

The John Meade Falkner Society

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3 January 2019



2019 SUBSCRIPTIONS

January sees Renewal time again, with the Sub. remaining at **£10 (\$15 overseas)**. Please renew – by cash, cheque or PayPal as soon as possible.

NEW MEMBER

We extend a warm welcome **Fred Slade**, who is lucky to live only 8 miles from Fleet, in Winterbourne Abbas. He writes: *"I fell under the spell of 'Moonfleet' almost 60 years ago when I was an eleven-year-old boy and I was lucky enough to have an English teacher who inspired me to read and understand that constant companion that is 'Moonfleet'. Even at the age of eleven, the romantic in me led me to cycle to the old church at the end of Butter Street where I would pour over those wonderful words and imagine that I was John; I haven't changed!"*

CHESS AT OXFORD

Thanks to **Michael Daniell's** eagle eye, another aspect of JMF's multi-talented career can be gazed upon.

We can dwell on the results of two thrillingly close chess matches, as reported in Jackson's *Oxford Journal* being played on Sunday May 22nd 1881 and Friday 4th November 1881. The 24-year-old JMF playing the 50-year-old H.M.I. Revd. H.A. Pickard on both occasions. Falkner triumphed in the first match recorded, but narrowly lost in the second. Perhaps the quarter-century experience gap finally made the difference. If only JMF could have managed another half point, the overall match would have been a tie.

May 20th.—The return match with the City was played in the Council Chamber. Score:—

UNIVERSITY.		CITY.
G. E. Wainwright, University	1 v.	W. A. Jacks ... 1
R. A. Germaine, B.N.C.	... 1 v.	H. Ward (Pres.) ... 1
W. P. Emerton, Ch. Ch.	... 1 v.	H. Underhill ... 1
C. C. Lynam, Hertford	... 0 v.	G. W. Andrews ... 2
J. F. Welsh, Ch. Ch.	... 2 v.	H. Robinson ... 0
W. N. P. Beebe, Trinity	... 0 v.	W. A. Thompson ... 1
J. T. Lawrence, Merton	... 1 v.	G. W. Webb ... 1½
J. M. Falkner, Hertford	... 2 v.	Rev. H. A. Pickard ... 0
A. B. Wilson, Balliol	... 1 v.	C. M. Underhill ... 0
G. H. Hodge, Keele	... 0 v.	J. Gilbert ... 2
P. F. Leatherdale, Queen's	... 0 v.	J. Eagleton ... 2
W. H. Heaton, B.N.C.	... 1 v.	B. Harris ... 1
J. Moultrie, New	... 2 v.	W. Forshaw ... 0
		11½
		12½

Oxford University Chess Club.
MICHAELMAS TERM, 1880.

President:	J. F. Welsh, Ch. Ch.
Treasurer:	C. A. Darley, Ch. Ch.
Secretary:	T. A. Wise, Lincoln.
Committee:	C. C. Lynam, Hertford. G. Wallis, Corpus. W. N. P. Beebe, Trinity.

MEMBERS IN RESIDENCE:

F. V. Powell, Ch. Ch.	W. E. Rosenthal, New.
F. Madan, Brasenose.	Rev. J. Samuel, Unatt.
M. H. Green, Trinity.	C. E. Snowdon, Keele.
W. Parratt, Magdalen.	S. F. Sylvester, Ch. Ch.
Rev. F. H. Woods, St. John's.	A. F. Ellis, Worcester.
E. B. Poulton, Jesus.	G. J. Morice, Lincoln.
Rev. H. A. Pickard, Ch. Ch.	Capt. Chapman, 7th Dragoon Guards.
Rev. W. D. Allen, Magdalen.	J. B. Miller, Ch. Ch.
W. T. Arnold, University.	C. J. Bilson, Corpus.
W. P. Emerton, Ch. Ch.	E. L. S. Horsburgh, Queen's.
R. M. Latham, Exeter.	L. Huxley, Balliol.
R. A. Germaine, Brasenose.	J. Moultrie, New.
F. J. Bicket, Finsbury.	C. G. Ellaby, Wadham.
A. J. Bolton, Balliol.	F. D. La Motte, Trinity.
A. W. Pollard, St. John's.	C. J. Trusted, Hertford.
C. D. Williams, Ch. Ch.	J. M. Walker, Wadham.
B. F. Stonham, Worcester.	H. M. Gepp, Hertford.
W. F. Beddoes, Ch. Ch.	R. D. Hodgson, Lincoln.
J. J. Lawrence, Merton.	J. M. Falkner, Hertford.
J. De C. Atkins, Balliol.	A. S. Menzies, Hertford.
W. E. S. Cooper, Keele.	

