



No. 208 – August 2024

BFA Dues Reminder

If your envelope contains a reminder notice, this is the last Banner you will receive unless your membership is renewed by October 30.

Devonshire Bunker Research

Editor's Note:

BFA Genealogist Bette Richards recently commissioned some research on the origins of the Devonshire Bunkers, particularly James Bunker. Following the receipt of two reports, the first covered in this issue of the Banner, Bette concluded: "I believe we are stuck with not really knowing more about our James Bunker. I think she [researcher Lucy Browne] is done with any records being found in Devon and do not believe there will be much, if anything in London. All we have is sources checked without success. The guess that James was the one baptized in Slapton has never sat right with me. Just like the Jane Godfrey Bunker of Nantucket. Both of these are assumptions with no basis in records and cannot even be helped with elimination of all other possibilities."

The following summarizes the first of two reports (combined 10 pages in length). The second report will be included in the November *Bunker Banner*. If any member would like further information on this research, please contact Bette.

Searches for evidence of Bunker family members in Devon prior to the 18th Century with specific reference to the parishes of Blackawton, Rattery and Slapton.

Introduction

Searches were carried out in the Devon Archives at Sowton Industrial Estate, Bittern Road, Exeter, concentrating on the parishes of Slapton, Rattery and Blackawton, as per the client's remit. However, where indexes were quick to search, references in other parishes were also noted, as these might direct future searching. The searches included indexes,

transcriptions of name lists and original documents. In the time available, the most potentially useful sources were selected, although there are more manorial records which might be seen for Blackawton, which has a good collection in the Devon Archives. Slapton has records archived around the country, and genealogists in Suffolk and Wiltshire might carry out searches for this project, while Cornwall could be covered by Lucy Browne Genealogy. There are no surviving manorial records for Rattery before the 18th century.

Etymology

In order not to miss any Bunker family members whose names might be spelt in an unexpected way, the origins of the name and its variants were checked in standard surname dictionaries:

Dictionary of Surnames by Patrick Hanks and Flavia Hodges (OUP 1988): BUNKER Norman nickname for a reliable or good-hearted person, Old French "bon" meaning "good" and "cuer" meaning "heart", from the Latin "cor" (consider also French "coeur"). Names linked in French and Italian are BONCOEUR (French) and BONCORE (Italian).

A Dictionary of English and Welsh Surnames by Charles Waring Bardsley (London, revised 1901) found the spelling variant BUNCKER in parish registers and marriage licenses, also LE BONQUER and LE BONCER.

The Internet Surname Database (www.surnamedb.com) finds Bunker cognate with the English surname Goodheart/Goodhart.

(continued on page 2628)

Bunker Family Association

PRESIDENT - LiAnn Pennington – 792 County Road 561,
Princeton TX 75407 - lianngrannyp@gmail.com
Phone: 720.256.6964

SECRETARY - Douglas Detling - 363 Fargo Street, Eagle
Point OR 97524-9576 - doug.detling@gmail.com
Phone: 541.324.2488

TREASURER – Dan Greenland - 3292 Royalwood Drive,
Taylorsville UT 84129-3114 – flyingeagle54@hotmail.com

HISTORIAN - Bette Bunker Richards,
2436 N. Sahuara Ave., Tucson, AZ 85712
betterichs@gmail.com

EDITOR – Open (volunteer needed)

WEBSITE & EMAIL DIRECTOR - Douglas Detling
363 Fargo St., Eagle Point OR 97524-9576
doug.detling@gmail.com Phone: 541.324.2488

SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR - Tamara Cook Smith,
415 N. Randolph, Pleasant MO 64080 -
Kstamiam@yahoo.com

GRAVEYARD CHAIR - Open (volunteer needed)

SEND DUES PAYMENTS TO:

Bunker Family Association, 3292 Royalwood Drive,
Taylorsville, UT 84129

PayPal Notice

If paying dues or other items via PayPal, please send payments
to: BFAcontributions@gmail.com – Write “renew
membership” as the reason for the expense. A receipt will be
sent to your account.

