

THE JOURNAL OF THE NORTHUMBERLAND & DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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

EDITORIAL

It was with great regret that the Society decided to cancel the Conference arranged for September. We had booked 100 rooms at a college, but unfortunately only 57 people had booked by August 1st and several of these were committee members with jobs at the Conference. We would like to thank all the people who did send a booking for their support and apologise to them for their disappointment. I know they were looking forward to it.

The fact remains, however, that many of our members do not wish to come to a Conference of the kind arranged this year. The reasons, I am sure, are many and we would be grateful if members would let us know their views. Is a Conference wanted at all? Would a day conference be sufficient? Is the venue wrong? Is the price too high? Are there subjects you would like? Other Societies hold successful conferences and we would like to do so too. If you have any views, please write to Mrs. M. Furness, 8 Shadfen Park Road, Marden Farm, North Shields, Tyne and Wear NE30 3ND.

Ideally, we need a committee of four people to organise the conference. If there are any willing volunteers, we would be grateful to hear from them. Hopefully, we can arrange a function for 1993 which will suit more people.

Volume 8 of the Society's *1851 Census of Northumberland* series -- the Newcastle St. Andrew volume, published earlier this year -- is stated to have been compiled by Mr. W.E. Rounce. This is not so. The compilation was by Mr. L. Baker. The society wishes to apologise to Mr. Baker for the error.

NOTES AND NEWS

Reverend M.J. Thistlewood, 9 Lightburn Avenue, Ulverston, Cumbria LA12 0AU was, when working in Hull some years ago, given an old Church of England Prayer Book dated 1737 with some names written on the title page -- Mary Denison Burdon Northumberland 1740, Elizth Denison Sunderland (? also Cumberland) 1756, Frances (? Francis) Denison Brooke Norton Cheshire 1783, Charlotte Denison Hotham East Yorkshire 1837. On the fly leaf is the name Robt Denison Kilnwick Percy but no date and, in modern writing, Kenneth Denton Holland 'Southfield' North Dalton Driffild Yorks.

Mr. Frank Pearson, 5 Beverley Road, Whitley Bay NE25 8JH (telephone 091-2527351) received a letter some months ago from a Mr. J.E. Crowe who wanted information from the burial records of St. Pauls, Whitley Bay. Unfortunately, Mr. Crowe did not give an address. If anyone knows where he lives, please contact Mr. Pearson.

Mr. D.K. O'Hara, 5 Napier Court, Dean Bank, Ferryhill, County Durham (telephone 0740-656997) can search the UK telephone books for any name specified. The material used is sourced on the actual BT database which is used to print the Directories themselves and is bang up to date. The nominal fee is £3 which covers BT's on line charge and printing and editing costs. You should quote a surname and either a town or a county of interest. Searches on a county basis for a very common surname will attract an additional charge.

Mr. John Hill, 'Up the Gap', Carrshield, Northumberland NE47 8AA (telephone 0434-345371) has been writing up family trees for clients of a local genealogist and has been overwhelmed by the response. He would be quite happy to write up family trees for any member on a 'pay what you think is reasonable' basis. Initially, however, send £4 to cover the cost of vellum paper and postage.

Mr. A.O. McGuire, 54 Standard Road, Enfield, Middlesex EN3 6DP offers members researching Irish ancestry photocopies of his index (some 40000 records) of the Griffiths 1853 Valuation of Tenements for Co Wexford by surname. No charge other than a donation for expenses. Mr. McGuire is disabled and finds that indexing has helped with his disability.

Annette Costello of St. Dominics, 6 Lower Redannick, Truro, Cornwall TR1 2JW writes to tell us that the Kirkup family has been registered with the Guild of One-Name Studies. Anyone interested in this should contact her.

An index of the 1841 and 1851 censuses for the Felton district of Northumberland (covering Acton, Bockenfield, Elyhaugh, Eshott, Felton, Guyzance, Hazon, Newton-on-the-Moor, Swarland and Thirston) is available from Mr. P. Cook, 23 Benlaw Grove, Felton, Morpeth, Northumberland NE65 9NG for £2.50 plus 40p postage. Future volumes, published by Felton and Swarland Local History Society, will cover the censuses of 1861 and 1871, and 1881 and 1891.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Members are reminded that this is the last Journal of the 1991/92 membership year and that the renewal subscriptions are due on the 1st November of this year.

If you haven't already done so, you should return the renewal form that was enclosed with the Autumn Journal, together with your remittance if you are rejoining, to Jenny Ashburner at the address given on the inside of the front cover.

Receipts will not be normally given, unless specifically asked for, but receipt of the Spring Journal round about February/March time may be taken as confirmation that your subscription has been received.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Here is a further list of additions to the Library of the Society. An asterisk means the item is unsuitable for posting. If you wish to borrow Library items please write to Mrs. D. Tait, 26 Beechwood Avenue, Low Fell, Gateshead NE9 6PP. Up to three items may be borrowed at any one time. You will have to pay postage both ways, plus I Op for packaging.

- 1.180 HISTORY OF RYTON A. Harrison.
- 1.181 ACCOUNT OF THE CUSTOMS OF THE COURT LEFT OF MORPETH J.C. Hodgson.
- 1.182 THE WEBBS & BOROUGH OF MORPETH English Historical Review.
- 1.183 LOCAL & FAMILY HISTORY IN THE GATESHEAD AREA Portcullis Press.
- 1.184 LIST OF KEELMAN NEWCASTLE 1750.
- 1.185 EXECUTIONS IN NEWCASTLE SINCE 1306 F. Furness.
- 1.186 EXPLOSIONS IN DURHAM & NORTHUMBERLAND F. Furness.

- 2.307 DOUGLAS FAMILY - SUNDERLAND TO AUSTRALIA Barbara Sopp.
- 2.308 HISTORY OF WM. EMMERSON OF ALSTON & UPPER CANADA John Emmerson.
- 2.309 BOWMAKER & CURRY FAMILIES - BORDERS TO AMERICA Norman J. Bowmaker.
- 2.310 STABLER FAMILY HISTORY - SURNAMES INDEX I.C. Stabler.
- 2.311 BOWRON FAMILY OF COTHERSTONE D. Icton.
- 2.312 DOWSON FAMILY TREE B.J. Barnsley.
- 2.313 DENT & MADDISON FAMILIES - IGI PRINTOUTS (1984).
- 2.314 COWELL, AITHER FAMILY TREE L. Thompson.
- 2.315 JOHNSON FAMILY J. Ridge.
- 2.316 SHARP & BIRKETT TREES D. Snowdon.
- 2.317 SMITH FAMILY OF BARNARD CASTLE M. Oates.
- 2.318 EMMERSON, THWAITES, DIXON, AYRESOON, FOSTER & CHAPMAN FAMILIES M. Johnson.
- 2.319 HODGSON FAMILY TREE A.J. Hodgson.
- 2.320 TAIT FAMILY TREE D.M. McDonnell.
- 2.321 STRAUGHAN & STOREY (IGI PRINTOUTS) P. May.

