

THE JOURNAL OF THE NORTHUMBERLAND & DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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PLEASE ALWAYS ENCLOSE A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE FOR YOUR REPLY (TWO INTERNATIONAL REPLY COUPONS FROM OVERSEAS MEMBERS) AND QUOTE YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER

EDITORIAL

By now everyone will have received their copy of our new Library Catalogue. We hope you will find it useful and make use of the service, especially those members who are unable to find material in their local library. Doreen Tait and her husband Ralph have spent a lot of time indexing and putting the library into shape so this new catalogue is a tribute to them.

To minimise Doreen's task please read carefully the page entitled 'USING THE LIBRARY' before placing an order, and, most importantly, please return books within a reasonable amount of time as other members may be waiting to use them.

The long awaited report on our Conference is included in this issue. If you have never written in to us before and you attended the Conference at Beamish Hall now is your chance to air your views. Let us know if you enjoyed it!

NEWS IN BRIEF

One Name Groups

The latest in the long line of surnames served by their own One-name Group is the family of Percy - a name which has been in the forefront of Northumbrian history since the late middle ages. Members interested in finding out more about the Percy Family History Society, which also caters for the related surname of Piercy and other spelling variations, should contact Mr E C Percey at High Trees, Broom Way, WEYBRIDGE, Surrey KT13 9TQ, or telephone him at Walton-on-Thames (0932)25441.

Federation A. G. M. and Conference

The Spring 1986 Annual General Meeting of the Federation of Family History Societies will be held in conjunction with a conference on the theme of 'The Family and the Local Community', to be held at Loughborough University from 4 April to 6 April 1986. The event is hosted by Leicestershire FHS, and the packed programme is divisible into various permutations ranging from an all-inclusive fee of £58 for the whole event to a modest £10 for a single day. Copies of the programme and fuller details of prices may be obtained from the Conference Organiser, 25 Homecroft Drive, Packington, ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH, Leicestershire LE6 5WG.

Australasian Congress on Genealogy

The fourth Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry to be held in Canberra 8 -11 May 1986 is now less than 12 months away. The programme brochure and registration form are available from the Registrar, PO Box 666, CANBERRA, ACT 2600, to whom any further enquiries should be sent.

A Congress Official Muster, with entertainment and refreshments, will be held Saturday evening, 10 May. Cost of participation in this social event is included in the full registration fee of \$65 which is payable by 31 January 1986. (\$75 if paid after that date).

Indexes in the Library

Doreen Tait, our Librarian, has been overwhelmed by requests from prospective borrowers since publication of the Library Catalogue with the last issue of the Journal. Demand for some items has been so great that Doreen has been obliged to start waiting lists, and members are asked to help by returning books as quickly as possible. The various indexes have proved particularly popular, and for the present it would be helpful if members would state the specific references in which they are interested; so far as possible Doreen will extract the information you require so that the indexes may be retained in the Library, enabling us to offer a considerably faster service.

Membership Renewal 1985/86

This is the last issue of the Journal to be covered by your 1984/85 subscription; unless you had previously arranged to subscribe by standing order, renewal forms would be sent to you with the Autumn 1985 Journal. If you have not already renewed your subscription, please do so as soon as possible; late renewals do cause a good deal of extra work! If however you have decided not to continue your membership, the Treasurer would very much appreciate a brief note of your reason for leaving us; this information is most useful in planning the future development of our Society.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 6 November 1985.

South Shields, 8.00 p. m.

South Tyneside Group Meeting. Doreen Tait will give a brief talk on 'Transcripts in our Library'.

Tuesday, 12 November 1985

Gateshead, 7.15 p.m.

Talk: 'Stephen's Hall: The History of a Building and its Owners'. Speaker: Geoff Nicholson.

Monday, 18 November 1985.

Durham, 7.30 p. m.

Durham Group Meeting. Two short talks on Monumental Inscriptions and Pedigree Charts. Speakers: Roger Tankerville and Yvonne Armstrong.

Wednesday, 4 December 1985.

South Shields, 8.00 p. m.

South Tyneside Group Meeting. Bill Butterley will talk on 'The use of Maps in Genealogy'.

Tuesday, 10 December 1985.

Gateshead, 7.30 p. m.

Christmas Social: A Northumbrian Evening with The High Level Ranters. Northumbrian Songs and Dancing, with a full Buffet Supper. Tickets £7.00 all inclusive, from Mrs Y. Armstrong (address on Contents page, or & South Shields 563902).

Monday, 16 December 1985.

Durham, 7.30 p.m.

Durham Group Meeting. Christmas Dinner: book your place with Greta Varty (1~ Tyneside 4102285) as soon as possible, please!

Tuesday, 14 January 1986.

Gateshead, 7.15 p. m.

Talk: 'Genealogical Sources in North Tyneside'. Speaker: Mr E. Hollerton.

Friday, 17 January 1986.

South Shields 8.00 p. m.

South Tyneside Group Meeting. New Year Social at the 'Chameleon'. Details from Yvonne Armstrong (OR South Shields 563902, or after 4 December Tyneside 4563902)

Monday, 20 January 1986.

Durham, 7.30 p. m.

Durham Group Meeting. Members' Evening, with display of research work.

Wednesday, 5 February 1986.

South Shields, 8.00 p.m.

South Tyneside Group Meeting. Workshop Evening.

Tuesday, 11 February 1986.

Gateshead, 7.15 p. m.

Talk: 'W.T. Stead of the Northern Echo'. Speaker: Mr J. Stephenson.

Monday, 17 February 1986.

Durham, 7.30 p.m.

Durham Group Meeting. Talk: 'A Sailor in your Family'. Speaker: Mr. Gregson.

Members of the Society are welcome to attend any of the above meetings; the venues are as below:

Gateshead:

Washington Suite, Five Bridges Hotel, High West Street.

Durham:

Salutation Inn, Framwellgate Moor.

South Shields:

Black Prince Hotel, The Nook, Prince Edward Road.

OUR SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

It was reassuring to find that the warmth and enthusiasm of our members as they braved a soggy Sunday morning at Beamish Hall dispelled all thoughts of the dismal weather outside.

Our first speaker was Dr. Elizabeth Clutton, who explained the benefits of searching for and using local maps in furthering our genealogical research. Dr. Clutton gave an interesting and comprehensive survey of the range of maps produced by the Ordnance Survey and other private or parliamentary cartographers, explaining their relative usefulness to the family historian. Older maps, though less clear than their modern equivalents, tend to have more useful detail; the 19th Century first series of Ordnance Survey maps at one inch to one mile have been reprinted by Messrs. David & Charles and make a useful starting point. Early editions of larger scale OS maps are held by most County Record Offices; the series at 2 1/2 inches to one mile cover the whole of Great Britain and

show a vast amount of detail, whilst for cultivated and urban areas there are series at 25in. and in some cases 5ft. or even 10 1/2 [ft. to](#) the mile - the latter surely including every tree or garden bush!

Attention was drawn to the work of the private mapmakers of the 18th and 19th centuries, and to the thousands of estate plans held in private collections, by University departments and by County Record Offices. Particularly useful to the family historian are Enclosure Maps and the Tithe Maps produced in the period from 1836 to 1841. Record Offices and Public Libraries were the best places to start a search for relevant maps; larger libraries should hold copies of the standard reference works on the subject, such as Darby's *"Historical Geography of England"* and the *"Directory of United Kingdom Map Collections"* published by the British Cartographic Society.

In short, Dr. Clutton convincingly demonstrated the value of old local maps in adding the flesh of real family history to the bare bones of genealogical research, and her talk provoked much discussion in the ensuing coffee-break. The historical background was also the central theme of our second speaker, Frank Atkinson, who gave us an insight in the social history of the region, with particular reference to Beamish Hall and the adjacent North of England Museum. Much of our conception of history is derived from the written word; Beamish Museum provides a unique opportunity to actually see life as it was lived in grandfather's day and beyond.

The Museum occupies about two thousand acres of the former Beamish Hall Estate, and unlike conventional museums it collects not merely the artefacts of days gone by but the buildings in which those artefacts were used. Many buildings and structures from all parts of the region have been painstakingly dismantled brick by brick and re-erected on the museum site in four main groups: the railway station, the town, the colliery and the farm.

The railway station is centred around the station buildings from Rowley, near Consett, and a restored North Eastern Railway locomotive puffs about the yard in all its Victorian glory; in the goods office the jumble of paperwork leaves one with the impression that a railway clerk in 19th-century uniform could reappear at any minute! The largest structure in the adjacent town area is the Co-operative Store from Annfield Plain, now re-stocked not only with the goods which it would have sold at the turn of the century but also with the evocative smells of bygone days. An adjacent terrace houses a dentist's surgery, a solicitor's office and a pub, whilst tramcars rattle over the cobbled street outside.

The farm complex is developed around the original home farm of the estate, and conjures up an accurate, though by no means idyllic, impression of farming life a century ago. Below the farm stands the colliery - not merely a pit-head and yard, though these are interesting in themselves, but also a genuine pit-row with the individual cottages furnished to show the changes in the pitman's standard of living in the 19th and early 20th century. A few yards away, intrepid visitors can even visit the coalface in a re-opened drift mine.

There is no doubt that Beamish provides a unique opportunity for family historians to see and feel the environment in which their North-Eastern ancestors lived a century or so ago, and Mr. Atkinson's audience was fully appreciative of his fascinating talk.

After lunch the first session of the afternoon was to have been a talk on Adoption Records by Dr. Colin Rogers, author of *"The Family Tree Detective"*, but at the eleventh hour Dr. Rogers had slipped a disc and was unable to travel from Manchester. We were extremely grateful to Alex Sampson, secretary of the Cleveland Family History Society and recently elected committee member of the Society of Genealogists who very kindly stepped into the breach at very short notice and gave a talk entitled *"The Romance of Parish Registers"*.

Examples of humour, exaggeration, cupidity, intolerance and pathos were given, providing quiet contemplation, many a gentle titter, and the occasional suppressed guffaw. Whoever did say that registers were a dry and dusty subject?

The final session of the day was a talk by Norman Welch on *"The Rollo link with Sir John Moore"*. Any thought that this would be a dry topic of limited interest was quickly dispelled by Mr Welch's excellent handling of his subject.

At Tynemouth, many members may already have seen the tombstone of Alexander Rollo, with its inscription telling how Alexander held the lantern at the burial of Sir John Moore following the Battle of Corunna. Mr Welch had undertaken some research on behalf of a Mr Edward Rollo, a direct descendant of Alexander, who was interested in tracing the family bible, a medal from the Corunna campaign, and any 'lost' surviving relatives. This Mr Welch was able to do with the help of telephone directories, letters, newspapers and the Rollo Society, and although Alexander Rollo was a lowly

corporal, the search has ensured that in the North-East his name will be almost as well remembered as that of this famous general. Mr. Welch's dedication, coupled with some luck and some co-incidences, showed just how successful and rewarding the pursuit of family history can be.

Next year we are considering the possibility of including 'workshop' sessions in the conference, of introducing name badges to make it easier to make contact with fellow-members previously known only from correspondence, and also of extending the event to cover two days. However, your views are needed so that we can plan a conference to suit the needs of the majority of our members. It was a great pity that we had to turn away so many applicants for the 120 places available - this will also have to be taken into account next year. Finally, we hope that everyone who attended had an enjoyable time and our thanks go to the organising sub-committee for all their hard work.

Editors Note: If you have any thoughts to offer on this year's Conference, or any suggestions for the future, Elizabeth Lyall (address on the contents page of this Journal) would be glad to hear from you.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lost Correspondent

Mrs B L Gales, of P.O. Box 4320, PRINCETON, FLORIDA 33092 UNITED STATES writes:

"Some time ago I received a letter from a lady who was researching the name 'Lockey'. When I received her letter I was unable to prove my connection to that name. I have since lost or misplaced her letter and request that she writes to me again. I'm sorry I cannot even remember her name."

The Origins of McKinney

MR C R Riddell, of 98 Mount Road, High Barnes, SUNDERLAND, Tyne & Wear SR4 7NN writes:

"Whilst researching the name McKinnie/McKinney I have become increasingly curious as to where the name originated. Was it Scottish or Irish? Everyone to whom I have spoken or written believes that the name derives from McKenzie but no proof was available. A correspondent of mine, a Mrs P. Kirkwood of the McKinney Family Association in California, United States, has made an extensive search into the origin of the name; again McKenzie pops up but again without proof. I recently corresponded with a Mrs. Crozier of Northern Ireland who has come up with the most plausible explanation into the change of the name that I have yet heard. She uses as her authority the book '*Highland Clans*' (1967) written by Sir Iain Moncrieff of that ilk.

Mrs. Crozier is writing her own McKinney family history and states that her grandfather W. F. McKinney was directly descended from one James McKenzie who migrated from Scotland to County Antrim in 1717. His sons spelt their name as McKinnie, his grandsons as McKinney and their cousins as McKenny. Mrs. Crozier's explanation for this change is that the Gaelic for McKenzie is McConniagh and the nearest sound to that became McKinney or McKenny or even McKierney."

Editor's Note: According to the second edition of H. Reaney's '*Dictionary of British Surnames*' (Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1976) McKenzie and McKinney/McKenna are distinct surnames. McKenzie, first recorded as M'Kenze in 1473, derives from the Gaelic *MacCoinneach*, whereas McKinney, recorded in 1544 as M'Kinnay, derives from the Gaelic *MacCionadha*. Similar derivations are given in *The Surnames of Scotland* by G. F. Black, published in New York in 1946. Does this help, or do our readers have other explanations?

Ulgham Parish History

Mrs J Brown, of 'Bilsdale', Ulgham, MORPETH, Northumberland NE613AR writes:

"I am secretary of the Association of Northumberland Local History Societies and members may be interested to know that I am writing a book on the history of Ulgham Village which hopefully will come out this year. In the course of my research I have found it extremely useful to keep three sets of index cards. The first is purely chronological so that everything that happened in say 1863 ends up on one card, the second set is on subjects - for example 'school' the third set is of names. These have been invaluable in writing the book. The Parish records and the Chapelwardens Accounts are meticulously detailed. Obviously, for the purposes of the book I have had to concentrate on certain names, but I hope that once the book is completed I will be able to fully index all the names and dates in the register. I have also found some 'strays' which I will let NDFHS have when the book is off my back. In the meantime, if I can help anyone with their research in Ulgham I will. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope with your request".

Why So Many Irish Stonemasons?

Mrs J Grisdale, of 33 Highdown, WORCESTER PARK, Surrey KT4 7JA, writes:

"Can anyone tell me please why so many Irish stonemasons were living in the Felton area about 1851, what they were building and where they were quarrying? While looking through the 1851 Census of the Felton area for my mother's Davison ancestors, we found that one of her great aunts, Philis Davison, born 10 July 1808 in Bamburgh, was married to a Joseph Anderson, born 1822, who was a stonemason from Ireland. The records also showed several other Irish stonemasons living in the district, but so far we cannot find where they were working. Could it have been Swarland Hall?

