

# THE JOURNAL OF THE NORTHUMBERLAND & DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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Summer 1992

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ALL ITEMS IN THIS JOURNAL cd 1992 NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY OR ITS  
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NATIONAL REPLY COUPONS FROM OVERSEAS MEMBERS) AND QUOTE YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER

## EDITORIAL

At last we seem to have solved the distribution problems which have plagued the Society for a year or more. I hope I am not tempting fate by saying that I have not heard of any instances of the Summer Journal not reaching its destination -- after all kinds of difficulties with earlier ones! Your Committee again apologises to those of you who were inconvenienced. Thank you for bearing with us -- and if anyone is still "missing" an earlier Journal, please write to Jennie Ashburner.

In this issue, you will find details of subscription renewals. Please help by renewing early, and in accordance with the instructions. Please also note that correspondence on financial matters (other than subscription renewals) should now be sent to Phil Thirkell, who has succeeded Cindy Winter as Treasurer. Phil also remains responsible, at least for the time being, for compiling the popular "Members Interests and Queries" item in the Journal.

Society members have done quite a lot of transcription work of one sort or another over the past 15 years or so and as a result we have a sizeable library of parish register transcripts, indexes, monumental inscriptions and the like. However, this valuable work has almost exclusively related to records where the original is held in Durham or Northumberland. There are many records of various sorts which relate to one or both of the two counties which are held elsewhere in the U.K. e.g. in the Public Record Office at Kew. It would be very helpful if members with easy access to records in, say, the P.R.O. would consider undertaking some transcription or extraction work there, with a view to making the information available to those of us who live in our "heartland", and to Society members generally via our Library. You will find elsewhere in the Journal a plea for help in indexing some Army records held by the P.R.O. Please help with this if you can, but if you feel able to undertake other specifically-Durham-or-Northumberland projects, please initially drop me a line, with your ideas, and we'll see what can be done. And if any overseas member has similar ideas for work on records held in his or her own country, we'd be pleased to hear from you.

## NOTES AND NEWS

The Society of Genealogists is holding a Family History Fair at the Royal Horticultural Society Old Hall, Vincent Square, Westminster, London on May 16th, 1993 (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) Stands will include Family History Societies, Books, Postcards and Photographs, Computer Software and Demonstrations and Professional Researchers and Research Advice. For further information apply to the Family History Fair Co-ordinator, Society of Genealogists, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, London EC1M 7BA.

Nearer home, Northumberland Record Office is holding a "Family History for Beginners" day in November. Details are on a leaflet which should be enclosed with this Journal.

Our member, Dr M.E. Wilson is conducting two series of classes on Family History -- one at Chester-le-Street Park View Community Centre at 7 p.m. on Wednesday evenings from 26th September; the other at Age Concern House, Durham (near the bus station) on Friday mornings 10 a.m. to 12 noon. See the WEA leaflet for details and dates.

Incidentally, Dr Wilson (address 33 Archery Rise, Durham DH1 4LA) has a problem concerning the family of Joseph and Sarah Humble, whose daughter Jane (aged 25) and son-in-law John Carr (aged 31) were, according to the 1851 Craghead/South Moor census, born in Cosiah, Durham. If anyone has ideas on where Cosiah is, please write to Dr Wilson. Could it be Causey?

A family bible is held by Mr C.R. Riddell, 98 Mount Road, High Barnes, Sunderland SR4 7NN (Tel 091-5284113). It contains some details of Mills and Plumpton families. John Mills married Martha Cutter -- it looks as though they were born in 1849 and 1851 respectively and had three various children between 1872 and 1887. Alfred Plumpton died in 1931. There is a Martha born 1879 and then various others born between 1900 and 1921. Apparently the Plumptons owned a greengrocery business in Williamson Terrace, Monkwearmouth up to and after World War II. Contact Mr. Riddell direct if you are interested.

## RALPH TAIT

It was with sadness and shock that the Society learned of the death of Ralph Tait on 14th July at the age of 71. A former Cameron Highlander, Ralph worked as a draughtsman until his retirement, and he and his wife Doreen have been active Society members for many years. Despite suffering from leukemia and heart problems, Ralph was always busy on Society business, whether in assisting Doreen in her duties as Librarian, or representing the South Tyneside branch, in simply talking sound common sense in his quiet Scots accent, or in helping out at meetings and conferences. It is on people like Ralph Tait that a Society like ours depends, and he will be sadly missed. Our sympathies go to Doreen and the family in their loss.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please note that subscriptions for 1992/'93 are due for payment on or before the 1st November 1992. This subscription will cover the Spring to Winter 1993 Journals.

At the AGM it was agreed that the subscriptions would remain unchanged for the coming year and it was also decided that the late renewal fee would be discontinued, although the initial joining fee of half the normal subscription would continue. The rejoining fee was an attempt to recoup some of the costs of chasing up late renewals but it did lead to some bad feelings, especially as many of the late renewals were caused by Journal distribution problems. Your prompt compliance with the instructions below would be much appreciated and would help to avoid any problems and unnecessary work. Please note that reminders will not be sent, nor will receipts be issued, but delivery of the Spring edition of the Journal may be taken as confirmation that your subscription has been received.

### NORMAL SUBSCRIPTION 1992/93

UK and EEC addresses (including all BFPO) .....	£10.00
Overseas (outside the EEC) .....	£14.00
Each additional member at the same address.....	£1.00
Institutions in Northumberland and Durham .....	£10.00
Other UK institutional members .....	£20.00
Overseas institutional members .....	£28.00

If overseas members are unable to obtain sterling cheques or money orders, then they may pay by cheque in one of the following currencies at the rates below.

US personal members .....	US	\$32.00
Australian personal members .....	Aus	\$36.00
Canadian personal members.....	Can	\$34.00

These amounts include a sum to cover the very high cost of converting non-sterling cheques.

### PAYMENT INSTRUCTION

1. Fill in the enclosed renewal form.
2. Make cheques payable to NDFHS.
3. Write your name, address and membership number on the back of the cheque.
4. Send the form and your cheque to Renewals to Mrs J. Ashburner, 10 Melrose Grove, Jarrow, Tyne and Wear NE32 4HP.

If you do not intend rejoining, it would greatly help if you could still return the form indicating that fact. Your help in following the instructions, thereby avoiding unnecessary work for the Society's officers, would be greatly appreciated.

## HOW THEY DIED

"Causes of death registered in England and Wales from 1st July to 31st December 1837, both inclusive", according to the First Annual Report of the Registrar-General, included the following among the 148,701 deaths registered:-

Smallpox 5811 ... Measles 4742 ... Typhus 9047 ... Convulsions 10729 ... Consumption 20247 ... Dropsy 5584 ... broken heart 2 females ... fright 1 male 5 females ... eating blackberries 1 female aged 6 ... eating cucumbers 1 female ... foul air in a well 3 males ... drinking cold water 1 male 1 female ... drinking boiling water 4 males 2 females, young children ... taking Morrison's pills 2 males ... taking Godfrey's Cordial 2 males ... bite of a donkey 1 male ... killed by a lion 1 male ... killed by a bull 1 male ... loss of blood from the bite of a ferret, a male aged 4 months ... struck by lightning 11 males, 4 females ... 12 persons killed by an explosion in a pit in Lamesley district, Chester-le-Street ... inflammation from prick of a thorn 1 male ... died by fighting 2 males ... cold caught by falling into a lake, Pembroke, a female aged 90 ....

The Registrar-General commented that "six children, four males and two females, died in consequence of drinking boiling water from the spout of the tea-kettle, an accident which happens too often, and from which children would be saved, as well as from one still more frequent-burning - by a good fire-guard.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lesley Wynne-Davies, 47 Wyndcliff Road, Charlton, London SE7 XP, who is Project Organiser for the Association of Friends of the Public Record Office writes:

The Friends of the Public Record Office have embarked on an ambitious project to index all the soldiers' discharge certificates up to 1854 held in Class WO 97 at Kew. Most of these are arranged in alphabetical order just within regiments, so that someone wishing to locate a particular soldier whose regiment is unknown has well over a hundred places in which to search. Moreover, certificates are filed under the last regiment of a soldier's service, so even when a regiment is known, a later transfer may mean that the certificate is in an unexpected place.

When our database is complete, it will be possible to group the men by regiment or county of origin, as well as having them all in alphabetical order. This will be very helpful to those engaged in local history and population studies, as well as to family historians.

To achieve such an index, we need a great many volunteers. The work is to be done from microfilms, wherever a volunteer may have access to a microfilm reader. If people interested would contact me it would be very helpful.

*(As an example of the type of information to be found on discharge certificates we have been sent the details for John Appleby. He was "discharged from 2nd Life Guards; born at Houghton-le-Spring, Durham, farmer's servant, attested Windsor 27 Feb 1843 aged 19 years 10 months; given free discharge at his own request, having been illegally attested; conduct very good; discharged 23 March 1846; at discharge aged 22 years 10 months, 60 1/4" tall, brown hair, hazel eyes, fair complexion, no scars).*

Mr C.R. Humphery-Smith, Principal of the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies, Northgate, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1BA writes:-

As you may know, the Institute has attempted over more than thirty years to find applications for genealogical studies to other disciplines. Not unnaturally the medical profession has been somewhat hesitant in using genealogical practitioners to study cases of inherited diseases. In recent years, however, the Institute has been invited to be closely involved with several medical schools investigating families which show propensities to inherited defects which include debilitating or fatal diseases such as several forms of cancer and Alzheimer's disease.

If expanded, this important work would assist in saving so many lives or improving those of distressed sufferers. Our efforts can be helped by volunteers who are prepared to help with some of the routine search work. Ideally they should have access to GRO indexes on microfiche or be prepared to search those at St Catherine's House. If anyone is prepared to volunteer to assist in this work, I will gladly send a copy of my explanatory paper on genealogy and genetics which appeared in *Family History* (April 1982) and an application form. My colleague Dr. Geoffrey Swinfield is directing the team co-ordinating the research work on affected families and the individuals within them.

Mrs Jean Dearden, 1 Holly Court, Bewerley, Harrogate, North Yorks HG3 5HY writes:-

With an increasing volume and variety of information now becoming available on microfiche, many members must be wondering how to obtain a reliable reader at a reasonable price. New machines are costly.

Advertisements for second-hand reconditioned machines are to be found in some family history magazines, but all those I have seen have been by firms in London and the south. My enquiries in Yellow Pages for Leeds and Bradford have drawn a blank. One is reluctant to buy goods of this kind unseen and untested, and even if an unsatisfactory purchase could be returned, the cost of carriage would be considerable.

It would be most helpful to know if there are any suppliers in the North where buyers could try out the machines and transport them for themselves. Can any members please help?

Mr B.G. Hodgson, 8 Little Rock Drive, Scarborough, Ontario M1M 3N6, Canada writes:-

At 7.00 p.m. on Monday, September 28th in The Old Lodge' at Raby by Staindrop; the surname Hodgson, its derivation, links with Raby and historic Hodgson trees and knowledgeable speakers, a tour of the 'lodge' and refreshments. A time to share personal Hodgson trees will close the meeting.

Drive northwest from Staindrop on B6279 two kilometres past the town limits. The Old Lodge' is sign posted on the north side. On farm road pass a stone wall and the 'Old Lodge 1896' farmhouse. Continue through barnyard, cross another field, turn right and descend to stone bridge. Park and walk up Saxon mound to the Lodge. Write direct to Mr Hodgson, but after September 1st, please contact the NDFHS Durham Group.

Mr. Jim Hunter, Irwin, Pennsylvania writes concerning the letter from Ed Stanley, which appeared in the Summer Journal:-

Poor Ed Stanley! He seems to have forgotten the thrill of discovery.

My wife and I travelled 4600 miles to visit the CRO in Durham for four days. We made two big discoveries on the first day, and we whispered. The second day was full of discoveries and we whispered. On the third day, a man we shall call Grandpa and his granddaughter visited the office. Grandpa, who was hard of hearing and short of sight, didn't whisper -- he BOOMED. Granddaughter was very embarrassed and tried to shush him, but Grandpa would have none of it. He had talked her into taking him there to find his grandparents. He did not know who they were and wanted to find out before he passed away. Though I have since forgotten their names, everyone in the office knew them that day. We also knew the joy of discovery this man felt when he and his granddaughter found those grandparents. I would not have denied him that for all the world. The couple left after about two hours, leaving the rest of us to our work. We made our discoveries, we whispered and we smiled.

Lighten up, Mr Stanley. If elementary mistakes are made, providing a little of your expertise to clear them up would help you achieve the quiet you desire (and possibly a little admiration to go along with it). Also, one of those noisy, unknowledgeable people could hold the key to YOUR find of the decade!

A member wishing to be known only as "Bookworm" writes on the same subject:-

I would like to support Ed Stanley's views. The noise problem in local records offices has grown over recent years but the talkers are not only female. Several men are regular nuisances! Recent experiences include:

1. Women with three under 11 year old grandsons, using one fiche reader and maps. This involved almost constant explanation and talk.
2. Young woman with a toddler in a pram.
3. Young American woman reading out from the screen to an elderly man. When asked not to make such noise she explained he was deaf so she had to shout! She did not explain why he could not read. When not having the screen read out he stood and chinked loose change in his pocket for three hours.
4. Middle aged "professional" genealogist who regularly talks in loud voice to others who seem to be working on searches for him. Conversation might range from parish records to weekend fishing trips.
5. Several elderly couples having rows over whether that was grandfather or uncle.
6. An elderly man gossiping endlessly but when asked if he could be quieter started shouting abuse.
7. Elderly man dictating lists of St Catherines House entries to his wife.

Other Record Offices e.g. Essex allow only one person per machine. Silence notices are displayed on desks. The one person per machine rule is surely sensible. There used to be a rule that children under 16 were not admitted to search rooms without permission. Moreover, it is not fair on a toddler to be expected to be quiet and sit in a pushchair in a darkened room!

If silence is such a hardship, could there be "noisy" sessions for the chatterers and "silent" sessions for the rest of us? I cannot believe that anyone can make accurate searches in the present conditions.

# NEW BOOKS

## 1992 NDFHS LIBRARY CATALOGUE

There is a new edition of the catalogue of the extensive NDFHS Library Catalogue which lists all our holdings except the Monumental Inscriptions. There is a Library Postal service, so that members may borrow items at any time. The simple procedure is given in the front of the catalogue, which costs £1 only, either from the Librarian Mrs D. Tait or from Mrs C. Davison (addresses on front inside cover). Mrs Tait has a large collection of family trees donated by members and she suggests you should send yours to her -- so long as it refers to Northumberland or Durham and will fit into an A4 file. These are very popular -- who knows, you may find another member researching your family!

## MY ANCESTORS WERE CONGREGATIONALISTS

*Compiled by D.J.H. Clifford. Published 1992 (94 pages)*

Following a useful 10 page history of Congregationalism coupled with a general introduction, this book comprises a very comprehensive listing by county of all known Independent/Congregationalist registers in England and Wales to 1850 with details of their location. Many such registers exist outside those held at the Public Record Office and the author has gathered information about them. He has also included details of chapels where no registers have been located. One can find fault with some of his work -- where is "Newcastle Record Office" for instance? Does he mean Northumberland? -- but a valuable work of reference if you have ancestors of this denomination.

The book costs £4.50 by post from Mrs C. Davison (address on Contents Page). It is the latest to be published by the Society of Genealogists in the "My Ancestor Was .." series. Other titles include Merchant Seamen, Migrant, Baptists, Manorial Tenants, Methodists, Quakers and all are available from Mrs C. Davison.

## A NORTHUMBERLAND METHODIST CHILDHOOD

*By A. Victor Murray (95 pages)*

**This contains the early chapters of an unfinished autobiography by the late Professor Murray, written about 1950.** He looks back with affection, humour, sharp insight and a remarkably clear memory of his boyhood years half a century or so earlier at the colliery village of Scotland Gate, Choppington and more briefly at Berwick-on-Tweed. It will appeal to those interested in north-eastern social history and in the colourful and important role played in its heyday by Methodism in pit village, town and countryside. Published by Northumberland County Library price £5.95.