CHESS.—A match between the University and City Chess Clubs was played on Friday the 4th inst., play commencing at 7 p.m. and ending at 10.30 p.m., the result being a victory for the City by one game. Score:—

CITY.	Games won.	UNIVERSITY.	Games won.
W. A. Jacks	... 0	v. G. E. Wainwright, Univ.	1
H. Ward	... 1 ½*	v. H. R. V. Mills, Ch. Ch.	0 ½*
H. S. Underhill	... 0 1	v. C. C. Lynam, Hertford	1 0
W. H. Ward	... 0 0	v. W. P. Emerton, Ch. Ch.	1 1
G. W. Andrews	... ½*	v. E. J. Crosse, Exeter	½*
H. Robinson	... 1 1	v. T. A. Wise, Lincoln	0 0
F. Wolff	... 1 1	v. T. M. Walker, Wadham	0 0
W. A. Thompson	... 0 0	v. W. N. P. Beebe, Trinity	1 1
G. W. Webb	... 1 1	v. A. B. Wilson, Balliol	0 0
Rev. H. A. Pickard	... ½ 1	v. J. M. Falkner, Hertford	½ 0
C. M. Underhill	... 1 1	v. G. H. Hodge, Keele	0 0
J. Stillard	... 1 0	v. G. H. Hodge, Keele	0 1
J. Gilbert	... 0 0	v. W. H. Heaton, B.N.C.	1 1
W. Forshaw	... 0 0	v. C. D. Loeck, University	1 1
Total	... 13½	Total	... 12½

The games marked thus * were adjudicated upon by Mr. W. Parratt.

NAMING THE OXFORD THREE

Sir Timothy Noble writes: "I have just read the article entitled *Naming the Oxford Three* by Michael Daniell in the latest JMF Journal. It prompted me to drop you a line to add a relevant fact for the author to consider.

Falconer Madan (usually known as Spencer, I believe) had a son called Geoffrey Spencer Madan, born on 6 February 1894, when his father was already 43. On 20 November 1919, Geoffrey Madan married Marjorie Noble, the daughter of Sir Saxton Noble and granddaughter of Sir Andrew Noble. As JMF was introduced to the Noble family through his tutorship of my grandfather (Sir John Noble), it seems very likely that JMF introduced Spencer Madan and his son to the Noble family. The close connection almost certainly confirms him as one of the Oxford Three. By way of a postscript, the only child of Geoffrey Madan and Marjorie Noble was Nicola. She subsequently married Gordon Campbell, who was Secretary of State for Scotland in the Heath government of the 1970s."

JMF had gone up to Oxford in the Autumn of 1878. It is not known when he joined the Oxford University Chess Club, but he was a member by the Autumn of 1880. It is interesting to note that **Charles Lynam**, JMF's friend and fellow student at Hertford College (he matriculated in 1882), was not only a competitor but on the Club's Committee. Perhaps he persuaded JMF to join along with three others from the college.