STATEMENT

The *Bunker Banner* is published quarterly, August, November,
February, and May, by the **Bunker Family Association**,
founded in 1913 as a non-profit organization. Circulation is to
200+/- Bunker families and genealogical libraries worldwide.
Annual dues include the *Bunker Banner* subscription, and are
PDF e-file \$20 (worldwide); mailed paper copy: USA \$25,
Canada \$30, Europe \$35 USD.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

- Benefactor \$300 - Humanitarian \$400 - Philanthropist \$500

The **Bunker Family Association** is recognized as a tax-
exempt organization; contributions qualify as charitable
donations under Section 501(c) (3) of the IRS code.

Join the largest Bunker association in the world.

www.BunkerFamilyAssn.org

President's Note

Back-to-school time for many. I remember the frantic
first day. It has been many years since my kids went to
school. Now, I have two grandchildren in college! Now
that you have free time during the day, maybe you could
work on your genealogical research. If you are like me,
every time I start searching, I get sucked into every rabbit
hole I find and realize I spent more time than I intended
to spend.

Our historian, Bette Bunker Richards, is trying to get old
photographs labeled. I can guess most of us probably
have many we need to label as well. Several years ago, I
redid a photo album my dad had and there were many
pictures in there I couldn't identify. I enjoyed working
with my dad to try to get them all labelled. He died two
years later. So very happy I chose that time to get that
done. Time is fleeting. It seems the older you are, the
faster time seems to pass.

I have a project jar with slips of paper holding all of my
current-ish projects I need to work on. When I get
ambitious, I remove one and work on the project. What
helps you get working on projects?

CALLING ALL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!!! We are
looking for updates on all our previous scholarship
winners to post in the Bunker Banner. Those of you who
are parents of previous winners, won't you have them
contact me? We would love to hear from them! As I was
Scholarship Chair for many years, I know there are some
who have been working in their careers for some time
now.

CALL TO ACTION: We are looking for people who
might be able to help transport the BFA records from
New Jersey to Northeast Texas. My husband and I were
going to drive our RV over and do it, but it would take us
about a week round trip and we do not have that much
time to take off. Maybe we could caravan it and meet
someone in the middle?

Our previous President Gil Bunker would love to hear
from you! He is staying at his daughter "Bunky's" house.
You may email him at mcmahon.beverly@gmail.com,
phone Gil at (609) 440-4857 or Bunky (Beverly) (609)
617-7098. Beverly's home address: 319 Sawgrass Dr,
Allentown, PA 18104-9086.

Happy Fall!

- LiAnn

Book Sale

Devonshire Bunkers – 2000

-Bette Bunker Richards

Descendants of James (D-1) on a USB flash-drive.
Approximately 1,333 pages in length, it updates
the 1982 Bunker Genealogy – parts of the
1965 Bunker Genealogy and more.

It includes descendants of:

- James (D-1) Bunker of Dover, New Hampshire
- Benjamin Bunker & Betsey Daniels, New London, NH
- Thomas Bunker & Alice Pertie, Rattery, Devon, UK
- William Bunker & Ann Forrester, New Castle, DE
 - Devonshire Parish Records
- Military service info for Bunkers from all branches
- Nearly 100 pictures • Maps • Indexes

Bedfordshire Bunkers – 2008

-Bette Bunker Richards

Descendants of Roger Bunker, Tingrith, Bedfordshire,
England available on a USB flash-drive, including:

- George (C-1) Bunker of Charlestown,
 - George (N-1) Bunker of Nantucket
and the following connected by DNA tests:
 - Joseph Bunker (b ca.1797 St. Albans, UK) and Mary
 - Henry Bunker (c1814-1866) m. Mary Ann Cassiday
 - Thomas Bunker and Clarissa Chamberlin
- Plus:

- Parish records (except Devon) that are copied to date
- Military service info for Bunkers from all branches
updated through 2024
- Ships named *Bunker Hill* (with histories & photos)
 - Numerous images and photographs

One book \$25; both books on one USB \$35

- Indicate which drive you want •

Mail check payable to the Bunker Family Association
c/o Treasurer Dan Greenland, 3292 Royalwood Drive,
Taylorsville, UT 84129

This edition of the Banner contains reports from the annual meeting of the Association held via Zoom in June. There was no quorum was present, though no business actions were contemplated prior to the meeting.