## SEATON DELAVAL - A HISTORY IN PHOTOGRAPHS and NEWBIGGIN-BY THE-SEA - A FISHING COMMUNITY

*By Tom Allan (Both contain 48 pages each)*

Both books are published by Northumberland County Library at £3.95.

## A FAMILY BUSINESS

The story of Win Smith and Sons of Barnard Castle, founded 160 years ago by William Smith, a blacksmith who invented a "Road Sweeping Machine". It is today one of the foremost sign making companies in the U.K. Anyone with Barnard Castle interests might find it worthwhile to purchase this 125 page book which costs £5.00 from the firm at Grove Works, Barnard Castle.

# THE LAST OF THE OLD MINERS REPRESENTATIVES

by Joyce Wakenshaw

*"Mr. Burt has told you of the many undertakings I was connected with --- I shall not mention any of these again, but will only say this, that my actions were handed down by men, some of whom I see on this platform. Here I find the name of Thomas Wakenshaw, 80 years of age, I have heard his dreadful stories and the stories of others."*  
(Richard Fynes, Presentation Ceremony, Central Hall, Blyth, April 12th 1884)

in June 1884, two men knocked on the door of a miner's cottage, in Stakeford, Northumberland, and called out discreetly, "Can we come in?" Ann, the miners second wife, aged 61 at the time according to the 1881 census, stepped out into the passage, smiled gratefully on recognising the visitors, and quietly ushered them into the room where Tommy, almost 88 years old, was peacefully sleeping away the last days of his life. He had worked up to just some weeks previously, tending the furnace of the local pit, a job found for him long after normal retirement age by a kindly pit manager.

The visitors approached the sick bed and one of them spoke, "We're not prayin' men, Tommy, but yer sure to go on to Heaven for wat ye've dyun for the miners". Old Tommy stirred, the words he heard lingered in his languishing brain, "Ay", he thought "for the miners -- aal me marras, me fatha, me grandfatha, aal me brothers and aal wor bairns, grandbairns, and even wor gryt-grandbairns they've aal been pitmen. It was just a good job that had to be done, aal them years past when as worked at Bedlington -- it was then as come across Tommy Hepburn."

The "Combination Act" introduced in 1800 by Pitt forbade groups of workmen to collaborate in insisting on fair labour conditions. The repeal of the Act in 1824/25 made trade unions legal and surely gave impulse to the miners of the North East to work together to improve the conditions of their daily life. Propertied classes had been haunted by the spectre of uprising among the workers since the time of the French Revolution, and fears of riot and rebellion reached a new peak in England between 1829 and 1834. At this time, though many dedicated people in England were appalled by the conditions of slavery which existed in the British colonies, few, other than the miners, were aware that nearer home human beings were held in bondage to their employers, the coal owners. Children worked seventeen to eighteen hours per day in the mine, sometimes beginning at the age of six. The miners were "bound" to a certain employer for a calendar year, and were paid an agreed amount per specified weight of a corve or tub of coal which was sent to the surface. The miner was fined if corves contained too much stone or inferior coal. In view of the inadequacy of the lighting in the mine, it was almost impossible to judge the quality of the material being packed in the corve and sent to the surface. Frequently the weighing machines operated by the colliery viewer were inaccurate, most usually operating to the advantage of the employer. The terms of the bond prevented the employees from changing their labour conditions during the year the bond was in operation.

It was in this context that, by the year 1830, the miners of Northumberland had joined together to form what was called "Hepburn's Union". Thomas Hepburn has been described as "a man of intelligence, tact and perseverance" and with his encouragement miners began to understand that they must obtain the sympathy of the general public in order to see their demands for justice and improved conditions given attention.

In March 1831, in Durham, and on the Town Moor, Newcastle, meetings were held to adopt resolutions to assist in considering the "best means of obtaining an increase in wages". In Newcastle 20,000 people assembled and among the concerns formulated was a resolution to bring an end to the "Tommy" shops. The "Tommy" shop was usually managed by a relative of the colliery viewer (the official who judged the quality of the coal delivered to the surface). Commodities stocked in these shops were usually of inferior quality and more expensive than in the general stores of the area, but a miner was obliged to make purchases there, thus being forced to accept some of his wages in kind rather than cash. To assist in the rectification of all their complaints it was resolved that the men of each colliery should meet twice a week, and that each pit should send a delegate to form a general committee for carrying the resolutions into effect.

"Yis, when as worked at Bedlington, as was nominated as representative of Glebe and Netherton collieries," reflected old Tommy.

Tommy's visitors noticed a growing tension in the sleeping body of the dying man as the memories of the events of the great strike of 1831 were projected once again onto the surface of his brain.

It had been decided that on 5th of April, 1831, at the end of the current bond, no miner should re-engage himself until adjustments were made in labour conditions. Employers had already agreed to the policy of 12 hours work per day and that miners should be free to purchase goods in any shop, but the men decided to stick out for the remediation of all their grievances. On April 6th, 1831, a great number of miners met at Black Fell, hoping that further changes would be proposed by colliery owners, but no proposals were forthcoming, so the miners decided not to return to work. The military was on standby to preserve the peace, and neutral magistrates offered to act in a mediatory capacity. A conciliation meeting was arranged at the Moot Hall, Newcastle; the miners' delegates arrived but the magistrates did not appear. The men of some collieries returned to work, accepting the old conditions, but they were shunned by their colleagues who were determined to fight out the battle.

"Divvn't man, divvn't, calm yersels doon, we'll get neewhere like that!" called out Thomas agitatedly, as he **remembered his attempts to placate some of the hundreds of miners who visited collieries in Blyth and Bedlington**, and were bent on a path of destruction. At his own pit, Bedlington Glebe, "they tore the corves to pieces, threw them down the shaft and did considerable damage to the machinery. From Bedlington they marched to Netherton, but strong opposition having been collected there against them, they retreated."

The unrest continued, interspersed with conciliatory meetings with the owners, and at one time with the Marquis of Londonderry, who was accompanied by a military escort. Incited apparently by the frequent presence and action of the military, the miners engaged in much violence. However, about the middle of June 1831 the coal owners capitulated because of the growing shortage of coal for domestic and industrial purposes. In late August, Thomas Hepburn, addressing a rally, urged the men to preserve the advantage they had gained by demonstrating "order, sobriety, and attention to their religious duties", in order to keep up the feeling of sympathy they had promoted in the general public.

In 1832 however, feeling threatened by the growing strength of the union, the coal owners decided that at the next yearly binding, no union members would be engaged. The miners, showing solidarity with the union men, determined that they would not work unless union men were also engaged. The coal owners retaliated by employing labour from other parts of the country, and by forced evictions of miners and their families from colliery houses. This heightened the miners' aggression and violence recommenced, including skirmishes between striking and working miners.

On the 11th of June 1832, a magistrate was seized from his horse and killed. One of his murderers escaped, but the other, William Jobling, was arrested. Jobling was sentenced to be hanged; his body to be afterwards hung in chains near the scene of the murder. On the 8th of July, fighting broke out between some miners and the police. One miner named Skipsey, very much respected in his colliery, intervened to make peace between the two groups, when a policeman drew his pistol and shot at the mediator. Skipsey was killed and left behind a wife and six children. This time the "murderer" was sentenced only to six months hard labour. The glaring difference between the severity of the two sentences incensed the miners once again.

An awesome groan escaped from Tommy's throat as he remembered the account of Jobling's execution scene. "Jobling exhibited on his way to the scaffold, the utmost resignation and fortitude ... His step was firm ... Just as the fatal bolt was about to be withdrawn, a person near the scaffold called out 'Farewell Jobling' --- Jobling turned his head in the direction of the voice, which displaced the cord and consequently protracted his sufferings which continued for some minutes". The body was later conveyed to the gaol, where the clothes were removed, and the corpse was covered with pitch. The clothes were replaced, and the body, escorted by a troop of Hussars and two companies of Infantry and prison officials, was taken to Jarrow Slake. On August 6th Jobling's body, wearing the clothes in which he was hanged, was taken to the gibbet. About 1000 people were present to watch the scene. The body was cased in flat bars of iron **2½ inches in breadth, and the feet were placed in stirrups. Hands covered in pitch** hung by the side. A white grave cloth was placed over the pitch covered face. The body was hoisted up and was guarded by the police. Jobling was the first person gibbeted under a new Act of Parliament which ordered the bodies of murderers to be hung in chains.

The muscles of Tommy's face tightened again. He was reliving the horror of the display of Jobling's body but he was also remembering the hardship inflicted on him and his whole family at the end of the 1832 strike. He had five brothers and the whole family was refused work in Northumberland. They were obliged to find work out of the county, returning, as far as it can be ascertained, to work at Whitley Colliery only towards the end of the 1830's.

Thomas Hepburn, the leader of the union, suffered the same fate and for many years afterwards he had to earn his living by selling tea around the colliery villages; no colliery owner would employ him.



Slowly a growing tranquillity was noted in Tommy's limbs, his breathing became deeper and more regular as he remembered the early years of his marriage with his first wife Elizabeth, which took place in 1839; and he recalled the birth of his first child, Thomas, in 1842. Tommy had not contented himself, however, with only the comforts and pleasures of the domestic scene, there was still work to be done to improve the lives of the miners and their families.

Now in his dying moments, Tommy experienced some nostalgia -- a longing to savour once again the camaraderie he had known working with men such as Mark Dent, Thomas Pratt, James Ballentyne, George Thompson, George Charlton, Matthew Elliot, Edward Richardson, William Mitchell, Christopher Haswell, Thomas Hay, John Tulip, T. Clough, Robert Archer, Alexander Stoves, and William Hammond, who were representatives of northern collieries associated with the "Miners Association of Great Britain and Ireland". Martin Jude was their leader at this time and Tommy recollected how the executive meetings of the association had been held in the Newcastle "pub" owned by Martin Jude. Tommy remembered the publication of the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Council in *The Miners Advocate* towards the end of 1843. Tommy was chairman, Martin Jude treasurer, John Hall general secretary and John Birbeck assistant secretary.

"Aye" thought Tommy, "them bosses, and them doon Sooth, thout that we wor just a bunch of ignorant pitmen -- but anyone readin them minutes would hev knaan in a jiffy that we knaad hoo to conduct meetins. Aa was **chairman of a gryt big meetin -- 'The National Delegate Meeting of Coal Miners' in Manchester on January 2nd, 1844,** with about 70-80 delegates present from aal owner the country. Me openin speech was reported in *The Miners Advocate*'. Aa sed -- Whey, we've had unions before, which hev been of nee parmenent good to the miners, but aa'm led to believe, that this is such a union as hez nivvor yit existed under the canopy of Heaven, and there is nee union which is so much calculated to relieve us from the misery in which we're placed, as the Union of Coal Miners of Gryt Britain and Ireland.

Such eloquence (even though the words were reported to have been spoken with a "homely accent") from a man who, starting down the mine at the latest aged ten years, had most probably not received any formal education. How had his language skill been developed? Had he, like his early leader Thomas Hepburn learned to read while studying the Bible aged eight years? It was maintained at the time that three out of four miners could neither read nor write but the delegates at the Manchester meeting took copious notes of the proceedings.

It is also recorded that at the conference, after reading a proposal from the delegates of a Lancashire colliery advocating immediate strike action, Thomas tore up the proposal thus registering his disapproval. On the second day of the conference, intense debate took place between the delegates concerning the most appropriate wording of a resolution. Should the association "desire" men to refrain from working or should the association "recommend" that the men refrain from labour? After the conference decided that in the context of the resolution the two words had a similar meaning, Thomas closed the debate stating that he wished it to be understood, that all they meant by the resolution was that it was a recommendation!

Rough, black and dirty, the miners may have appeared on regaining the surface after their hours of work below, but ignorant and unintelligent men, they were not.

**"STAND FIRM TO YOUR UNION  
BRAVE SONS OF THE MINE  
AND WE'LL CONQUER THE TYRANTS OF  
TEES WEAR AND TYNE"**

This was the eye-catching slogan written on a board at a mass meeting held on August 1st, 1844, four months after the beginning of the Great Strike of the miners of Northumberland and Durham. It was not an opportune time for a strike. Sale of coal had severely declined in 1843, and trade generally was suffering from considerable depression. In view of this situation, coal owners were in no way inclined to increase their labour costs, and fearing industrial action, they had taken the precaution of building up reserves of coal.

Tensions had arisen in meetings of the Miners' Association Executive Council because of differences of opinion between the council members and their legal adviser, William Prowting Roberts, who favoured strike action. The Council members were initially reticent to accepting the persuasive arguments of Roberts. It can be supposed however, that the plight of the miners was so great, that they needed desperately to follow a hero, someone who surely presented them with a vision of better days to come, and hope for the future. So, not for the first, nor the last time in history, human beings chose to accept the advice of a charismatic leader, and at the end of the bond year in April 1844, the miners of Northumberland and Durham decided not to renew their yearly bond until their grievances were rectified. Previous to this decision, at meetings with the miners, when the executive council was conspicuous by its absence, Roberts had been warmly applauded by the men, when he promised that on the expiry of an interim six month bond on 5th October, 1844, "all Pitmen of the Kingdom will be Free Men."

Thomas must have shared the early hesitation towards strike action manifested by the executive council. Except for a seconding a motion thanking "local shopkeepers and other friends who have so kindly supported us in our present struggle," during a meeting on the Town Moor, on 30th July, 1844, he appears to have remained in the background. Perhaps he feared the consequences of too much visibility during the strike -- he would have little income, a wife pregnant with his second child, and he would have run the risk of being evicted from his colliery house. In particular, his memories of the aftermath of the 1832 strike would have advised the utmost caution. Most likely Thomas's role in the proceedings was limited to conscientious back-up support, with the eyes of the public focussed on some of the more articulate and volatile characters associated with the strike, many of whom, unlike Thomas, were not currently employees of the coal owners.

Striking miners and their families were evicted from their homes, their possessions being dumped in the street to provide accommodation for the alternative labour recruited from Cornwall, Wales and other parts of the country. The births column of *The Miners Advocate* in July 1844, announced the birth of a daughter to the wife of Mr. J. Carter. "She was luckily delivered just prior to the time that the tender hearted specialist police, with the viewers and the overmen, were coming to turn this poor woman to the door". On the 17th August, 1844, after a strike lasting eighteen weeks, without seeing any improvement in their working conditions, and in spite of all their sacrifices, the miners of Northumberland and Durham returned to work.

Matthew, Thomas's second son's birth was recorded in the third quarter of 1844.

Thomas was now heard to sigh deeply. his memories had leapt forward to 1859. Prior to this time he had spent some time once again in Bedlington, where he was registered in the 1851 census, sharing accommodation with his wife Elizabeth, four children, his mother, two brothers, one sister and a nephew. In 1859, he worked at Seaton Delaval colliery, where it seems he still continued to be an active and respected member of the pit community. Thomas' sighs began to change gradually to audible groans of despair and he relived his "two months hard labour" spent in Morpeth Gaol.

Since the painful experiences of the failure of the 1844 strike, and the ensuing natural reluctance of the leaders to jeopardise their livelihood, by 1849, union agitation at a national level had ceased. Local conditions often warranted joint action but the owners were very severe with any worker who initiated a gathering of any kind. For that reason, though there was grievance enough at Seaton Delaval colliery, few meetings had been held.

