Two children aged 2 and 3 years respectively lost their lives through being burned in a fire on Tuesday night in a fair ground off Barking Road, which was occupied by Mr and Mrs Corbett and their three children, the youngest of which was a baby girl only a few months old.*

*While the parents were in another part of the ground, people in the vicinity heard what appeared to be an explosion and saw flames break out inside the van. Mrs Corbett rushed into the caravan and saved the baby, while some spectators brought out the two elder girls, although in doing so they were burned on their hands and arms.*

*Taken to hospital the girls, Annie and Minnie, were found to be suffering very badly from burns and they both died the same night. The baby was also burned about the hands and face but is not regarded as being in danger.*

*The fire is believed to have been caused by the explosion of an oil lamp. The caravan was completely burnt out."*



**The Editor says:** "Maurice also tells us that *'the baby'* who was said in the newspaper report not to be in danger, in fact died on 22 November 1923, according to the gravestone. Further research by Maurice reveals that Mr **Corbett** - Edward Eli - was a travelling Showman, the operator of a steam-driven pipe organ. He says that other names associated with this family include **Harris**, **Bolswork** and **Oxley**. Our thanks to Maurice for sharing both this story and the photo."

# Web Window

By the *Routes* Editorial Team

SEE PAGE 279  
FOR SOME  
EXAMPLES

**US Passengers and Crew Lists: 2m extra entries - findmypast.co.uk**  
Find My Past has added two million more entries to its collections of passenger lists and crew lists for those who entered the USA at Boston and ports in Texas and South Carolina between 1800 and 1965.

**Northamptonshire Bishops' Transcripts, 1532-1812 - Ancestry.co.uk**  
Ancestry has added to its collection of baptisms, marriages and burials for the county of Northamptonshire by expanding into the 18th century and earlier centuries. The documents are available as digitised images of the original registers.

**Gypsy history display boards on Leicestershire Record Office site**  
<https://tinyurl.com/yx4jyt7h>

The Leicestershire Record Office has devoted a section of its website to Gypsy Roma and Traveller history. It consists of what looks like a series of six display boards, each on a different aspect of travelling life. They include quotes from interviews with Gypsies living in Leicestershire today and old family photos with people of the names of **Boswell, Evon and Smith**.

**First World War Soldiers' Medical Records - Findmypast.co.uk**

A further 21,000 records have been added to this collection. They give details of where WW1 soldiers sustained their injuries, the nature of those injuries and the names of the casualty stations or hospitals where they were subsequently treated.

**Irish civil marriage records, 1845-1944 - free**

[www.irishgenealogy.ie](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie)

Irish Genealogy has added a final batch of marriage records to its free website to offer a complete run of all civil registers of marriages in the Republic of Ireland up to 1944 and up to 1922 for marriages in Northern Ireland. The original certificates can be viewed at no charge, as can birth and death certificates.

**Signposts to British genealogy sources available online, county by county - free: [www.ogindex.org](http://www.ogindex.org)**

If you have an idea of the county where an ancestor was born, married or died but don't know where to find that county's historic parish registers and other records online, try this. The free Online Genealogical Index will take you to the right site in a couple of clicks.

# Ruth Evans: the death of a Welsh centenarian

Contributed by non-member Anne Francis

Non-member Anne Francis kindly included the following press cutting and notes about her Evans family when ordering an RTFHS book recently. She says she first discovered her Evans ancestors with the help of the Gypsy Genealogy website run by RTFHS members Anne-Marie Ford and Eric Trudgill:  
[www.gypsypgenealogy.org](http://www.gypsypgenealogy.org)

From the *Brecon County Times*, 21 December 1916:

**"Brecon Centenarian Dead**  
Mrs Ruth **Evans**, widow of Mr Daniel Evans (himself a well-known individual, who died 13 years ago) died on Sunday last at Silver street, Llanfaes, Brecon, where she had been residing with a widowed daughter, Mrs Jemima Price. It is impossible to ascertain the

*exact age of this remarkable old lady, but it is believed that she was 105 years old. Although getting feeble, she had fairly good health, and the use of all of her faculties up to the 10th inst., and practically to the end her intellect remained clear. She leaves a great number of grandchildren and many great-grandchildren. The funeral takes place to-day at St David's Church."*

**The Editor says:** "A photograph of Ruth Evans accompanies this report of her death in the *Brecon County Times*. However, due to copyright restrictions, we are unfortunately unable to reproduce the photograph here but the newspaper can be seen at the British Newspaper Archive site - [www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk) - and also on Find My Past: [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk).