- 3.163 DIRECTORY OF PARISH REGISTERS INDEXED IN IRELAND Irish FHS.
- * 3.164 1851 CENSUS INDEX FOR EARS DON, TYNEMOUTH, ISLANDSHIRE, WALLSEND, BLYTH (PART) (FICHE) P. Thirkell.
- 3.166 MARRIAGE INDEX ST. PETER'S JARROW 1881-1923 W.E. Rounce.
- 3.167 MARRIAGE INDEX JARROW GRANGE 1869-1900 W.E. Rounce.
- 3.168 MARRIAGE INDEX ST. MARK'S JARROW 1896-1948 A.G. Lascelles.
- 3.050 STRAY BURIALS VOL. 2 M. Furness.
- 3.115 MARRIAGE INDEX ST. MARY'S WHICKHAM 1579-1837 W.E. Rounce.
- 3.076 CENSUS STRAYS VOL. 2 & 3 M. Furness.
- 3.169 HOUGHTON LE SPRING TRANSDUX BURIALS AUG 1581-1 SEPT 1652 C. Jewitt.
- 3.170 MEMORIAL TO MEN OF HARRATON PARISH 1914-1919 F. Furness.
- 3.171 MEMORIAL TO MEN OF PENSHAW PARISH 1914-1919 F. Furness.
- 3.172 CONVICTS FLEET ARRIVALS, AUSTRALIA G. Bell.
- 3.173 LIST OF CONVICT SHIPS TO AUSTRALIA G. Bell.
- * 3.174 1851 CENSUS OF DURHAM CITY D.J. Butler.
- 3.175 ESH INDEX OF MARRIAGES R. Tait & M. Johnson.

- 4.054 ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, INGRAM A.C. & P. Hay.
- 4.055 SOUTH HYLTON CHURCH & VILLAGE I.V. Innes.
- 4.056 ST. MARY'S, WOOLER C. Hay & B. Lane.

- 5.110 GLOUCESTERSHIRE & BRISTOL - A GENEALOGICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY Stuart Raymond.
- 5.111 LOCAL CENSUS LISTINGS 1522-1930 J. Gibson & M. Mallicott.
- 5.112 OCCUPATIONAL SOURCES FOR GENEALOGISTS S. Raymond.
- 5.113 MICROFILM NUMBERS, CO. DURHAM CENSUS 1841-81 D. Cook.
- 5.114 LIST OF PARISHES IN BOYD'S MARRIAGE INDEX Society of Genealogists.
- 5.115 MARRIAGE LICENCES - ABSTRACTS & INDEXES IN THE S.O.G. LIBRARY Society of Genealogists.

- 6.125 SUNDERLAND CUSTOMS COLLECTION DOG & SPIRIT LICENCES 1877-1878.
- 6.126 SUNDERLAND CUSTOMS COLLECTION DOG & SPIRIT LICENCES CORRESPONDENCE 1878-79.
- 6.127 SUNDERLAND CUSTOMS COLLECTION DOG & SPIRIT LICENCES CORRESPONDENCE 1879-82.
- 6.128 SUNDERLAND CUSTOMS COLLECTION DOG & SPIRIT LICENCES CORRESPONDENCE 1884.
- 6.129 SUNDERLAND CUSTOMS RECORDS - BOARDS LETTER BOOK 1866/67.
- 6.130 EXTRACTS FROM WILKS FAMILY BIBLE D.M. Jackson.
- 6.131 LIST OF CUSTOMARY TENANTS, COTHERSTONE D. Icton.
- 6.132 ADELAIDE OBSERVER 17.6.1876 (NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS) G. Bell.
- 6.133 NEWCASTLE JOURNAL "THE WAY WE WERE".

The Society Librarian, Mrs. Doreen Tait writes, *"May I thank all those members who sent me cards and letters of condolence for the death of my husband Ralph Tait. He is greatly missed and I am coming to terms with life without him. He helped me very much with the Library besides indexing marriages and I shall try to keep the postal service functioning as before. If you have to wait longer than usual for your requests, please be patient meanwhile."*

A FIRST WORLD WAR MISCELLANY

by TA. Sergeant

If you know the Regiment and Battalion in which an ancestor served during the First World War, you might be able to find out more about its activities, and therefore possibly obtain background information, from War Diaries. Each unit of Battalion size kept such a Diary, written by an officer which recounts the history of the unit on a daily basis. Norman Holding, in his excellent *World War I Army Ancestry* says that "A day's entry could be a single word, e.g. 'training' or a full page of tightly packed handwritten script detailing the movement of the unit to a new location with full details of the billets, messing and state of the weather. An action could take many pages. Be warned, however, that the names of individual private soldiers seldom appear. Gallantry awards often rate a mention as do unusual offences even if not followed by a Court Martial. NCO's appear more often, whilst practically every officer is named once or twice."

These Diaries, manuscript and frequently in pencil, are at the Public Record Office at Kew in Class WO 95. However, Northumberland Record Office at Melton Park, Gosforth has microfilms of typed transcripts of the Diaries of units of the Northumberland Fusiliers (Microfilms 937 to 947), with the Diaries of two or three Battalions on each film. We learn, for example, that on Christmas Day, 1915, "The enemy dropped a few shells near the railway station at midday, but otherwise the day was quiet" according to the diarist of the 12th Battalion, whilst on December 31st "Nothing extraordinary has happened. One man was killed and another wounded on the night of 30/31st. Second Lieut A. McArthur was slightly wounded in the leg by an explosion of a rifle grenade fired into our trenches from the German lines. Weather fair. Rain this afternoon. Wind south."

Norman Holding's warning that the names of 'individual private soldier's seldom appear' is certainly justified in these N.F. diaries. I have personally examined the War Diary of the 22nd Battalion, Durham Light Infantry, a Pioneer Battalion, at Kew, and here, too, very few 'other ranks' are mentioned.

There are a number of books based primarily on the War Diaries and again, usually, few ordinary soldiers are mentioned. Those covering the Durham Light Infantry include:-

THE FIFTH BATTALION, THE DURHAM LIGHT INFANTRY 1914-18.

By A.L. Raimes. Published 1931.

This has a Roll of Honour and also a list of all officers and men, who were serving in April 1915.

*THE STORY OF THE 6TH BATTALION, THE DURHAM LIGHT INFANTRY.
FRANCE 1915 - NOVEMBER 1918.*

By R.B. Ainsworth. Published 1919.

8TH BATTALION, THE DURHAM LIGHT INFANTRY 1793-1926.

By E.H. Veitch. Published 1926.