One day the aggravation of the Seaton Delaval men reached a high peak. As the back shift (day shift) men approached to begin their work, they noticed that every tub of coal sent up by their mates in fore-shift (early morning shift) had been refused. This incensed the pitmen, driving them almost to riot, so instead of beginning their shift, they went home and met that afternoon to discuss their grievances. After a lengthy debate, it was decided that the injustice was intolerable, and the men resolved not to return to work until the situation was rectified. "The more intelligent men contended that it was not legal to stop the pit in this abrupt manner" They maintained that, "The only legal way to get the grievance addressed was to give in their notices, work until the notice was up and then cease work." The majority vote however, was that work should cease immediately. The owners viewed this as illegal action. The result was that nine men were selected from the men of the colliery, and on July 21st, 1859, they were taken before the magistrates at North Shields. "Most of them were members of the Methodist Church, far advanced in years and every one at that time teetotallers ". The names of those taken were, Wilson Ritson, Robert Burt (uncle of Thomas Burt who later became the first working-man member of Parliament) Alexander Watson, Thomas Wakenshaw, Amos Eatherington, Henry Bell, Anthony Bolam, Edward Davis and Thomas Beaney. Each was sentenced to two months hard labour in Morpeth gaol. Indignant, the other pitmen went to the manager and told him that the men he had selected were the very men who had opposed the strike, and were the most respectable and law abiding men that they had at the colliery. "I know that"

replied the manager "and that is what I have put them in prison for. IT IS NO USE PUTTING THOSE IN WHO CAN NOT FEEL".

Suddenly, to the surprise of his visitors, Thomas opened his eyes, and showed signs of recognition of a long familiar face. It was not however, the face of Richard Fynes his visitor of mid-June 1890 which Thomas saw, but the 36 year old face of his faithful young friend Richard as he had seen it at Horton on Christmas Day 1862.

In 1862, the coal owners were threatening to bring back the long abolished yearly bond. Richard Fynes took it upon himself to distribute and display posters in all the mining communities, inviting all miners to a meeting in a field at Horton. The meeting was later attended by three to four thousand men. Thomas' face showed signs of animation and excitement as he remembered the voice of Richard Fynes shouting to the eager assembly, "Are you in favour of the bond?", "No", roared the crowd, "Well are you determined to resist it?" cried Fynes. "Yes", came the unanimous reply. Fynes then called for supporters to form a union and the first to jump on the wagon (serving as a platform) and to harangue the crowd with vigour was -- Thomas Wakenshaw".

A column in the *'Blyth Examiner'* on June 21st, 1890, bore the title, "The Last of The Old Miners Representatives."

"On Tuesday morning, Mr. Thomas Wakenshaw died at his home in Stakeford near Bedlington. His advice was always for federation, and his sound sense couched in firm, fairly fluent and homely language, was always aimed in the direction of peaceful measures. There may have been some who commended more attention in the old battles that were fought for the emancipation of the miners, but there never probably was one who fought more persistently and more conscientiously than he did."

Four members of the society, (including the writer) are descendants of two of Thomas' brothers. Another member, Constance Marshall, is his direct descendant. Except for the fictitious theme linking Thomas's death bed thoughts, all material is based on recorded fact. Apart from the baptism record in 1802, and the 1851 census information, the details of Thomas' life were unknown to the writer, until by pure chance, while researching the *"Blyth Examiner"* for details of another ancestor, Tommy's obituary was found, and this motivated further research.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Earson Parish Records

1851 Census - Bedlington

The late Mr. J. Ward and Miss. E. Ward

1881 Census

*Blyth Weekly News* - 21st June 1890

*Blyth Examiner* - 21st and 28th June, 1890

Collection of Tributes to Mr. R. Fynes

*History of Northumberland and Durham Miners* - Richard Fynes

*The Miners' Association - A Trade Union in the Age of Chartists* -

Raymond Challinor and Brian Ripley

*Tolpuddle - the Making of Martyrs.*

*History Today* December 1984 - Englander

*Miners' Advocate* - November 1843

## THOUGHTS ON ANCESTRY

Mrs Audrey Strange has sent the following French proverb: "He who boasts of his descent is like the potato; the best part of him is underground."

Doug Smith found the following in the news-cutting book of Joseph Cowen, M.P. 1865.

"To rejoice in our ancestry, if it is an honoured ancestry, is not wrong. Yet there is a danger of setting too high a value on it, and to be often boastingly speaking of it is a weakness. Those whose only importance is derived from their ancestry disgrace their ancestry. The noble blood which is claimed to be in their veins has evidently lost its virtue; they are degenerate plants of a superior stock.

It will much abate pride of pedigree to remember that if all that is concealed about it is known, it might appear less deserving of honour than it now does; and that however distinguished a pedigree may be, yet if run back far enough it will disappear into emptiness. Doubtful pedigrees were well ridiculed by Stanhope, Lord Chesterfield, when he placed among the portraits of his ancestors two old heads inscribed Adam de Stanhope and Eve de Stanhope."

# A LIST OF THE INHABITANTS IN THE TOWNSHIP OF BACKWORTH

JULY 17 1781

It is rare to find a "census" of a particular place, other than those compiled at 1841 and every 10 years thereafter. It is particularly rare to find an 18th century example. Here we have what amounts to a census, a list of the inhabitants of Backworth, Northumberland in 1781. This is included in the Grey (Backworth) MSS at Northumberland County Record Office (Ref. NRO 753) and it is reproduced here *by* permission of that office and of the depositor, Mr. Vivian-Neal. It is not known why, or by whom, the list was made.

## *Cottagers in the Village*

<u>Men &amp; Women</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Men &amp; Women</u>	<u>Children</u>
James Purvis	Ann Purvis	Alex Mossman	
Mary Purvis	<b>Wm Purvis</b>	Mary Mossman	
Jno Purvis			
Jane Mitchell			
Ann Halliday Senr		<b>Wm Orwin Snr</b>	
Ann Halliday Jnr		Thos Orwin	
		Ann Orwin	
Thos Forrest	Robert Halliday	Henry Mathwin	Jno Hill
<b>Wm Halliday</b>	Jane Halliday	Jane Mathwin	
Jane Halliday	<b>Wm Halliday</b>		
Susanh Stewart	Matt Halliday	Jno Coxin	Mary Coxin
	Geo Halliday	Mary Coxin	Sarah Coxin
		Margt Coxin	Jane Coxin
Jno Anderson	Eliz Anderson		
Mary Anderson		Mark Dunn	
Goo Anderson	<b>Wm Halliday</b>	Ann Maclaurin	
Mary Halliday	Mary Halliday	David Maclaurin	
Jno Orwin	Jno Orwin	Jno Mackford	
Ann Orwin	<b>Wm Orwin</b>	Mary Mackford	
	Eliz Orwin	And Cadwall	
		Ann Kell	
Eliz Ushar	Sarah Ushar	Jno Mossman	Ann Mossman
	<b>Wm Ushar</b>	Mary Mossman	Mary Mosman
	Jno Ushar		Jno Mossman
	Ann Ushar		Alex Mossman
			Thos Mossman
Jos Turpin	Isabel Turpin	Robt Softley	Ra Softley
Mary Turpin	Thos Turpin	Ann Softley	Tho Softley
	Jos Turpin		Alex Taylor
Jno Orwin	Thos Orwin	Jno Dunn	Tho Dunn
Mary Orwin	Jno Orwin	<b>Sarah Dunn</b>	Jno Dunn
Eliz Forster			
<b>Cath Hunter</b>	Cath Henderson	Mary Hall	
James Henderson		Ann Hall	
Margt Davison			

*Cottagers in the Village (continued)*

<u>Men &amp; Women</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Men &amp; Women</u>	<u>Children</u>
Robt Seaton Margt Seaton Wm Rutledge Margt Levison		Mary Cowan Henry Joice Mary Joice	Wm Joice Henry Joice Jno Joice
Mich Cairns Dorothy Cairns	Mary Miilar	Joseph Hall Jane Hall Margt. Cairns	Matt Hall Fran Hall
Wm. Orwin Jnr Jane Orwin		Jno Simm Mary Simm	Jane Simm

*Farmers in the Village*

<u>Men &amp; Women</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Men &amp; Women</u>	<u>Children</u>
Wm Purvis Mary Bates Mary Tate Edwd Mattison		Jos Bourn Ann Bourn Jno Davison Mich Cairns Mich Davison Jane Howd Jane Maclaurin Ann Davison	Eliz Bourn Jos Bourn Frances Bourn Roger Bourn Sarah Bourn Jane Bourne
Geo Lawson Robt. Lawson Eliz Atkinson	Matt Strong		

*Places Adjacent in Backworth Township  
Low Farm House (Cottagers)*

<u>Men &amp; Women</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Men &amp; Women</u>	<u>Children</u>
Ra Simpson Mary Simpson Jno Simpson	Isabel Hepple	Thos. Cairns Isabel Cairns	Jane Cairns Robert Cairns Mary Cairns Tho. Cairns Geo. Cairns Jno. Cairns

*Lane House Farmer*

*Lane House Cottager*

<u>Men &amp; Women</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Men &amp; Women</u>	<u>Children</u>
Ra Pye Ann Pye Jos Scott Ann Starling	Robt Henderson	Jno Hall Eliz Hall	Eliz Hall Mary Hall

*Field House Farmer*

*Field House Cottager*

<u>Men &amp; Women</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Men &amp; Women</u>	<u>Children</u>
Robt. Grey Eliz. Gray Jno. Sanderson Mary Weetman	Jno. Davison Wm. Grey	John Cherry Mary Cherry Tho. Phelp	Jane Cherry Jno. Cherry Isabel Cherry Eliz. Cherry

### Holy Stone House

<u>Men &amp; Women</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Men &amp; Women</u>	<u>Children</u>
Jno Pye	<b>Wm. Pye</b>	Jno. Thompson	<i>Mary</i> Thompson
Jane Pye		Eliz. Thompson	Jno. Thompson
James Heith		Jane Thompson	And. Thompson
Margt. Smith		James Thompson	Tho. Thompson
			Matt Thompson

### In the House of Ra. Wm. Grey Senr. Esq.

<u>Men &amp; Women</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Servants</u>
Ra. Wm. Grey Jnr. Esq.		Jane Lawson Barbara Mathwin

### In the House of Ra. Wm. Grey Jnr. Esq.

<u>Men &amp; Women</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Servants</u>
Ra. Wm. Grey Jnr. Esq.	Ra. Win Grey	Robt. Jobson
Mrs. Eliz. Grey	Eliz. Grey	Fran. Story
	Mary Grey	Geo Gillis
		Jno. Anderson
		Frances Scurfield
		Sarah Walton
		Dorothy Bates
		Jane James
		Eliz. Bell
		Sarah Charlton
		Margt. Wandless

## SUPPLEMENTARY LIST OF MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS FOR SALE

Following the list of monumental inscriptions offered for sale in the Spring Journal, further lists are now available for purchase. Contact Mrs. K. Willans, 9 The Ridge Way, Kenton, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4LP.

Indexes to list. £5.00. If you buy an index and find a reference to a surname which interests you, Mrs Willans will send you a copy of the relevant entries. Charges for this service are: UK 40p for the first reference and 10p for each subsequent reference; Overseas Surface 55p (or 2 IRC's); Overseas Airmail £1.10 (or 3 IRC's) for first reference, subsequent references 10p each (or IIRC for 4 references).

In the list below, the first two columns show the church and county, the third column shows the date to which inscriptions have been copied e.g. 1851 means that only those inscriptions include a date of death in 1851 or earlier are included. The fourth column shows the number of stones included in the transcript. The fifth, sixth and seventh columns respectively show the cost in the UK, including postage, overseas surface mail and overseas air mail.

PLACE	COUNTY	DATE	MIS	UK £	SUR £	AIR £
Auckland, St. Andrew's	Dur	1851	424	2.00	2.20	2.90
<b>Broomhaugh Baptist</b>	Nbl	1963	23	0.60	0.85	1.40
Bywell St. Peters	Nbl	1851	60	0.70	1.00	1.55
Dalton, Holy Trinity	Nbl	1989	89	1.15	1.40	2.10
Heworth, St. Mary's	Dur	1981	1890	7.50	7.95	9.65
Heworth (Index only)				1.00	1.30	1.95
<b>Horton, St. Mary's</b>	Nbl	1978	540	6.15	6.55	7.85
Horton (Index only)				0.60	0.85	1.40
Jarrow, St. Paul's	Dur	1899	97	1.10	1.35	2.05
<b>Lambley</b>	Nbl	1851	38	0.65	0.90	1.45
Morpeth, St. Mary's	Nbl	1851	222	1.60	1.75	2.45
Newcastle, St. Paul's Arthur's Hill	Nbl	1854	21	0.60	0.85	1.40
Ponteland, St. Mary's	<b>Nbl</b>	1983	658	5.50	5.90	7.25
Ponteland (Index only)				0.65	0.90	1.45
St. John Lee, St. John of Beverley	Nbl	1990	752	6.05	6.50	7.80
St. John Lee (Index only)				0.85	1.15	1.80
Shildon	Dur	1895	20	0.45	0.70	1.25
Shotley, St. Andrew's, Kiln Pit Hill						
& St. John's Snod's Edge	Nbl	1851	59	0.70	1.00	1.55
South Shields, St. Stephen's	Dur	1947	45	0.85	1.15	1.80
South Shields, St. Simon's Simonside	Dur	1985	232	1.50	1.70	2.40
<b>Whittingham</b>	<b>Nbl</b>	1851	193	1.80	2.00	2.65
Whittonstall	Nbl	1973	117	0.95	1.20	1.90
Witton Gilbert	Dur	1986	380	3.35	3.60	4.50

# A KEELMEN'S BLACK LIST

by

Geoff Nicholson

Keelmen worked on the "keels", or small specialised wherrys which carried coal on the rivers Tyne and Wear from up-river staithes at the end of wagon-ways leading from the collieries down to sea-going colliers lying nearer the river mouth. In the case of the Tyne, colliers could not go above the low mediaeval bridge at Newcastle but even if they had managed to do so (after it was swept away by floods in 1771, for instance), shoals and sandbanks would have rendered the river unnavigable in practice. Keelmen were therefore an essential part of the coal trade and without them the whole of the coal field would have come to a halt. This gave them what would now be called "industrial muscle", which they were by no means reluctant to use.

The list of 821 names which follows has been taken, with permission, from a document in the Bell collection in the Local Studies Section of Newcastle Central Reference Library. The document, which is approximately A3 size, has the names arranged in two closely typeset columns, followed by the words:

*"Sir, above is a LIST of the KEELMEN which are bound to us: and we desire that you will not employ any one of them in any Work or Service whatsoever: for if you do, we shall call upon you for such a Satisfaction as the Law will give us. Newcastle, April 28, 1750.*

*John and Francis Simpson, Sowerby and Colpitts, Thomas Airey, Edward Humble, Matthew Bell, John Baker, Thomas Waters, John Robinson, Salkeld Robinson, Johnson and Hedley, Ann Hudspith, Elizabeth Atkinson, Elizabeth Ord, John Vonholte, Thomas Binks, Robert Shortridge, William Scott, Henry Atkinson, Moseley and Watson, Nicholas Fairless, William Jefferson."*

The signatories to the list are, of course, the principal "Coal Fitters", or employers of keelmen, of the day. The document also has hand-written upon it *"Received this Paper from the Pontop (late Simpson) Fitting Office quayside NC Thursday 24 June 1824. J.W. Bell"*.

J.W. Bell, to whom we owe the preservation of this interesting document, was a hoarder of just about everything and anything collectable in the Newcastle of the early 19th century. Unfortunately his collections were split up by being auctioned soon after his death, but both Newcastle Library and Northumberland County Record Office now have parts of them among their own collections, as do Newcastle Antiquarian Society.