The Family Tree  
of Daniel and Violetta  
Lovell

From about 1750 to about 1910,  
in most parts of England and several parts of Wales

ERIC TRUDGILL

The Romany and Traveller FHS Famous Romany Families Series: Vol 13

Anne Francis added that in the 1911 census Ruth Evans is with daughter Jemima Price, both 'widowed', at 23 Silver Street, Brecon. Curiously Ruth's place of birth is given as 'At Sea'. Her age is recorded as 90. This means that by the time the newspaper came to report her death five years after the census, she had aged by 15 years rather than five. In fact, Ruth had been baptised in Longdon, Worcestershire, on 23 June 1823, the daughter of Durant and Susanna Lovell. Ruth's family tree features in the RTFHS publication *The Family Tree of Daniel and Violetta Lovell* by Eric Trudgill: more information on the RTFHS website at: <https://rtfhs.org.uk/publications/gypsy-families/>

# Book Reviews

## *Tales My Family Told Me: A Romany Life*

By Vivien Cooper

60 pages, A4 paperback with photographs in black-and-white

Available to order at [Amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk) and at [Lulu.com](https://www.lulu.com)

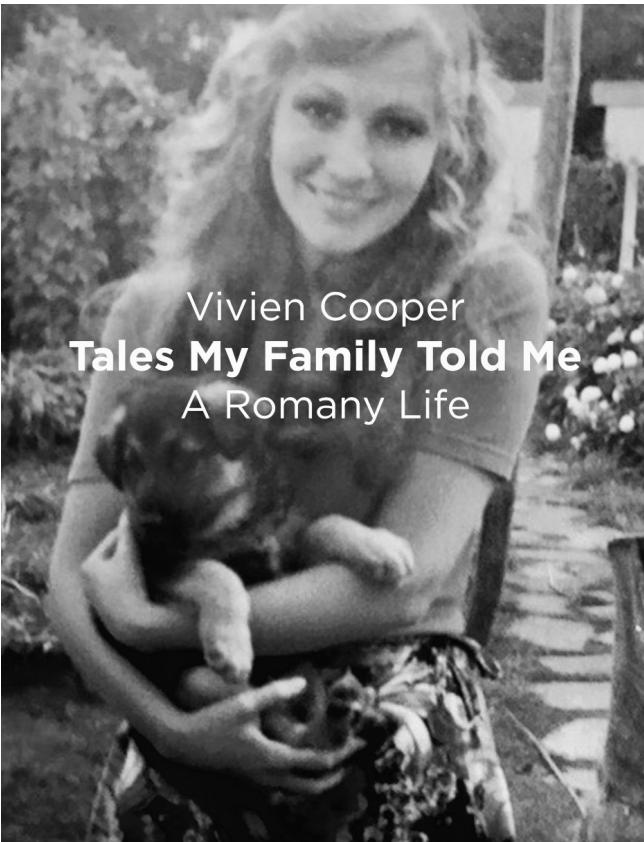
£14.00

**The Editor writes:** “Many RTFHS members will remember the series of articles published regularly in *Romany Routes* between 2011 and

2016, from the pen of member Vivien Cooper. They appeared under the feature title *Tales My Family Told Me*. Now Vivien has collected these stories together, and added new ones, to create a book so that a wider audience can enjoy them. The result is a charming and highly readable account of growing up at the heart of a Romany family in Middlesex in the mid-20th century, surrounded by older relatives for whom the Romany traditions of oral history and story-telling were a vital part of everyday life.

Vivien is a descendant of the famous Royal Ratcatcher Matty **Cooper** (1816-1900), as a family tree in her book shows. It's also illustrated with numerous black-and-white photos taken from Vivien's family album, some of which have never been published before. Some of the surnames mentioned in the *Tales*, in addition to Cooper, are **Taylor, Summers, Ball, Kefford, Bryant, Saunders, Fletcher** and **Costa**.