There is a Roll of Honour.

WAR HISTORY OF THE 18TH (S) BATTALION, DURHAM LIGHT INFANTRY.

By W.D. Lowe. Published 1920.

THE HISTORY OF THE LOCALLY RAISED 20TH (SERVICE) BATTALION, THE DURHAM LIGHT INFANTRY.

By K.J.W. Leather 1920.

Includes a Roll of Honour and a list of all men who served before May 1916.

THE DURHAM FORCES IN THE FIELD 1914-18 VOLUME 2.

THE SERVICE BATTALIONS OF THE DURHAM LIGHT INFANTRY.

By Captain Wilfrid Miles of 13th D.L.I. Published 1920.

(Although titled "Volume 2", there is no other Volume). There were eleven 'Service' Battalions - the 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 22nd and 29th Battalions - and this book gives a detailed history of all of them, with quite a few maps and some photographs.

The entire history of the regiment is well covered by S.G.P. Ward in:-

FAITHFUL - THE STORY OF THE DURHAM LIGHT INFANTRY.

Published 1962.

In his book *The Location of British Army Records 1914-18*, Norman Holding lists the following among works dealing with the Northumberland Fusiliers:-

THE STORY OF THE TYNESIDE SCOTTISH - 20TH, 21ST, 22ND, 23RD (S) BATTALIONS.

By Brigadier T. Ternan, Northumberland Press 1919.

IRISH HEROES IN THE WAR. THE TYNESIDE IRISH BRIGADE.

By T.P. O'Connor and A.J. Keating, Everett & Co., 1917.

*A RECORD OF THE 17TH AND 32ND SERVICE BATTALIONS,
NORTHUMBERLAND FUSILIERS (NER) PIONEERS 1914-19.*

By Lt. Col. J. Shakespear, Northumberland Press 1926.

WAR HISTORY OF THE 7TH NORTHUMBERLAND FUSILIERS.

By Captain F. Buckley, 1920.

THE 5TH IN THE GREAT WAR -

A HISTORY OF THE 1ST AND 2ND NORTHUMBERLAND FUSILIERS 1914-18.

By Brigadier H.R. Sandilands, G.W. Grigg & Sons, 1938.

What were "Service Battalions"? In 1914, following the outbreak of war, Lord Kitchener was appointed as Secretary of State for War. He decided that massive expansion of the Army was necessary, and his "New Army", separate from the Regulars and Territorials, consisted of over 500 battalions of about 1000 men each. They were raised as further battalions of the Infantry regiments which were numbered consecutively after the existing battalions of their regiments and carried the word "Service" in their title after the number. Hence, for example, the "20th (Service) Battalion", Durham Light Infantry.

Before you can even start to try to discover what your ancestor did in World War 1, you need to know the Regiment and Battalion he served in, and if possible his service number. You might be lucky and know these details already, or can discover them from postcards, letters etc. he sent home or from other personal sources.

But what if you do not have any information at all, apart from knowing that he was a soldier? If he was killed you could plough through the 80 volumes of *Soldiers Died in the Great War*, reprinted in 1989 by J.B. Hayward & Sons, Polstead, Sussex. Each regiment merits a volume to itself so you might start with the volumes covering the local regiments and hope you are lucky and locate him quickly. The dead men are listed in alphabetical order in each Battalion and service numbers and some other details, including the dates of deaths, are shown.

Alternatively, you could look at the Index of War Deaths at St. Catherine's House which lists soldiers alphabetically for the whole war period. The index will tell you the regiment and service number, rank and year of death and if you then buy a death certificate, you will find the precise date of death and most importantly, the Battalion in which the man served.

Of course, if your man survived the war, these two sources will not help you. There are, however, at least two ways of finding what you want. The first is to use the Medal Rolls. Virtually every soldier earned a medal - the 1914 Star, 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal, Territorial Forces War Medal and the Silver War Badge. The Medal Rolls themselves are in the Public Record Office at Kew (over 3000 volumes in WO 329) but there is an alphabetical index, available in microfiche form in the Microfilm Room at Kew. Every man who served in a theatre of war between 1914 and 1918 was entitled to at least one medal, the British War Medal and so will appear in the index, which will tell you the regiment and his rank and service number. The snag, if you live in north-eastern England, is that you will have to go to Kew or get someone to go there on your behalf, and also there may be identification problems if your ancestor had a common name. You will not normally find the Battalion, but sometimes you might be able to deduce this from the service number. Some Durham Light Infantry battalions, for instance, included the Battalion number as part of the service number - Pte Frederick Young, who died in 1916, was 20/840 in the Durham Light Infantry, which indicates that he served in the 20th Battalion. This numbering method is unfortunately not universal, even in the same Battalion. The Medal Roll index includes the dead, as well as the survivors.

A second method is to use Absent Voters Lists. To use these, you need to have a 'civilian' address, i.e. the soldier's home address. And you also need a bit of luck!

Many libraries have Electoral Rolls giving lists of people eligible to vote, and the 'Absent Voters Lists' are a supplement to these, listing the 'absent' soldiers or sailors. The first list, prepared by the local Electoral Registration Officer, appeared in October 1918 based on information received up to 18th August 1918, and thereafter was prepared at six-monthly intervals. The luck arises because the amount of detail varies considerably, depending on the parliamentary constituency in which the serviceman is listed. If you are searching in Gateshead or Newcastle, for instance, you are fortunate. In the Gateshead lists (held at Gateshead Central Library), the Absent Voters Lists are in separate volumes for the 1918 to 1920 period, shelved with the Electoral Rolls. The volume for Autumn 1918 lists no fewer than 11542 men, under their 'civilian' address, and against each name, usually, is the man's service number and regiment, often his rank, and sometimes a note that he was in hospital or was a prisoner. Here are some typical examples, taken from the entries for Morns Street, in the Teams area of Gateshead.

3507	Oliver, Thomas G.,	11 Morris Street	115643 Pte., R.A.M.C.
3508	Wood, James jun.	15 Morris Street	50124, 3rd Linc. Regt.
3509	Philipson, Eric	31 Morns Street	17/350, 3rd N.F., B.E.F.
3510	Jennings, William	37 Morris Street	73086, Pte., 9th D.L.I.
3511	Bowman, John T.	55 Morris Street	P15180, Mess 10, Dreadnought.
3512	Shields, John J.	61 Morns Street	235200, 1/7th Middlesex Regt., B.E.F.

At Gateshead, there is even a duplicate volume for 1918 which has been updated and annotated in manuscript, revising the printed information where necessary, sometimes simply with the single grim word "Dead".