The reason for this document being compiled was of course the Keelmen's strike of 1750. Strikes, or "stands" as they were then known, were of frequent occurrence in all branches of the coal industry in the mid-eighteenth century. The "Flying pickets" of the 1750s were every bit as well organised as their modern counterparts have been and, when faced with determined employers, a "stand" could be a very lengthy and violent affair. This particular one has already been alluded to in this Journal (see "Joseph Gamul and his bill-fold" in Vol 16, No. 2, Summer 1991). It started in mid March and lasted until May 7th, a period of seven weeks, marked out by disorder and riots in Newcastle, as had been a similar strike the year before. What had the authorities really worried, however, was the proclamation of the Pretender on April 27th by striking keelmen in the fields near Elswick. Many Keelmen were of Scottish extraction and sympathies and the Jacobite rebellion of 1745/46 was still fresh in everyone's memory. Clearly something had to be done quickly to prevent events getting really out of hand. The next day, April 28th, two things were done: (1) Newcastle Corporation placed an advertisement in the local papers offering a reward of £100 for the discovery of the ringleaders and (2) the employers, as evidenced by the Bell Collection Document, drew up their "Black-list" of strikers.

The men on this list were not the only keelmen on the Tyne - at the beginning of the eighteenth century their numbers were estimated at 1600, nearly twice those on the list, and there were other fitters than those who signed the list. An interesting account of the end of a "stand" of around this period (possibly even this one) is given in E. Hughes *"North Country Life in the Eighteenth Century"* (OUP, 2nd Edn 1969), in which the author quotes a bystander as writing about 200 keels putting out together at Newcastle quayside. Now each keel had a crew of three "bound" men - that is, those who had signed a bond, rather like a miner's bond, committing them to work for one employer for a year and laying down their pay and condition for that time. On each keel there would also be a boy, called the "Pee-Dee", who would not be bound. 821 bound men therefore represent the crews of 270-odd keels out of a total on the Tyne (not counting those on the Wear) of some 500.

Many of the names are interesting because they sound Scottish. Even when the surname does not give it away, a name such as Alexander or David (names of the old Kings of Scotland) or Andrew (Patron Saint of Scotland) is a strong pointer. It has been said that the original keelmen, from Tudor days or before, were so Scottish that when bad weather brought the pits to a halt each winter they would leave their Tyneside homes in Sandgate, Newcastle, and return to Edinburgh until spring. The keelmen were known by their Scots "Blue Bonnets" or "Tam O'Shanter-style" hats, which are alluded to in the well-known song "The Keel-Row" which, for all its Tyneside imagery, is sung to an old Edinburgh tune.

For convenience, the following list has been re-arranged to read alphabetically by surname, but the spelling, with all its obvious errors has been kept as in the original. A number, (2) etc., after a name indicates that it occurs that many times in the list.

Abercromby James	Belany James	Burrell John	Coulson James
Abercromby Robert	Bell James	Bust David	Coulson John
Achon John	Bell Peter	Byers Robert	Coulson Robert
Acting William	Bessit Peter	Camble Henry	Coulson Thomas
Adams Andrew	Bigger William	Camshy John	Coult Charles
Adams John	<b>Bird George</b>	Car John	Coventree Andrew
Adams Matthew	Bird George jun	Car Matthew	Coventree Robert
Adams Thomas	Black Charles	Car Thomas	Cram Archibald
Adamson John	Black James	Car Walter	Cram John
Adamson William	Black John	Car Wm	Cranston James
<b>Aikman George</b>	Black Joseph	Carcleugh Alexander	Craw George
Air James	Black William	Carens David	Crommy Thomas
Aken Robert	Blacket Peter	Carhound John	Croodiss Rober
Akin William	Blacketer William	<b>Carneross Thomas</b>	Crookshanks John
Albot James	<b>Blackett John</b>	Carns George	Crozier Thomas
Alexander Thomas	Blair John	Carr John	Cumins James
Alexander William	Blakey David (2)	Carr Thomas	Cummin William
Allan Michael	Blakey George	Carter Comealis	Cummins Alexander
Alleburton William	Blakey Robert	Carter John	Cuningham John
Allen Joseph	Blakey William	Carwell George	<b>Cuningham Tho</b>
Allen Thomas	Blenkinsop John	Carwells William	Cunningham Archibald
Allison David	Blenkinsop Robert	Cash George	Cunningham James
Allon Charles	Boggen William	Caverhill James	Cunningham Richard
Allon John	Boke William	Caverhill John	Cunningham Robert
Anderson Andrew (2)	Bone John	Cayhound David	Cunningham William
Anderson George	Bouerley James	Chambers Alex	Curry William
Anderson James	Bouerley William	Charlton Edward	Dagliesh George
Anderson John (2)	Brabin Thomas	Chaut Arthur	Daglish Alexander
Anderson Michael	Brass John	Christall John	Daglish James
Anderson Ralph	Brass Thomas jun	Christen George	Daglish William
Anderson Thomas	Brass Walter	Christey James	Dalglish Thomas
Anderson William (3)	Brodey Edward	Christie William	Dalglish Cuthbert
Archbald Isaac	Broomfield James	Christy Alexander	Darling William
Archbald James	Browell Ralph	Clark Andrew	Davison David
Archer Jeffrey	Brown Allan	Clark John (3)	Davison John
Archer Robert	Brown Andrew	Clark John jun	Davison Robert
Archer William	Brown Cuthbert	Clark John sen	Dawson Robert
Arkley William	Brown Henry (2)	Clark Robert	Deans Robert
Armstrong William	Brown John (3)	<b>Clark Thomas</b>	Delap Ja
Atkinson Thomas	Brown Matthew	Clark William (2)	<b>Delapp James</b>
Bainbridge Robert	Brown Thomas	Clarke George	Dick James
Bainbridge Thomas	Brown Walter	Clendening John	Dick Robert
Balke Alexander	Brown William	Clenet Andrew	Dingwell David
Barclay John	Browne David	Cloyd George	Dinnen Tho
Barley James	Bruce James	Coates William	Ditchburn Francis
<b>Barnard David jun</b>	Bruce Peter	Cochran James	Dixon David
Barnard David sen	Buchanan John	Coggwell Thomas	Dixon John
<b>Barns Joseph</b>	Buchanan William	Cook George	Dixon Ralph
<b>Barret John</b>	Bucchannan Alexander	Cook James	Dixon Thomas (2)
Barrowman Henry	Bucchannan Henry	Cooper David	Dogg Henry
Bartley John	Buchanan John	Cooper John	Dolas Robert
Batty David	Buchanan Patrick	Corbet James	Dollar Andrew
Batty John	Buchannan John	Cork John	Doncan Cornelius
Baxter David	Bunkles Hugh	Cormehil John	Doncan David
Beaton Cornelius	Burdon Mat	Corvey John	Doncan Henry



Doncan John (2)	Gilloan Alexander	Hindmer Richard	Lidle Alexander
Donkin Alexander	Gillon James	Hog Thomas	Lindsey Geo
Donkin James	Gillroy Charles	Hood William	Linsley Richard,
Donkin John	Glass Edward	Hope Archibald	Logan John
Donkinson John	Glass John	Howstan Richard	Logan William
Donkinson Robert	Glass Samuel	Hudd John	Lowrey John
Donnison Andrew	Glenn Alexander	Hudd Robert	Luckey Robert
Doogle James	Golightly George	Hudding James	Lundy James
Douglas Tho	Golightly Henry	<b>Huggup John</b>	Lundy John
Dove Robert	Goodwille Matthew	Hume Thomas	Lundy Robert
Downs John	Graham Edward	Hunter Archibald	Lyng William
Drybrough John	Graham John (2)	Hunter George	M'Beth Robert
Dryden James	Graham Thomas	Hunter Walter	Macfarlane Doncan
Dryden John	Graham William	Hunter William	Mackbeth James
Drydon George	Gray George	Huntley Michael	Mackeney John
Drysdale David	Gray Robert	Huntton Thomas	Mackenley Archibald
Duard David	Grayham John	Hutchinson Charles	Mackeny John
Duff Douglas	Greenfield James	Hutchinson Edward (2)	Mackenzie Kenith
Dumbar James	Gregg Alexander	Hutchinson Luke	Mackinlay John
Eadenton Richard	Greveson Geo	Hutchinson Walter	Macklen James
Elder Andrew	Grey Arthur	Hutt Colin	Macknabe John
Elliot Archibald	Grey Thomas (2)	Hutton Andrew	Macknoughton John
Elliot John	Grieve Tho	Ingles Thomas	Maclarin Thomas
Elliot Robert	Guthrie Robert	Inis John	Macmillion Abraham
Elliot Samuel	Guthrie Tho	Ismay George	Macvey John
Emmerson Jos	Hadderwick Lancelot	Jackson John	Maddison Richard
Emmerson Tho	Haderwick George	Jameson James (3)	Makelerey William
<b>Fairbairn Wm</b>	Haggerson Thomas	Jameson Thomas	Manners Doncan
Faire John	Haggerston George	Joblin Lancelot	Marchall Walter
Falls James	Haggit Charles	Johnson Andrew	Marchbanks John
Fare George	Haggit James	Johnson Cuthber	Marshal James (2)
Farguson Thomas	Hales Anthony	Johnson James	Marshall Alexander
Fatheringham William	Hall Alexander (2)	Johnson John (2)	Marshall James
Faulkner James	Hall George	Johnson Matthew	Masterton John
Fawcett Robert	Hall John	Johnson Michael	Matthews Thomas
<b>Fawcus Robert</b>	Hall William (2)	Johnson Thomas	Matthews William
Ferguson James	Hally David	Johnson William	Maxwell James
Finlason James	Hamilton Hugh	Jopling Richard	Meanas William
Finlason John	Hamilton Robert	Keed David	Means Cuthbert
Finley Daniel	Hanby George	Keedy John	Melvin Andrew
Fisher Joseph	Hanby John	Keedy Thomas	Micklejohn Robert
Foggo George	Hardie John	Ker James	Miers Andrew
Forrest John	Harley Patrick	Kersop George	Miller Alexander
Forrest Joseph	Harper William	King John	Miller Geo
Forrest Thomas	Harrison Anthony	Kirsop John	Miller George
Forster Robert	Harrison George	Knight Alexander	Miller Gilbert
Foutrope John	Harrison William	Lamb David	Miller James
Foutrope Thomas	Hastey David	Lamb Henry	Miller John
<b>Fraim John</b>	Hastey Rowlin	Lambe John	Miller William
Frame Lancelot	Hastings John	Lampeter Robert	Mills David (2)
Frame William	Haswell John	Landel David	Minnom John
Frazier Thomas	Hawkey George	Landell George	Mins James
Fulthorp Robert	Hawkey John (2)	Landell John	Mitchell John
Gale William	Haxton John	Landles James	Monteath Peter
Galloway James	Hay Alexander	Lang James	Moody George
Galloway John	Hay John	Lapsley Alexander	Moor Jos
Gardner James	Hay Samuel	Larmeth William	Morehead William
Gardner William	Hedley William	Lashley Andrew	Morris William
Garrat Robert	Hempseed James	Lashley James	Morrison George
Gattiss Mark	Henderson Archibald	Laurence William	Morrison John
Gentle Matthew	Henderson James	Laws James	Morrow Andrew jun
Gentles John	Henderson John (2)	Laws John	Morrow Andrew sen
Gib Patrick	Henderson Mark	Legg Thomas	Moutrey William
Gibson John	Henderson Thomas	Levenston John	<b>Murday James</b>
Gibson Richard	Henry George	Liddel Richard	Mustard Charles
Gilchrist John	Hewith Robert	Liddel Robert	Nasbit William
Gilchrist William	Hewitt George	Liddell Charles	Nealson John
Gillchrist Thomas	Higgins John	Liddell Thomas	Nealson William

Neash John  
 Neiling David  
 Nelson Robert  
 Nesbet Thomas  
 Nesbit James  
 Nichols Alexander  
 Nichols George  
 Nichols James  
 Nichols John  
 Nichols Stephen  
 Nicholson John  
 Nicholson Thomas  
 Nisbit John  
 Nixon John  
 Nixon Joseph  
 Nockles Andrew  
 Nockles John  
 Nockles Lawrence  
 Nuckles James  
 Oliver Andrew  
 Oliver James  
 Oliver John  
 Oliver Thomas  
 Ormestone William  
 Orrick Matthias  
**Orrock James**  
 Oswill Donkin  
 Paite Thomas  
 Parcise Thomas  
 Paterson Alexander  
 Paterson Robert  
**Paterson William (2)**  
 Paterson William sen  
 Patten George  
 Pattinson Wm  
 Payston Thomas  
 Pearson James  
 Peetrey Wm  
 Pegg John  
 Penny Andrew  
**Perry Michael**  
 Phillips William  
 Pisle Godfrey  
 Pode George  
 Porteous Alex  
 Porteous James  
 Porteous Thomas  
 Porter George  
 Porttis James  
 Pourey David  
 Price John  
 Price Robert  
 Prodda Joseph  
 Prymer William  
 Pullen Thomas  
 Purvis John  
 Purvis Matthias  
 Ramsey James  
 Reah Alexander  
 Reay Matthew  
 Reay William  
 Rebeche George  
**Reddof John**  
 Redford David (2)  
 Redford George  
 Reed Andrew  
 Reed George  
 Reed William  
 Rendolfson Archibald

Renney Robert  
 Renny James  
 Reynold William sen  
 Reynolds Thomas  
 Reynolds Wn jun  
 Richardson John  
 Richey Andrew  
 Richey Henry  
 Richey James  
 Richey John (2)  
 Richey Peter  
 Ridley George  
 Robert Bailes  
 Robert Tod  
 Robertson Daniel  
**Robertson John**  
 Robinson Alexander  
 Robinson Edward  
 Robinson James (2)  
 Robinson John (2)  
 Robinson Wm  
 Robson George  
 Robson Henry  
 Robson Richard  
 Robson William (2)  
 Rogers James  
 Rogers John  
 Rogers Joseph  
 Rogers Laurence  
 Ross James  
 Rotherford James  
 Rough William  
 Russel Alexander  
 Russel John  
 Russel Robert  
 Russel William  
 Rutherford Michael  
 Rutherford Robert  
 Rutherford Thomas  
 Samuell Andrew  
 Sandish David  
**Sankester Thomas jun (2)**  
 Sayers George  
 Scot Alex  
 Scot John  
 Scot Patrick  
 Scot Thomas  
 Scot William  
 Scott Thomas  
 Scotland George  
 Shade John  
 Shan James  
 Sharp Robert  
 Sharpe Robert  
 Shaw Alexander  
 Shepherd Wiliam  
 Shevil Nicholas  
 Shield David  
 Sibbitt Alexander  
 Siffs George  
 Simpson David (2)  
 Simpson John  
 Simpson Thomas  
 Simpson William (2)  
 Sinklar John  
 Sinklare John  
 Sinkler George  
 Small John  
 Smills James

Smith Benjamin  
 Smith George  
 Smith John (2)  
 Smith Michael  
 Smith Robert (2)  
 Smith Tho  
 Smith Thomas (5)  
 Snowden Thomas  
 Soppit Thomas  
 Southern Richard  
 Spence John  
 Standish Zerobabel  
 Steel Edward  
 Steel William  
 Stephenson Adam  
 Stephenson James  
 Stephenson William  
 Steward John  
 Stewart James  
 Stewart John  
 Stoker Robert  
 Story Robert  
 Story Samuel  
 Straffing James  
 Straughan John  
 Strawiron James  
 Stuart Luke  
 Styrk Thomas  
 Swaddle Geo  
 Swainston David  
 Swan Nicholas  
 Sword Patrick  
 Tate Benjamin  
 Tate David  
 Tate Walter  
 Taylor Andrew  
 Taylor Robert  
 Taylor William  
 Tempest William  
 Temple James  
 TenantJohn  
 Tenathy John  
 Thobum Andrew  
 Thompson Alexander  
 Thompson Andrew  
 Thompson Daniel  
 Thompson George  
 Thompson Henry  
 Thompson James (3)  
 Thompson Thomas  
 Thompson Walter  
 Thompson William (3)  
 Toblin William  
 Torrens Robert  
 Traine David  
 Tritten Robert  
 Tulley Andrew  
**Turnbull Alexander**  
**Turnbull Benjamin**  
**Turnbull John (2)**  
 Tumbull Thomas  
 Turnbull William  
 Turner And  
 Turner David  
 Turner John  
 Urwin George  
 Urwin James  
 Urwin John  
 Usher Thomas

Usher William  
 Valentine Robert  
 Veitch James  
 Vernon Richard  
 Vickers George  
 Waddle David  
 Walker George  
 Walker James  
 Walker William  
 Wallis James  
 Wanles James  
 Warbritain Russell  
 Wate William  
 Waterston James  
**Watson Alexander**  
 Watson Collin  
 Watson George  
 Watson John (4)  
 Watson William (3)  
 Waugh James  
 Waugh Robert  
**Weams William**  
 Wear David  
 Wear William  
 Weatherburn Henry  
 Webster Robert  
 West Fletcher  
 White George  
 White John  
 White William  
 Whitley John  
 Wild Thomas  
 Williamson Alexander  
 Williamson John  
 Williamson Robert  
 Williamson William  
 Wilson Alexander  
 Wilson Andrew  
 Wilson Archibald  
 Wilson David  
 Wilson George  
 Wilson James  
 Wilson John  
 Wilson John jun  
 Wilson John sen  
 Wilson Robert  
 Wilson Thomas (2)  
 Wilson William (2)  
 Wilthew John  
 Wood James  
 Wood John  
 Wood Robert  
 Wright John (2)  
 Wright Peter  
 Wright William  
 Yatts Wiliam  
 Youl James  
 Youl John  
 Youll John  
 Young James (2)  
 Young John (2)  
 Young Robinson  
 Young Thomas  
 Young William  
 Younger John  
 Younghusband Robert

# THE SUNDERLAND FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE

Members who attended the Society meeting in Newcastle in April 1991 heard a talk by Mr and Mrs D. Bate about the records and facilities offered by the Family History Centre of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (the "Mormon" Church) in Sunderland. We have been very remiss in failing to publish details of these resources for a wider audience. We now attempt to remedy this.