Annabelle Moore Scholarship Recipient 2024



This year, we only had one applicant for the Annabelle Moore Scholarship. Ashlynn Waltz, of McKinney, Texas, graduated Cum Laude from Heritage Frisco High School. Ashlynn was a four-year member of the Heritage Highsteppers “Golden Pride of Heritage” (Drill Team) acting as Senior Lieutenant her senior year. She also created the Pockets of Sunshine Club spreading sunshine throughout the student body of her school.

Ashlynn is the child of Brian and Emily Waltz, granddaughter of LiAnn Pennington, BFA President, and great-granddaughter of Bette Richards, BFA Historian. Ashlynn will be attending Ole Miss (University of Mississippi) where she will be majoring in Journalism – Sports Media.

BFA Genealogist’s Annual Report

Bedfordshire database which includes descendants of George Bunker of Nantucket and George Bunker of Charlestown – 9,038

Devon database which includes descendants of James Bunker of New Hampshire and the Rattery, England Bunker descendants – 18,605

The original database contains 35,216 names many of which are duplicates of the Bedfordshire and Devon Bunkers. This database contains the names of Bonkers, Bunkers we cannot connect to the Bedfordshire or Devon Bunkers, German Bunkers, Dutch Bunkers, Irish and French Bunkers. It also contains the descendants of Chang and Eng Bunker.

(continued on page 2628)

BFA Genealogist's Annual Report

(continued from page 2627)

We have tested the Y-DNA of 60 men. We have also tested the DNA of some women. These DNA tests have helped us determine which branch of the Bunker family the men belong to or whether they are unrelated to others. We have several branches of Bunkers that are unrelated. It makes me wonder why the original men took the name of Bunker. It is an unusual name.

I am 86 years old. We need someone to take over the genealogist position. Please contact me or LiAnn Pennington, our president, if you are interested. I will help you in every way I can as long as I am able.

- Bette

BFA Secretary's Annual Report

This is a combined report for duties of the Secretary, website coordinator, and temporary editor of the Bunker Banner.

The Association currently has 117 members, including 57 Life Members (33 of whom receive printed copies of the Banner by mail). Fourteen libraries across the country receive electronic editions of the Banner. To save money, we no longer mail Banners to genealogy libraries.

During the year, we have had five Banners from members returned by the post office. If the Banner is returned more than once, the member is archived to our previous membership rolls. It is usually not known whether these individuals are still living, or have simply moved and left no forwarding address. If we have an email address on file, we will attempt to contact the member that way before dropping them.

We would like to obtain email addresses for all members who have them to ensure members receive meeting notices and other important information between editions of the Banner, which I will continue to edit until a newsletter editor volunteer is found.

If you are not sure if we have your email address, please just drop me [doug.detling@gmail.com] a brief email saying hello and I will make sure your address is added to the BFA database.

Similarly, if you would like to receive the Banner by electronic delivery instead of printed and mailed copies, you can request that change by sending me an email.

- Doug

Devonshire Bunker Research

(continued from page 2625)

The Burnett Morris Index of Devon Places and Names

The Burnett Morris index, currently housed in the Devon Archives, is described on the website of the Devonshire Association (<https://devonassoc.org.uk>). It is a comprehensive card index created by Reginald Burnett Morris between 1914 and 1942, which includes a vast collection of references to Devon places, names and dialect items, recorded on slips of paper and organised into 424 drawer boxes. The sources range across around 7 centuries, including original and published records.

Burnett Morris included BUNCKER and BOUNCKER under Bunker. All the references selected for this report are pre-18th century. No references were seen pre-dating 1600. While each reference was on a separate slip, they have been amalgamated here for easier interpretation, and their sources explained.

Source: Granville, Roger & Mugford, W.E. (eds.) **Ashprington 1597-1602**. Abstracts of the Existing Transcripts of the Lost Parish-Registers of Devon, 1596-1644, and short notes on the extant pre-reformation registers of all the parishes in the county, from particulars furnished by the several incumbents thereof. Vol. 1 A-Bra. Exeter: W. Pollard (1908).