Of course we should also be interested if anyone can tell us more of Philis and her family. Her son, Joseph Anderson, born at Felton in 1850, witnessed the death of my great-grandfather, Thomas Wake Davison, on 2 February 1878 at Thurston, near Swarland. Philis was one of Thomas's sisters and I have a tree going back to 1740 in Longbenton.

It took years of research to find Thomas Wake Davisons' death, as we had always understood that my mother's grandparents lived in Mitford. So they did for part of their life, but Thomas must have been staying with his sister's family when he died. We have learned not to depend too much on hearsay but often to look further afield".

The Keel Row

Mr D M Berkley, of Old Orchard, Moorland, BRIDGWATER, Somerset TA7 OAX writes:

"Our family descends from the Hoggs of Newcastle and tradition has it that the writer of '*The Keel Row*' was one of the family. I had always assumed that the James Hogg of '*Keel Row*' fame was the well-known Scottish poet of that name - until a chance remark on a BBC radio programme that the Keel Row originated from Newcastle.

I have drawn a blank on the Keel Row in our libraries in Somerset and I have been unable to find out anything about the man who wrote it. Does anyone know if he wrote other songs? Also when and where did he live? With the knowledge that the writer of such a well-known song was one of the family, singing in the bath would become yet more enjoyable - to the singer, at least!"

South African Links!

Mr C O Holness, of 60 Taunton Road, Wembley, PIETERMARITZBURG 3201, SOUTH AFRICA writes:

"I am secretary of the Natal Midlands branch of the Genealogical Society of South Africa and it occurred to me recently that our respective members may like to help each other in their research. Perhaps one of your relatives came to this part of Africa in the 19th century and disappeared from British public view; if so, we might well be able to help. Many early settlers, after suffering considerable hardships, gradually established themselves and produced numerous offspring for researchers to add to their family trees!

Many British merchants, officials, soldiers, and sailors made the Cape of Good Hope their home from the time of the first British occupation of the Cape in 1795, or from the re-occupation in 1806. In 1820 numerous British settlers arrived in the Eastern Cape (Port Elizabeth and Grahamstown areas) and spread over South Africa.

In 1824 the first British traders came to Natal, and in 1845 Natal was declared a British Colony. From 1845 onwards, documentation is relatively good, immigration information being readily available particularly if the immigrant was state-assisted or in a formal immigration scheme, when records of the reason for his indebtedness were clearly recorded. Deceased estate files are preserved in Natal and other archives and the Death Notices therein (documents supplied to the Master of the Supreme Court for his information) are particularly valuable to a genealogist as they give - besides other valuable information - the full names of the deceased, the names of his mother and father, the names of his spouse or spouses, and the names of his children - three generations in one document. Many other documents are available.

My own county in England is Kent, but I would be happy to assist your readers in a search for information at no charge except for disbursements, which are relatively low. If information is obtained, a small donation to our branch funds, the amount entirely at the discretion of the donor, would be welcome and would help the cause of genealogy in Natal".

Help for Harbrons

Mr I. Applegarth, of 59 Happy Valley Caravan Park, HARTLEPOOL, Cleveland TS24 9RF writes:

"I recently received some information regarding the Harbron family in the period 1806-1976, along with some family group sheets and notes. The material commences with the marriage of Thomas Harbron and Catherine Turnbull on 13 July 1835 at Chester-le-Street; Thomas was born in 1806. If any member is interested in this family and would like a copy of the material, I should be happy to oblige upon receipt of a [6in. by](#) Bin. stamped addressed envelope."

Anyone Interested in a Date?

Mr R.A. Munro, of 3 Colburn Road, BROADSTAIRS, Kent CT10 1SE writes:

"A computer program has been published which gives the actual day for any date since the start of the Gregorian calendar (1582). I have entered this into my own computer and would be happy, on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope, to supply members with the day of the week any specific event occurred".

PUT THAT IN YOUR PIPE....

Extract from Chillingham Parish Register, October 27, 1835:

Chillingham School was built. The Earl of Tankerville gave £25, the stone and the site on a quit rent of a peppercorn, the Bishop of Durham £100, The National School Society £45 and the Bishop Barrington's Trustees £50 on the conditions that a record should be kept in the Parish, as a memorial:-

"That the Clergy and Bishops of the 19th Century are not the avaricious illiberal set that their detractors of the present represent them to be."

The above memorandum has been examined and is verified by the undersigned

Ian Neville,
Luke Yarker, Vicar
Walter Forrest, Churchwardens

DEATHS ABROAD

Abstracted from "*Durham Advertiser*", January - August, 1852.

13 November 1851. At New Orleans, Hector KELLY, pitman, late of Newcastle or Glasgow. He left England as a passenger on the "*Ellen Maria*", and had only been in America 3 weeks when he died.

12 January 1852. At sea on American barge "*Octavia*" on her passage from Portland, Maine to Cuba, of fever, aged 19; Gilbert, son of Mr Gilbert GREY of Wesley Street, Shieldfield, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

March, 1852. At Benton, Lowndes County, Alabama, America, aged 33; Mr Thomas KNOX, tailor, formerly of Alnwick, Northumberland.

26 March 1852. At sea, John, son of Mr George ARMSTRONG, saddler, of Haydon Bridge. Accidentally drowned on passage home from Richebucto, New Brunswick, Canada, on board the brig "*Robert & Margaret*" of Sunderland.

12 April 1852. At French Village, St. Clair County, State of Illinois; George DICKINSON, formerly of Alnwick, Northumberland.

28 April 1852. At New York, aged 29; George, third son of William CUTHBERT of Beaufront, Northumberland.

April 1852. At New York, aged 20; Edward DITCHBURN, draper, late of Mosley Street, Newcastle, and son of Peter Ditchburn, Swan Hotel, Ferryhill, County Durham.

22 May 1852. At Rio de Janeiro; Mr John Samuel DUNN, master of the brig "*La Belle*" of Sunderland, aged 28.

13 August 1852. At Samuliottok in the Presidency of Madras, of dysentery, aged 20, Robert D'OYLY Esq. of the Hon. East India Company's service. Youngest son of the late Capt. D'Oyly and nephew of the late William Bayley Esq. of Stockton-on-Tees. The deceased was upwards of two years in the hands of the savages of Murray's Island, in Torres Straits, after the murder of both his parents and one of his brothers on their voyage from Sydney to India in 1834.

WHERE THERE'S A WILL...

Brian Pears

In the first part of this article, published in our last issue, Brian Pears told of the intriguing series of coincidences which gave rise to a classic, though unfounded, family tradition of injustice leading to the supposed loss of the family's rightful share of a fortune' bequeathed by a distant relative. But wait, there's more.....

During the course of my researches I had visited several of the areas where my ancestors had lived. In most cases these had changed beyond recognition and most of their houses had long since gone. However the Ordnance Survey maps still showed Broaddale House at Rookhope, where Jane Ann Brown and her father had been raised, and a farm called Greendikes, near Allendale, where Jane Pears and most of her brothers and sisters had been born. Rookhope and Allendale are not easy places to reach using public transport and I never managed to see them until I passed my driving test early in 1976. I found that Broaddale House now houses sheep but externally it is probably exactly as it was when Thomas Brown brought his new wife and their baby there in 1818. The farm buildings at Greendikes have clearly changed somewhat, but the fields, roads, streams and bleak landscape must be almost as they were in 1781 when Matthew and Esther Pears first lived there. I even found a Pears' Well and a Pears' Quarry on the nearby fells and I don't think I returned to the twentieth century for days!

In view of the many coincidences associated with the Pears family perhaps I should not have been too surprised by what happened two months after my day at Greendikes. Out of the blue a Walter Robert Pears visited my home. He explained that he was interested in family history and he had heard that I had some information on the Pears families of Allendale. To this day I don't know how he found me or knew of my hobby; we were hardly close relatives, he being my sixth cousin. He asked me if I had heard of a poem called "*Greendikes, or the Forged Will*" by Matthew Wilson. I hadn't. He went on to tell how, when he was a child, his grandfather had often shown him a printed copy of a very long poem with the above title. When Walter had recently asked to see the poem again, his grandfather had refused. However Walter remembered the general theme of the poem. When Matthew Pears died in 1825 his wife, Esther, forged a will which essentially disinherited the eldest son, also Matthew, in favour of her younger sons. The eldest son expected the farm to be his and he made a considerable fuss until his sudden - and, for his brothers, fortuitous - death shortly thereafter. Henry Pears, one of the sons of Matthew and Esther, bought the farm outright from his brothers and worked the farm for several years. Henry died but his widow and their sons kept the farm going. A few miles away at Baldon Shield near Blanchland, Joseph Pears, one of the sons of Matthew and Esther who had originally shared the farm, lay on his deathbed. He made a confession to his wife Betty, telling her that his mother had forged his father's will. When Joe was dead Betty contacted the poet, Matthew Wilson of Hexham, who was a family friend, and together they passed on the confession to the eldest son of the disinherited Matthew, yet another Matthew. A Lawyer called Abraham Dawson was hired and he went off to York to see the will and then off to London to consult counsel. The Witnesses to the will were contacted and they admitted witnessing a document with Matthew's signature after Matthew's death. The lawyer was convinced that he had a strong case and at the time the poem was written, 10 January 1845, the case was about to come to court, despite a lot of pressure from several influential people who had party to various deals involving the farm since Matthew's death, all of which would presumably be invalid if the will was proven false.

It is hard to describe my feelings at that point. I had known who had lived at Greendikes over the years and of most of the births, marriages and deaths in the family. I had even known of Matthew's untimely end, since this event is described in the Allendale Burial Register along with the usual details: 7 February 1831 Matthew Pears, Allendale Town, 46 yrs, Farmer. Perished in the storm between Derwent and Allendale Town! However, the information which Walter had related was all entirely new to me. I hadn't previously had the faintest notion of the dramatic events which had surrounded the family.

Walter had traced his ancestry back to Matthew Pears grandson of Matthew and Esther, but had not managed to make the links to Matthew and Esther. I willingly supplied him with all the information in my possession and he left promising to try once again to get access to the poem and make a copy. He phoned a few days later to say he had been unsuccessful and I have not seen or heard of him since.

I spent several months trying to locate another copy of the poem. The British Library came closest; they found a poem by the same author which gloried in the title "The Pea Hen; a Hudibrastic Poem"! It wasn't a lot of help. Finally, in desperation, I tracked down Walter's grandfather in West Boldon and presented myself at his front door. I introduced myself and told him of my interest in the poem. He invited me in and promptly produced the poem. I asked if I might sit down and make a copy but to my amazement he suggested that instead he should take it away with me and return it at a later date. He even apologised for its tattered condition which was the result of his father having sewn it into his great coat where it remained throughout the Great War. By that evening, with the aid of a photo-copier, I finally had a copy of the poem, all 54 verses of it.

Walter's summary was remarkably accurate and nothing of any real significance had been omitted, but not surprisingly he hadn't really done justice to the wealth of detail it contained. Systematically I compared every snippet of information in the poem with what I already knew and, aided by the poem, I was able to locate more original material including the allegedly forged will (still at York) and an 1802 deed of mortgage on Greendikes. Everything checked out; even minor details such as the names of the farm workers were exactly as given in the 1841 census. It would require far too much space to reproduce the poem here but I cannot resist quoting two verses which describe a rather humorous incident.² The poet and Matthew Pears tried to break into Greendikes one evening after having tea at a neighbouring farm! They failed and decided to spend the night in a shepherds' shelter on the fells. This hut, because it was located quite a distance to the south of the farm, was, and indeed still is, known as 'London'. There, the two men were spotted by 90 year-old farm hind George Bright:-

*"The night was cold we built afire,
The wind arose higher and higher;
We were amused at poor old Bright,
Who got a fearful shock that night-
He saw us, and possess'd with dread,
He turned, and down the fell he fled!"*

*At the Greendikes a tale he told,
Which made the widow's blood run cold-
"That up at London, two men were
Most fearful, " so he did declare,
"They have a mastiff I can tell,
Like a hyena fierce and fell!"*

Despite my efforts since obtaining the poem, I have to admit that I just don't know the results of the lawyer's efforts to correct the supposed injustice. It is difficult to imagine just what would have happened if the will had been proved a forgery. How could the many legal transactions based on the will be undone? We should probably expect some sort of change at Greendikes if the lawyer had succeeded and no such changes are apparent. In 1845 when the poem was written, the farm was occupied by Henry's widow, Mary Pears, and her sons. Six years later they were still there. In fact two of the sons were still there in 1880. So perhaps on this evidence we should conclude that the lawyer failed. However if we look at the sons of the supposedly disinherited Matthew Pears we get a different picture. During the period 1841 to 1851 two, at least, of Matthew's three sons went up in the world somewhat. Both had been leadminers but at some point during those ten years Thomas had acquired a retail business in Allendale and William had become a 'landed proprietor'. Of course this is not conclusive either, but their enhanced circumstances just might have been due to some restitution awarded by a court or perhaps they were 'bought off' before the case ever got going. On the other hand, the eldest son, Matthew, who seemed most intent on pressing a claim, does not appear to have enjoyed any change in his lifestyle. In 1841 he was a coal miner and so he remained. It would be nice to know for certain exactly what did happen back in 1845.

1. Matthew's death was even recorded in George Dickinson's "Allendale and Whitfield" :- 1831, January 27. "A terrible snowstorm commenced on this day, accompanied by wind, and continued with slight intermission for six weeks. On February 4th a man named Matthew Pears was lost on the moor between Hexhamshire and Allendale, and the storm was for many years spoken of as "Matt. Pears' storm." Coincidentally, a similar death overtook another member of the family on 14 November 1896. This time the moor's victim was John, the 23 year-old illegitimate son of John Brown's only daughter, Jane Elizabeth. Yet more coincidences. The second wife of the above mentioned John Brown was Elizabeth Rowell and Jane Elizabeth, his daughter, married Joseph Rowell. The second wife of Francis Pears was Elizabeth Whitfield, Whitfield being both her maiden name and her first married name for, in 1868, 25 year-old Elizabeth Whitfield had married 52 year-old widower. Utrick Whitfield. Not only that; the maiden name of Elizabeth's mother was Matilda Brown and Utrick's first wife had been Isabella Brown, yes, Browns yet again! Perhaps the reader will forgive me for not trying to illustrate these cases on the tree and will understand why the Pears and Brown families took six years to disentangle!

2. A typescript copy of the poem, wills and deed, with detailed notes, can be supplied on request; please enclose f1. Itt to cover photocopying and postage. My address is: Brian Pears, 38 Beacon Street, Low Fell, GATESHEAD. T_vne and "c:ir NE95XN.

THE STORY OF THE USWORTH PARISH REGISTERS

June Watson

The following story was written by the Rev. A. Begg, Rector of Usworth Parish, Washington, County Durham, for the 23 March 1923 edition of the '*Washington Labour News*'. An elderly relative gave me the newspaper because he thought I might be interested in the Rev. Begg's story. It is an intriguing tale and I am sure it will interest those members researching mining families in the Usworth district of Washington.