Deep in the rock of the Wasatch mountains in Utah is the Granite Mountain Records Vault. Beneath 700 feet of solid granite are six naturally cool storage rooms. In them are kept 1.5 million rolls of film (equal to about six million 300 page volumes), a resource which is growing constantly as a result of the efforts of the Church, since 1938, to preserve on film all types of record, from all over the world, which contain information potentially useful to family historians. There are parish registers, indexes, land registers, deeds, reference books, periodicals, maps and a host of other items. The filming has been done to assist Church members who, for religious reasons, seek information about their ancestors. However, the information is generously made available to all, regardless of religious affinity, through the Family History Centres.

There are over 40 Family History Centres in the United Kingdom and many more all over the world. The Sunderland Centre is at Linden Road, off Queen Alexandre Road (Tel 091-528 5787). Another local Centre is at The Linkway, Billingham (Tel: 0642-563162) and elsewhere in the UK there are branches at Aberdeen, Belfast, Bristol, Cardiff, Cheltenham, Chester, Crawley, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Hornchurch, Huddersfield, Hull, Ipswich, Leeds, Liverpool, London, Loughborough, Luton, Maidstone, Manchester, Merthyr Tydfil, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Northampton, Norwich, Nottingham, Paisley, Plymouth, Poole, Portsmouth, Reading, Redditch, Rochdale, Sheffield, Staines, Sutton Coldfield and Wandsworth. YOU can find precise addresses from your telephone directory, but if you have problems, the British Isles Family History Service Centre at Cotswold, 185 Penns Lane, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B76 8JU (Tel 021-384 2028) will help. (NOTE, incidentally, that this is a new address for the Service Centre).

The Centres open at different times, so contact your local Centre to find its opening hours before you visit! The Sunderland Centre is open 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. Monday to Friday, 1.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday and on Tuesday and Friday evenings from 6.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.

Each Centre is open to all. You do not need to be a member of the Mormon Church to use them. The Centres are not used as proselyting tools for the Church as no attempt is made to 'convert' patrons, although the staff will quite happily answer questions about their faith. All Centres are staffed by volunteers and staff numbers are limited. They will respond to postal or telephone enquiries about the records they hold but they cannot undertake genealogical searches. Go in person -- the staff will be happy to help you and show you how to use their facilities. There is no charge (except when microfilms etc are obtained for you -- see below) but donations are accepted and are used solely to enhance the facilities by purchasing further microfilm readers etc. It is essential to book before you go, to reserve a microfilm or microfiche reader.

What, then, will you find at Sunderland? There are many textbooks and genealogical reference books but the main areas of interest are the films and fiches, some held permanently at the Sunderland Centre and some which can be obtained on loan at your request.

## PERMANENT HOLDINGS

(a) Microfilms of the indexes at St. Catherine's House, London (the indexes of civil registration in England and Wales) covering Births 1837 to 1920, Marriages 1837 to 1924 and Deaths 1866 to 1901. In the Marriages indexes, the following periods are not available - 1904 to 1909, first three quarters of 1910, first two quarters of 1918, first, third and fourth quarters of 1919, first quarter of 1920, second, third and fourth quarters of 1921, first, second and third quarters of 1922, second, third and fourth quarters of 1923, and second and fourth quarters of 1924.

Quite apart from the missing periods, these records are not as comprehensive as those held by some local libraries. Newcastle Central Library, for example, has complete birth, marriage and death indexes for the whole of the period from 1837 to 1983. On the other hand, you may find it easier to use a microfilm than a sometimes-not-easy-to-read microfiche. Moreover, there is not a parking problem at the Sunderland Centre! I must stress, however, that the records at Sunderland, like those at Newcastle Library and elsewhere locally, consist of indexes only. Having located

the entry you want from your index, you will probably need to obtain a birth, marriage or death certificate from St. Catherine's House or from the local Registrar. The Family History Centre offers a service under which they will obtain the certificate for you for £9 -- quite a saving on the cost of obtaining a certificate yourself by post from St. Catherine's House.

Copies of the indexes for civil registration in Scotland from 1855 are not held at Sunderland, but particular years can be obtained via the ordering system (see below).

(b) The International Genealogical Index (I.G.I.) on microfiche. Most readers will be aware of this massive index, which is almost an indispensable aid to genealogical research nowadays. Several local libraries and Record Offices have parts of it, usually the part specific to their area. However, the Sunderland Centre holds the index for the whole world, containing over 100 million entries and including places as diverse as Portuguese Timor and Papua New Guinea on the one hand and the United States on the other. The I.G.I. is of course not a complete index of all baptisms and marriages (and burials are not included at all) but despite its incompleteness, you are very likely to find the entry you want, or pick up some further clues to assist you.

The I.G.I. currently held at Sunderland is the 1988 edition. A later edition is expected later this year.

(c) Census Records for Sunderland for 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871 and 1881 - not, so far, for 1891 -- on microfilm. There is a street index.

(d) Index of Scottish Old Parish Registers (O.P.R.'s) on microfiche. Civil registration in Scotland began in 1855 and for earlier periods, the chief source for locating baptisms and marriages is, as in England, the parish register. In Scotland, these are the registers of the Presbyterian Church and they are held centrally in Edinburgh. In the absence of indexes, they have never been easy to search and usually a journey to the Scottish capital has been necessary. Now these registers have been indexed by the Mormon Church, on 346 fiche for baptisms and 166 for marriages, including over 6 million birth/baptisms and more than 2.2 million marriages. There are separate indexes for each Scottish county including all the parishes in that county. For Ayrshire, for instance, the baptism index, by surname, is on 18 fiche and there are a further 8 fiche for marriages. Names are indexed alphabetically according to spelling given in the original records, within each county, and are double-indexed, i.e. under Surname Index and also under Given (Christian) Name Index for both baptism and marriage entries. You will thus find, for example, all the Alexander Brown's in a particular county grouped together, but in date order, and you will also find, on the Given Name Index, all the Alexanders of whatever surname. For baptisms, the surname, forename, father's name, mother's name and maiden name, place and date of baptism are given. For marriages, you will find the name of each party, with place and date of the marriage or of its proclamation.

As on the I.G.I., burials are not included.

What an immense aid this is! Much more comprehensive than the I.G.I. for Scotland, which itself was such a valuable tool, this new O.P.R. index greatly simplifies genealogical research in Scotland. At worst, you will now have only 33 fiche to examine in the hunt for that elusive baptism (there are 33 Scottish counties) instead of hundreds of unindexed registers. The pre-1855 Scottish registers vary enormously in their level of completeness and for many parishes little or nothing survives or there are large 'gaps'. But at least if you do not find what you want in this index, you can be reasonably sure that the baptism or marriage you are seeking is not recorded in a register of the Church of Scotland and you will have to look elsewhere. As with all indexes, it will still be desirable to check the original entry, for the O.P.R. index contains abridged entries only and the register itself may well include further information, such as occupations, precise places of residence within a parish, names of witnesses etc. The Sunderland Centre does not hold on its premises a film of the original register, but the Ordering System (see below) will enable you to obtain it.

Incidentally, I might mention that the index is available at New Register House in Edinburgh and at the Society of Genealogists in London, as well as at Family History Centres, and individual county fiche can be bought, for £2.50 per fiche plus a handling charge, from New Register House.

(e) You will want to know what the Sunderland Centre does NOT hold on its permanent stock so that you can make a comparison with your local Record Offices or Libraries, many of which hold more of particular types of record than Sunderland. The Centre does not have a microfilm of the parish register for each parish in Durham or Northumberland (or elsewhere for that matter). It does have a few, but its holdings are much less extensive than those at the appropriate County Record Offices. It does not have census returns (other than for Sunderland up to 1881). It does not have copies of wills or indexes to them. It does not have a copy of the Civil Registration indexes for Scotland

..... but all of these items, and much much more are readily available via the Ordering System. And there is no English equivalent of the Scottish O.P.R. Index mentioned earlier ... even the Mormon Church has not yet tackled such a monumental task!

## ORDERING SYSTEM

The Library in Salt Lake City is the largest family history library in the world and the Sunderland Centre, like all others, is able to obtain copies of most of its material at your request. If what you want is on microfilm, a copy of the film will be sent to the Centre where it can be held for up to three months. There is a modest charge of £1.70 per film for this. If a microfiche is involved, the cost is a mere 30p per fiche -- and you can keep the fiche if you wish.

It is probably no exaggeration to say that if, anywhere in the world, there is an original record or a publication which might have a bearing on family history, this vast Library will have a copy and will be able to make it available to you. At Sunderland, there is a microfiche "Family History Catalogue" which lists all the holdings at Salt Lake City. This index is divided into four sections - (a) by locality (b) by surname (c) by subject (d) by author/title.

Under 'locality', you will find details of everything held for a particular place or area. Naturally, the bigger the place, the more records are likely to be held. For a small place like the Northumbrian parish of Edlingham, there are details of the microfilms of the parish registers, and also of the registers of Bolton Chapelry, all filmed from the original registers held at Northumberland County Record Office. For larger places, there might be maps, inventories, Poor Law Records, census returns, land registers, volumes of history etc. You will find unusual items such as registers of births and marriages at the British Consulate at Dieppe and Nantes in France and at Olehleh in Sumatra. There is a Register of Marriages from the British Chapel at Nice. And so on. And remember, the entire world is covered in this way!

The 'surname' index lists everything held about a particular surname. There are pedigrees, lists of names, publications of 'family' and 'one-name' societies and so on. Many Church members and others have deposited a copy of their work and active researchers are encouraged to register the names of deceased individuals they are researching. The "Family Registry", a free service, alphabetically lists the surnames being researched, together with the names and addresses of those who have registered. You should be able to find whether any other individual or organisation has deposited anything about a person or family which interests you and whether anyone else is interested in 'your' lines.

The topics covered by the "Subject Index" are wide-ranging, and there is often an extensive list of books on a particular subject. Under the heading of 'Agriculture -- Scotland' I found six books listed and there were two on 'Almshouses -- England'. You will even find an Ahom-Thai dictionary, the Ahom being a **Thai people living in India**, didn't you know!

As noted earlier, the Sunderland Centre does not hold a film of, for example, every Northumberland or Durham parish register, but it can certainly obtain them. Indeed, it can obtain parish register copies relating to anywhere in the U.K., so don't be deterred from using a Centre in north-eastern England if your ancestry is predominantly Cornish! Census returns to 1881 for anywhere in the country can be obtained, but do note that at present it is not possible to obtain copies of the 1891 census. Much of the non-parish register material at various county Record Offices and other repositories has been filmed and can be obtained. You name it -- they can probably get it!

Finally, if you want copies made from a film or fiche, this can be arranged. The fee is 25p per sheet, with a minimum of 50p. You may have to wait a few days for the copy.

## NORTH YORKSHIRE REGISTERS IN DURHAM RECORD OFFICE

Durham County Record Office has marriage indexes covering the period 1813 to 1837 for the following parishes in North Yorkshire. The indexes are on open shelves in the Record Office Library.

Acklam, Appleton Wiske, Arkengarthdale, Bamingham, Barton St Cuthbert, Barton St Mary, Birkby, Bolton-on-Swale, Bowes, Brignall, Cleasby, Crathorne, Croft, Guisborough, High Worsall, Hilton, Hudswell, Hutton Magna, Hutton Rudby, Kildale, Kirkleatham, Kirk Levington, Kirkby Ravensworth, Leake, Liverton, Manfield, Marske, Marton, Melsonby, Middleton Tyas, Rokeby, Romalldkirk, South Cowton, Stanwick St John, Startforth, Thirkleby, **Thornton-le-Street, Upleatham, Welbury, Wycliffe, Yarm.**

# THE MYSTERY BEHIND THE MATRONYMICS

by David Sanderson

My father's name was George Aikman Sanderson (1904-1972) and, as a child, whenever I asked about his second name I was told it was a family maiden name. In later life when I became interested in family history research this name appeared to be an important clue. Yet, I knew it was not his mother's name for she was a Morrison, so perhaps, then, it was his grandmother's name. But no, it was his grandfather that provided the further clue. My father had been named after his grandfather, another George Aikman Sanderson. Was this matronymic, then, the name of my father's great-grandmother?

The next step was to find the record of the birth of this George Aikman Sanderson I. I knew he arrived in Manchester around the 1860's, but I had no idea where from. The 1871 and 1881 censuses for the Higher Openshaw **district of Manchester provided me with a Gateshead birth about 1840. While there was no record of this birth in the** General Register Office at St Catherine's House, I found a baptism entry of St Mary's Gateshead recording his birth on 31st August 1840. But what of his mother's maiden name? The record of St Mary, Gateshead says he was the son of George Grant Sanderson and Elizabeth Sanderson. St Mary's yielded a little further information. There were other children, Edward John (23 April 1842), Ann (24 December 1843) and James Paul (31 May 1846) and mother Elizabeth is also described as Elizabeth Frances Sanderson. Yet none of these births nor the wedding of G.G. Sanderson is recorded at G.R.O. and a search of the I.G.I. only confirmed what I had already known. There was a glimmer of hope when I discovered at least three Aikman marriages at St Nicholas's, Newcastle, between 1760 and 1780 but not the particular one I was seeking, though, of course, I may just have found an earlier generation without being able to make the connection.

Well, so much for my father's matronymic, what about my grandfather, Joseph Lee Sanderson (1883-1962)? Was this a further matronymic and also a clue to the past? An aunt provided some information, she wrote: "there is some connection with a Joseph Lee Grant or a George Lee Grant ... I had an idea he was Scotch ... it was my father's great-grandad or great-great-grandad". This tied in with the research I had already done. I knew my grandfather's grandfather was George Grant Sanderson, who according to his death certificate, died in Thorne, Yorkshire in 1879 aged 66 giving a birth about 1813. But where was he born? He does not appear in the 1871 census for Thorne so there was no help there. A further search of the I.G.I. for Durham and surrounding counties revealed the baptism of several George's that might fit the bill, but certainly no George Grant and no mother of that surname either. Also the personal indexes at Gateshead Library and the 1851 census for Gateshead yielded nothing.