Bunker, Harrie, baptised on 1601 Oct 27th, son of Richard and Barbara Bunker (Abstracts p. 35)

Bunker, Harrie, buried on 1601 Nov 18th, son of Richard and Barbara Bunker (Abstracts p. 36)

Bunker, Richard and Barbara Dunning, married on 19 Oct 1601 (Abstracts p. 36)

Source: Olive M Moger: Transcript of Devonshire wills, 1600-1800, volumes in the Devon Archives Searchroom (the transcripts have not been examined).

(continued on page 2630)

BFA Treasurer's Report	
Fiscal Year ending May 31, 2024	
	Summary
Income	
Books	\$0.00
CD Sales	\$0.00
Contributions	\$100.00
Membership Dues	\$725.00
Interest (Checking/Savings Accts)	\$5.53
Total Income	\$830.53
Expenses	
Archives	\$0.00
Bank Charges	\$0.00
Bunker Banner	\$1,404.91
Graveyard Bench	\$0.00
Postage and Delivery	\$0.00
Research	\$0.00
Scholarship	\$1,000.00
Website	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$2,404.91
	-\$1,574.38

Balance Sheet	31-May-24	31-May-24
Assets		
Cash	\$10,003.13	
America First - Checking Account		\$287.90
America First - Scholarship		\$7,636.27
America First - Graveyard Fund		\$1,299.37
America First - England Docu Fund		\$779.59
Umpqua Bank - Frank Bunker CD		
Accounts Receivable		
Other Current Assets		
Total Assets		\$10,003.13
Liabilities		
Credit Cards		
Equity		
Net Assets		\$10,003.13
Total Liabilities & Net Assets		\$10,003.13

Devonshire Bunker Research

(continued from page 2628)

Bouncker, John of Churstow. Will dated 1613, proved 1613 in the consistory court of Exeter. Mother, Alice Bouncker, brothers, Stephen and Thomas Bouncker, cozen Margaret Bouncker, wife Elizabeth, executor, witnesses Robert and Thomas Bouncker

Mentioned in the Will of John Leigh 1616:

Elizabeth Buncker, widow of John Buncker, Robert Buncker deceased, Thomas Buncker, wife Honor

Mentioned in the Will of Mary Putt 1621: John Bunker

Bunker, Nicholas, 1656, bachelor of South Brent. Will proved by the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (this has not been seen).

Buncher, Paul, waiter and searcher 1682 and 1690. Exeter Customs: Calendar of Treasury Books p. 629 (1682) and p. 661 (1690).

Follow-up of Paul Buncher: *Calendar of Treasury Books, Volume 7, 1681-1685*, ed. William A Shaw (London, 1916), British History Online <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/cal-treasury-books/vol7/pp626-638> [accessed 8 August 2024]: Paul Buncher to be established as additional waiter and searcher at Exeter at 30l. *per an.* Citation: Entry Book: November 1682, 2-15'.

Calendar of Treasury Books, Volume 9, 1689-1692, ed. William A Shaw (London, 1931), *British History Online* <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/cal-treasury-books/vol9> [accessed 8 August 2024]. Exeter: **Paul Buncher**, additional waiter (30l.)

NB a “waiter and searcher” was an official responsible for customs duties, with work including inspecting and searching ships and cargo to prevent smuggling and ensure that all goods were properly declared and taxed.

Primary Sources

Rattery Manor Rental 1777 ref. Devon Heritage Centre (DHC) 2756M/DZ/T/3) was searched. This document is in good condition and written in a clear hand. No Bunker was seen in list of tenants or names of “lives” (A “lease for lives” was usually for

the lives of three specified people e.g, 'during the natural lives of the said A aged about 65 years, his son B aged about 20 years and his daughter C aged about 18 years, and for the natural life of the survivor or longest liver of them'. Thus the property ideally remained in the family for a long time, since each time one of the 'lives' died, the lease was surrendered and demised again to another three lives).

Slapton Manorial Court Roll 1661 ref. DHC CR/1472 1473). This is a typewritten transcription. No Bunker seen in list of tenants or names of “lives”.