Vivien has self-published this book with the help of the [Lulu.com](https://www.lulu.com) website and editorial assistance from RTFHS member and friend Anne-Marie Ford. It's an excellent example of how budding authors can easily preserve and distribute their own family histories without having to be an expert in book design and production. And by publishing through Lulu, we understand that you can choose to have your book available on major book retailing sites like [Amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk) as well as from the Lulu site itself, so making it simple for friends and family and the general public to buy copies without you having to get involved in taking payments and sending



Vivien Cooper

**Tales My Family Told Me**  
A Romany Life

out the orders yourself. If you buy a copy of Vivien's book, please think about writing your own review and sending it to us: my contact details are on the inside front cover. Thank you."

## Some Gypsies at Dorchester Fair

Contributed by Jeremy Harte

The following discovery by RTFHS Committee Member Jeremy Harte comes from the book *Moss Green Days* by Ralph Wightman, published in 1947. The extract was included in our displays at the RTFHS Society Day in Dorchester, Dorset, in May 2019.

*"On February 15<sup>th</sup> there is held a reasonably large sale of sheep and cattle at Dorchester (Dorset) which is all that remains of Candlemas Fair. My friend did not know the fair was on, until he went to his favourite pub at lunch time. He found this full of Gypsies. All the local Gypsies were there, plus families from the neighbouring counties, greeting each other, talking, laughing, singing, keeping up the fair in the way fairs have always been kept up. Out in the big yard at the back of the inn were half a dozen shaggy horses – Gypsies have always been horse dealers. Then there were dozens of silent dark-eyed babies with a host of slightly older children in charge of them, and an amazing collection of dogs. They did not bark in the way that farm dogs bark. They were very wide awake but quite silent. There was something furtive about them. It needed little imagination to see them coursing a rabbit, or hare, without any betraying noise, and slinking back with their prey to an equally silent owner. I hope the Gypsies will continue to come to the fairs. They still live an unmechanised life."*

### Any other interesting references to Gypsy/Traveller/Fairground people in old non-fiction works?

If you come across a short snippet about British Gypsies, Travellers or Fairground people in an historic non-fiction book or magazine like the one above, why not share it with us? It would be helpful if you could type the extract out and send it as an email attachment, with the book or magazine's title, author, publisher and year of publication. The Editor's details are on the inside front cover.

*Our illustration shows the young Welsh Gypsy Esmeralda Lock, from Hubert Smith's autobiographical book "Tent Life with English Gipsies in Norway", published in 1873.*



# From parish registers and certificates

*Romany Routes* has a long tradition of bringing you finds from parish registers and, in the past few years, we've also asked you to let us have your transcriptions of birth, marriage and death certificates.

As always, to protect people's privacy, we will only publish details of births/baptisms that took place before December 1920, marriages before December 1940 and deaths/burials before December 1965. Our thanks to Tracey Waters for the **Parker** and **Johnson/Gill** items below; and to Chrissie Allen and Jean Matthews nee Hope for the **Hope** items. We look forward to receiving your contributions.

## Births and baptisms

### Sinders and Sophia Smith

Bp 12 February 1812, St Peter's, Widmerpool, Nottinghamshire, daughter of ----- and ----- **Smith**. Twin daughters of a gypsy, no names given. *[From a transcription of the original record held on the Find My Past website.]*

### Britannia Hope

Born 15 April 1857, Chapel Street, Great Ilford, Essex, Boy [sic], of Golden **Hope** and Mary Hope formerly **Halls**, Beer Shop Keeper. Informant: The mark of Golden Hope, Father, Chapel Street, Great Ilford. *[See overleaf for a record of the death of this child, there described as being 'Female'].*

### Stephen Parker

Born 9 April 1915, Limbury, Bedfordshire, Stephen, son of Stephen **Parker** and Lavinia Parker formerly **Loveridge**, Glass & China Rivetter. Informant: S. Parker, Father, Limbury.

## Marriages

### Johnson and Gill

Married 3 November 1884, Newbold cum Dunstan, Derbyshire William **Johnson**/58/Widower/Hawker/of Brunswick Street/son of Joseph Johnson (deceased), Hawker Eliza **Gill**/41/ Widow/Hawker/of Brunswick Street/dau of Jervis **Calladine**, Hawker William and Eliza both sign X Witnesses: Henry **Harrison** and Jemima Harrison [both sign X].