So was G.G. Sanderson's mother a Grant, whose ancestry was a Lee? It's all very intriguing but my research remains firmly stuck with a baptism entry in 1840 and the indication of another birth c. 1813, but with the teasing suggestions of a Sanderson - Aikman marriage (possibly 1835), a Sanderson - Grant marriage (possibly 1810) and a Grant - Lee marriage 20 or more years before that. None of these Sanderson marriages appear in 'Boyd's *Marriage Index*'. The matronymics appear to offer so much, but, for me, they remain clouded in mystery. Can any help unlock it?

## THE EDITOR WRITES:

This article illustrates a problem frequently met when using the indexes for the early years of civil registration. There is a common belief that registration of a birth has been compulsory since the present system began in 1837, and yet the author of the article has been unable to locate any of four different births which he knows occurred in the 1840's. How can this be? The answer is that there was in fact no obligation on parents to register a birth until 1875.

The parliamentary Act which introduced civil registration in England with effect from 1st July 1837 provided that "every Registrar shall be authorised, and is hereby required, to inform himself carefully of every Birth and every Death which shall happen in his District" and then to register the event in "One of the Books" provided for the purpose. Precisely how each registrar was to set about "informing himself" is not specified in the Act. No doubt the main source of his information would be the parents of the newly-born child, for the Act tells us that "the Father, or Mother of any Child Born" -- or various other people, including the "Master or Keeper of every Gaol, Prison, or House of Correction, or Workhouse, Hospital, or Lunatic Asylum" -- "may, within 42 days next after the day of such Birth ... give notice to the Registrar". Notice that the father or mother "may" give notice. There was no compulsion here, no absolute obligation on parents to report to the Registrar. It is true that the law did require parents to "give information, upon being requested to do so" to the Registrar but if the official had not "informed himself" of a birth, he could hardly request information about it! And if parents, deliberately or otherwise, did not bother to advise him, he would

remain unaware and could make no entry in his Registers. No wonder so many births are "missing"! The parents could register it after the 42 day period, but only on paying a fee, which was hardly an incentive and, indeed, after 6 months, it could not be registered anyway! Not until 1875 did registration become mandatory, with a fine of up to £2 for default.

Mr Sanderson's article also raises the issue of the use of surnames as Christian names -- Aikman, Lee and Grant in his case. Of course, the use of a mother's maiden name in this way is quite common, and the use of the maiden name of a grandmother of a child is not unusual. Among my own ancestors, there are examples of mother's name, paternal grandmother's name, and maternal grandmother's name being used. One of my great grandparents was named Dods after her mother's mother; this habit, repeated by brothers and sisters each naming a child after the same grandparent, and all using the same girl's name as well, can cause not a little confusion, as I discovered in trying to sort out three Martha Dods Runciman's, born to three siblings!

Sometimes a name seems to be preserved in a family without the reason being known -- a friend of mine has Somers as a "middle name", as did his father and grandfather before him. He has no idea why, although further research might produce an answer. And we have the other side of the coin, where a name which has been used to name a child is not registered. I have just read a paper entitled "Me and My Ancestors" in which the author, J.R. MacDonald, recounts that his middle name is Rough -- "a name that has hung like a millstone round my neck all my life" -- and that when he tried to get a birth certificate, he found that "Somerset House knew nothing about John Rough MacDonald. I was registered as plain John MacDonald and though I was born in January, I wasn't registered until July!"

So there are plenty of "variants" on the family name theme. There are also non-family names being used as Christian names. We have children like the boy (or was it a girl?) who bore the names of the eleven members of the Liverpool football team, and doubtless there are many more who carry the name of a sporting hero, or perhaps a war leader, a politician, or just a good friend of the parents. My prize for innovation goes to a former neighbour of mine whose son's forenames included- Dalgety ~~because (as his parents said) it was in the Scottish town of Dalgety Bay that,~~ one weekend, the boy was conceived!

I do not know whether any serious research has been done into the use of surnames in this way. If any reader knows of any, please let me know, and I'd be glad to hear from anyone who knows of examples of 'unusual' names used, or from any overseas member who might be able to tell me about such customs in his or her own country.

If anyone can help Mr Sanderson with his own specific problems, please write to him direct at 225 Prince of Wales Road, Sheffield S2 1FB.

## UNWANTED CERTIFICATES

The Society Library has the following "unwanted" certificates. If any of them are of interest to you, please contact the Librarian Mrs D. Tait (address on Contents Page). If you find you have any "wrong" certificates, or other "unwanted" ones, send them to Mrs Tait. They might assist someone else.

### BIRTH CERTIFICATES

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. William Vincent 28 August 1932 Monkwearmouth.          | 20. Thomas Pearson 18 January 1868 Witton Gilbert.        |
| 2. Margaret Shields 18 January 1878 Jarrow.               | 21. John Wm Jackson 25 October 1895 Gosforth.             |
| 3. James Rowell 28 July 1886 South Shields.               | 22. John Jackson 30 August 1897 Harton.                   |
| 4. Mary Ann Irvin 7 August 1856 Stockton.                 | 23. Jane Greenwell 20 January 1848 Usworth.               |
| 5. Elizabeth Hilton Sydney 23 January 1841 Sunderland.    | 24. Robert Dixon 26 April 1883 Cambois.                   |
| 6. Wm. Thomas Hunter 22 December 1851 Seaham.             | 25. Robert Elliott Blenkinsop 8 May 1860 Bishopwearmouth. |
| 7. Thomas Mowbray 29 January 1854 Framwellgate Moor.      | 26. Elizabeth Young 14 September 1862 Bishop Middleham.   |
| 8. Edward Evans 21 March 1882 Ruswarp, Whitby.            | 27. Isabella Nixon 31 May 1879 Usworth.                   |
| 9. Mary Ann Hann 23 July 1843 Mamhill Stanbridge, Dorset. | 28. David Thomas Shute 4 January 1863 Yarm.               |
| 10. Frederick Wandless 5 March 1881 Easington.            | 29. John Blackburn 30 May 1882 Stockton.                  |
| 11. Mary Agnes Gavin 21 February 1886 Durham.             | 30. <b>Wm Joshua Shute 1 December 1864 Middlesbrough.</b> |
| 12. James Bell 4 September 1898 Consett.                  | 31. Emily Maud Magaret Brownless 12 June 1863 Durham.     |
| 13. James Noble 2 July 1848 Fatfield.                     | 32. Elizabeth Mary Hutchinson 22 April 1849 Easington.    |
| 14. James Noble 24 November 1847.                         | 33. Elizabeth Hutchinson 11 December 1847 Eglescliffe.    |
| 15. Jane Ann Noble 19 January 1879 North Biddick.         | 34. Ann Wood 20 June 1857 Bishopton.                      |
| 16. John Robson Newton 27 October 1895 Gosforth.          | 35. Ann Wanless 4 June 1840 Darlington.                   |
| 17. John Hall 19 January 1828 Hetton-le-Hole              | 36. Joseph Stanley Bailey 25 July 1856 Pelton.            |
| 18. Charlotte Newton 27 October 1858 Newcastle.           | 37. Robert Cowell 15 August 1851 Westgate, Haltwhistle.   |
| 19. Jane Johnson 22 July 1859 Low Urpeth.                 | 38. Ann Mary Brown 18 July 1852 Westoe.                   |
|   | 39. Thomas Pickering 17 January 1843 Chester-le-Street.   |

## HAVE YOU TRIED ...?

### AN INTRODUCTION TO SOME OF THE LESS WELL-USED GENEALOGICAL SOURCES IN THE NORTHUMBERLAND RECORD OFFICE

by Susan Mackay, B.A., D.A.A. Archivist-in-Charge

(Control of Records, Repository Management and Conservation) Northumberland Record Office

In the period April 1991 - March 1992, there were 4,669 visits by searchers to the Northumberland Record Office of which 3,012 or 65% were genealogists. The majority of family historians using the service appear to restrict their research to basic sources, namely, parish registers, census returns and the International Genealogical Index. The purpose of this short article is to introduce some of the less well-used sources available to genealogists in the Northumberland Record Office, many of which provide a fascinating insight into the lives of our Northumbrian ancestors.

The records of many ecclesiastical parishes which have been deposited in the Northumberland Record Office provide a great deal of genealogical information other than that found in parish registers. For example, the records of four parishes include parish censuses -- Alnwick St Paul for the period 1873-80 (ref EP.5/19), Heddon-on-the-Wall at 1830 and at 1899 (ref EP.37/43), Longframlington 1891-2 (ref EP.12/33) and the best example, Rothbury, dated circa 1820 (ref EP.103/114). The Rothbury census, prepared by the Rector, Rev. Harcourt, provides a detailed record of the households within his parish, for example, one entry reads:

*"Edward Pringle is a joiner 75 years of age, very infirm, but still makes tables & chairs in a small dirty cot. He has a little dog remarkable for its long fine hair which he cuts & makes stockings of it. He is a Papist and has one Bible. A niece lives with him."*

The records of some parishes also contain information relating to the distribution of poor relief within the parish. Unfortunately, an extensive collection of poor law records survives for only a relatively few parishes, namely Allendale, Alnwick, Ancroft, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Chatton, Ellingham, Lesbury, Longbenton, Norham, Tweedmouth, Ulgham, Warden and Wooler. However, the following are worth looking for: bastardy bonds which grant authority to the mother of an illegitimate child to claim financial support from its father; settlement certificates granting the right of settlement in a parish which would then be responsible for giving poor relief and, conversely, removal orders which were issued prior to forcibly removing a pauper to his legal place of settlement; overseers' account books which detail payments made by the overseers to those in need of support; and lastly, poor rate books which list payments made by parishioners to support those unable to provide for themselves.

Even if the papers relating to a poor law matter have not survived amongst the parish records, it may still be possible to find some details if it involved a dispute between parishes. Such cases were heard by the local magistrates in the courts of Quarter Sessions. For example, amongst the records of the Michaelmas Sessions of 1857, there are papers relating to the case of John Chisholm, Ann his wife and their children, Ann, Robert and John aged 7, 6 and 2 respectively. The case is one of disputed settlement between the parishes of Wooler and Stanington. Evidence is presented - it is stated that the case has arisen because of the 'sickness of the said John Chisholm which sickness is such as will produce permanent disability' - and judgement is made - Wooler is the legal place of settlement.

Magistrates sitting at Quarter Sessions also heard criminal cases (although of the less serious kind). These were often cases of petty theft or violence. Cases heard at the Michaelmas Session of 1857 included those of John Swan, a labourer, of Woodhorn, who was accused of stealing a silver watch from Ralph Young; Elizabeth Miller of Tynemouth, accused of keeping a disorderly house; and William Sibbald of Chatton accused of obtaining money from William Turnbull with intent to defraud. The first two defendants were found guilty and sentenced to twelve and two months imprisonment respectively; the latter was found not guilty. Despite the fact that the courts of Quarter Sessions dealt with the less serious criminal cases, (those adjudged more serious were dealt with by the Assize Courts, records of which are held at The Public Record Office, London), sentencing was severe and there are many examples of people sentenced to transportation to the Colonies. The Order Books (ref QSO), provide a summary of the case whilst the indictments (ref QSI), give details of the plea and the verdict. However, it is the papers (ref QSB), which include witnesses' statements that are the most interesting. If an ancestor was committed to gaol, it is also worth looking for a reference to him in the calendars of prisoners, which are usually found amongst the bundles of Quarter Sessions papers. These provide the name, age and trade of the prisoner, date of warrant, date received into custody, details of offence, date of trial, verdict and sentence.

The records of the Northumberland Quarter Sessions include many other genealogical sources and are worthy of an article to themselves. Those family historians with Roman Catholic ancestry may wish to consult the registers of Roman Catholic Estates, 1717-89 (ref QRR). The information contained therein has been collated and printed in 'Northumbrian Documents of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries comprising The Register of the Estates of Roman Catholics in Northumberland ...', *The Publication of the Surtees Society* vol 131, 1918. Also worthy of particular note are the Land Tax Returns, 1748-1885 (ref QRP) which lists properties with details of landowners,



tenants, rateable values and the amount assessed or paid thereon.

In 1834, Courts of Petty Sessions took over some of the criminal responsibilities of the Quarter Sessions and the minor criminal cases became the responsibility of the former. Cases heard at the Morpeth Petty Session of September 1841 include that of Henry Hudspeth for dismissing Benjamin Thompson, a hired servant, prior to the expiration of the contract; that of Jonathan Smith for refusing to pay the arrears under an order of bastardy; and that of Edward Henderson accused of trespass in pursuit of game.

After 1834, maintenance claims made against the fathers of illegitimate children were also heard in the courts of Petty Sessions and the details of such cases were often printed in local newspapers. These are therefore two additional sources available to the family historian with an illegitimate line in his family.

The Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 took away many of the responsibilities for poor relief from the parish and established Boards of Guardians. Records of some of the Boards have been deposited in The Northumberland Record Office and include useful genealogical information. For instance, the report book of the Hexham Board, 1836-38 (ref GHE.30) lists applicants for poor relief with details of age, information about his/her family, the circumstances of the claim and details of any relief granted. For example, in December 1837, Francis Dixon, a widower aged 71 of the parish of Bywell St. Andrew, received 16 shillings and 3 pence [81.5p] for funeral expenses following the death of his wife.

Records of employment can be another useful source. The coal industry was of course one of the largest employers in Northumberland, yet it is generally very difficult to discover any information regarding the employment history of a coalminer. However, if an ancestor was involved in an accident in a coalmine in the period 1881-1945, it may be possible to find a reference to this in the minute books of the Northumberland Coal Owners Mutual Protection Association - NCOMPA - (ref NRO.263). The Association provided compensation to men injured or killed in colliery accidents. The minute books contain much useful information. For example, the minutes of 15 February 1900 provide details of the case of William Carley aged 21, a putter and hewer who died on 14 November 1899 as a result of injuries caused by the emission of gas at Bebside Colliery on 3 November of the same year. The volume records the fact that the deceased was a singleman living with his parents and that the household consisted of the deceased; his father aged 49; his mother aged 44; a sister aged 21, married to William Davison who also lived in the same household; four further sisters aged 18, 15, 5 and 1½, the 15 year old being in service; and three brothers aged 13, 9 and 7. The 13 year old was employed as a flatter in 'A' Pit. Also living in the same household were Mick Tarney, a hewer, aged 32, Mrs Carley's brother; two nephews, A. and T. Murphy; and a niece, A.M. Murphy. A settlement of £90 was agreed. Not all cases dealt with were fatal. The same book records a weekly payment of 35 shillings and 10 pence [£1.80p], to John Green aged 14, a driver at Cambois Colliery whose leg was lacerated.

Leadmining was a popular occupation in the North Pennines. The Allendale MSS (ref NRO.672) include a series of volumes which record 'bargains' or agreements struck between groups of leadminers (usually 4 or 6) and the mineowner, in this case, the Blackett-Beaumont family. The Bargain Books provide details of the vein to be worked, quantities of ore to be wrought and payments to be made to the miners. The volumes cover the period 1720-1874 and include some for the Weardale mines.

Other employment records worthy of note are the series of personnel files of officers serving in the Northumberland Constabulary which date from circa 1860 (ref NRO.3822). The files provide a service history with a physical description of the officer, details of his family background, his previous employment and any misdemeanours, (usually drinking), that took place whilst on duty. Sometimes the papers include details of major cases with which he was involved. Particularly useful are the details of his postings, which, at least in the early period, can help track down 'missing' families in the census. However, personnel records which are less than 75 years old, may only be consulted with the permission of the Police Authority.

These are just a few of the sources of genealogical interest in the Northumberland Record Office. Record Office staff are happy to advise family historians about these and other records which may be useful to them. Since the opening of the Morpeth Records Centre, many of the less well-used genealogical sources have been housed there, so genealogists who think that these sources may be useful to them, are advised to contact the Record Office at Melton Park before making a visit. Because the Morpeth Records Centre is only open one day a week at present - a Wednesday - it is still possible to consult these records at Melton Park (on every day except Wednesday), but 24 hours notice must be given. The Record Office also operates a research service whereby members of staff will undertake up to 3 hours research on behalf of enquirers for a fee of £5 per half hour (as at June 1992). However, for those people who are able to undertake their own research, if basic sources - parish registers, census returns and the International Genealogical Index - have not produced the answers to your family history questions - 'Have you tried ... ?'