Newcastle Central Library, in the Genealogy Room, has lists which are similar in content to those at Gateshead and give full regimental etc. details. However, if you are researching in the Electoral Rolls held in the libraries at Sunderland, South Shields or Darlington, for example, you may well be disappointed by the lack of information, for there you will not find separate Absent Voters Lists. The fact that a man is a Naval or Military voter is indicated against his name merely by the letters 'N' or 'M'. You will not find regiments or service numbers.

Thus, coverage locally varies quite a lot, even in the few repositories I have mentioned. So you'll see what I mean by needing luck!

Erik Gray's article on page 90 mentions the Ministry of Defence records at Hayes in Middlesex and, as he indicates, any application there for information about a World War I soldier may fail, because the majority of records were destroyed by enemy air action in 1940. It is important to note the conditions (written permission of the next-of-kin is needed) and also that there is a fee of £15, payable in advance and non-refundable if the search is abortive. If, despite the problems, you still wish a search to be made, enquiries should be sent to Hayes in letter form giving details of the serviceman concerned, and the MoD will then send a questionnaire and kinship form which has to be returned before a search can commence. When payment of the £15 is made, it must be by cheque, UK Postal Order or International Money Order and cheques from overseas must be drawn on a bank in the UK (the London branch for foreign banks). No other form of payment will be accepted.

Was you WW1 ancestor a Prisoner-of-War? If so, records relating to his captivity should be held by the International Red Cross. Sundry guides, and the Public Records Office leaflet on the subject, indicate that queries should in the first instance be sent to the Red Cross in London, who will pass it to Geneva, where the records are kept. This information is out of date. The Central Tracing Agency of the Red Cross is fully occupied with today's humanitarian problems, and will no longer deal with historical or genealogical research enquiries. Incidentally, a comprehensive leaflet entitled "The Tracing of Individual Prisoner of War Records: All Services" has been prepared by the Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HZ. (See Information Sheet No. 15F).

DIVISION OF SOLDIERS' RECORDS BETWEEN THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND THE COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

by Captain (Retired) Erik Gray

If you are fortunate and possess a soldier ancestor in your pedigree, you may be able to discover more about him and his life and travels in the British Army than you could ever hope to achieve in the case of a civilian forbear. This applies particularly to soldiers who served in the ranks. And, if your ancestor served more than 100 years ago, the extent of the detail that may be found about him may be greater than if, for example, he served during the First World War.

Every day I receive several letters from family historians in different parts of the world. Many of their queries illustrate that there is considerable misunderstanding and confusion regarding the whereabouts of the principal holdings of British Army records. The purpose of this article, therefore, is to try to clarify the position by pointing my readers in the right direction. If its content is of interest to you but you find yourself insufficiently 'pointed', then you are welcome to write to me, but do beware that I have a tendency to snap at people who fail to send return postage. Don't we all?

The records of soldiers who served in the British Army on regular engagements between its birth in 1660 and 1913 are housed at the Public Record Office (PRO) at Kew, together with other old War Office records of various kinds. So too are those of men of the British and Irish militias, although some may occasionally be found in county record offices. The collection occupies approaching 7 miles of shelf space and may be seen and researched by anyone. Contrary to what seems to be a popular belief, records relating to individual soldiers are not folded away in named, neat little bundles to be easily picked from a shelf. In many instances, they require detailed and often informed research. Unfortunately, for the distanced U.K. and overseas family historian, the PRO does not undertake research for members of the public, so you will need either to visit Kew yourself or engage a professional researcher to act on your behalf. It should go without saying that it is advisable to engage someone on personal recommendation or to ask one of the large genealogical or family history societies whether they can suggest a reliable individual.

As a postscript to the previous paragraph, it may be helpful to mention for the few to whom it may apply that the regimental records at Kew include many of those of the three ancient regiments of Foot Guards; namely, the Grenadier, Coldstream and Scots Guards. It is not generally known, however, that, unlike others of the British Army today, these three regiments possess some very good records of their own. So if you know that your ancestor was a guardsman who served at, for examples, the battle of Waterloo or during the Crimean War, and you have been unable to find any personal information about him at Kew, you should try asking the appropriate regiment whether it has some record of him and his service. The officer to write to is the Regimental Adjutant, RHQ Grenadier/Coldstream/Scots Guards, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1E 6HQ.

If your ancestor served during the First World War or later, then, no matter where you live, there is no need to seek professional help. You can pursue your enquiries from your armchair by requesting an application form from the Ministry of Defence CS(RM)2b, Bourne Avenue, Hayes, Middlesex UB3 1RF. It has custody of all surviving service records of WW1, together with those of men who served in WW2.

The WW1 records at Hayes include those of (a) men who enlisted before 1914 and were serving when war was declared, (b) those of reservists who were recalled to the Colours at the outbreak of war; and (c) those of men who had completed their engagements before 1914, but who, after war was declared, voluntarily re-enlisted. In regard to men in category (c), it appears to have been the War Office practice to amalgamate documents relating to their earlier service with those raised at the time of re-enlistment. But there are exceptions to every rule; and, exceptionally, the discharge documents for the first periods of service of soldiers who re-enlisted of their own free will in 1914 may sometimes be found in the collection at the PRO.

It is an unhappy fact that any application that you may make to the MoD may fail. It may be unsuccessful because your ancestor's service papers were among the very large number of WW1 records, which were destroyed in 1940, when an army records store in Southwark, London, was hit by enemy bombs. Equally, it may fail if you cannot comply with certain conditions. The MoD will only release information from a soldier's records where you are his next-of-kin and have his written consent; or, if he is deceased, you are his next-of-kin or have the written approval of that person. Documentary evidence of relationship will almost certainly be requested.

Aside from the MoD, the quite separate Commonwealth War Graves Commission (2 Marlow Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 7DX) maintains records of WW1 and WW2 war dead. It will respond to written applications for information. Casualties are listed in an overall index in alphabetical order of surname and initials. Entries include the deceased soldier's number, rank and the location of his grave; or, where no known grave exists, the memorial on which his name appears. From its other sources, the CWGC may be able to provide information which may include your deceased ancestor's place of birth, home town, next-of-kin, place of enlistment. The Commission does not operate the same very strict rules used by the MoD. In making an application you should provide as much factual detail as possible, in order to assist in the identification of the casualty concerned.

Editor's Note: Captain Gray's address is 32 Minster Drive, Croydon, Surrey CRO 5UP.

MY ANCESTOR WAS IN THE BRITISH ARMY HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HIM?