"The baptismal registers start with the baptism on 5 April, 1835 of Margaret, dau. of John and Margaret Makepeace. The names of places and of occupations with 'Alma', 'Inkerman' and 'Waterloo' feature regularly, 'Alma' apparently being the 'High Rows'. In 1857 appears a place 'New Houses, Little Usworth Township' which develops in 1860 into New Washington. In 1848 the Lane Pit, Havannah, is mentioned. As to occupations, the miner is usually called 'pitman', also 'collier', later on 'coal miner' and 'coal hewer', and eventually settles down to 'miner'. Was there any difference in the meaning of these words? 'Covers' are mentioned. What exactly were they? Had they anything to do with baskets? In 1842 there is a 'flax spinner' in the parish, and in the 1850's a 'mole catcher', John Mitcheson, is mentioned occasionally. In 1856 what had previously been called a 'countryman', begins to be called a 'hind'. About 1867 railway signalmen come on the scene. Two 'sinkers' are mentioned, each with the same peculiarity that all their family are made Christians on the same day. In 1847 John Jobling, 'sinker', has six children baptised on one day; and in 185-8 Morgan Robinson, 'sinker', has three similarly baptised. In 1865 Nehemiah and Ann Syson had seven boys and one girl baptised on one day. Curious names occurring in the baptismal register are Barwise, son of Barwise Robinson, Zechariah and Vorona Billinge, Charles Feargus O'Connor Booth, John Goodroom, Thomas Malthouse. In 1873 a happy father and mother of the name of Stone, must have had a sense of humour when they had their son baptised Miles. In our own day we have the war names. These are all very well for males, but is rather hard on the ladies who in days to come, when they wish to conceal their advancing years will find the date of their birth fixed by the battle or place commemorated. We find (omitting surnames), Dorothy Mons, Neuve Chapelle, Mary Louvaine, Lillie Meuse, and also Thomas and John Verdun.

In the marriage registers, where bridegroom and bride have to sign their names, we can trace the frequency of illiteracy, and its gradual extinction after the Education Act of 1870 enabled education authorities to supplement what the Church and other voluntary agencies had previously done so well, but necessarily inadequately. The first marriage, on September 20 1835, is that of Anthony Davison and Isabella Urwin, witnessed by Thomas Chicken and Ralph Davison. From 1835 to 1885, taking periods of ten years, the number of proud bridegrooms and blushing brides who could not sign their names varied from 40 per cent to 56 per cent. From 1887 the percentage declines very rapidly and in this century it practically disappears except in the case of a few elderly widows venturing again into matrimonial bonds. As late, however, as 1917 a man of 24 could not sign his name. In 1846 a certain giddy William Brewis, aged 81, married Mary Wandlass, aged 41. In 1867 Mr Thomas Bell, of Usworth Hall, had two of his daughters married on one day and next year another daughter married. Amongst curious bridal names are: Henry Furcloth, Aquila Short (a man), Jane Sapio, Theodosia Kilbourn, Martha Virgo, Josephina Herdlitzka of Springwell.

The burial registers begin with John Todd, April 6 1835. In 1860 we have our centenarian, Jane Jennings of Inkerman, aged 100. On August 21 1851 there were twelve burials, all males from the Wagon Row. What was the cause of this? There were apparently five sets of father and son. In 1885 there were the burials from the Usworth explosion. Of the 42 killed, 28 are buried together in Usworth Churchyard. In 1918, just before the Armistice, there were in one month 37 burials, seven being on one memorable Sunday afternoon. Amongst interesting names in this register are Joseph Garnet, Wolseley Coxon 1874, Thomas Keir Hardie Richardson 1894, John Laurentz Martinus French 1909, Moseley Maxfield Maughan 1917, and Brenda Byatt Beadle, the last two remarkable for the alliteration. It is noteworthy that in the earlier days of the burial register about 75 per cent of the entries are children and that in the latter half of the last century when the population was so much smaller than at present the usual number of burials each year was between 100 and 120. This last year they numbered 72, showing a very marked improvement in the general health of the parish and a great decline in infant mortality.

Taking the registers generally, the following surnames not already noted are peculiar; Blackbird, Pickles, Grisenthwaite, Envy, Sixsmith, Bowbeer, Jabez Wonders, and the frequent old form Auflick. Unusual female Christian names are: Ena, Miranda, Avis, Lynda, Myra, Valentine,

Ebba, Ida, Eglantine, Amanda, Rhodier, Brenda, Elspethina, Olga, Evangleline, Leonora, Jessica, Pleasance, Theodosia, Verona, Zenobia, while of male Christian names there are Adolphus, Hazell, Newrich, Wesley, Dollas, Irvington, Shadlock, Dean Swift, Clementson, Jared. Purely Irish names are Michael, Patrick, Murphy; Scottish: Gawin, Hector, Lewis; American; Hiram, Sadie. Scriptural names are numerous and varied: Jabez, Emmanuel, Joshua, Lot, Cornelius, Jeremiah, Jesse, Aaron, Ephraim, Timothy, Reuben, Josiah, Nathaniel, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John; Levi, Isaiah, Enoch, Aquila, Isaac, Abner, Zachariah, Esther, Leah, Phoebe, Priscilla, Susannah, Rebecca, Judith, Naomi, Rhoda, Lydia and others.

Finally a coincidence - my name is not a common one, but it was strange that the first funeral I took in Usworth, indeed in England, was that of Jonathan Begg, on February 28, 1895!"

Editors Note: **For more information on the parish of Usworth, see Geoff Nicholson's** article on Washington in the Summer issue of this Journal (Vol. 9, No. 2, Page 42).

PORTRAIT OF A LADY

Ken Brown

As Secretary of the Society, I receive many letters each week, but one recent letter particularly provoked my curiosity. A Mrs. Newbold, of Blandford, Dorset, wrote to me telling of a friend who had been browsing in an antique shop in Blandford, looking for an antique picture-frame in which to mount a mirror. The selected frame contained an oil painting of the head and shoulders of a lady wearing a dark red bonnet trimmed with white lace; the painting was so attractive that ideas of mirror-mounting were forgotten, and the portrait was hung in its original condition. Closer examination revealed a pencilled inscription on the reverse:

"Sophia Baker-Tathwell. Died 1859. Married Rev. Henry King Collinson, born 1804, married 20 November 1827, died 1868 Stannington Vicarage, Northumberland."

Intrigued by the story, I dashed off to the nearby County Record Office, where in the Stannington Register I found the burial entry:

"Sophia Collinson, wife of Rev. Henry King Collinson of Stannington Vicarage; buried 3 May 1859, aged 61 years".

Curious to discover more about the lady in the red bonnet, I called at Stannington Vicarage, and was directed to the place where she and her husband lie buried. Their headstone reads:

IN MEMORY OF
HENRY KING COLLINSON, M.A.
VICAR OF STANNINGTON
BORN 22 AUGUST 1806
DIED 20 FEBRUARY 1867
SOPHIA BAKER TATHWELL, HIS WIFE
BORN 20 JULY 1798
DIED 28 APRIL 1859

How an oil painting of a Northumbrian vicar's wife turned up in a Dorset antique shop a century and a half after it was painted, we shall never know!

SOMETHING IN THE AIR

The benefits of the salubrious air of Coquetdale are evident from the following burial entries from Rothbury Parish Register:

Joseph EDMUNDSON of Whitton, labourer, buried 13 December 1797, aged 100 years.

Dorothy BUTEMENT of Little Harle, buried 5 October 1857, aged 106 years.

Unfortunately, similar benefits were not available in the Wansbeck Valley, if we are to judge from this extract from the Longhorsley Register:

James SMITH, dropped down and immediately expired in a cornfield at the New Moor, Bothal, on 12 October 1856, aged 23 years.

USING THE PHONE BOOK

Bill Cornfoot

It's not often that one can say 'thank you' to a large public body twice in a short space of time, but British Telecom's share issue in November last proved to be a blessing for many people and the annual issue of their telephone directory - now officially known as 'The Phone Book' and by far the largest directory published in the United Kingdom - provided a second bonus in 1984. It may be too late to do anything about the share issue but if you're as lucky as me you still have time to benefit from the directory.

I've dabbled in genealogy for a number of years, in much the same way as many people who are interested in their family's background, and I had built up a picture of my immediate relatives reaching back to the late 18th Century. Having taken the opportunity of early retirement, and so finding myself with much more time on my hands, I decided to spread the net a bit further. I had from time to time idly glanced through the odd telephone directory without much luck, so I set aside a morning at the Public Library and, armed with plenty of paper and pencils, I worked my way systematically from Aberdeen to York.

I realise that most genealogists will have considered this approach and that many will have rejected it because of the enormous number of entries for their own surname but I felt that in my case this might not be a problem. It doesn't need much imagination to work out what school 'friends' can do with a name like Cornfoot, to say nothing of the frustration of announcing myself over the telephone; however, when it comes to family history, an unusual surname can be a positive blessing!

I had decided that I would not go any further but I found to my surprise that the total number of Cornfoot entries was only fifty-five, a number not too difficult to handle for what I had in mind.

The first job was to identify all my known relatives, and after consulting my father, it turned out that only eight names were known to us. Next I bought an outline map of the British Isles and with the use of small red stickers marked up each directory entry, showing at a glance the distribution of Cornfoots around the country. This highlighted the fact that there were many Cornfoots living on Tyneside who were completely unknown to me and, even more interestingly, that there were two other groups, one in Fife in Scotland and the other in Kent, the remainder being spread thinly across England. There were none in Wales or Northern Ireland.

The next step was to write to a small selection of the 'unknowns', using a carefully worded letter; within the next few weeks three such letters were despatched in three different directions. All I had to do was to sit back and await the replies. One week, two weeks, one month, two months and nothing - but then came my first success, a letter from Scotland. The reason for the delay was understandable when the writer explained that I had written to an elderly, widowed cousin of his, who after a short delay had passed on my letter. The writer was about to embark on his annual holiday around Scotland, visiting other relatives, which he duly did with my letter in his pocket. From my point of view there was certainly no need to apologise in view of all the trouble he had taken on my behalf. His reply provided a lot of information about his own family, and included the names and addresses of a Cornfoot living in Fife who was interested in family history, and of a lady whose mother's maiden name was Cornfoot and who now lived only a few hundred yards from my home in Huddersfield! After contacting this lady, I spent two or three evenings with her and her family discussing many of her antecedents, and I even received an invitation to her husband's 60th birthday party! A further letter from Scotland enclosed a copy of an article about a Janet Cornfoot who was tried as a witch in 1705 - my first skeleton in the cupboard! From all the facts provided by my Scottish connections I have been able to build up a substantial family tree; my only regret is that I haven't been able to tie them in with the Tyneside group - yet.

My second letter had been sent to one of the unknown Cornfoots who lived on Tyneside, in fact only about five miles from where I spent my childhood, and the reply, besides supplying some information about his family links with mine, included an invitation to visit him whenever my wife and I were in the area. This we were able to do a few weeks later, when even more information was forthcoming, shortly followed by a carefully drawn and detailed family tree.

The third letter, sent to an address in Kent, resulted in the most comprehensive reply and one could hope for. I had, once again, unknowingly written to an elderly widow, who passed my letter on to a relative who was not only interested in his family's history but had actually used a professional

agency to carry out an investigation. The reply included all the correspondence with the firm and a fifteen page report. From this I was able to construct a family tree of the Kent group and at the same time to glean further information about my own part of the family from lists included in the report. Unfortunately I haven't been able to establish any links with the North East, but I'm determined to do so one day.

I am fortunate to live within five minutes' drive of the Church of the Latter Day Saints in Huddersfield and a thorough search of the International Genealogical Index has revealed many other Cornfoots who used to live in Scotland and Kent; I am now working on links between some of these and my new-found friends.

I have since written to other members of the Cornfoot family throughout the country and I have had replies from most of them, some brief and others with little useful information, but all expressing good wishes and an interest in my efforts.

If you are in a position to consider this approach then I can heartily recommend it as a way of adding to your store of information and at the same time making new friends.

As I said earlier, I choose my words very carefully when writing to 'strangers' and I write an individual letter in every case, though most follow a fairly standard pattern. First, I explain who I am and what I am trying to do, and I suggest that if the recipient is not in a position to help me for any reason then they might be kind enough to pass my letter on to another member of their family who might be able to help; this has in fact happened on more than one occasion. Next, I list all those things that are of interest to a family historian, and whenever possible and appropriate I enclose two copies of those parts of my family tree which are likely to be of interest, inviting them to retain one copy for their own use and to return the other after adding any information that they can. Finally, I always send a large stamped addressed envelope for their reply, and when I have sufficient information to construct their family tree I send them a copy.

DIALECT DIFFICULTIES

Our Librarian, Doreen Tait, was recently trying to trace her ancestor Edward James, whose place of abode was recorded as 'St. Oswalds, Cornwall'. Suspecting that this might be a dialect translation, Doreen wrote to Norman Hicks, Chairman of the Cornwall FHS, for advice. Mr Hicks was immediately able to confirm that the true place of abode would be St. Austell; it appears that to this day the older people of the area pronounce the name in a way which can best be expressed as 'Snuzzle', and since the old Cornish dialect is rapidly spoken at a high pitch and with rising inflections, it is easy to see how a Northern registrar or incumbent, familiar with the many local dedications to St. Oswald, would misconstrue the place-name given by someone who was illiterate and so could not be questioned as to the correct spelling.

Mr. Hicks gives other examples of mistranslation, which is apparently quite common in respect of Cornish names. Most frequently, the characteristic Tre-, Pol- or Pen- prefix is lost from the version of the name carried down in family tradition, so that in the case of a recent query from Australia Mr. Hicks was able to identify references to 'Goodle' and 'Kick' with the hamlet of Tregoodwell and the farmstead of Trekeek in the neighbourhood of Camelford. On a slightly different tack, there is now a widespread family in Australia descended from an illiterate immigrant Cornish miner whose papers showed his name as 'Andrew Author'. To the present day, the family surname is rendered as 'Author', with some slight variations, and many members of the family still use Andrew as a Christian name. Recently research has shown that the original Cornish immigrant was in fact Dick Andrewartha, from Hayle, Cornwall, who sailed to join the Ballarat gold-rush of 1851!

As many Cornish miners migrated to Northumberland and Durham in search of work, it may be that some of our members have come across similar examples of mistranscription of Cornish place-names or surnames; if so, Mr. Hicks would appreciate a note of the relevant details. His address is Paradise, BOSCASTLE, Cornwall PL35 OBL.

AN OLD WARRIOR

From Castle Eden Parish Register:

John HUNTER of the Gas House, Castle Eden was buried 16 April (Good Friday) 1897 aged 65. He had fought thro' every engagement of the Crimean War and had several medals.

NORTHUMBERLAND HEARTH TAX: PART VI

Our sixth selection of extracts from Doug Smith's transcript of the 1664 Hearth Tax Returns covers an area a few miles to the North-West of Newcastle, broadly corresponding to the parishes of Kirkharle, Kirkheaton, Kirkwhelpington and Stamfordham. As before, the first column shows the persons chargeable in each township, followed by the number of hearths in respect of which each was assessed. The second column shows the persons who were not liable to pay the tax; it should however be remembered that wholly exempt persons such as occupiers of property with an annual value of less than £1 were not named in the Hearth Tax records.