PLEASE NOTE: Written enquiries should be addressed to Mrs A.M. Burton, B.A., D.A.A., County Archivist, Northumberland Record Office, Melton Park, North Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 5QX or telephone 091 - 236 2680 and ask for the Duty Archivist. People with ancestors from north Northumberland may also wish to contact the Berwick-upon-Tweed Record Office, Borough Council Offices, Wallace Green, Berwick-upon-Tweed, TD15 1ED, telephone: 0289 - 330044 Ext. 275 (Archivist-in-Charge: Mrs L.A. Bankier, M.A., D.A.A.)

EDITOR'S NOTE: In future Issues of the Journal, we hope to look in more detail at some of the sources mentioned by Miss Mackay and to print extracts from them.

## NEW MEMBERS

The following new members, whose names do not appear in the Member's Interest column, have joined since the deadline for publication of the last NDFHS Journal. They can of course send their interests and queries to Phil Thirkell for inclusion in the column at any time, if they want to.

Welcome to all our new members.

4712 Mrs. K.M. HUGHES, 40 Roumania Drive, Craig-Y-Don, Llandudno, Gwynedd LI30 IUY. 4713 Ms J.A. DOVER, 2 Elizabeth Street, Mata Mata, New Zealand. **4714 & 4715 Mr P.J. & Mr J.C. HINDHAUGH, 47 Marsh Lane, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 1UN. 4718** Mrs M. ARCHBOLD, 15 Richmond Mews, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4BQ. 4719 Mrs L.J. OWENS, 7 Musgrave Gardens, Gilesgate, Durham DH1 1PN. 4720 & 4721 Mr L. & Mrs A. MOLLOW, 41654 Kenilworth Lane, Novi, Oakland 48377, Michigan, U.S.A. 4722 Mrs S.J. POYNTER, 12 Froddington Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO5 2LB. 4723 Mr D.J. TERRY, 59 Picktree Lodge, **Chester-le-Street, Durham DH3 4DH. 4724 Mrs M. GEORGE, Armadale, 2 Holstein Avenue, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 8NX. 4725 Mr** S. JOHNSON, 70 Long Acre, Dairy Lane, Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne and Wear DH4 5PZ. 4726 Mrs N.J. KAVANAGH, 21 Suffolk Gardens, Marsden, Tyne and Wear NE34 WE 4728 Miss G.D. LOMAX, Braemar, 38 Main Street, Swanland, Ferriby, Hull HU14 3QR. 4729 Group Captain H. BAXTER, 10 Knapp Close, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 ISL. 4730 Mr D.J. MORRISSEY, 43 Woodcote Way, Caversham, Reading, Berks RG2 7HJ. 4732 Mrs C. NORFOLK, 60 Campbell Street, Moyura, N.S.W. 2537, Australia. 4733 Mrs F.D. NORMAN, 23 Monkton Avenue, South Shields, Tyne and Wear NE34 9RX. 4734 Mrs C. CUTHBERT, 25 Grey Street, Wallsend, Tyne and Wear NE28 7SE. 4735 Mr T.G. SCOTT, 10 Victory Court, 35 Boscombe Spa Road, Bournemouth BH5 1AS. 4736 Mrs C.W. THOMAS, 61 Marshals Drive, St Albans, Herts. AL1 4RD. 4737 Mrs W.D. WEARING, 3 Femhill Road, Begbroke, Oxford OX5 1RP. 4738 Mr R.A. WHARTON, 14 Ash Tree Close, Worlingham, Beccles, Suffolk NR34 7RU. 4740 Miss A. FRANCE, 70 Montrose Avenue, Luton, Beds. LU3 1HS. 4741 Mrs D.M. BLENKINSOPP, 1 Hertford Court, Wharncliffe Road, Highcliffe, Dorset BH23 5DG. 4742 Mr N.D. DUNN, 29 Drovers Court, Easingwold, North Yorks. YO6 3NP. 4743 Mr T. JENKINS, Trelmarnic House, Scarborough Road, Silksworth, Sunderland SR3 1LD. 4744 Miss R. HARRISON, Rock Cottage, Bell Hill, Lindale in Cartmell, Grange over Sands, Cumbria LA1 16LD. 4745, 4746 & 4747 Mr A.A., Mrs J.M. & Mr M. FOSTER, 54 Vernon Road, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 2NG. 4749 Mrs P.D. REDSHAW, 59 Kingston Drive, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear, NE26 1JJ. 4752 Mr JJ. ORRELL, 64 Bourn Lea, Shiney Row, Houghton le Spring, Durham DH4 4PG. 4753 Mrs M.D. PETHERBRIDGE, 2 Cranmer Road, Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 2AT. **4754 Mrs S.C. BROWN, 12 Rue Grande, Lake Saint Louis, St Charles County, Missouri 63367, U.S.A. 4755 Mrs J.R. MAUDE,** 30 Nicholls Drive, Pensby, Wirral, Merseyside L61 5XH. 4756 Mr A.F. COOLEY, Porters Flat, Queens College, High Street, Oxford **OX1 4AW. 4557 Mr P.W. SCORER, 12 Linden Way, Eighton Banks, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear NE9 7BL. 4758 & 4759 Mr E. &** Mrs J. SIMONSEN, 12 Cotswold Close, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 2NA. 4761 Mr J.E. ANDERSON, 209 Benesfort Crescent, Kitchener, Ontario N2N 3B4, Canada 4763 Mr H. GIBBS, 5 Frances Avenue, Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 8NX. 4765 & 4766 Mrs S.A. & Mr J.M. GRAHAM, 115 Dibbins Hey, Bebington, Wirral, Merseyside L63 9HE. 4768 Miss A.E. MORECRAFT, 4041 Angeleah Place, Victoria B.C. V8Z 6T1, Canada 4769 Mrs B.A. TWEDDLE, 36 Main Avenue, Trailer Park, Knaresborough Road, Harrogate, North Yorks. HG2 7NL. 4770 Ms K.J. IRVINE, c/o Price Waterhouse, Avenue Roma 2-4, 08014 Barcelona, Spain. 4771 Mr A. DOUGLAS, 7 Swansfield Park Road, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 1AT. 4772 Mr J.W.H. CRUSH, 32 Old School Lane, Milton, Cambridgeshire **CB4 6BS. 4773 Mr H. ROBERTSON, 35 Adams Drive, Fleet, Hants GU13 9DZ. 4774 Mr J. SHAW, 24 Bridge Street, Titbury,** Burton-on-Trent, Staffs. DE13 9LZ. **4775 Ms K.I. HANN, 4 Hill Croft, Thornton, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD13 3QR. 4777 Dr M.J.** WATTS, 423 Warrington Road, Culcheth, Warrington, Cheshire WA3 5SW. 4778 Mr J. CREEGAN, 74 Wickett Hem Road, **Armthorpe, Doncaster, South Yorks. DN3 3SX. 4779 Ms A.I. WALKER, 126 North Bonnington Avenue, Scarborough, Ontario M1K** 1X9, Canada. 4780 Mr A. PIDGEON, 27 Langdon Avenue, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP21 9UW. 4781 Mr B.M. COLTMAN, 6 Hereford Court, Kingston Park, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 2QT. 4782 Mr A.W. ROBSON, 32 Adams Street, Marlborough, MA 01752, U.S.A. 4783 Mrs M. KINNERSLEY, 7 Marr Road, Hebburn, Tyne and Wear NE31 2SD. 4784 Mr J.R.N. KERSS, 7 East Priors, Lings, Northampton NN3 4LB. 4785 & 4786 Mrs G. & Mr G.R. MORRIS, 56 Armond Road, Witham, Essex CM8 2HA. 4787 Mrs J.E. STADLER, 2 Parkhouse Green Cottages, Bookhurst Road, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 7DN. 4788 Ms V. TAYLOR, 37 Whitfield Road, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 1DX. 4789 Mrs H. CATCHERSIDE, 8 Askrigg Avenue, Grangetown, Sunderland SR2 9SG. 4790 & 4791 Mrs J. & Mr J.W. FOX, 27 Sherburn Terrace, Wrekenton, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear NE9 7AQ. 4792 Mrs E. ROSS, 7 Greenfield Grove, Fairfield, Stockton-on-Tees TS19 7RA. **4793 Mr K.I. RANSOME, 4 Cleekim Road, Edinburgh EH12 8NJ.**

## MEMBERS INTERESTS AND QUERIES

Items for this column should be sent to Phil Thirkell, 100 Stuart Court, Kingston Park, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 2SG.

If you wish to have your interests or any queries published, send a paragraph outlining your areas of research, problems [etc.](#) to Phil Thirkell at the above address. Please include your membership number with any correspondence and print names to avoid errors. Try to be brief, as, the shorter the item, the more we can print. Any inaccuracies in the address shown in these columns should be notified at once to Raymond Hale at the address shown on the Contents Page. Welcome to all our new members.

0280 Mrs EILEEN HOWE, 56 Coach Road, Brotton, Saltburn, Cleveland TS12 2RP.

Seeking the birth/baptism of John Jaques (Jacks/Jacks), Lowick area c.1730/40. Possible family names are Andrew, John, David and Isabella.

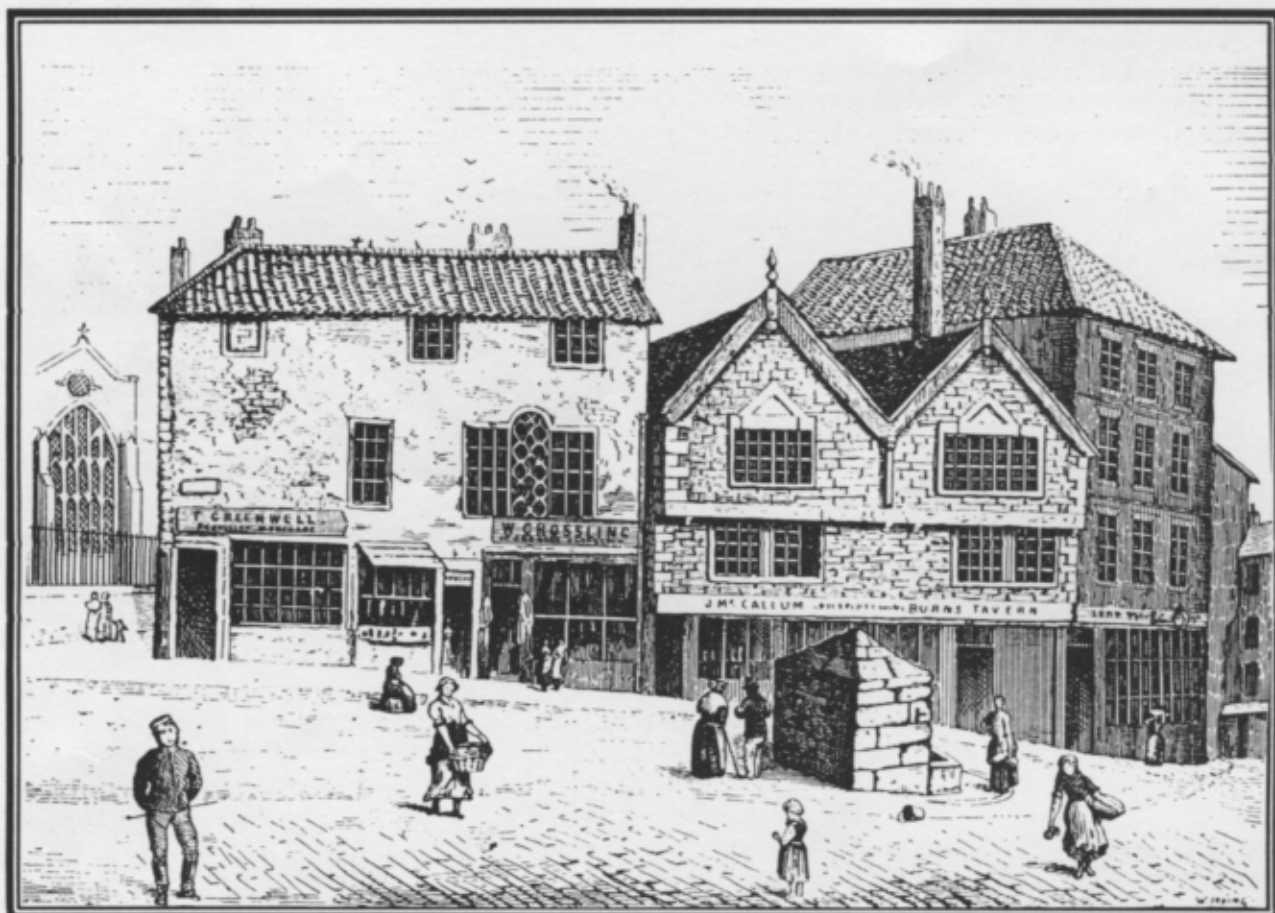
- 0784 Mrs NELDA KELLEY, 2224 Skyline Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76114, U.S.A.  
Seeking parents of Mary Hall, born Newcastle 1853. She married first Holder (forename unknown) and secondly Thomas L. Snowden at St Louis, [MO. in](#) 1882. She had a cousin Beatrice Conway in Melbourne, Australia and another who was a movie star. Their children were Joseph, Robert Hall, Alice Ladell and Frederick.
- 0892 MICHAEL W. McMULLEN, 281 Friendship Avenue S.E., Salem, Oregon 97302-5717, U.S.A.  
Any information at all regarding the following: Richard Henry Bowman born 1877 Darlington, son of Martin Bowman and Martha Walker (daughter of Robert Walker). Martin Bowman born 1852 Darlington, son of Thomas Bowman and Elizabeth Craggs (daughter of Richard Craggs). Thomas Bowman son of Richard.
- 0963 Mr STEPHEN COE, 73 Crofton Close, Bracknell, Berks. RG12 3UT.  
Seeking birth of Ridley Mitcheson c.1760 who married Elizabeth Hunter 1791 at Bywell St Peter. They had six children, Elizabeth, Grace, Thomas, Christopher, Margaret and Mary who married Alexander Wilson. Family legend has him related to Lord Ridley of Blagdon. Also seeking information on Strother of Wooler 1760's. Ralph, Diana and John were probably non-conformists.
- 3030 Ms H. MELDRUM, 9 Nelson Road, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 3RX.  
Any information on any Meldrums and Carlings throughout the North East from 1750 to 1850, especially North Shields and Sunderland.
- 3076 FRANK PEARSON, 5 Beverley Road, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear NE25 8JH.  
Anthony Pearson married Frances Brown in 1890 at the Registry Office in Newcastle. They later emigrated to South Africa. He then married Julia Janis Smith in 1905 in New Zealand and was described as a widower. Examination of the records in the Newcastle area and in South Africa have failed to reveal any record of his first wife's death. Any help would be appreciated.
- 3526 Mrs W.I. CLEVERLEY, 27 Polmear Road, Par, Cornwall PL24 2AN.  
Seeks the baptism and parents of Thomas Wight, tailor, born 1823 Chatton, married Thomasina Tarbit c.1853. Also baptism and parents of James Ford born Lowick 1802. All were Presbyterians.
- 3592 Mrs ANNETTE COSTELLO, St Dominics, 6 Lower Redannick, Truro, Cornwall TR1 2JW.  
Interested in the surname Kirkup (and variants) and would welcome correspondence with anyone with links with this name.
- 3646 NEIL MORTON, 26 Gardner Road, Formby, Merseyside L37 8DD.  
Alexander Morton born Scotland c.1783, moved to Alnwick with his wife c.1812 shortly after their daughter Mary was born. Alexander believed to have worked as gardener at Swansfield, Alnwick for Henry Collingwood Selby. Alexander's son Henry Collingwood Selby Morton born 1813, baptised Pottergate Presbyterian Church, daughter Margaret born 1815. By 1851 was working at Causey Park. Are there any estate papers for Swansfield or Causey Park, or Selby family papers, which might have information regarding servants? Also, are there any records other than baptism registers which might list members of the Pottergate congregation?
- 3654 Mrs ELIZABETH THIRLAWAY, 11 Hilda Street, Catchgate, Stanley, County Durham D59 8EW.  
Seeking the baptism of Elizabeth Johnson, born Allendale 1854. Her father was Jacob Johnson, but who was her mother? Elizabeth married William Harris, originally from Sussex but later a miner in Allendale. Also interested in Cawley and Osborne/Osborn. Mahala Lavina Miller nee Cawley married William Miller at Durham Registry Office in 1875 and they lived in Gilesgate. Mahala came from Norfolk, daughter of Robert Cawley and Susan nee Osborne.
- 3758 **Mrs HELEN MILLINGTON, Fourtops, Withens Lane, Weaverham, Northwich, Cheshire CW8 3HX.**  
Seeking information on the family of George Lee and Jane Bainbridge, married 1791 at Middleton-in-Teesdale. Their daughter Susan married Thomas Simpson of Barnard Castle in 1823. Were there any other children and who were the parents of George and Jane? So many Lee's and Bainbridges in Teesdale!
- 3904 JOHN MILBANKE, 38 Summervale Road, Hagley, Nr. Stourbridge, Worcestershire DY9 0LX.  
Information is required on the Milbank(e) families in the area of Newcastle, Chirton, Spittal and Tynemouth in the 16-18th centuries, and Durham, Chester-le-Street, Birtley, Heworth and Darlington 18-20th centuries. Especially interested in information regarding Elizabeth Huntington who married Mark Milbanke at Gainford in 1797, Mary Milbanke m. Thomas **Freshfield at Staindrop 1812, and Ann Ridley, widow of Gainford 1800 onwards.**
- 3920 Mrs S.R. THOMPSON, 6 Broughton Avenue, Croydon 3136, Victoria, Australia.  
Seeking information regarding the birth, marriage and death of Thomas Henry Thompson, blacksmith who married Ann Colquhoun, born Scotland 1851. Their children: Jane, Dorothy, Joseph (born Sheriff Hill 1888), Tom, George and Robert. Later moved to Old Durham Road, Gateshead where Ann died in 1944, a widower living with Dorothy and Robert who was a dentist. Any information on the above would be welcome.
- 4158 Mrs AUDREY BATEMAN, 17 Queensthorpe Close, Bramley, Leeds, West Yorks. LS 13 4JT.  
Would welcome any information on the following: George Hunter born c.1811, son of Henry of Bondgate, Westmorland and his wife Charlotte Harle or Hall daughter of John Harle/Hall of Lanchester. Also searching for Jane Iveson, mother of Robert in the Newcastle/Gateshead area and John Iveson who could be husband of Jane. Also Ann Proud c.1796 who married George Burdon 1831.
- 4372 Mr C.S. DIXON, 16 Moorfeld Road, Mattishall, Dereham, Norfolk NR20 3NZ.  
Does anyone know what the duties were of a 'Tidal Water Agent'? This was the recorded occupation of John Whitworth of Crawhall Terrace, Newcastle in the 1861 Census. Enquiries of Newcastle Central Library, Tyne and Wear RO, The Port of Tyne Authority and the Greenwich Maritime Museum have so far failed to produce the answer.