This new book is an excellent guide through the maze of records which exists for soldiers. It is packed with information and examples, often taken from the authors' researches into their own ancestry. Whilst not neglecting officers (16 pages are devoted to them and their records), the book quite rightly points out that 'most family historians will be interested in the records of other ranks', so most of the 122 pages relate to them, for the period from the creation of the first standing army in the 17th century down to 1918. We learn first how to 'find the regiment', an essential pre-requisite, and are then led through the intricacies of the so-called 'Soldiers Documents', mainly in Public Record Office class WO 97, through Muster Books, Pay Lists and Description Books, from which you might discover that your ancestor was 5'9", aged 31, had a fresh complexion, grey eyes and black hair, was born in Leigh, Lancashire, enlisted in the 6th Regiment of Foot in June 1806 and deserted six months later. Sections on the records of military hospitals such as Chelsea are followed by 'Deserters' and 'Courts Martial', with a few pages on Militia records. Most surviving Army records are housed in the PRO at Kew, but possible other sources are considered, such as the 'Vital Records' of births, marriages and deaths, even where these events occurred in some far-flung outpost of the Empire. Sources in Australia and New Zealand, Canada and the United States are not neglected.

World War I records are covered only briefly, avoiding duplication of the sterling work already done in this field by Norman Holding. There is a bibliography and the book concludes with an appendix listing campaigns for which medals were awarded between 1660 and 1902 and another, listing, regiment by regiment, the main records at the P.R.O.

This is a book to be read through generally and then referred to constantly for the next move in the search for a soldier ancestor, a search which, if properly organised and conducted, is likely to be highly productive, for there exist far more records, in far more detail, for the 'common soldier' than for most of his 18th and 19th century civilian contemporaries.

The authors, our members Christopher and Michael Watts, have produced a worthy companion to their earlier *My Ancestor Was a Merchant Seaman*. Their new book is available from the Society of Genealogists, (the publishers), from the bookstall of our own Society at £4.95, or by post from Mrs. Christine Davison, 22 Ferndale Avenue, East Boldon, Tyne and Wear NE36 0TQ at £5.65.

MEETING HOUSE CERTIFICATES

A brief note about the "Meeting House Certificates" held by Durham University, Archives and Special Collections appears on page 103. The Toleration Act of 1689 allowed protestant dissenters to hold meetings openly, provided that their places of worship were registered with either the diocesan bishop or the justices of the peace. Under the Protestant Dissenters Act of 1852, registration was transferred to the Registrar General. The applications for registration often bear the signatures of several members of the dissenting congregation, and details of some typical certificates are printed below.

On 31st May 1777, the "Minister, Trustees, Elders and heads of Families belonging to the Protestant Dissenting Congregation of Belford" in Northumberland applied to the Bishop of Durham to license a meeting house they had erected in the "West end of the said town." The application was signed by Jas Waters (Minister), George Hall (Trustee), John Smith (Trustee), Archbdo Mack (Trustee), Thomas Anderson (Trustee), John Brown (Trustee), James Broomfield (Elder), George Elleet (sic) (Elder), James Sinton (Elder), Jonathan Brown, James Todd, Win Taylor, Wm Patterson, Thomas Reed, John Havery, Andrew Tait, Win Douglass, John Tait, John Clark, Jas Havery, John Meall (?) and William Menzies.

On 22nd November 1849, a Presbyterian congregation in Belford applied for a certificate "licensing the Long Room of the Black Swan Inn of this town as a place of worship." This was signed by Thomas Stamford, James Landreth, John Sinton, Mitchell Adamson, James Bromfield, William Finn, William Clark, Philip Wake, William Henderson, Robert White, Benjamin Patrick (?), James Gibson, John Landless, John Brewis, John Wilson, William Baxter, James Tait, Peter McDonald, John Lennox and Thomas Burn.

In Ryton, in County Durham, an application was made in respect of dissenters who met "in the house of Robert Dain in the parish of Ryton." This application, dated 6th August 1779, was signed by Willm Cranston, Robt Foster, Robt Wilson, John Davison, John Dain and John Greener.

On 9th May 1812, twelve men, "being Protestants but in some things dissenting from the Church of England" applied in respect of "a certain dwelling house now in the occupation of John Reed situate at Crawcrook." The twelve were John Reed, Edwd Spencer, Edward Greener, William White, Geo Urwin, Robt Codling, Mattw Ryle, John Greener, Thomas Ridley, Wm Eltringham, John Dodds and John Young.

Also at Crawcrook, on 20th October 1837, J.C. Lamb, T.F. Lewis, George Glendinning, J.(?) Glendinning, and Matthew Ovington applied in respect of a Congregational Chapel, whilst on 11th May 1848" a new Wesleyan chapel at Crawcrook" sought registration in an application made by Thomas Stokoe of Shotley Bridge.

MARRIAGES IN ST. HELIER JERSEY 1795-1842

Mr. A. Glendinning has recently kindly sent details of marriages involving people from Durham or Northumberland in St. Helier Parish Church in Jersey, Channel Isles during the period 1795 to 1842. There is no information provided about occupations until the last years of the period. Mr. Glendinning states that the North Easterners were probably ships' crew members or possibly stonemasons and labourers who went to work on the many roads being built during this period. None of them, apart from Thomas Heath in 1838, were Garrison Soldiers, as they were always identified as such in the register. Sometimes couples married in Jersey to avoid parental disapproval, running away as others did to Gretna Green or Lamberton Toll.

- 16 Aug 1806 Thomas Russell of Sunderland - Jane Hoskin of Panryan, Cornwall.
- 25 Nov 1813 John Grainger of Darlington - Elizabeth Towsey of Tregohy, Cornwall.
- 07 Sep 1825 William Leaviss of Newcastle - Ann Elizabeth le Cras, St. Helier.
- 03 Aug 1826 Joseph Hutson of Newcastle - Elizabeth Martha McKalrey of St. Peter Port, Guernsey.
- 28 Mar 1829 Robert Hawkey, Sunderland - Emma Mary Seller of Portsmouth.
- 09 Sep 1829 James Joyce of Newcastle - Elizabeth le Brun of St. Brelade, Jersey.
- 13 Mar 1830 John Seaburn of Tynemouth - Sarah Foott of Deptford, Kent.
- 25 Jan 1831 Christopher John Arrowsmith of South Shields - Mary Dixon of Whitburn, Sunderland.
- 18 Mar 1831 Charles Whinham of Morpeth - Esther Gladdis of Newport, Isle of Wight.
- 21 Jun 1834 Thomas John Mallett (widower) of St. Helier - Mary Charlotte Heddington of Warkworth.
- 09 Jul 1833 John luimey (widower) of Boe, Middlesex - Mary Ann Coshech of Yarrow, South Shields.
- 21 Jun 1834 John Johnson of Newcastle - Jemima Brown of Eglehayle, Cornwall.
- 04 Aug 1835 Thomas Potts of All Saints, Newcastle - Ann Carterette Syvret of St. Mary, Jersey.
- 13 Oct 1838 Thomas Heath, born Newcastle, Staffs (lieutenant in HM 31st Regiment of Foot), a member of the British Garrison in Jersey. - Marv Thomson from Bishop's Wcarsmouth.
- 16 Aug 1840 Robert Brown of Sunderland - Mary Ann Carter of Plymouth.
- 07 Nov 1840 William Holt of Long Benton, Northumberland - Betsy Mary Le Feuvre of St. Helier.
- 24 Dec 1841 John Wallace Campbell (24) widower, mariner, born Sunderland, son of John - Ann Steer (21) spinster of Modbury, Devon, daughter of William (waterman/labourer).