KIRKE WHELPINGTON

James Spoors	1	Edw. Pott
Ralph Hymers	1	Robert Port
John Ridley	1	Jo. Humers
Robt. Cragge	1	Isa. Snell
Richard Spence	1	Tho. Henderson
William Wilson	1	Mar. Wellen
George Spooore	1	Rbt. Browne
Christo Lavericke	1	Is. Forster
George Jameson	1	Geo. Spooore
Ralph Fenwicke	1	Pat. Snowson
		Hen. Young
		Tho. Smith
		Wm. Bowman
		Reg. Coxon
		John Bigham
		Tho. Atkinson
		Tho. Spence
		Rogr. Browne
		Geo. Hymers
		Robt. Watson
		Bart. Anderson
		Wm. Watson
		Geo. Hymers
		Ben. Growne
		Geo. Bowman

WESTHARLE WALRIGG

Mr Widdrington	3	None
John Fenwick	1	
John Nicholson	1	

HAUGH & STAMFORD & CHAPPLE

John Cooke	1	Robert Soppitt
Mr Ralph Fenwicke	4	James Ogle
William Charleton	1	Tho. Tugley
Wm. Read	1	William Dunn
Tho. Stoper	1	
Wm. Thompson	1	
Widdow Thompson	1	
Richard For..... s	1	
Widd. Swinburne	1	
George Wallis	1	
Symond Simpson	1	
Thomas Whetston	1	
James Swann	1	
Francis Hutson	1	
John Teasedall	1	
Randall Robson	1	
John Charleton	1	
Mr Ral. Fenwick	3	

KIRKE HEATON

Roger Todd	1	John Todd
John Scott	1	Thomas Todd
Math. Dixon	1	Cuthb. Carr
John Atkinson	1	John Shapbec
Robert Thompson	1	Widd. Bell
Robert Shoore	1	Widdow Armstronge
Wm. Arthur	3	Widdow Todd
Tho. Ingoe	1	Hugh Watson
John Codlin	1	Robt. Garlicke
Tho. Fenwicke	1	Thomas Hall
Cuth. Todd	1	
Rich. Milburne	1	

LITTLE HARLE LIBERTIE (Several missing)

Mr Christo. Soulsby	7	John Hall
John Nicholson	1	William Bell
Robert Dixon	1	Lane. Waugh
		Robt. Dixon
		Tho. Robson
		Geo. Taylor

NEASBITT & OUSTON

John Harle	2	Regind. Todd
George Harle	2	George Lee
		Math. Barron
		Gilb. Robson

CHESEBURN GRANGE

Wm. Widdrington Esq. 20	None
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ROYALL

William Dodd	John Wilkinson
Thomas Pots	John Bell
Geo. Sopitt	
John Younger	
Mathew Donne	
Robert Huntter	
William Bell	

HAWKELY

John Rutter	William Waugh
William Newton	George Chicken
John Reed	John Cutter
John Stoker	Tho. Wilson
John Robson	Widdow Pickering

FENWICK

Mr Nicho. Loraine	Wm. Hall
Autho. Dunn	Nicho. Dixon
William Dixon	James Dixon
Edward Jackson	Widdow Donn
Thomas Henderson	Robt. Spence
Henry Donne	Ralph Lowre
Robert Robson	Wm. Jackson

EAST MATFEN

John Arthur	John Wilson
Thomas Arther	Robt Rutter
Robert Fenwick	Wm. Bowle
Wm. Nixon	John Browne
Thomas Rowell	Wm. Rutter
Peter Arther	Widdow Dunn
Cuth. Fenwicke	Wm. Jackson
Jarrard Fenwick	John Drisedall
	Geo. Harle
	Mich. Jamison
	Ja. Weigham
	Wm. Joy
	Tho. Stokoe
	Mungo Yarrow
	Autho. Dunn
	Jo. Robson
	Robt. Milburne
	Henry Donne

THE LIBERTIE OF DEANHAM

Widdow Harle	1	John Hedley
		John Darcke
		John Jefferson

GREEN LIGHTON			KIRKHARLE		
William Magee	1	None	Sir Tho. Loraine	6	Wm. Bone
James Magee	1		John Weare	1	Tho. Ouston
Andrew Forster	1		Mr John Allen	3	Geo. Robson
Bartho. Lumsden	1		Bartho. Donn	1	Joshua Snell
Martin Jackson	1				Robt. Forster
Autho. Forster	1				Jo. Carotthouse
					Jo. Clarke
					Hen. Robson
					Mich. Hedley
					Cuth. Shanks
CAPP HEATON			HARNAM AND SHORTFLATT		
James Bewley	1	John Gilpatricke	Mrs Elinor Wainckles	4	None
Mathew Bee	1	John Owens	Mr Gavin Aynesley	3	
Henry Browne	2	Wm. Ladley	Mr Ralph Metcalfe	3	
Tho. Nicholson	1	Wm. Atkinson	Mr Cuth. Ogle	3	
Percivell Browne	1	Patricke Elwood			
Thomas Harle	1	Jarrard Cooper			
Thomas Nicholson	1	Edw. Browne			
George Gray	1				
BRADFORTH			INGOE AND CARSTEY		
John Ogle	2	George Moore	Mr George Shaftor	1	Robert Ogle
William Davison	1	Roger Moore	John Done	1	Randell Bulman
Bartho. Robson	1	John Atkinson	Wm. Charleton	1	
Charles Forrester	1	Bartho. Smith	Henry Done	1	
John Smith	1	Widdow Clint	Widdow Tweddall	1	
			Hump. Robinson	1	
BITCHFIELD			Isaac Atkinson	1	
Mr Edward Gray	3	John Hymers	Thomas Brown	1	
William Mastelgin	2	Widdow Bell	Robert Newlands	1	
		Ja. Hearon	Xpfer. Hormell	1	
BEISAY			WEST MATFEN		
William Middleton Esq	15	John Tindall	Mr Rbt. Fenwick	2	None
Edward Milburne	1	Widd. Appleton	John Hedley	1	
Roger Watson	1	John Dobson	Edw. Dobson	1	
Peter Watson	1	Widd. Johnson	John Donne	1	
Mr Barth. Rowland	2	Tho. Spoore	Rbt. Rutter	1	
Tho. Hall	1	An. Allinn	Edw. Rutter	1	
Charles Lowerson	1	Edw. Stanley	Christo. Soulsby	1	
Wid. White	1	Doro. Fenwicke			
Wm. Robinson	1	Gab. Watson			
Charles Anderson	1	Andrew Kirsopp	CHIPCHASE		
Widdow White	1	Widdow Cutter	Sir Cuth. Hearon	22	None
William Robinson	1	An. Browne	Edw. Elwood	1	
John Dodd	1	G(?us) Henderson	The Mill	1	
Richard Wilson	1	Hen Nicholson	William Shipley	1	
		Thomas Robinson			
		Robt. Anderson	WALLINGTON, CAMMA, FARNELAWS & HARTINGTON HALL		
		Edmond Davison	Sir Wm Fenwick	24	Tho. Lumsden
		Robert Jackson	Wnt. Bankes	1	Rich. Robson
		George Taylor	Wm. Rea	2	Tho. Browne
		Alice Stone	John Ord	2	Tho. Jameson
		Grace Charleton	Wm. Nicholson	1	Wm. Heighley
		Hugh Davison	Parc. Rea		Widdo. Lumsden
			Thomas Bilton	2	John Glendinning
HARTINGTON			Robt Harrigate	1	Wm. Bilton
Luke Rea	1	John Rea	Roger Bowman	1	Jo. Fenwick
Ralph Wood	1	Andrew Younge	Tho. Fawcas	1	Geo. Smith
James Wood	1	Autho. Peireson	Wm. Williamson	1	Rbt. Robson
William Nicholson	1	Ann Dixon			Geo. Yellow
Percivall Sparke	1	Jerrard Hedley			Wm. Hall
John Butler	1				Clem. Bolum
Christo. Butler	1				Jo. Carrye
					John Gibson

AUSTRALIAN STRAY MARRIAGES

Maryborough Congregational Church, Victoria:

8 September 1877. William PARRY, 33, miner, bachelor, son of Edward, brickmaker, and Elizabeth, nee Jones, married Ann WATTS, widow (since October 1875) has one deceased child; born Blithe (Blyth), Newcastle, Northumberland, daughter of John Bond, farmer, and Elizabeth, nee Cook.

Sandhurst Congregational Church (Now Bendigo), Victoria:

25 June 1874. Thomas EMBLETON of Ironbark, native of near Durham City, England, son of Thomas, carpenter and Jane, nee Robson; aged 36, miner, bachelor, married Mary GRAY of Ironbark, 40 years, (widowed since 11 July 1874, 2 deceased children), born West Renton (West Rainton), Durham, England, daughter of William Maddison, miner, and Esther, nee Morton.

THE LISLES OF BEDLINGTON

Rebecca Lisle

My ancestors are proving anything but considerate! And in the event that any other members are finding similar difficulties, it may hearten them to hear of the problems I've encountered with my research into the Lisle family.

My grandfather, Thomas Lisle, was born in Berwick-on-Tweed in 1878. His parents were Eleanor Bell Moor(e) and James Lisle, so it was a simple step to find their marriage certificate in 1873. They were married in the Primitive Methodist Chapel of Glendale; James was 21, Eleanor 22 and James was living in Bellington. The next thing to locate was his birth certificate and this I soon found; there was only one James born in 1852 and it was even in Glendale. However, once I received the certificate, the problems really began, for on the certificate his father was given as Thomas and on the marriage certificate it was William, deceased. Thomas was a farm labourer and William a farm steward - similar, but not the same. The mother was stated as Jane Craig. I checked all marriage entries from 1837 to 1853 without finding an entry for Jane Craig which matched with either Thomas or William Lisle.

I checked the census returns for Glendale but there was no record of a suitable Lisle there.

Then I tried Bellington. He was there in 1873 so surely he might be there in 1871, but there was no such place as Bellington! I asked St Catherine's House if it was possibly a mistake but they didn't think so. I even suggested Thomas might have been written on the certificate instead of William but again they thought it very unlikely; perhaps he was known by both names? I wrote to the Northumberland County Record Office and they couldn't locate a Bellington but suggested it might be Bedlington.

When the 1881 census returns became available I checked for James and his family in Berwick-on-Tweed where I had an address, and there they were. Some luck at last.

I gleaned three important things from this entry: firstly, the first child, a boy, was christened William which might imply he was named after his grandfather since the second son was christened Nicholas - his mother's father's name. Secondly, this William was born in Bedlington, so they *had* lived there and there was a mistake on the marriage certificate. Thirdly, James gave his age as 28. This would mean that he was born in 1853 and not 1852. There was one disappointing fact: James's place of birth, the bit of information I most needed, was given as Northumberland! A very large place.

Back to St Catherine's House; no James Lisle born in 1853.

Back to the census returns. No James Lisle in the 1871 and 1861 returns for Bedlington.

I don't know why I hadn't thought of it before, but I now consulted the IGI. There was a James Lisle, born in 1853, Ancroft North Mains, and his parents were William and Elizabeth. Now, surely, this must be my James? Also, I noted, the same parents had had a girl, Agnes in 1855. The importance of this was that on James's marriage certificate, the witness was Agnes Lisle - it could indeed have been his sister.

Back to St Catherine's House: definitely no James Lisle born in 1853, but there was an Agnes in 1855 and her father was William, a farm labourer; her mother Elizabeth, nee Porteous.

Back to the census returns again. I checked Ancroft North Mains, and the surrounding area, very carefully for both 1851 and 1861 and although there was a family of Lisles there, they were not, as far as I could see, connected. I wrote to the Northumberland CRO again, and again they were very helpful. They checked the parish registers for the area and confirmed my information, also the death of a William Lake Lisle in 1855 age 42, a farm steward. I began to feel sure that this was the right family - at last!

But what to do now? When William died it's likely that his wife, who had two small children and must have been in need of help, went back to her own family. But where was that? And where was James during the years 1853 to 1873? Also, where did William Lake Lisle come from?

If anyone can help, either with information or suggestions for new lines of further research, I would be most grateful. My address is 2 Bromfield Street, Islington, LONDON N10QA.

IN SEARCH OF STEPHENSONS

Harry D. Watson

In the very first edition of this Journal, back in October 1975, Don Mason wrote: "Many Northumbrian families had a strong link with Scotland, especially in the border area." In similar vein Alan Readdie pointed out in his "Odd Borderers" series that researchers in the border counties "... must face the fact that if an ancestor cannot be found in England he may well turn up on the Scottish side of the border." The same, of course, holds true in reverse for Scottish researchers, and in this article I would like to outline the devious route by which this Scottish researcher arrived at some unexpected English ancestors. In the process I shall be mentioning some useful genealogical sources which may be unfamiliar to English members.

When I paid my first visit to Register House in Edinburgh, some five years ago now, it seemed like a good idea to start with my maternal grandmother's line: the only branch of my family from south of the Firth of Forth, and the branch about which I knew least. From my mother I learned that my grandmother, although brought up in Edinburgh, had been of border stock; further back there was an Irish great(-great?) grandmother, and the (known) surnames on this side of my family were Stephenson, Stewart and Wight - the first name being spelt with the unusual (for Scotland) -ph- spelling.

The first steps were easy enough. My maternal grandmother, Elizabeth Stephenson, was born at Dalkeith in Midlothian in 1879, the daughter of Thomas Wight Stephenson, carter, and his wife Martha Stewart. This couple had been married in 1873 at Palace Farm, Crailing, in Roxburghshire; and their respective parents were Robert Stephenson, joiner, and Isabella Wight; and James Stewart, farm-servant, and Agnes Pettigrew. Agnes, it later emerged, was the mysterious Irish ancestor. So far, so good.

My next move was a foolish one, and I hereby caution fellow-beginners in genealogy not to follow my example! Having established that Thomas and Martha had been married at Crailing, I called for the Crailing old parish registers and wasted precious time looking for a mention of their births (Scottish OPRs continue until 1854, civil registration not having been introduced until the following year). Only later did it occur to me that farm-servants who might move to another job every six months were unlikely to be married in the parish where they had been born twenty-odd years before. What to do? Perhaps the answer lay in the census returns, which I had not yet tackled.

When I checked the 1871 census of Crailing, however, I drew a blank. The only other possibility was the 1881 census of Dalkeith, taken barely two years after my grandmother had been born there. This time I was in luck, for there I found my great-grandparents and their five children huddled together in a cottage in the little village of Thorniebank - now an industrial estate - on the outskirts of Dalkeith. Thomas, I learned, was a native of "Maxton", and Martha of "Wilton", both in Roxburghshire - two places which this native of Fife had never heard of in his life! (Maxton is a village and parish near St. Boswells, and Wilton is a suburb of Hawick). At least the Border connection was now well and truly established.

The next step was to look up the Maxton OPR, which with its comprehensive baptismal entries would spoil me for what was to come later:-

"Robert Stephenson, joiner, residing at Littledean, but who was born in Melrose parish, and Isabella Wight his wife, who was born in Maxton, had a son born 25th December 1847 baptised February 22nd following, called Thomas Wight."

