

From: Simon Berry [s.berry@bbr.com]
Sent: July 28, 2009 10:58 AM
To: Emily Monsell; Vicky Williams; James Hanley, Dr.
Cc: Lance Jefferson; bella henman
Subject: Re: archival research etc.

Dear Dr Hanley

Vicky Williams has passed me your email.

I was fascinated by your discovery of Francis Galton's research, and would be delighted to let you have access to our weights books when you are in London in late August. You will discover that the weights are collected by subject, and indexed alphabetically, so a new collection of data would not prove too arduous. However I am not aware of any records of the actual subjects chosen by either our clerk or Galton. Perhaps the 109 peers, 29 'makeweight' baronets and 1 eldest son will become apparent once the age and date criteria are applied; perhaps not. At any rate the New York Times's prediction, that the House of Lords would abolish itself as its members grew thin and fragile as the cultured Bostonian swell because of Mr Gladstone's dastardly plan to bring French wines into England and thus to render thin and impoverished the blood of British noblemen, proved unfounded. It would take the combined efforts of Mr Blair and Mr Brown to finally achieve that change to the constitution.....

We still weigh our customers, but only on very rare occasions. The practise slowed down drastically after the second world war (probably as more and more people bought bathroom scales at home, even if this didn't happen until the 1960s in Ireland!). However there are certainly a couple of generations still to add to Galton's original research.

Sadly I will be out of the country until the beginning of September. However I have asked Lance Jefferson, the director of the Chairman's Office, to look after you when you come in on the 28th August. He is copied into this email, and all arrangements should be made through him.

I very much look forward to taking this matter further.

yours sincerely

Simon Berry