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST OF MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS FOR SALE

Following the lists in the Spring and Summer Journals, Mrs. K. Willans, 9 The Ridge Way, Kenton, Newcastle NE3 4LP now has the additional lists below for sale. Indexes costing £5 or more can be separately purchased. If you buy an index and find 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 one; Overseas Surface 55p or 2 IRC's; Overseas Air Mail £1.10 (or 3 IRC's) for the first reference, subsequent references 10p each (or 1 IRC 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 which 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
Brancepeth	Dur	1851	135	1.50	1.70	2.40
Branxton, St. Paul's	Nbl	1911	17	0.50	.80	1.30
Brinkburn Priory	Nbl	1896	19	.60	.85	1.40
Cornhill, St. Helen's	Nbl	1915	92	1.10	1.35	2.05
Etherley, St. Cuthberf's	Dur	1900	152	.95	1.20	1.90
Hepple, Christ Church	Nbl	1991	101	1.10	1.35	2.05
Longhorsley, St. Helen's	Nbl	1991	285	2.70	2.95	3.70
Rothbury, All Saints	Nbl	1976	549	6.30	6.70	8.20
Rothbury (Index only)				.70	1.00	1.55
Stannington, St. Mary the Virgin	Nbl	1991	382	3.25	3.50	4.40
Warden, St. Michael & All Angels	Nbl	1851	51	.70	1.00	1.55

UNWANTED CERTIFICATES

In the previous Journal, we listed "unwanted" birth certificates held by the librarian, Doreen Tait. This time, we have a selection of marriage certificates. If any interest you, contact Mrs. Tait (address on Contents Page). If you find any "wrong 'uns" among your own certificates, why not send them to Mrs. Tait? Somebody else might be interested.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joseph Shields/Dorothy Thompson 1874 Jarrow. 2. Jacob George Kilgour/Jane Ann Burton 1904 Woodhorn. 3. William Bell/Elizabeth Hanlon 1896 Newcastle. 4. James Noble/Eleanor Seymour 1858 Fatfield. 5. Alex Noble/Mary Charlton 1839 Lanchester. 6. Ernest Harrison/Gladys May Swinburne 1931 Westoe. 7. Thomas Farrow/Eugenia Trotter 1911 Westoe. 8. William Scorer/Catherine Dow 1864 Usworth. 9. William Scorer/Eliz Liddle 1866 Newcastle. 10. William Dawson Scorer/ Susan Jeffrey 1870 Houghton. 11. William Scorer/ Mary Ann Kirby 1870 Monkwearmouth 12. Wm Crisp Scorer/Mary Wilkinson 1868 Tudhoe. 13. Thomas Scorer/Eliz Brown 1873 Gateshead. 14. Robert Watson/Rachel Scorer 1875 Newcastle. 15. Wm Gott Scorer/Sarah Jane Maddison 1875 Brancepeth. 16. James Foster/Ann Wanless 1858 Newbottle. 17. Joseph Lawson/Jane Gray 1840 South Shields. 18. Charles Scott/Ann Wanless 1857 Harbottle. 19. Thos Hall/Margaret Henry 1840 South Shields. 20. Wm. Newsam Ross/Jane Crowe 1877 Hartlepool. 21. Wm Ross/Catherine Rafferty 1885 Bp Middleham. 22. Wm Alex Ross/Mary Jane Gill 1896 Hartlepool. 23. Benjamin Wood/Mary Ann Liddle 1860 Houghton. 24. Robert Wood/Margaret Harbron 1866 Middlesbrough. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 25. Robert Wood/Mary Ann Hallimond 1873 Stainton, Yorks. 26. Richard Lightowler/Ann Wood 1885 Stockton. 27. Matthew Leetham/Jane Stainton 1868 York. 28. Thos Brownless/Eliz Mary Jane Taylor 1861 Darlington. 29. Thos Liddell/Mary Jane Newton 1889 Stockton. 30. Geo Moody/Mary Jane Hutchinson 1863 Thomley. 31. Anthony Harrison/Mary Jane Hutchinson 1868 Billingham. 32. James Rogan/Ann Hunton 1844 Stranton. 33. John Naizby/Eliz Liddle 1851 Stockton. 34. Thos Thomson/Fanny Bond 1860 Castle Eden. 35. Thos Hutchinson/Ann Asquith 1854 Darlington. 36. Geo Liddle/Martha Laws 1860 Houghton. 37. John Cummins/Margaret Hunton 1853 Stockton. 38. Thos Scorer/Maria Ashbourne 1872 Hartlepool. 39. Bradford Rickard/Mary Young 1875 Houghton. 40. John Wm Spink/Ann Main 1879 Willington Quay. 41. Wm Collinson/Margaret Charters 1841 Corsenside. 42. Edward Ogle/Eliza Stubbs 1848 Gedling, Notts. 43. Walter Chapman/Georgina Dowson 1903 Morpeth 44. Geo Henry Dowson/Lillie Davison 1902 Newcastle. 45. Geo Dowson/Frances Simpson 1845 South Shields. 46. Daniel Dougherty/Frances Dowson 1899 Darlington. 47. Ralph Featherstone/Frances Rutherford 1851 Stanhope. 48. James Macarthy/Sarah Jane Clarke 1904 Barnard Castle. |
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IN SEARCH OF GEORGE HEPPLEWHITE

by Eric Hill

GEORGE HEPPLEWHITE (d1786), one of the most famous English cabinet-makers of the eighteenth century. The only known facts about him are that he carried on his business in Redcross St., Cripplegate, London, and that administration of the estate was granted to his Widow, Alice, on June 27th 1786. Two years later she published his book, "The Cabinet-Maker and Upholsterer's Guide".
Encyclopaedia Britannica.

I had no idea what deep genealogical waters we were about to plunge into when we set out for Worcester to go to an orchestral concert in which our daughter was playing. During the interval, whilst we were chatting over a glass of wine, her husband, who also plays in the orchestra, suddenly said, "Your mother was a Hepplewhite, wasn't she?"

"Yes", I replied, wondering how he knew and what was coming next.