Littledean is a farm near Maxton village whose ruined peel tower was once a stronghold of the Ker family. The Wights, I was to discover, were the direct descendants of ancestors who had been "kindly tenants" of the monks of Kelso Abbey: i.e. peasants whose forbears had tilled the same lands time out of mind, and whose ancient but unwritten right to their lands was recognized by their monastic landlords. (I have since deposited some of my Wight material with the family-history archive of the Border Country Life Museum at Thirlestane Castle, Lauder. But that's another story).

Knowing that Robert Stephenson, my great-great-grandfather, had been born in Melrose was a good lead - but one which led nowhere. This was rather ironic since the Melrose OPRs have been published by the Scottish Record Society, and the index to the published volume would have enabled me to find his birth in seconds - had it been there! As it was I was forced to search the Deaths Indexes in Register House. Luckily - and I hope his shade will take that in the spirit in which it was meant - Robert did not long survive the introduction of death-certificates in 1855, having died in 1863 at

Darnick in the parish of Melrose. His mother was Alison Moffat, "out-worker" (the descendant of kindly tenants of Melrose Abbey!) and he was illegitimate. That could have been the end of that, but - most unusually - the name of Robert's "reputed father" was given as "Hugh Stephenson, teacher". My luck was still holding out!

I now made my second silly mistake. Preoccupied by the thought that Robert's father had been a teacher, I proceeded to embark on a wild-goose chase through parish histories, county directories, Statistical Accounts and every other imaginable source of information on parish schoolmasters - all to no avail. Then inspiration dawned. English researchers please note! In former times it was rare for an illegitimate birth to occur without the unfortunate mother being called to account by the local "kirk-session", consisting of the parish minister and his elders meeting together in committee; and the record of their proceedings was normally kept in a separate register. The baptism of an illegitimate child might also be entered in the kirk-session register rather than in the OPR. The vast majority of surviving kirk-session registers are preserved in the Scottish Record Office, right next door to Register House, and - a real bargain, this - access to them is FREE (there speaks the true Scotsman!). So why didn't I have a go at the Melrose Kirk-Session Register?

Having a job in Edinburgh has distinct advantages for the Scottish genealogist, for I was able to find what I was looking for one lunch-hour (and still have time to eat!). To convey something of the atmosphere of these records, I quote in full:-

"October 6th 1805: Alison Moffat being called to answer the summons of the Session failed to compear. The Session order their Officer to resummon her against next Lord's day & to warn her of the consequences of her contumacy in failing to compear.

October 13th 1805: Alison Moffat being summoned the second time failed to compear. The Session order a written summons for the third time with certification.

October 20th 1805: Compeared also Alison Moffat & confessed that she had brought forth a child in this parish about three months ago & delated Hugh Stevenson farmer in Longyester, parish of Gifford, as being the father. She was seriously exhorted before the session & removed. The Session appoint their clerk to transmit an extract of this her declaration to the kirk-session of Gifford."

Who would not be proud of such a contumacious ancestor? I have to admit to a sneaking regard for Alison, but not without a certain relief that she was forced to confess in the end!

Well, from being a Border schoolmaster Hugh Stephenson had metamorphosed into a Lothians farmer. Not surprising, really, since Alison was an "outworker" and East Lothian at the beginning of the nineteenth century had been in the forefront of the Scottish Agricultural Revolution, attracting casual farm labour from a wide geographical area. The spelling of "Stevenson" was immaterial, since Alison would have given her evidence orally, and the session-clerk would have written the name down in the form he was most familiar with. Both Gifford and Longyester, it transpired, were in the parish of Yester, so it was next stop the Yester OPRs.

Here, the news was both good and bad. Good, in that there had indeed been Stephensons at Longyester at the turn of the 19th century. Bad, in that there was no Hugh among them! The tenants of Longyester in the 1790s were Joseph and Thomas Stephenson and their respective wives Margaret Renwick and Mary Ord; and to judge from the evidence of their children's names - a son called Joseph born to Thomas and Mary, and a Thomas to Joseph and Margaret - the two men were probably brothers. By 1799 Thomas was dead, and Joseph died in 1806. Was Hugh a younger brother drafted in from the Stephenson homeland, wherever that might be, to help his ailing brother Joseph run the farm? It seemed a likely enough theory.

It was now high time to call in some expert help. Many of the former Scottish counties are lucky enough to possess an antiquarian society wholly devoted to their interests, and East Lothian is luckier than most in having the East Lothian Antiquarian and Field Naturalists' Society. The society's president, Rosalind Mitchison, is professor of Economic History at Edinburgh University.

In her reply to my query Professor Mitchison pointed out that Longyester formed part of the Marquis of Tweeddale's estates: and the estate papers had been deposited in the National Library of Scotland in Edinburgh. There was even - wait for it! - a printed index!

The N.L.S. stands at George IV Bridge, directly opposite the Central Public Library, and once again a single lunch-hour gave me ample time to accomplish my purposes. There was only one entry for Joseph and Thomas in the index: a quarto "tack" or lease of Longyester farm to Joseph and Thomas Stephenson, dated 1792. Just the job. But I was ill-prepared for the revelations that MS. 14755 had in store:-

"It is contracted and agreed betwixt the partys following viz. John Hay of Hopes Esquire ... present Tacksman of the farm of Longyester belonging in property to the Most Honourable George Marquise of Tweeddale on the one part and Joseph Stephenson at Allantoun in the county of Northumberland and Thomas Stephenson latly(sic) residing at Whitelee Both presently residing at Longyester on the other part ..." English ancestors? Gulp!! No wonder so many people preferred to let their sleeping ancestors lie (only joking!). Seriously, I was quite intrigued by this new turn of events - though conscious of course that Thomas and Joseph were still not proven ancestors of mine. The only other Stephenson in the index was a William at Quarryford Mill, who undertook to repay a loan of several thousand pounds to the estate of his late father William Stephenson of "Longburnshiels". No Hugh there either. Not even later, when I found Longyester and Quarryford next door to each other on a map of East Lothian, did I attach any importance to this little document. (My third mistake!).

What about "Allantoun" then? A trip across the road to the Central Public Library and a quick browse through their English travel collection turned up the following gem from Godfrey Watson's *Northumberland Villages*:-

"The last village (if you can honestly call it a village) up the dale, is the Homestead by the Alwen (a tributary of the Coquet), in other words Alwinton - pronounced Allenton." (p. 127)

With the help of an O.S. map of Northumberland I soon established that Alwinton was a remote settlement high up in the Cheviots, and Whitelee was most probably the farm of that name near Carter Bar - the last settlement in England before the Scottish border. Curiouser and curiouser! It was clearly time to call in the experts again.

The information I received from the Northumberland County Record Office in Newcastle was helpful in several ways. There was no mention of the Stephensons in Alwinton parish records, which might only mean that they were Presbyterians. They did show up in Bell's Marriage Index, which gave a clue as to their age (Joseph was married in 1791 and Thomas in 1792, both at Alwinton); and Thomas and Mary's marriage-bond gave Mary's brother as John Ord of Sharperton Edge, gent. Interesting and useful, but still inconclusive. And at that point my ingenuity gave out.

It was about a year later before I reopened the Stephenson file, and it came about in this way. Having read most of the kirk-session registers which were of interest to me for one branch of my family or another, I had started investigating other genealogical material in the Scottish Record Office; and from wills and inventories I had moved on to the marvellous collection of miscellaneous documents maintained by the S.R.O. under its GD (General Deposits) heading. Browsing through the first volume of the index one day I came across the following intriguing item:- *Tax Returns, East Lothian. 1803-4 (GD1/570/2)*. Might the elusive Stephensons be mentioned under Yester parish? Thomas had died in 1799, so would Longyester now be tenanted jointly by Joseph and Hugh?

I was almost right. The tax return for Longyester farm was in the names of Joseph and William Stephenson, and the very next entry was for William Stephenson at Quarryford Mill. Was William a brother of Joseph and Thomas? My mind went back to the hastily-read document in the National Library. If William Stephenson senior was William junior's father, then he was also the father of Joseph and Thomas. It became a matter of some urgency to locate "Longburnshiels"! But from the Firth of Forth to Northumberland there seemed to be no such place.

I applied for a photocopy of the National Library of Scotland document (MS. 14756), and re-read it carefully. Old William Stephenson had loaned his son over £3,000. Would a man of such means not have left a proper will and testament? I returned to the S.R.O. and the records of the commissary courts. A word of explanation might be in order here for English readers.

Indices for the various commissariots, where wills and testaments were drawn up, have been printed by the Scottish Record Society down to 1800, and typescript indices for the later period can be consulted at the S.R.O., where the original registers are preserved. (After 1830 commissariat jurisdiction was transferred to the Sheriff Courts). Not knowing where Longburnshiels was situated meant that I had to check the index for each commissariat in turn, until the Jedburgh index gave me what I was looking for. Document CC18/4/1 was journey's end!

There is no room here to quote at length from William Stephenson's will and inventory, so a bare summary will have to suffice. At the time of his death in 1807 at the age of 77, this old Border farmer was worth £10,000 - and the list of his debtors stretched from Hawick to Morpeth. But most moving of all is the old man's will. He has already, he tells us, provided handsomely for the children of his first marriage - and his sole concern now is to provide for his little son Thomas, still a minor. (Thomas I had only died in 1799, so Thomas II can hardly have been more than 8). As regards the elder children, his

eldest son William has been placed in the farm of Quarryford, and the second and third sons Joseph and Thomas have been given the farm of Longyester; each son, moreover, has had his farm stocked for him and has been given a thousand pounds of his own. A string of daughters have also been taken care of financially, so all these children by his first wife have no more claim on their father's estate. Then comes the pike de resistance.

From the estates of his deceased sons Joseph and Thomas, William continues, his trustees (i.e. executors) are to reclaim moneys due from promissory notes. Once recovered, the total sum owed is to be divided 2 ways: one half going to the late Thomas's children equally, and the other half" ... to HUGH STEPHENSON, natural son of my deceased son Joseph. " Eureka!! At a stroke I had located both Hugh Stephenson and his father, and identified Hugh's grandfather - my great-great-great-great-great-grandfather. The long quest was over.

From then on it has been a question of filling in the gaps. It seemed likely that a farmer of William Stephenson's means would have merited a newspaper obituary, so I had recourse to the National Library of Scotland's fine collection of local newspapers. The following notice is taken from the *Kelso Mail* of Monday 19 October 1807:-

"Died, at Longburnshiels, in the county of Roxburgh, WILLIAM STEPHENSON, Tenant, at the advanced age of 77 years; a gentleman whose abilities, and successful improvements as a store-farmer, have been seldom equalled. He lived respected, and his death is lamented by a large circle of friends and acquaintances."

Crossing over to the Central Library I checked the parish histories in their Scottish Library downstairs, and came away with a genealogical treasure-house in the shape of George Tancred's *Rulewater and its People*: a detailed study of the parishes of Hobkirk and Bedrule with sketches of the inhabitants and lengthy family-trees. Not only Longburnshiels (in the parish of Hobkirk, several miles south of Hawick), but also the estates of William Stephenson's various executors were mentioned in this book, which also contained two references to William himself. Another Stephenson in Hobkirk parish - one Eleanor Stephenson from "Ketton" in Co. Durham - was married to a local landowner. (Could William have come from Co. Durham?).

The monumental inscriptions of Roxburghshire and East Lothian have not yet been published, so that potential source of information was not open to me, but on looking through the volume for Berwickshire in pursuit of another branch of my family I was interested to find Thomas Stephenson's widow Mary Ord and their son Joseph, "surgeon in Dunse", reposing in the churchyard of Berwickshire's old county town. Joseph junior's children, it seemed, had joined in the move from country to city so typical of early Victorian times and had become professional people and merchants in Edinburgh. Joseph's widow, Isabella Bertram, had died in Portobello. Strangely enough my great-grandparents Thomas Wight Stephenson and Martha Stewart had also moved up to Edinburgh, settling first of all at Easter Duddingston in Portobello and latterly at Leith. Did Thomas know about his distant Stephenson cousins in the city? It would be interesting to know. The substantial dwelling-houses of Thomas Stephenson's grandchildren can still be seen in middle-class Morningside and the New Town, but Thomas and Martha's cottage has yielded to urban redevelopment, and the market garden where Thomas worked disappeared in 1977 under the concrete and glass of the new Leith Nautical College.

So much for William Stephenson's descendants, or some of them at least. But where did the old patriarch come from himself? The North-East of England, probably, but whereabouts? Was he perhaps the son named William born in Sunderland in 1730 to Thomas and Margaret Stephenson? Or should I be looking in the Northumberland records for the answer? Can readers of this Journal help?

CALLING ALL GELLEY RESEARCHERS

An interesting document came to my attention recently through a family friend who collects stamps and anything to do with postal history. His latest acquisition from a stamp auction will I hope be of interest to those members researching the name of Gelley in the town of Gateshead, Co. Durham. The document is an apprenticeship indenture by George Gelley Junior, forgesman, the younger son of George Gelley of Gateshead. The indenture states that George began his apprenticeship on 17 March 1831 with William Greener, Gunsmith, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Readers will find a previous article on the Gelley family by William Gelley in Volume 8 Number 4 of this Journal, published in Oct 1983. It is interesting tale of how the Gelley name has been identified with the iron trade as far back as the sixteenth century.

MEMBERS AND THEIR INTERESTS

Items for this and the "Second Time Around" column should be sent to Mrs Y. Armstrong, 2 Grasmere Gardens, SOUTH SHIELDS, Tyne and Wear NE34 ODZ.

May we remind members that the pedigree charts used for indexing Members' Interests for the next Directory are quite separate from the Interests for these columns. If you wish your interests to be published, please send a paragraph outlining your areas of research, problems [etc. to](#) Mrs Armstrong, at the above address, for publication in the next available Journal. Please check that you include your membership number when writing, and we suggest that names for publications are PRINTED, to avoid errors.

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the Treasurer at the address shown on the Contents Page.

Welcome to all of our new members.

1690 Mrs J. FEENEY, 36 McCracken Avenue, DONALD, VICTORIA 3480, AUSTRALIA.

Seeking any descendants of James Drever and Mary Dinnet who married in 1820. Of the family of this marriage, Catherine married Thomas Pottinger and Mary married James Pottinger. Rebecca Drever and her husband, David Rendall, migrated to Australia in 1852 and likewise James Drever and his wife Jane Tait Drever and Margaret Drever also went to Australia in 1855. Nothing known of Jean, Samuel or Elizabeth. Mrs Feeney is descended from Margaret Drever, born 24 May 1833. She married William Markwell in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. Also seeking any information on Mary Harringold who married William (David) Markwell on 1 June 1823 in Bishopwearmouth, and any information about the name Harringold.

1759 Mrs M. GRAY, 24 Station Road, Low Fell, GATESHEAD, Tyne and Wear NE9 6DR.

Interests - John Pipkin, born about 1809 in Charlton, Northants. Parents probably John and Sarah. Thomas Gray married Sarah Clark in 1756 at Bedlington. Thomas was a farmer at Netherton Blue House, Bedlington and died in November 1829 at son Matthew's farm at Clifton (near Stannington). Where was Thomas born? Joshua Percy was born 1843 (where?), son of Eleanor (born 1808 at Tweedmouth) and (?). His wife was Isobella Elizabeth (born 1851 at Seghill). They lived at 74 North Road, Horton or New Delaval, and Joshua was a miner at possibly Isabella Colliery. The family were baptised at the Wesley Chapel, Horton.