Slapton lists of manorial tenants for 1664 and 1669 - 1673 ref DHC 4652MM/13 NRA 33755 Reynell. This document is in good condition in a clear hand. No Bunker seen.

Court Roll for the Manor of Blackawton 1578 – 79 ref DHC CR 20020: A clear hand, but very small abbreviated Latin script. Names were searched for in the text. Juries were in identifiable blocks. No Bunkers were seen.

Court Roll for the Manor of Blackawton 1599 - 1600 ref DHC CR 20026: Very flimsy and incomplete. Was withdrawn after examination as unfit for production.

Court Roll for the Manor of Blackawton 1619 - 1620 ref DHC CR 20029: Fragile and incomplete – torn and has holes. Abbreviated Latin. Not able to decipher in the time available.

Deed of Partition 7-8 November 1751 ref **48/12/39/1** naming Goodman, Skinner and Bunker and their wives. Deed of partition of lands in Cornworthy. This was selected as a 17th century Chancery case concerning James Bunker and lands in Cornworthy was seen in the National Archive Catalogue (see below), and a James Bunker was known by the client [Bette Richards] to have emigrated to the USA.

The deed included the following information: the names of Edward Bunker of Totnes, saddler and Jane his wife, formerly (in a recited or quoted deed

(continued on page 2631)

Devonshire Bunker Research

(continued from page 2630)

of 1749) Jane Wakeham of Cornworthy, spinster. Mary Goodman and Dorothy Skinner also named were sisters of Jane and all three were co-heirs of Samuel Wakeham of Cornworthy, their late deceased brother, who was the son and heir of Samuel Wakeham. The property was described in Cornworthy, identified by the land and owners neighbouring it. No other Bunker genealogical information was include. The record concerned the Wakeham family property divided between the three sisters of Samuel Wakeham.

Parish Records

A quick survey was made of surviving parish records, and registers which might not be included online.

Blackawton: Only mid-18th century onwards survives for overseers of the poor, and 19th century vestry minutes, churchwardens accounts and rates and valuations.

Early Bishops Transcripts (copies of parish registers sent annually to the Bishop) include the dates 1597 1603, 1609, 1614-1615, 1617-1618, 1627, 1641 and 1663 for mid-17th century and earlier. Images of these are available on microfilm and should be checked if online research hasn't included them. DEX/7/d/1/Blackawton/EBT.

Very little survives for **Rattery**, and only late 18th century onwards for account books. Registration record survival for Rattery begins in 1653, but the Devon & Cornwall Record Society register transcription has some earlier entries from Bishops Transcripts and these were checked. Two records were found in the time available: Wyllyam Bunker and Dorythye Gordyn married 14th August 1609 and Wyllyam Bunker son of Gregory baptised 28th June 1609. Available on microfilm are images of the years 1609, 1614, 1618, 1630, 1631, 1641, 1663-1666 and 1668. (ref DHC DEX/7/d/1/Rattery/EBT)

Surviving parish poor law, vestry and churchwarden records for **Slapton** date from the 19th century. Surviving registers for Slapton run from 1634, but like Rattery, some earlier BT entries survive for

1606, 1608, 1610, 1612-1615, 1617, 1620, 1623, 1632, 1634, 1636, 1641 and 1669 and these should be checked with more time. (ref DHC DEX/7/d/1/Slapton/EBT).

Published/transcribed and edited sources

i) *Devon Parish Taxpayers, 1500-1650*, Edited by Todd Gray (Devon & Cornwall Record Society)

Vol 1: Abbotskerswell to Beer & Seaton (2016)

Vol 2: Bere Ferrers to Chudleigh (2017)

Vol 3: Churchstow to Dunkeswell (2022)

Only three volumes are published so far, and only Blackawton is included from the parishes of interest. However, as the volumes are indexed, all three were checked as per Burnett Morris including Boucher, Bunker and Buncker.