"Well, come and meet another one" he said. I was introduced to a gentleman of late middle age who scrutinised me intently and remarked "Yes, that's a Hepplewhite face." (It isn't truly! I'm the spitting image of my dad, and he wasn't a Hepplewhite!). I asked him where he came from and although he lived in Malvern now and had been born in Rotherham, his father came from Chester-le-Street, County Durham. Since I was born in Shotton Colliery, about ten miles from Chester-le-Street, the probability was that we were vaguely related. I found out, in our conversation, that he made violins (and very good ones they were too, judging by the one he was playing) though woodwork was something he had never been taught. Here were certain similarities between us which might be more than coincidence. I had played about with wood all my life: bits of furniture, lamp stands, the boat and also, baroque oboes, and I have never been taught either. Something was starting to tickle my memory. I asked him if he had heard of George Hepplewhite. "George Hepplewhite, the eighteenth century Cabinet-Maker? Oh, yes", he replied, "our family is descended from him."

In case anyone doesn't know, there are three big names in English furniture-making of the eighteenth century: Chippendale, Sheraton and Hepplewhite. My mother told me often that we were descended from the famous George Hepplewhite, but I must admit I pooh-poohed the idea. Now, talking to Karl who had the same tradition and had inherited the woodwork gene, I began to wonder if mother might have been right! I decided to look further into this business. When we got home the following day I looked in the telephone directory which revealed that there were two Hepplewhites living locally in Hull. I rang them. Both were handy with tools; both believed they were descended from George Hepplewhite and both had their origins in County Durham. A pattern was beginning to emerge which insisted on being checked. Could it be true? Was I descended from George Hepplewhite? Chippendale and Sheraton (the latter also a Durham man who came from Stockton) are well documented people but very little is known about Hepplewhite. The encyclopaedias tell us that he died in 1786. His widow, Alice, administered his estate and carried on the business in Redcross Street, Cripplegate, London, where it had been established since 1760. Two years after his death, Alice published his book "Cabinet-Makers and Upholsterers' Guide" in 1788; but apart from his probably being an apprentice of Robert Gillow of Lancaster, the rest is silence. We went to a Reference Library to find this information, and we were genealogically hooked; the search for George Hepplewhite was on.

So we hitched up our caravan and set out north to Durham to find its County Hall and Record Office where, one might say, our Family History education really began. We started with Parish Records and Census Returns and got on so well that before we left Durham we had traced the direct line back to 1798 when my great great grandfather married Eleanor Reay in Washington. He had been born at Tanfield in 1772 where his father had moved from Whickham. I also learnt about the International Genealogical Index in the Durham Record Office as something I could work on at home since copies were to be found in every Central Library. Of course, as soon as we got home we were into our nearest Central Library which is in Scunthorpe and immediately we started looking for a George Hepplewhite who would fill the bill. We found two: one born in Ryton in 1727, and one born in Newcastle in 1733. We rapidly rejected this latter one because he had married at All Saints, Newcastle in 1759, a lady called Mary Wastell who presented him with a daughter in the same year, at the same place. At about the same time the famous George married a lady called Alice, set up business in London, and produced his family of at least four children: George, Andrew, John and Sarah. The order of birth is a guess on my part, but those four are all documented in one way or another.

Now, one might be forgiven for thinking, as we did, that there must be a fairly substantial number of George Hepplewhites up and down the country even in the eighteenth century. But there weren't. We have searched for Hepplewhites in the I.G.I. through every county in England in the eighteenth century and there are not more than half a dozen George's, and only two who fit into the relevant dates as above. The Hepplewhites are a Durham family whose first mention is at Bamard Castle in 1610 when Thomas Hebblewhaite the son of George Hebblewhaite was born. One or two are mentioned spasmodically during the following years; a Heblewaite turns up on the Protestation Record at Cockfield; and then two brothers appear at Ryton and beget large families from which all Hepplewhites seem to be descended. They were Cuthbert and Thomas who were probably born about 1647/8 considering their first children were born 1674 and 1675 respectively. I have records of Cuthbert having four children, one of whom was a George, born in 1678 who married Sarah Rootlish in 1704 and eventually gave birth to their youngest child George, in 1727. He became a Cabinet-Maker and found fame in London.

I traced my descent from Thomas, the other brother, who had nine children, one of whom was Ralph, who was called Hepelwhite on his birth entry in 1691. In 1715 he begot William Hebbwhite who married Ann Davidson at **Whickham in 1740, and she bore him nine children including my three times great grandfather Thomas Hepplewhite**, born 1744. He married Catherine Richardson at Tanfield and she gave birth to William Hepplewhite, my great great grandfather who married Eleanor Reay at Washington. And that is the direct line. So I am not descended from the famous George Hepplewhite; just distantly related to him. However, just tracing one direct line shows how the Hepplewhites multiplied and spread in under two hundred years: Ryton, Whickham, Tanfield, Washington, South Hetton, Shotton and many other places in the county and beyond.

To return, however, to the much more interesting line of George and Sarah who married at Ryton in 1704: apart from the regular appearance of offspring in the Parish Register nothing more is heard of them until 1719 when they turn up in the Church Tithe Records. A Tithe was a medieval tax of one tenth of a man's income paid for the upkeep of the church and clergy, which by the eighteenth century had become a yearly cash payment. From the look of the Ryton Records before 1719 the accounts were very sketchily kept; perhaps the Tithes were not even collected. But something happened in 1719 and the Tithe Accounts were scrupulously maintained and presumably collected. There was a Vicar in Ryton about this time who was prepared to litigate to get his Tithes! George appeared in the Tithes in 1719 but he could not have been very well off because he did not pay anything. In 1720 Geo. Hebblethwaite & Ux. (Ux. is short for Uxor which is Latin for "Wife") paid 11 1/2d Tithe; and so it continued, either 11d or 11 1/2d **until 1734 when he ceased paying, possibly because of illness and inability to work. He died in 1740 at** the age of sixty two: probably a good age for that time. It will give some idea of the value of his Tithe if you consider that the average weekly wage of an agricultural labourer at this time was about 4d.

Another very interesting item is the spelling of George's name. In 1719 the church scribe spells it "Hebblethwaite" and so it continues until 1723 when it becomes "Hepplewhite"; then in 1732 it changes to "Heplewhaite" and finally, in 1736, to "Heplewaite". The reason for this was that spelling was very much a personal thing for a literate person: George's variation in name is probably because of a change of scribe. It was not until the introduction of Dr. Samuel Johnson's Dictionary in 1755 that spelling began to be standardised.