1965 Mrs C.D. BRAMHAM, 28 Dale Road, DARLINGTON, County Durham DL3 8LZ.

Seeking the date and place of birth of John Straker of Newton, who married Jane Atkinson of Rivergreen at Midford, Northumberland on 3 June 1744. They had 8 children: John, born Rivergreen, baptised 23 March 1744; Thomas born Thropple (Throphill?), baptised 25 January 1747; Jane, born (?), baptised 9 August 1749; Humphrey Able, born Midford, baptised 2 September 1751; Ann, born Midford, baptised 29 May 1756; George, born (?), baptised 15 June 1758, married Jane Raper; Robert, born (?), baptised 17 March 1754; Catherine, born Midford, baptised 10 August 1760. The family moved to Barnard Castle, Co. Durham, probably in 1760's/early 1770's. Also seeking the date and place of John Whiteley's birth (woollen manufacturer of Linthwaite, Yorks), married to Harret Haigh, formerly France, of Linthwaite. Any information, including parentage, sought. Also information on Henry Hamer of Scammonden, Yorks. Born 1813(?), married to Sarah Sykes of Golcar, Yorks, whose parents were John Sykes and Hannah Hoyle. There is a pottery tankard commemorating the marriage of Anthony Hamer who married Betty in 1780. Seeking the place of birth of Alfred Bramham, born 30 May 1845, who married Mary Ann Walker on 28 January 1870. Albert is believed to have been born in the Hull area and to have been connected with the sea. Any help gratefully accepted.

1979 Mrs L.M. PICKEN, 2 Aston Way, Whickham, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE NE16 5RJ.

Researching the Daglish family, in particular John Daglish, who was born in the Perthshire area of Scotland (?). He later lived in New Herrington and Annfield Plain where he died in 1912.

2007 Mrs M. DAWES, 67 Springvale Drive, WEETANGERA, A.C.T. 2614, AUSTRALIA.

Reserching: DixonBaty of Houghton-le-Spring; Reid/Greener of Gateshead; Carr/Smith/Foster/Thompson/Pigdon/Orwin of Longhorsley; Frazer of Rothbury; Richardson of Edinburgh; Atkinson of Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Miller of Duddo. Mrs Dawes has a few old books with various names written within e.g. Sarah Orwin, Lane End, Longhorsley, 1805, and would appreciate help in tying them in with her family.

2015 Mrs B. j. KOLLE, 12 Wimbledon Avenue, MOUNT ELIZA, VICTORIA 3930, AUSTRALIA.

Seeking any information of [gt.gt](#) grandfather Adam Barlow, born c.1804, and his parents, believed to have been Thomas and Elizabeth (nee Don(n)ison) Barlow. Adam was convicted at Northumberland (Newcastle-upon-Tyne) Quarter Sessions on 11 July 1821 and transported to Australia in November of that year per "Shipley". At the time, he was described as a Smith, and his native place was shown as Co. Durham. Would greatly appreciate any assistance and/or advice on how to acquire trial documentation.

- 2073 Mrs D. CUMMINS, 3 Alkoomi Avenue, Hamlyn Heights, NORTH GEELONG, VICTORIA 3215, AUSTRALIA.
Researching: Ferguson - Robert, born c.1836, Tynemouth area, married Jane Oxley (father Thomas) at Wallsend Parish Church 18 November 1861. (He was aged 25). Ferguson-John. Reputed to be Captain of the Guard at Tynemouth Castle 1660-on. Married daughter of Thomas Love. Any information at all on Love of Ferguson welcome. Oxley - Jane; father, Thomas, married Mary Warrener c.1838. Wilson - Robert, son of William, mariner, lost at sea on "Cordelia" 1878, aged 54, Tynemouth area. Darling- Mary Anne, father George (Joiner), said to be a cousin of Grace Darling, but not proved so far; married Robert Wilson (above) 1847 at All Saints, Newcastle, died Tynemouth 8 July 1896. (A nurse). Armstrong- Mary Ann, father John Armstrong (Mason), mother Mary Hudspeth (Wardingham-Thirlwall), married George Liddle 5 April 1863 at Haltwhistle. Liddle - George married Mary Ann Armstrong (above) at Haltwhistle Parish Church, father William. Place - Anthony, Haltwhistle area, 3 children - John, Anthony and Hannah. (John married Jane Barnfather before 1856). Barnfather- Jane, Haltwhistle area, married John Place before 1856. Any help much appreciated, and postage etc. will be refunded.
- 2076 Mrs S.E. GAIGER, 43 Bradbury Court, New Hartley, WHITLEY BAY, Tyne and Wear NE25 OSP.
Researching Enoch Higgins, born Cambridge, Gloucester in 1817. Employed on the railway and settled in the North-East with his first wife Frances Young. His eldest son, also Enoch Higgins, born 9 March 1853 at Byker Hill, married Ellen Storey on 14 September 1879. Also researching Henry Riley who was a Corporal in the Army, born 1845 in Prescott, Lancs who married Ann Ross (born 28 July 1847) on 24 January 1870 in Newcastle. His father was John Riley, a carpenter. Any information welcomed.
- 2105 Mr A. REED, Tyn-y-Cwm Fach, Sylen Road, Pontyberem, LLANELLI, Dyfed SA15 5NW.
(IS Pontyberem 870947) Researching the Reed family of Hilton, Staindrop, St. Andrew Auckland and St. Helen's Auckland. Also the Dixon family of Raby, Staindrop and Cockfield.
- 2110 Miss J.M. REED, 80 Barleyhill Road, Garforth, LEEDS, West Yorkshire LS25 1AU.
(I& Leeds 865962) Researching: Reed and Morley families. Reed: St. Helen's and St. Andrew Auckland. Morley: West Auckland. Why did George and John Reed move from Hilton to Hintshire, North Wales c.1840, then return to Hilton a few years later?
- 2144 Mr N.J. DEXTER, 7 Byne Road, Sydenham, LONDON SE26 5JF.
(IS O1-659-8423) Researching: family of John Craggs (born 1822 in Wrekenton) who married Sarah Wild (born 1827 in Hetton) residing at times in:- Thornley (near Wheatley Hill) c.1850; Crook c.1860; Hedley Hope c.1875. Children were Jane (b.1846), Henry (b.1848), William (b.1850), John (b.1852, gt.gt. grandfather), James (b.1857), Jane Ann (b.1860), Elizabeth (b.1861), Joseph (b.1867), Frank (b.1869). Also the family of Nathan Parkin (born 1824 in Auckland, Durham) who married Hannah Raine (born 1822 in Auckland, Durham), residing near Lynesack in 1861. Children were William (b.1848), Elizabeth (b.1849), Nathan (b.1852), George Raine (b.1853), Joseph (b.1857), Thomas (b.1858), Anne (b.1859). Also Blackett in the Bedburn area; Walker and Pendlebury in Crook area.
- 2181 Mrs F. HALLISEY, 46 Stiups Lane, Turf Hill, ROCHDALE, Lancashire OL16 4XB.
(I& Rochdale 47205) Mrs Hallisey has access to the Births Indexes of England and Wales from St. Catherine's House from 1866-1905. If anyone is interested, Mrs Hallisey is willing to search them if the names, approximate years and registration districts are given.
- 2182 Mrs V.M. NOBLE, 21 Poplar Avenue, RUNCORN, Cheshire WA7 5HB.
- 2183 Mrs E.E. WHITEHEAD, 5 Mayfield Drive, Cleadon, SUNDERLAND, Tyne and Wear SR6 7QN.
(e Boldon 362041)
- 2184 Mr J. CHARLTON, Box 64, GREYMOUTH, NEW ZEALAND.
- 2185 Mrs C. CHARLTON, Box 64, GREYMOUTH, NEW ZEALAND.
- 2186 Mr. A. SNAITH, 28 Queen's Road, COLCHESTER, Essex C03 3PB.
(IN Colchester 574784) Researching: (1) Snaith: Wilfred, 1903-1960, a dairyman in Millfield, Sunderland; Ernest, born 1878 North Bishopwearmouth; Thomas Maddison Snaith, born 1847, posthumous son of Edward Snaith and Elizabeth Isabella (?) Gills who married 1844; relatives of Thomas Maddison and Elizabeth; and Margaret Davison, Jane A. Davison and Mary Davison living at 7 Wear Street in 1861. (2) Potts: Matilda married Wilfred Snaith in 1900 but no record of her birth can be found in St. Catherine's House indexes. She was a daughter of Henry Potts born in 1835, who farmed opposite Bede School and was a twin of Thomas Potts, sons of Matthew Potts and Ann Charlton who married in Monkwearmouth in 1825. Any information about the mother of Matilda (or Hannah Matilda) Potts would be appreciated. (3) West: Henry born 1874/1877, Sunderland; Henry Charles West born 1851 in Peckham, Surrey; Frederick West, born 1826 Hackney Road, Middlesex. (4) Jobling: Elizabeth Isabella born 1851 in Sunderland; Ephraim Jobling born 1822 married Elizabeth Hedley (father John Hedley). Her mother Elizabeth (?) was born in Gateshead and Elizabeth Hedley was born in Northumberland. Elizabeth Isabella had a sister, Barbara, born in 1850.
- 2187 Mrs S.M. SNAITH, 28 Queen's Road, COLCHESTER, Essex C03 3PB.
Researching: (1) MacDonald: Catherine, Murdo, Johanna, Elizabeth, Williamina who lived and died in Sunderland 1840 onwards. Parents James MacDonald and Ann Cameron who married in Rosskeen, Invergordon, Ross & Cromarty, migrated to Sunderland between 1858 and 1866. (2) McKenzie: Christy born in Dingwall, Ross & Cromarty. (3) Crute: Annie born 1877, Joseph born 1849, Charles pre-1829. (4) Curry: Julia born in 1851, John (married Mary Brunton pre-1851), a ship and insurance broker. (5) Cox:

William Henry born in 1881 in Birmingham, Richard Edwin born in 1861 in Bidford on Avon, William (married Jane Hughes in Bidford 1850). (6) Burton: Sarah Anne (married Richard Edwin Cox in Birmingham); Thomas Burton, a miller, who married Sarah Morris pre-1862. (7) Thomas Michael O'Keeffe from Cork, Ireland who emigrated to Canada, then Bermuda, and Mary Annie O'Keeffe, his daughter. Also Johanna Cordova, his wife, who was a Bermudian of Portuguese descent. (8) Leslie: An unnamed Leslie who married Catherine MacDonald in Sunderland, father of James Henry Leslie born 1878, who possibly died in 1878, or was imprisoned. Catherine Leslie, a widow, married Michael Maddison, a mariner, in 1880.

2188 Mrs J.E TAYLOR, Elton Moor Farm, Whinney Hill, STOCKTON-ON-TEES, Cleveland TS 11 1BO.

('a Stockton-on-Tees 583338) Researching Taylor. In about 1780, ancestors Ann and John Taylor (born Ryton 1736) were ploughing one day at their farm, "The Lowd", Catchgate, near Stanley, when the plough caught something in the bottom. It turned out to be a kail pot full of gold guineas. This couple were better known as Jackie and Nannie Taylor. They died at Warland Green, Holmside, Lanchester in 1823. Would like to trace other descendants of this couple, in particular, Thomas Taylor who married Mary Elizabeth Hull and lived at Twizzel Hall, Chester-le-Street; George Taylor who lived at White House Farm, Craghead, Lanchester with his wife, Esther and had a son Edward; also John Taylor who lived at Morrowfield, Holmside, Lanchester - all around 1850. Grandfather John David Taylor farmed Chester Moor Farm, Chester-le-Street in 1920.

2189 Miss J.C. ARCHIBOLD, 53 Marina Drive, West Monkseaton, WHITLEY BAY, Tyne and Wear NE25 9PD.

2190 Mr R. ALLEN, 2 Ansley Way, St. Ives, HUNTINGDON, Cambridgeshire PE 17 4SN.

(*& St. Ives 300997) Researching Allen of Westoe, South Shields, mid 19-20C, and Tynemouth pre-1850: Kellett of South Shields 19C. and Ryhope pre-1850; Vincent of Newcastle (St. John/Nicholas) 19-20C.; Rowell of Newcastle (St. John/All Saints) 19-20C.

2191 Mrs I. WALKER, 1 Studley Road, Thornaby, STOCKTON-ON-TEES, Cleveland TS 17 8JW.

(*a Stockton-on-Tees 678665)

2192 Miss L. WALKER, 1 Studley Road, Thornaby, STOCKTON-ON-TEES, Cleveland TS 17 8JW.

(IN Stockton-on-Tees 678665)

2193 Mrs. E. JOHNSON, 22 Arrowfield Street, ELEEBANA, NEW SOUTH WALES 2280, AUSTRALIA.

2194 Miss N. MOFFITT, P.O. Box 1156, INVERCARGILL, NEW ZEALAND.

Information sought on Moffitt/Blackhall families. Michael Moffitt born Fowberry c. 1793, married at Chatton Parish Church on 12 November 1828. Margaret Blackhall born Belford c.1803. Margaret's address at marriage was Fowberry Tower; Michael's was Fowberry Mains. Children were: James b.22 September 1829; Isabella b.9 December 1830; Margaret, John, Grace, Elizabeth, George b.31 March 1838; Michael b.22 September 1839; Donaldson b.14 October 1841; Robert William b.8 January 1844; Thomas b.31 March 1845. The first two children were born at Fowberry Mains, last five at Glanton. 1851 Census shows Michael farming at Fowberry Mains, and after his death in 1853, the 1861 Census shows Margaret still farming at Fowberry Mains. Would like to find out if Michael's parents farmed there before him. Three sons came to New Zealand, George and Michael in 1861, and James and family in 1865. John is believed to have settled in Australia and another son in America. All correspondence replied to, and postage refunded.

2195 Mrs M. BRISCOE, 279 Sunrise Drive, ARROYO GRANDE, CALIFORNIA 93420, UNITED STATES.

Searching Trotter, Russel, Lawson. George Henry Trotter, engineer, son of John Trotter, married Jane Russell, daughter of Thomas Russell on 10 or 11 Dec. 1849 at St. John Parish in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Seeking date and place of baptism of both parties. Witnesses to their marriage were John Findley and John Davison. Marriage certificate copy is very poor. It appears that John Trotter was either a gardener or a guardsman and Thomas Russell was a collier. Harriett Ann Trotter, daughter of George and Jane, was born 13 Sept. 1851 at Victoria Street, Gateshead, Co. Durham. John W. Lawson married Catherine 1845-55. Where? John W. Lawson was born in England 1825-38. Where? Any help greatly appreciated, and postage refunded.