- 4375 MAGGIE LAVAN, 11 Perrers Road, London W6 OEY.  
Patrick McGrath, Corporal R.A., and wife Mary A. (late Goode) had a son George Patrick (also known as Goode) who married Elizabeth Weatherall in 1901. Children Barbara Mary Goode and George Goode born Seaham Harbour. George Patrick McGrath/Goode, a miner/sinker, died in Easington Workhouse in 1908 aged 35. Where was he born? What was Mary A. McGrath's maiden name? Who was Mr Goode? Any help with these names would be welcome.
- 4421 Mrs M.L. GENT, 6 Trust Cottages, Rinshall, Berkhamstead, Herts. HP4 INF.  
Any information regarding the Tarn family in Northumberland, Durham and Cumberland would be gratefully received.
- 4468 Mrs ENID HARRISON, 20 Romney Drive, Carrville, Durham DH1 1LS.  
Seeking information of William Winnard, born Lackford in Suffolk c.1820, died as an army pensioner at Chester-le-Street in 1897. Daughter Elizabeth and son John born in the East Indies in 1853 and 1856. He was the publican of the Black Horse Inn, Newfield Pelton in 1871.
- 4478 Mr JOHN CREEGAN, 74 Wickett Hern, Armthorpe, Doncaster DN3 38X.  
Searching for Corrigan, Fulton, Green, Logue, Nelson (Neilson) and Valentine (Balentine) families in the Consett, Blackhill and Esh areas. Thomas Nelson came to Consett to seek work with his daughter Catherine from Paisley c.1913. Patrick Cor igan possibly came to Esh from Ireland c.1880.
- 4484 H.R. OLIVER, 1 Batt House Road, Stocksfield, Northumberland NE43 7QZ.  
Seeks information about: Jane Bates and Edward Turnbull, married Stamfordham 1779; Jane Gibson married Alexander Whaley, Hexham 1780; Mary Lamb of Hartburn who married Robert Rowell at Simonburn 1750; Isaac Mark, master mariner, whose daughter Isabella married Alexander Whaley Dinning at Newcastle All Saints 1837; Isabel Randsome and Joseph Scott married at Hartburn 1771; George Wailes of Cheeseburn Grange whose son Anthony was baptised at Stamfordham 1734.
- 4492 Mr MICHAEL HILDREW, 90 Sycamore Road, Strood, Kent ME2 2NZ.  
Would like to hear any information of the descendants of Sam and Mary Williams, formerly of Victoria, B.C., Canada. They had a son Geoffrey and daughters Edith and Marjorie who was living with her husband Doug in Calgary in 1971.
- 4519 Mrs F.A. EASSON, 4 Monlcridge, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear NE26 3EQ.  
Researching Geddes (Byker), Jobling (Ryton, Gateshead, Byker, Newcastle), White (Bedlington, Newcastle) and Young (Jesmond but originally Glasgow). Would particularly like help to locate Ralph Thompson in 1851 Newcastle Census. Daughter Deborah married George Gray at Newcastle St John's in 1849 but address only given as Westgate. Any sightings would be appreciated.
- 4548 Dr JOHN R. ELLIOTT, 143 Cedar Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 9PH.  
Researching the Elliot(t) and Peart families of Upper Weardale. Unable to find the marriage of James Elliott and Hannah Roddam c.1840, or Joseph Peart and Sarah Vickers c.1850. Neither marriage appears in St. Catherine's indexes. Other interests in the first half of the 19th century are Parker, Graham, Kidd, Milburn and Featherstone. All the men worked as lead miners.
- 4550 Mrs ELAINE YOUNG, 8 Fitzgerald Road, Ermington 2115, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.  
Would welcome information about Young, Burdes, Cooper and Jefferson families. George Young married Jane Cooper 1812 at Tynemouth. Her parents Samuel Cooper and Mary Jefferson m. Wallsend 1786. George and Jane's family, Samuel, Elizabeth Cooper, Jane Cooper, Phillip Sadler and Eleanor Cooper. Samuel m. Elizabeth Burdes c.1843, known son was Phillip Sadler Young born 1845 at Monkwearmouth. He emigrated to Australia in 1869. Known that Young and Cooper had mining connections and Samuel Young was a Primitive Methodist lay preacher.
- 4574 PAT KOPACZYNSKI, 90 Bonds Road, Roselands, New South Wales 2196, Australia.  
Would like help with her Toll and Burton families. Nicholas Toll, born 1824 in Cornwall, married Sarah Downing at St Wendron, Cornwall in 1872. A son, Francis Botterill Toll, was born at Shotton Colliery in 1878; father was described as a plate layer. Sarah later married again to a Burton. Seeking this marriage as well as any children from either marriage and the deaths of Nicholas Toll and Sarah Burton. Would also like general information about the Shotton Colliery and Easington area.
- 4581 Mrs SHIPLEY MAY, P.O. Box 1210, Geraldton 6530, Western Australia.  
Looking for information on the following families Slight/Robson of Jedburgh, Roxburghshire and Harrison/Marr and **Soulsby/Patterson of Newcastle in the 18-1900's**
- 4659 WALTER STEWART, Traigh Mhor, Port Carlisle, Carlisle CA5 5DQ.  
Would like to contact any descendants of: 1) Robert Gallon or Gallant, accountant of Sunderland; parents Sarah (?) Wilson, daughter of George Wilson, blacksmith, and Robert (?) Gallon. 2) Jane Wilson and Robert Stewart; children, Roy, one time organist at Venerable Bede Church, Sunderland, Robert Arnold born 1901 Hendon, also Jack, Harold and Wilfred. 3) William Thomas Moffat Stewart born 1864 Sunderland, died c.1919, and his wife Louise Ellen (?). Their children: William, twin sons, Louise, Ann, Olive and Florence who married Arthur Tickner.
- 4680 Mr K.R. PICKERING, Whitehaven, Upper Weare, Axbridge, Somerset BS26 2LA.  
Seeking any information regarding Leighton family before 1763 when Robert married Ann Ainsley at St Mary, Gateshead. Possible connections with Widdrington, Orren, Greirson and McDougal. Leightons also at Stockton and some moved to Hull c.1865 and later to London. Also information sought regarding Thomas Watson born Blackgate, Durham c.1801 and his wife Ann from 'Scotland'.

- 4681 Mrs DOROTHY WALKER, 40 Tanekaha Road, Titirangi, Auckland, New Zealand.  
Seeking information on William Sidaway and Charlotte Badger, married Walker 1882 and settled Old Penshaw. Came from Staffs/Worcs. 1871 to 1882, possibly in Hartlepool around 1885. Also any information about Jane Mallia, foster mother to Victor Cyril Sidaway in Newcastle c.1924 and later in South Shields. She was from Malta and her husband was on the 'coal boats' trading with London. They moved to London and eventually finished up in Sheffield during World War II.
- 4698 Mrs S.E. DAVISON, 224 Wynyard, Chester-le-Street, County Durham DH2 2TG.  
Would appreciate help in tracing the marriage and parents of Robert Armstrong and Mary Smith c.1840, possibly in the Tanfield or Haltwhistle areas. George their son, born at Greenhead 1846, married Susan Ellen Whitfield at Lanchester 1871. Information also needed about Joshua Whitfield, father of Matthew who married Isabella Davison 1845 at Medomsley.
- 4716 ROY SINCLAIR, 12 Regent Road, Ryhope, Sunderland SR2 0PP.  
Seeking information about: Sinclair of Elsdon 19th century; Sinclair and Simpson of Cornsay Colliery late 19th century; Patti(n)son of Witton-le-Wear 1815 and 1840's; any Tee(a)der from Essex and in New Brancepeth from 1880' Tait of Tow Law 1870 onwards and any Durham McPhersons. Also Margaret Ann Young born Evenwood 1858 (?) daughter of John Luke Young; John and Francis Simpson at Oakenshaw in 1862; and Jane and John Tate (watch-maker), born in Scotland but in Wolsingham in 1861.
- 4727 ERIC McMULLIN, 2 St Michael's Way, Coity, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan CF31 2BE.  
Searching for information on the following: Catherine Sharp, born Berwick upon Tweed c.1837, married Henry McMullin in 1856 also in Berwick. William Bray and his wife Elizabeth Bell, parents to Richard Ventres Bray (born 1891 Felling), Margaret Bray and Stephen Bray. Joseph Lewis, a miner in Heworth Pit and Spennymoor Colliery, also his wife Ann, parents of Ethel Lewis.
- 4731 MALCOLM D. WINTER, 1817 Bridge Street, Miles City Montana 59301, U.S.A.  
John Winter, together with his parents Thomas and Isabella (nee Turnbull) moved to New York, U.S.A. from Northumberland in 1848. John was born in 1822, Thomas in March 1790 and Isabella October 1790. Thomas' parents believed to be John Winter and Betty Allen, Isabella's father Gilbert Turnbull. Any information on the above would be appreciated.
- 4739 Mr ROBERT G. GRAHAM, 219 Patterson Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13219, U.S.A.  
Researching family of James Stuart Sigsworth, born Hartlepool 1846. Main ancestors include William Sigsworth, born Stockton 1777, John Chapman b.Greatham 1762, Roger Wilson b.Barton, Yorkshire 1734 and Anne Taylor b.Piercebridge, Yorkshire 1784. Also researching Hannah Mary Heweson b. Hartlepool 1848 and her parents Henry Heweson and Mary Dixon.
- 4748 Mrs DIANE M. HEAD, R.R.2, Norwood, Ontario KOL 2VO., Canada.  
Interests include Reid of Brampton, Cumberland (18/19th century), Short of the Allendale/Haydon Bridge area (18/19th century) and Hetherington of Brampton, Allendale and Gateshead (19/20th century).
- 4750 WENDY C. ROGERS, The Mint House, High Street, Hurstpierpoint, Sussex BN6 9PX.  
Interested in the name Sample. The family were in Berwick upon Tweed until about 185Q when they moved to London, although some of the family may have stayed in Northumberland.
- 4751 Mrs. C. WOOLCOCK, 7 Lychgate Drive, Horndean, Hants. P08 9QE.  
Any information please on the Rumney family. Joseph Rumney of Harwood married Frances Milburn at Middleton-in-Teesdale 1815. Their children were born at Harwood, Hawkwell Head and Medomsley and their descendants moved to Crook, Auckland and Dipton.
- 4760 Mrs E.J. PEARCE, 10 Honeybourne Road, Halesowen, West Midlands B63 3EN.  
Would welcome information on anyone with the name Dumble or connected with the name in the Northumberland/Durham area. Seeking the baptism of Robson Cowley c.1786 in the Newbum area. Also the marriage of Robert Hay of Greenlaw in Berwickshire to Mary Brodie of Rothbury c.1790's.
- 4762 Mrs SANDIE CROWLEY, 8 Saffron Close, Taunton, Somerset TA1 3XW.  
James Elliott of Newcastle, miner, son of Thomas married at Benwell in 1908 to Margaret Chilcote Bradfield, daughter of George a shoemaker and his wife Margaret late Atwell formerly Walker. Any information would be gratefully received.
- 4764 Mr F. ASHMORE, 287 Old Bath Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL53 9AJ.  
Any information on Maria Ashmore, baptised at St Mary's, Barnard Castle 1815. Parents were William (1789-1863) and Margaret nee Tinkler (1789-1866). Also her brother George, baptised Barnard Castle, married 1847 at Newcastle to Elizabeth Waime, and secondly at Darlington in 1864 to Ann Turnbull.
- 4767 Dr DAVID CASE, 7 Eden Close, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 6BG.  
William Glass who died 1866 in Dorset gave his place of birth as Northumberland in two census returns but his baptism is yet to be found. The place of birth is difficult to read but may be 'Hundley'. A Glass family were living at Houndalee in Widdrington parish in 1786 but William's baptism not found there. Any help with the family, or possible place name, would be appreciated.
- 4776 A. KENT, 37 Sheldrake Road, Mudeford, Christchurch Dorset BH23 4BP.  
Seeking details of the marriage of Alexander Mitchell (d.1879) and Marth Woolidge (d.1887). Alexander migrated from Scotland, possibly Edinburgh, in 1827 and married c.1829/30. Also information regarding JohnPaton described as an agent of Croft Terrace, Jarrow in 1880 and Robert McCredie Paton (stocktaker) who married Martha Mitchell (daughter of Alexander and Martha) at Tynemouth 1875. Also require details of marriage of Robert Wishart and Elizabeth Mitchell in 1870/80's.



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HEAD OF THE SIDE  
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, 1876.