Vol 1: None

Vol. 2 Prudence Bunker, p318: Chudleigh Poor Rate (ref. DRO PO1) 1626, unspecified payment made under "expenditure on the poor" and p336 (as above, 1640)

Vol. 3 John Bunker "for privetethes and offerings 6d" p. 43 (Clayhanger Easter Books ref. DRO PA 3338/1: 1581) and p. 275, John Bunker [name only] (Dartmouth, Militia Rate (ref. DRO DD61642: 1601).

ii) *The Devon Muster Roll for 1569*. Edited by T. L. Stoate and A. J. Howard (1977). DHC x929.3/DEV/1569

Using the name index, two Bunkers found: A billman named John Bunker in Ashprington Parish (p. 205) and a billman named Nicholas Bunckere in Paignton Parish (p. 237).

iii) *The Devon Protestation Returns, 1641* Edited by A. T. Howard and indexed by T.L. Stoate. Privately published, Bristol (1973) 2 vol (v, 555p).

p. 170 **Ashprington**: James Bonker, Richard Bonker; p. 171 **Blackawton** Nicholas Bunker; p. 175 **Dartmouth St Clement** Richard Bucker; p. 184 **Harberton**, William Bunker; p. 196 **East**

(continued on page 2632)

Devonshire Bunker Research

(continued from page 2631)

Allington: John Buncker, p. 198 Roger Buncker; p. 213 **Rattery:** John Bunckome*; p. 284 **Little Hempston** John and Thomas Buncker; p 301 **Bovey Tracey:** John Bunckum*, Robert Bunker

*Bunckome included here in case it's a transcription error, but the name has a different root to Bunker.

iv) *Devon Lay Subsidy Rolls* 1543 – 1545 (Edited by T L Stoate) DHC 929.3/DEV/1543 Using the name index, one Bunker found: 1544 John Bunker in Christow Parish paying £10.

v) *Devon Taxes* 1581 – 1660 edited and published by T L Stoate (Bristol 1988) Using the name index: p.48 1581 subsidy **West Alvington parish:** John Bunker, goods worth £3. p 54 1581 subsidy **Ashprington parish:** John Bunker, goods worth £3. p 57: 1581 subsidy **Ringmore Parish:** Elizabeth Bunker, goods worth £3. P 209 1660 poll tax **Chudleigh parish:** Robert Bunker and wife.

vi) *Devon Hearth Tax Return* 1674 edited and published by T. L. Stoate (Bristol 1982)

p. 178 **Dartmouth Parish:** Wm Bunker, 2 hearths

p. 216 **Ashburton Parish:** ____ Bunker 1 hearth

The National Archives at Kew, Middlesex

Catalogue available via Discovery
(www.discovery.nationalarchives.org.uk)

For reference and future research, a search was made for items archived in the National Archives for *Buncker* OR *Bunker* AND *Devon* between 1500 and 1699. There were no results for 1700 – 1799.

The following index entries were found for Chancery records and considered of interest to this project. They include bills of complaint (setting out the details of a dispute) and answers (the defendants' response to all the points raised in the bill of complaint). They might contain genealogical information and link the parties to identifiable property. It would be worth having these examined.

i) C 10/466/30 Date: 1657

Description: Short title: Buncker v Baddaford.

Plaintiffs: James Buncker.

Defendants: Alexander Baddaford and John Gill.

Subject: property in Ashprington, Devon.

Document type: bill only

ii) C 10/53/15 Date 1658

Description: Short title: Buncker v Wise.

Plaintiffs: James Buncker.

Defendants: Richard Wise, Mary Wise his wife and John Wise.

Subject: property in Cornworthy manor, Devon.

Document type: bill and answer

iii) C 8/222/32 Date: 1667

Description: Short title: Hele v Phillipps.

Plaintiffs: William Hele, John Williams, Abraham Willinge, Nicholas Tuckerman, Robert Heath, William Bulter, [unknown] Kerswell, [unknown] Cooke, [unknown] Buncker, [unknown] Bamblett and [unknown] Norramore.

Defendants: Halse Phillipps and [unknown] Mugford.

Subject: property in Rattery, Devon.

Document type: bill and answer

Lucy Browne's Conclusion

There are enough 16th and 17th century references to BUNKER to justify further searches and attempt to draw together some of the groups. All probate material should be seen, and any early parish registers not yet examined by the BFA genealogist. A search on Discovery also suggested that there are property records to be seen which might include further genealogical information.

Note: These will be the subject of the second report for the November *Bunker Banner*.