2196 Mr R.W LONSDALE, 71 Granville Avenue, HARTLEPOOL, Cleveland TS26 8NB.

(*& Hartlepool 66763)

2197 Mrs. S.M. TYRRELL, 11, Overstrand, Aston Clinton, AYLESBURY, Buckinghamshire HP22 5NA.

('& Aylesbury 631100)

2198 Mrs C.N. JENKINS, 307 Vista Trail, FARRAGUT, TENNESSEE 37922, UNITED STATES.

Would appreciate any information on William Nesbit, born 22 June 1855 at Horton, Chatton, Northumberland. On 22 May 1875 he married Eliza Ann Digby (born 26 December 1856). Her parents were Matthew Digby (born 1829 in Norfolk Clay), and Lucy (nee Howlett) Digby, resided in Amble, Northumberland. William's parents were John Nesbit (born 2 May 1822 at Preston, Crookham, Northumberland). He married Agnes Scott. She may have been born in Scotland. John's parents were John Nesbit and Isabel (nee Oliver) Nesbit. William and Eliza went to America c.1882. Any help gratefully received.

2199 Mrs E.G. ANDERSON, 1 Mowbray Street, Heaton, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE NE6 5NY.

2200 Mrs W.M. CRAIG, 951 Seventeenth Avenue, Apartment 65, LONGMONT, COLORADO 80501, UNITED STATES.

- 2201 Mrs J. ELLIOTT**, 180 Ashley Gardens, Emery Hill Street, LONDON SW1P 1PD.
- 2202 Mrs B. BARTHOLEMEW**, "Greentye", Arundel Road, Angmering, LITTLEHAMPTON, West Sussex BN16 4JZ.
(☎ Rustington 776275)
- 2203 Mrs C. RAWLINSON**, 34 Dawtrie Street, Ferry Fryston, CASTLEFORD, West Yorkshire WF10 3NA.
Seeking information on Mark Barr and Ann Sophia Barr. Address given as South Stockton on daughter Louisa's marriage certificate, 1874. She married Ambrose Shepherd (from Ferrybridge, Yorkshire), resident at South Stockton at time of marriage. Lived in Castleford, Yorkshire (noted in 1881 Census) and later Blackpool. Witnesses were Brian Barr and Sarah Barr. Ambrose's grandfather, Samuel Shepherd of Ferrybridge, gave bequests in his will, 1892, to deceased Mary Ann Warren's children, and son Frederic Shepherd of Newcastle. May be able to help any members descended from them. Also researching: Widdop (Castleford & Sowerby Bridge); Nicklin (Stafford); Garforth (Earlsheaton & Hunslet); Walton (Hunslet); McGregor (Hunslet); Austerberry (Ledsham & South Milford); Shepherd (Brotherton); Sharp (Ledsham); Gomersall (Glasshoughton).
- 2204 Mr D.R. EDWARDSON**, 566 Station Road, WALLSEND, Tyne and Wear NE28 8NR.
(☎ Tyneside 263 0604) Reseaching Edwardson family. Robert Edwardson (2nd gt. grandfather) was born in Unst, Shetland c.1822. Who were his parents, brothers/sisters? Robert Edwardson, married Margaret Anne Gott in North Shields c.1840-48. When? Also seeking information on the Gass family of Cumberland. John Gass born Longtown, 30 Nov. 1864.
- 2205 Mr G. BARTON**, 16 Beresford Park, SUNDERLAND, Tyne and Wear SR2 7JU.
- 2206 Mrs M. BARTON**, 16 Beresford Park, SUNDERLAND, Tyne and Wear SR2 7JU.
- 2207 Mr T. CRAMLINGTON**, 34 Lunedale Avenue, Seaburn Dene, SUNDERLAND, Tyne and Wear SR6 8TX.
Mr Cramlington is very interested in hearing from anyone with interests in the name "Cramlington".
- 2208 Mrs M. CRAMLINGTON**, 34 Lunedale Avenue, Seaburn Dene, SUNDERLAND, Tyne and Wear SR6 8TX.
- 2209 Capt. D.M. DIXON**, 10 Macquarie Drive, PETRIE, QUEENSLAND 4502, AUSTRALIA.
- 2210 Mrs J. HALL**, 12 Athol Park, Hendon, SUNDERLAND, Tyne and Wear SR2 8BT.
(☎ Sunderland 77489)
- 2211 Mrs K. DAVISON**, 33 Calderwood Crescent, Low Fell, GATESHEAD, Tyne and Wear NE9 6PH.
- 2212 Mr W.C. TODD**, 5 East Lodge Road, Godinton Park, ASHFORD, Kent TN23 3DE.
(☎ Ashford 36237)
- 2213 Mrs E.J. VINSOME**, 5 Oban Avenue, WALLSEND, Tyne and Wear NE28 0PU.
- 2214 Miss E.M. GREENACRE**, 43 Normount Road, Grainger Park, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE NE4 8SH.
(☎ Tyneside 272 1350) Interested in: Greenacre family in Northumberland & Durham from 1850; Fail family in Scarborough & Hartlepool, 1850's, and South Shields from 1870; the Hind family - Jane born 1869/70 and her father, George, in Newcastle 1890's; the Brambel family in Newcastle 1850's and the Bonner family from Swalwell, Durham in 1840's and Newcastle 1880's.
- 2215 Miss G.E. DAVIES**, 14 Bourne View, GREENFORD, Middlesex UB6 7QT.
(☎ 01-902-1992)
- 2216 Mr F.I. HILL**, 416 Hamilton Avenue, OTTAWA, ONTARIO K1Y 1E3, CANADA.
Researching: Chamberlain (West Auckland, Merrington, Staindrop); Burrow (West Auckland); Burt (Seghill, Killingworth, Tynemouth); Polkinghorn (St. Helen's Auckland); Davison (Long Benton, Houghton-le-Spring); Spoors (Lanchester, Tanfield); Murray (Heworth); Marshall (Houghton-le-Spring); Richardson (Lanchester). Would be pleased to correspond with anyone else with similar interests.
- 2217 Mr A.J. CRAGGS**, 2 Buckland Rise, PINNER, Middlesex HA5 3QR.
(☎ 01-428-6070)
- 2218 Mrs K.E. CRAGGS**, 2 Buckland Rise, PINNER, Middlesex HA5 3QR.
(☎ 01-428-6070)
- 2219 Mr P.D. GIBB**, Low Middleton Hall Cottage, Middleton St. George, DARLINGTON, County Durham DL2 1AX.
- 2220 Mrs O.M. GIBB**, Low Middleton Hall Cottage, Middleton St. George, DARLINGTON, County Durham DL2 1AX.
- 2221 Mr L. BAKER**, 3 Glanford Road, BRIGG, South Humberside DN20 8DJ.
(☎ Brigg 54009) Would like any information on the Dentiths, particularly the birth of Agnes about 1863. Also he Ures of Byker, Newcastle; place of birth and marriage of William and Mary Ann said to have moved from Scotland. Also the Bakers of Elswick, Newcastle.
- 2222 Mrs J. SMITH**, 134 Swanhurst Lane, Moseley, BIRMINGHAM B13 0AN.
(☎ 021-777-2415) Interests include: Foster, Jane Ann born 1866 (Spennymoor?), died Kirkmerrington, 1928, married Wm. Thos. Askew. Varty/Batey, Isaac Varty bn. c.1874/6 (son of Thos. Varty) married Priscilla Annie Batey at Hexham, 1903.

- 2223 Mrs A. KIRKHAM, 52 Cresswell Road, South Norwood, LONDON SE25 4LR.
(IN O1-656-6588) Seeking any associations with the Hepburn family as follows: John Hepburn, born Sherburn Hill, married Emma Catchpole in 1885. Would like to establish brothers and sisters. Dates c.1845 onwards. John Hepburn, born Lambton area, married Ann Mason. Dates c. 1830's onwards. Thomas Hepburn, born c.1803 in Pelton; married Hannah (Dakers?) in 1828. Any brothers or sisters as have far too many names here! John Hepburn, born c.1780 in Pelton, and married Elizabeth Whitfield, any brothers or sisters, as set is not complete! Thomas Hepburn, probably born in Pelton also, married Elizabeth (Hull?) c.1772. Trying to discover whether Thomas Hepburn, the Miners' Union Leader of the 1830's (born 1796 in Pelton) is related somewhere. Would be interested, also, to hear from anyone knowing anything about the women mentioned who married into the family. Other interests: Hammond (possibly moved to Durham from Suffolk, along with Catchpole); Collings (Shildon, 1850's/60's); Martin-Hall (who moved to Shildon area from Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex).
- 2224 Mr D. BULMER, 1 Penrith Close, REDCAR, Cleveland TS 10 4JP.
- 2225 Mrs A. BULMER, 1 Penrith Close, REDCAR, Cleveland TS 10 4JP.
- 2226 Mrs M. KEERS, Brickyard House Farm, Billingsley, BRIDGNORTH, Shropshire W V 16 6PH.
Main interests are Keers and Hardy. William Keers, b.1867 in Burnhope, married Nancy Burns (b.1878) in Chester-le-Street in 1896. He was the son of James Keers born in 1846 and married to Mary Ann Hardy (b.1849) in 1866 in Pelton (Trinity Church). They both lived in West Pelton at that time. James went to Pittsburgh at some time in his married life. He had 4 children: William b.1867; Andrew b.1875; Mary Ann b.1876 and Lillie b.1880 (who went to Australia). Was there a son James born in Pittsburgh to him, probably between 1867 and 1875? Family rumour has this branch originated in Belgium, and the surname in the 18C. was probably Kerss.
- 2227 Mrs E. SUTCLIFFE, 18 Derwent Drive, LITTLEBOROUGH, Lancashire OL15 0BT.
Researching maiden name ancestry - O'Connell.
- 2228 Miss L. LOWREY, 222 Concession Street, Apartment 406, HAMILTON, ONTARIO L9A 1B1, CANADA.
Interests: Morton, Duncan born 24 March 1870 at North Shields. Parents were Duncan Morton and Jessie Watson and their address was 38, Little Bedford Street, North Shields, Tynemouth. The father, Duncan Morton, was a shipwright. None of these persons found on the 1871 Census for North Shields at the address given. Any suggestions for other avenues of research? Postage refunded and all help gratefully acknowledged.
- 2229 Mrs M. ROCKS, 42, Rendel Street, Dunston, GATESHEAD, Tyne and Wear NE 11 9ES.
- 2230 Mrs E. MULHOLLAND, 26 Cambridge Grove, OTLEY, West Yorkshire LS21 1 DH.
(IN Otley 462243)
- 2231 Mrs A. McCARTY, 70 Hithermoor Road, Stanwell Moor, STAINES, Middlesex TW 19 6AT.
- 2232 Mrs D.J. LAUGHER, 172 Cottingwood Court, Stanhope Street, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE NE4 5HF.
- 2233 Mr W. COUTTS, 272 Gosforth Avenue, Whiteleas, SOUTH SHIELDS, Tyne and Wear NE34 8RL.
(1 Boldon 361641)
- 2234 Mrs A.C. KIRBY, The Shielling, Catton, HEXHAM, Northumberland NE47 9QP.
(IN Allendale 304)
- 2235 Mr N.J. DINNING, 29 Lee Hill Court, Lanchester, DURHAM DH7 0QE.
(IN Lanchester 520154) Researching: Young (Kirk udbrightshire); Mills (Seghill, Northumberland); Bottrell (Pocklington, Yorkshire); O'Hara (Skipton, Leeds); Dinning/Fowler (Darlington); Carr (Spennymoor); Carr/Watson/Pearson (Chester-le-Street) and Redhead (Craghead/St Stanley).

CORRECTION

- 2113 Mr A.J. TAYLOR, Grove Thorpe, Brockdish, DISS, Norfolk IP21 4JE.
(IN Hoxne 305) We are sorry that Mr Taylor's address was incorrectly shown at page 78 of the Autumn 1985 issue.

SECOND TIME AROUND

- 0823 Mrs V. GREAVES, 62 Devon Crescent, Birtley, CHESTER-LE-STREET, County Durham DH3 1 HP.
Researching Proudlock and Martin. Looking for the town or village of Newtown, Northumberland c.1801. In the 1851 Census, Robert Proudlock (b.1801 or 1811) gave his birthplace as Newtown, Northumberland. How can it be found? Seeking Robert's baptism. Also trying to find marriage of Robert Proudlock and Johanna Waller (b.1820), Yorks. Johanna's father was Thomas Waller, a stonecutter, according to the information given on her second marriage to Nicholas Smith on 8 April 1873 at Trimdon. Any help greatly welcomed and all replies answered.
- 0875 Mrs R.E. PRITCHETT, Sunset House, Arlington, Bibury, CIRENCESTER, Gloucestershire GL7 5ND.
(1& Bibury 280) Mrs Pritchett has done a great deal of research into the one-name study of the name Joplin(g)/Joblin(g), and seeks any information on the name from any source, including Census returns, newspapers, Monumental Inscriptions, Wills, indeed any reference at all. Mrs Pritchett has a print-out for

the whole country for the name, from the I.G.I. , and all wills from Durham up to 1858, and the entries from Boyds. The earliest reference to the name is Robert Joplyn, who was renting land in Hedley Woods and Newburn in 1499. The lease in Hedley Woods was passed down until 17(x), but thereafter not mentioned. The name originated in the south of Northumberland and the north of County Durham, though odd branches moved out, notably to Yorkshire and London.

0998 Mrs J. GREGSON, 295 St. Johns Road, CLACTON-ON-SEA, Essex CO 16 8DE.

(IS Clacton-on-Sea 424959) Researching: Frances (Fanny) Ayre (b.27 September 1849, Sedgefield, Co. Durham) and married in 1872 to William Almey (b.1843, Long Sutton, Lines.) Frances was one of ten children born to John Ayre and Ann (nee Milburn) who were married at Sedgefield in 1834. John was the son of John Aire and Jane and was baptised at Sedgefield in 1813. Ann Milburn was baptised at Little Stainton, Bishopton, in 1812. Her parents were John Milburn, also born at Little Stainton, and Ann (?), who was born at Radley Shields. Other interests in the area are Mary Sponsford who married John Sherris in 1830 at Bishopwearmouth. John was born and baptised on the Isles of Scilly. Also Harriet Lee, daughter of Thomas Lee, a hatter. Thomas was married to Catherine Turtell, and they lived at Union Lane, Sunderland when Harriett was born in 1843. Are there any records of hatters in the Sunderland area? Interests elsewhere are Scaddan and Tregerthen, 18C., Isles of Scilly. Tucker and Pepper, shoemakers in London and Northampton in the mid 1800's. Tucker of Hanslope, Bucks. Sherman of Isham, Northants. Collier of Corby, Northants. Underwood of Nazeby in 1811 and Lines. before that. Smith of Maidwell, Northants.

1042 Mrs J. WATSON, Hunters Leigh, Hulton Close, LEATHERHEAD, Surrey KT22 8PJ.

Seeking any reference of the Masterson name in Newcastle/Gateshead area. Can supply **the address of a one-name researcher who has researched the Masterson name** for twenty years. Any Census details would be very welcome, especially in Scotswood Road area of Newcastle where many of the Mastersons lived from 1847 onwards. Also seeking the birth of Adam Buckham of Bolam around 1740. Other names being researched are Fish (Newcastle area); Anderson (Pilgrim Street, Newcastle); John Alfred Harris (Elswick area pre-1891); James Walker (Panmure Street area of Elswick pre-1891).