MOONFLEET – TALLSHIP SAILING EXPERIENCE

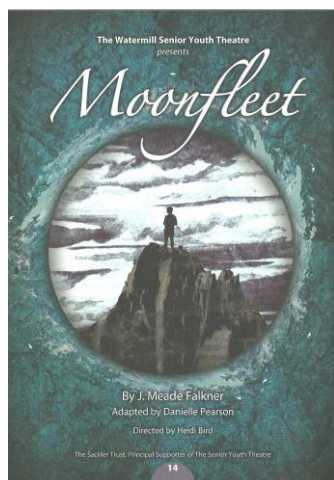


Melanie Davy, from JMF's old home in West Walks, Dorchester sent me an enticing leaflet about the classic gaff rigged* cutter, *Moonfleet*. The sailing introduction "is all based around a 'toe in the water' experience". Sailing packages include along the Jurassic coastline and to a "variety of stunning places" – including Portland Forts, Durdle Door, Lulworth Cove, Mupe and Worbarrow Bay and Chapman's Pool. Rightly, the leaflet ends with the proviso "all sails are weather dependent". Be wary of Chesil Beach!

* The gaff enables a fore and aft sail to be four sided, rather than triangular. A sail hoisted from a gaff is called a gaff-rigged. [ed. I didn't know this either!].

WATERMILL THEATRE AND MOONFLEET

Celia Grover kindly sent me a copy of *The Watermill Theatre's Spring/Summer 2019 season*.



The publicity includes the following: 'A dark night. The roar of waves. A ship in peril. And figures on the shore...watching...waiting.' Nothing ever seems to happen in John Trenchard's sleepy coastal village until the night he stumbles upon a terrible secret. Plunged into a world of adventure and mayhem – of smugglers and excisemen, storms and shipwrecks, fortunes made and lost – John must leave the safety of his home far behind. Dark, thrilling and mysterious, *Moonfleet* is a classic adventure yarn, boldly reimagined for The Senior Youth Theatre.

Performances are **Wednesday 3rd to Saturday 6th April**. The theatre, which is near Newbury in Berkshire, can be contacted by telephone (**01635 46044**) or by email: admin@watermill.org.uk. Tickets: £12 and £11.50; concessions £7 and £6.50.

THANKSGIVING FOR KENNETH WARREN

George Robson represented the Society at the Thanksgiving Service for Ken Warren, which was held at Ledbury Methodist Church, Herefordshire on 7th September 2018. George was one of seven at the service who contributed memories of Ken. George read out the short memoir from our **July Newsletter**, adding Kenneth was indeed the English Gentleman and recognised by all who met him.

BIENNIAL WEEKEND – BURFORD 2019

We return to **Burford** – the town beloved by JMF – for the weekend of **12th to 14th July**. This will be our third meeting there, previous ones being in September 2003 and July 2013. I am minded to use JMF's *Murray's Handbook for Travellers in Oxfordshire (1894)* as our guidebook for the weekend.

We made **The Bull at Burford** (which is where JMF used to stay) our base in 2013 and I think it suited our needs. If you want to book a room, then contact the hotel's website - <http://www.bullatburford.co.uk> or tel: **01993 822220**. There is no rush; I will be giving more details about the timetable in the **May Newsletter**.

ELSWICK AND BRAZIL

In **Journal No. 14 (2013)** I wrote an article detailing JMF's journey with Evelyn to **Brazil** in 1906. Orders for battleships followed, including one to be named *Rio de Janeiro*. However, between 1908 and 1913 Brazil's economy was in deep trouble. On 9th January 1914 the ship was sold to Turkey, who renamed it the *Sultan Osman I*. At the point of completion (and with the outbreak of the Great War) it was commandeered by the British Admiralty and again renamed – *HMS Agincourt*. The photo below was purchased on eBay last year, showing the ship in January 1914, with its original name.



JOURNAL 20

A reminder to all those of you who kindly promised an article – please let me have them by the end of April (or early May at the very latest).

Best Wishes
Kenneth Hillier

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