# Sidney Lee Gregory: a Canadian mystery - Part 1

By Andrew Gregory

When I was 17, back in 1971, an aunt decided, quite out-of-the-blue, to tell me something about her father. “*Your grandfather*,” she said, “*was a Gypsy and a Mountie and, while he was in Canada, he had a son with the same forename as your father here in England: Howard Gregory.*”

To my 17-year-old mind none of this was rooted in our common experience, or even seemed plausible. So I tried my best to forget it.

We all know that the worst crime a genealogist commits is not to follow up leads while people you might need to talk to are still alive. But it’s a crime-wave in which we are all complicit. It wasn’t until I was 25 that an interest in family history dawned, and by then I was almost on my own. But I’m going to try to summarise what I’ve discovered about my grandfather, Sidney Lee **Gregory**, in the intervening 40 years.

Sidney Lee Gregory was born in Shepperton, Middlesex, in May 1875 to Ellen **Lee** and Alfred Gregory. The birth would have been in a bender tent, or somewhere nearby.



**Sidney Lee Gregory aged 12**

The family were on their annual peregrination, a loop taking in Thames-side locations in Surrey, but they would have regarded their home as the over-wintering site on common land in the village of Eversley in Hampshire.

When I checked Sidney’s baptism at Long Cross, Surrey, I was surprised to see that his aunt was also being baptised at the same time. But it shouldn’t have been a surprise: my 2xgreat-grandmother Martha Lee and my great-grandmother Ellen Lee would have had probably the closest of mother-daughter relationships. Ellen

## Isaac Heron comes to life: newly discovered photo

By Robert Dawson



I have just purchased this beautiful, if faded, photo of Isaac **Heron** (labelled on it as ‘Isaac Herrin of Romany fame. An old English gentleman’). It was taken in about 1900.

I no longer have Isaac’s family tree (but there is a copy in the Robert Dawson Romany Collection at Reading) but he was the famous Romani friend of the Gynsiologist the Reverend George **Hall**. He also contributed in a minor way to the classic book on Anglo Romani, *The Dialect of the English Gypsies* by Bath **Smart** and Henry **Crofton**.

Born in a lane at Sutterton, Lincolnshire, in 1824, the son of Niabai Heron and Sinfai **Buckland**, Isaac travelled East Anglia in his youth, but later took to the North East Midlands and North East England, though he is known to have travelled part of Scotland too.

In 1908, Isaac's wife Sinfai **Gray** died at Darlington, County Durham, and his grief and mourning ate at him until he himself died, and in those intervening years of suffering he became more independent than ever, refusing help from his own family.

Isaac is quoted as saying during that time, “*I go wandering all day by my kokero like as if I was looking for someone. There's only one knows what I feel, and that's my dear God. I'm like a lost sheep on the mountains without my old woman. I feel something in here morning, noon and night.*”

Isaac died in 1911 at Sutton on Trent in Nottinghamshire. The funeral itself was quiet, as the family wanted, and he was buried at his own request in a graveyard “*under the hedge*”. This wish was certainly a very common Gypsy one of the past.

READ ABOUT  
ANOTHER  
DISCOVERY BY  
BOB ON  
PAGE 273

The easily primary contributor to the book mentioned earlier, *The Dialect of the English Gypsies*, was Wester **Boswell**. By a lucky chance I have just purchased his own annotated copy of the book which contains additions and amendments not in the Smart and Crofton book itself. However, it is not of family history relevance except, of course, to Wester's direct descendants.

**The Editor adds:** “A family tree of Isaac Heron appears on page 105 and preceding pages of the RTFHS publication *Ten Major Gypsy Families of Wales & The English West & North* by Eric Trudgill. Read more about the book here:

<https://rtfhs.org.uk/publications/gypsy-families/>

A free digitised edition of Bath Smart and Crofton's book *The Dialect of the English Gypsies* can be found on the Internet Archive website:  
<https://tinyurl.com/t9wf9np>.”

## A quick word about...

### ...accuracy

We receive many contributions for *Romany Routes* from many different people within the RTFHS membership year round. We accept and publish what they give us in good faith. But it's important to note that the RTFHS is not in a position to review and verify everything that people write for accuracy or completeness. We therefore recommend that you always double-check all the information against original records before you accept it as fact.

### ...and copyright matters

All the contents of *Romany Routes* are subject to copyright to protect both their contributors and the RTFHS. But if you would like re-publish any of the items elsewhere - in any medium, in print, on screen or online - please write to the Editor in the first instance and we will be happy to consider your request.