1061 Mr S.L. LAWSON, 8117 Dumont Drive, Apartment 803, VIENNA, VIRGINIA 22180, UNITED STATES.

Interested in finding parents of Thomas Lawson of area near South Hetton, Co. Durham. He married Ann Robson, daughter of Thomas Robson and Elizabeth Lightfoot. Thomas and Elizabeth are said to have married on 16 June 1798 in Durham. Any proof? Would like information on general genealogical histories published for the Durham area. Interested in learning early history and background of areas Hetton-le-Hole, Easington Lane- South Hetton and especially of the Robson, Lawson, Lightfoot and Cramlington families.

1234 Mrs E. HARTMAN, 106 High Street, Hinderwell, SALTBURN-BY-THE-SEA, Cleveland TS 13 5ES.

Interests include: Chartrand/Chautrand - Oakpoint/St. Laurent, Man. Can. 19-20C. Hartman - Saskatchewan, Canada 19-20C. Maxwell Prophet, born 1835-40 Edinburgh; married (Edinburgh/Berwick) 1859-60. Andrew Young, two daughters, Maryanne and Hannah (2nd marriage to (?) White, date?). Andrew Young, born 1835-40, died c. 1870 probably Berwick. Hannah Robinson (nee Young), born 1860-61, died April/May 1922, Whitburn. Was widowed and living at 15 Clayton Street, Jarrow, when she married grandfather on 17 June 1891. Two daughters. Thomas Peter Lock, born 1860/1, died c. 1925, Whitburn. Was a widower, living at 17 Clayton Street, Jarrow when he and grandmother were married 17 June 1891. Family: Ernest Emmanuel, Frederick William, Ella-Nora Prophet, Minnie Alice. Peter Lock, mariner, Jarrow (?), born 1825/40, died pre-1891. William Vest, died pre-1892, coal-miner, father of William Nicholas Vest, born between 10 April 1865 and 26 August 1865. Died 26 August 1903. Three daughters Elizabeth b.23 Oct. 1892, Dora/Dorothy, May. Married 9 April 1892 to Isabella Potts, born 1870/1, Oxhill (?), died c.1944 Leics. George Potts and Elizabeth Stephenson, born c.1850 Southmoor, Stanley. At some time in later life, Gt. Grandmother Maxwell and her daughter Maryanne ran a small private hotel at the top end of Villette Road, Havelock Gardens(?). Maryanne married and had a daughter Madge Stobbart (nee Taylor). Also son Jack(?) who married Mary(?), son Ernest Taylor, footballer with Manchester United in 1958-59.

1408 Mr H.A. LINES, Little Harle, Back Lane, MALVERN, Worcestershire WR142HJ.

(1a Malvern 3404) The marriage sought, also any children of William Aynsley, born 1715, Kirkwhelpington. Apprenticed Jos. Duglass attorney, Newcastle 1730-1737. Appointed Freeman of the City of Newcastle and Water Bailiff of Newcastle 1737-1745. Later (1757) appointed Chief Justice of New Jersey in America in which post he died suddenly in 1758. His widow Elizabeth Aynsley applied to Governor of New Jersey for grant to return to her family in England. No will discovered as yet. Marriage of William and Elizabeth probably 1737-1757 but where? John Aynsley, born Chollerton 1752, son of Thomas and Ann Aynsley or John Aynsley, born 1753, son of William and Ann A., Hartburn. Any connection with William Aynsley above?

1513 Mrs J. SNOWDON, 8 Kings Walk, Chapel Park, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE NE5 1UD.

(0 Tyneside 264 2284) Seeking the marriage of Joseph Snowdon, cabinet maker and Frances (possibly Cavers) c.1849, possibly in Gateshead. All their children were baptised at St. Nicholas, Newcastle, but their abode for 1851, 1853 was given as Gateshead. Their son George married Isabella Scott, daughter of William Scott, chain maker, on 18 Sept. 1881 at St. Philip's Newcastle, and their first son William was baptised at St. Matthew's Newcastle on 31 May 1885. Seeking the baptism of their 2nd son, Joseph, born c.1886. The

- family appear to have left the North-East between 1885-1886 and returned in about 1914. The 1881 Census mentions that Joseph's father, George, was born in Liverpool. Perhaps they went there. Joseph was married in Cardiff in 1908 to Mary Jane Gough, so he may have been born there. Any help welcomed.
- 1559 Mrs E.L. MEIER, 2314 Elm Street, DAVENPORT, IOWA 52803, UNITED STATES.
Searching for information on the John Cameron family, Scotland and Northumberland. John S. Cameron, brushmaker, wife Susan McLeod, son John Cameron, born 16 November 1828, Edinburgh married Isabella Elizabeth Thompson (born 9 June 1830, Ballast Hills, Newcastle). Father of Isabella was Thomas Thompson, mariner. Mother of Isabella was Elizabeth Farmer and they were married in Tynemouth Parish.
- 1709 Mrs N. McFADDEN, 118 Beaconsfield Terrace, Gordon Park, BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND 4031, AUSTRALIA.
Seeking help in finding the parents of Elizabeth Bowman, who wed Errington Gibson on 2 June 1856 at Rookhope, Stanhope, Co. Durham. Her father William was living at Stotfield, Durham in 1865. Another problem is the marriage of John Welsh and Margaret Cleghorn. Their children: Margaret born 1863, John born 1864 and William born c.1870, went to Australia on the same ship. They seem to have lived at Pelton Fell for at least 20 years from 1863 to 1884.
- 1912 Mr I. FOSTER, 2 Old Chapel Road, Crockenhill, SWANLEY, Kent BR8 8LJ.
(1& Swanley 60781) Mr Foster would like to hear from other members who have an interest in mining villages in Northumberland; what sources are available and where are they? The particular mining villages of interest are Cambois, West Sleekburn and Netherton. Mr Foster hopes at some time to compile an index of the Census Returns of the inhabitants of these villages.
- 1981 Mr H.J. ARKLE, 12 Woodford Close, Witherwack Estate, SUNDERLAND, Tyne and Wear SR5 5SA.
Researching: Arkle; Gibson; Oliver; Rushforth; Mitchinson and Widdrington. Researching ancestors of Elizabeth Ann Arkle (nee Oliver) of Sunderland district. She was born in 1851, died in 1933 and was married in 1871 to John Hogg Arkle. He was a pitman of Monkwearmouth. No further details of her are known. Grandmother Margaret Gibson was born Jan. 1892 at Ayres' Quay, Sunderland, and her parents were William Gibson and Margaret (nee Rushforth) who were married in Sundeland district in 1894. He was said by surviving relatives to have been about the same age as his wife. She died in Sunderland in 1949. He died when? Would like to hear from anyone who is related. Also interested in hearing from any descendents of Widdrington families of Longbenton and Walker area 1820+ and Mitchinson families of Sunderland district. Mr. Arkle is also researching all Arkle families in Northumberland and Durham, and hopes to produce a bulletin for quarterly distribution to interested members, and would like to hear from anyone with the same interest.
- 2116 Mrs C.M. DAVIES, Dunmore House, Airth, FALKIRK, Stirlingshire FK2 8LS.
Primarily interested in the Proctor family of Byker, Newcastle. The family were involved in the shipbuilding trade. Charles Proctor (b.1805) is described as a shipwright/block and mast maker, and his son, also Charles, was a sailmaker. Seeking information also on Pittilla family of Newcastle. George Gideon Pittilla was a tailor in the 1850's. Family believed to be of Spanish extraction. Also the Cunningham family of Byker. There were two sisters, both Ellen, the daughters of Robert Cunningham. The younger one, born c.1851, was named after the older sister who was burnt to death when her hair caught fire. Also the families of Ruth Dawson, married at All Saints, Newcastle in 1826 and Frances Slater, married at All Saints in 1796, the daughter of Timothy Slater, a flaxdresser of Belford.
- 2123 Mrs D.M. KILNER, 13 Woodside View, Holmfirth, HUDDERSFIELD, West Yorkshire HD7 1PT.
Interests: Coates of North Shields, Felton and Stranton, old parish of Hartlepool; Kirsop of Newcastle.
- 2134 Mrs H.M. SOUTHEN, 6 Braco Place, CHRISTCHURCH 4, NEW ZEALAND.
Seeking the birth of great-grandfather, and the marriage of great grandparents in Northumberland. Robinson: Birth of George Robinson c.1833 in Northumberland (possibly Newcastle upon Tyne). Marriage of his parents John Robinson and Charlotte Robson - Church of England. Any help appreciated.
- 2135 Mrs J. CULLEN, 'Charteris', Daltons's Fen, Pitsea, BASILDON, Essex SS13 1JF.
(1& Basildon 727765) Interests: Thomas Cooke, born South Shields 1836, son of Edward Cooke (Farmer). Eliza Riddle/Riddell, born South Shields 1845, daughter of Francis Riddle, born Scotland c.1804 (glasscutter) and Eliza Wallace, born Scotland c.1810. Mrs Cullen would like to hear from other members researching the same families.
- 2174 Mrs E.M. RHYS-HUGHES, 42 Kilmore, Ilsham Marine Drive, TORQUAY, Devon TQ 12HU.
(IS Torquay 215122) Researching Maxwell. Thomas Maxwell married Rachel Dobson at Ovingham, Northumberland in 1703. They and three more generations lived at Newton Hall, Northumberland. Birth dates a few details are known for some seven generations. William (born 1742) was a General in the [U.S.A. c.1786. Jonathan](#) (born 1793) was a woodcarver of repute. Also the family of George Ward, born in 1743 at Blackhall Forge near Rowlands Gill, Co. Durham, and his descendants at Blackhall Mill and at Teams Iron Works, Gateshead. Also the Borrow family who lived at Hall Hill near Satley, Co. Durham. One Borrow was Factor to the two Misses Greenwell of Broomshields in the mid-1800's. Any information welcomed.
- 2180 Lt Cdr H. PAGE, 166 Stamford Road, Lees, OLDHAM, Lancashire OL4 3ND.
Seeking particulars of grandfather, Charles Peter Page, a mariner, who sailed from Sunderland on a voyage to South Africa c.1874 and died on arrival there. He left a widow and several sons, father being the youngest, and newly born (29 July 1874). The family address was 11 Charles Street, Monkwearmouth, Sunderland. Trying to find the name of the vessel in which Charles Peter Page served, when the voyage took place and what happened to his bereaved family. Would be delighted to hear from any relatives still in the Sunderland area.

O FFERS O F HELP

1203 Mr A. MARLEY, 6 Milburn Street, CROOK, County Durham DL15 9DY.

Mr Marley has recently acquired copies of the Parish Registers (baptisms, marriages and burials) for Dinsdale, County Durham, 1556-1813; Elsdon, Northumberland, 1672-1812 and Esh, County Durham, 1567-1812, and will gladly look up references for members upon receipt of a stamped, addressed envelope.

1610 Miss L. FOLEY, 2/70 Dawson Street, COOKS HILL, NEW SOUTH WALES 2300, AUSTRALIA.

Miss Foley has access to the pre-1900 indexes of births/baptisms, marriages and deaths/burials (covering the years 1787-1899) and the probate index (1800-1982) for New South Wales, and would be happy to provide details from these records in return for a self-addressed envelope and two international reply coupons.

2014 Mrs A.C. PETERSON, 9926 North East 144th Lane, No. 306, BOTHELL, WASHINGTON 98011, UNITED STATES.

Mrs Peterson lives in a suburb of Seattle, close to a branch of United States Archives, where all the U.S.A. Censuses are available. She would be very happy to do research for members of the Society in return for reimbursement of any expenses incurred.

HELP WANTED

0875 Mrs R.E. PRITCHETT, Sunset House, Arlington, BIBURY, Cirencester GL7 5ND.

(12 Bibury 280) Mrs Pritchett seeks help from any member who is willing to extract register entries for the names Joplin(g)/Joblin(g) at Durham County Record Office, and would be happy to pay their expenses. She is unable to offer reciprocal research, but would willingly tackle any query on the above names, worldwide, from the enormous amount of information she has on these names.

1370 Mr C. RIDDELL, 98 Mount Road, High Barnes, SUNDERLAND, Tyne and Wear SR4 7NN.

Mr Riddell seeks help from any member who would be willing to search Military Records at the Public Record Office, Kew, Richmond, Surrey. Possibly Durham Militia 1794.

1513 Mrs J. SNOWDON, 8 Kings Walk, Chapel Park, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE NE51UD.

('a Tyneside 264 2284) Mrs Snowdon asks if any member would be willing to undertake some research in Northallerton Public Record Office in return for help at Northumberland Record Office, or Tyne and Wear Archives.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

0095 Mr P.K BENNETT, 74 Westover Road, FLEET, Hampshire GU13 9DF.

0636 Miss M.M. PORTER, Unit 59, St. Stephen's Village, 31 Coreen Street, PENRITH, NEW SOUTH WALES 2750, AUSTRALIA.

0885 Mrs A.M. JOHNSON, 103 Ambrook Road, READING, Berkshire RG2 8SW.

0909 Mrs J. HOWE, 8 Willow Park Drive, Oldswinford, STOURBRIDGE, West Midlands DY8 2HL.

0982 Mrs A. SHAPCOTT, Meadow View, Main Road, West Ashby, HORNCastle, Lincolnshire LN9 5PT.

1061 Mr S.L. LAWSON, 8117 Dumont Drive, Apartment 803, VIENNA, VIRGINIA 22180, UNITED STATES.

1095 Mr J. MILLER, 183 Arthur Street, Onehunga, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND.

1158 Cdr. R. PORTEOUS, 13A Peacock Lane, PORTSMOUTH, Hampshire PO1 2PA.

1219 Mrs S.M. HARRIS, 33 Grove Road, Bingham, NOTTINGHAM NG13 8DY. (Is Bingham 38277)

1246 Mr R. CARR, 14 Trotwood Close, CHELSMFORD, Essex CM14UZ.

1248 Mr W.L. FLETCHER, 2 Cresta Road, ABERGAVENNY, Gwent NP7 7AT.

1310 Miss M.L. ATKINSON, 99 Oriental Road, WOKING, Surrey GU22 7AS.

1425 Mr A. SANDLES, 96 Cedar Glade, Dunnington, YORK YO15PJ.

1450 Mrs G.R. ARKLEY, 89 Monkseaton Drive, WHITLEY BAY, Tyne & Wear NE26 3DH.

1483 Miss J. LUPTON, 37 Beverley Road, Low Fell, GATESHEAD, Tyne & Wear NE9 5UJ.

1529 Mr J.W. McSPARRON, 14 Treedale Close, COVENTRY, West Midlands CV4 9HQ. (IS Coventry 466907)

1551 Ms V.E.P. SMITH, 8 Vernon Road, Collier Row, ROMFORD, Essex RM5 3DF.

1613 Mr W. WARDLE, 61 Flintridge Road, SCARBOROUGH, ONTARIO M1P 1C4, CANADA.

2043 Mrs R.S. BONNEY, Flat 5, 29 Glamorgan Road, Hampton Wick, KINGSTON UPON THAMES, Surrey KT14HS.

2165 Mr G. BROWN, 99 Holt Farm Rise, LEEDS, West Yorkshire LS16 7SB.