Of the male children of George and Sarah there are the usual early deaths of two of the four indicated by the not uncommon tradition of naming subsequent children with the same name as their departed predecessors. A "William" was the first born in 1705 and another "William" appears in 1724. A "George" was born in 1717, and another - the main subject of this article - in 1727. With these deaths, and so many of the family being girls, there are only three left to carry on the name: John, born 1706; William, born 1724, and George, born 1727. There is no sign of John anywhere: no marriage, no children, no death; but I am sure he was around somewhere and left his impression on young George. The name "John" is only used in this branch of the family at this period. George, the father, had a brother, John, and he calls one of his sons "John" after him. When young George has children, he calls his first son "George", in line with family tradition. This son is historically placed through his marriage to Sarah Etherington at Chipping Barnet in 1786. He is certainly the son of the Cabinet-Maker because he has the same address: St Giles, Cripplegate. And we certainly know that George had a son "George" because "Geo. Hepplewhite Senior & Junior" took out an Insurance Policy on the premises in Redcross St., Cripplegate at Christmas 1785. Next there was a son, John, historically placed by his having subscribed to a Treatise on the Five Orders of Architecture by George Richardson, Architect, in November 1786. His name and address: Mr. John Hepplewhite, Cabinet-Maker, Redcross St., Cripplegate, are stated among many notables of the time including one Mr. Thomas Chippendale of St. Martin's Lane. The next son, Andrew, who married Constance Dance at St. Martins in the Field in 1796 was probably called after someone on his mother's side; but there is no doubt that he was a son of George because he was the best man at

brother George's wedding. His name is signed in the good round hand of a man who is used to writing. George's daughter, who married a man called Wilson at Tottenham, was called Sarah, no doubt after her grandmother, Sarah Rootlish. If just one of those four children had had a similar name to the Hepplewhite family in Ryton, I might have considered it no more than coincidence; but for three of the four to be so named is pushing coincidence beyond its reasonable limits.

There remains just one of the George and Sarah family that I have not dealt with, and that is William, born 1724. There seems to be a fit in the I.G.I. for him marrying Margaret Richardson in 1745. He appears in the Tithe records from 1747 until 1751 when "Dd" (Deceased) appears beside his name and he leaves the records. All very sad; he was only twenty seven!

To sum up the evidence that the George Hepplewhite, Cabinet-Maker of London, who died in 1786, is the same person as the one born in Ryton, County Durham, in 1727: first, there is the name, which is fairly obvious; but when it is considered that the population of England in the eighteenth century was under eight million, and there were only a few Hepplewhites and very few George Hepplewhites, then it is certainly relevant: the I.G.I. shows only two who could fit into the existing circumstances and one of those lived, married and bred in the Parish of All Saints, **Newcastle-on-Tyne. That leaves only one who in 1786 died at the age of fifty nine intestate: his wife, Alice, having to** take out Letters of Administration to control the business in Redcross Street.

Next, there is the circumstance of place. A search of the I.G.I. for eighteenth century Hepplewhites in every English County other than Durham and Northumberland produced only one; and that was in Hertfordshire where a marriage turned out to be that of George's eldest son. So Durham County was the Hepplewhite centre, and even if the I.G.I. had missed a George Hepplewhite, he would still have come from Durham. There were a few on the Northumberland side of the Tyne, the earliest being 1710 at Ovingham and they probably came from Ryton by way of the ford at Newburn which is just opposite Ryton. There is a bridge there now.

The tradition of family Christian or given names comes next. On my own side of the family before the tradition changed in the twentieth century through general education and popular entertainment, the name "Thomas" was passed down through every generation from 1674 to my grandfather who was born in 1853. On the other side of the family we see George, John, William, Sarah and Alice; the first boy generally being called after the father or grandfather, and the first girl after the mother or grandmother. I have already shown George, the Cabinet-Maker naming the offspring that we know about after his parents' family, and the records of George's son, Andrew, reveal the same tendency in his family: first a daughter, Constance, after her mother, second a daughter, Alice, after her grandmother; then a son, George, after father and grandfather, another son, William; and finally, Andrew after his father. I bet George had another son who was called William! We don't know any of George's and Alice's children through Baptismal records, only through occasional appearances in a variety of unexpected places. There could well have been other children who lived and died without leaving any mark, like William which occurs very often on both side of the family.

Next, there is the genetic tradition of woodwork skill. In truth, I don't know whether I believe in it myself. There is quite a lot of discussion about it in the Family History press at the present time; and there is no doubt about the frequent fact of "like father, like son"; but my mind tends to boggle at "like five times removed grandfather, like son"! However, this scepticism allows me to relate my own experience quite objectively, and it must be "like mother like son" as my father was one of the most unpractical men imaginable. The summit of his practical skill was chopping ~~firewood, and he was forever injuring himself at that. There is not a time in my life from as early as I can remember~~ when I was not attracted to wood and its uses. It was always a great relaxation from my profession, teaching to be with wood: to feel it, to smell it, to mould it into something beautiful. There were bits of furniture, musical instruments and turnings on the lathe: but the greatest love was boats: model ones when I was a child, but real ones as I grew older: dinghies, sailing boats, and finally, a twenty seven foot ocean-going sailing yacht. Yet I never had a lesson. Of course, I read books on boat-building and bought boat plans, but that was all. There was no one in my early background that I was emulating; no one was suggesting woodwork; no woodwork was going on around me that I knew of. It just happened. Make of it what you will. I was not the only one of Hepplewhite descent with that experience; Karl whom I mentioned earlier, was much the same. Other Hepplewhites I got in touch with all turned out to have practical ability. So perhaps, on the surface, there is something in the continuance of the genetic characteristic.

Finally, there is the tradition in the family that we are descended from or related to George Hepplewhite. I believe it is probably correct: there are too many Hepplewhites in different parts of the country who quote it without

any prodding for it to be coincidence. Even in this age of general education, radio and television with such popular programmes as "Antiques Road Show", there are still people who have never heard of George Hepplewhite and many more who associate him only with chairs. From what I know of the Hepplewhites up to the beginning of the twentieth century, they were hard-working agricultural labourers, miners and butchers struggling to earn sufficient to bring up large families. So why should such families know about this figure about the centre of upper class fashionable furniture in eighteenth century London? Unless he happened to be a relation and a local boy made good!

I am not claiming anything of what I have as proof incontrovertible that the notable Cabinet-Maker of Cripplegate, London is the same as the George Hepplewhite born in Ryton in 1727. But it is potent circumstantial evidence. I have virtually given up hoping that actual proof will turn up. I have searched, without success, through many of the Ryton records in the hope that they might show some reference to his apprenticeship. Other than his birth, I have found nothing. My plan is to try to continue to find some reference to his age at death. If it turns out to be fifty nine, I can't believe anyone will deny that they are the same person. I would be delighted to hear from anyone out there who might know anything more about George Hepplewhite, the Cabinet-Maker, than is stated here.

(And so would I - Editor!)

Editor's Note: Mr. Hill's address is 7 Meggitt Lane, Winteringham, South Humberside.

A MESSY BUSINESS

The Hamsterley St. James Burial Register includes the following entry:

"Mary Stephenson, Crane Row, 4 August 1856, aged 17.

Died suddenly from diarrhoea accelerated by fright."

ELSWICK METHODIST CIRCUIT ROLL OF HONOUR

by Phil Thirkell

Most of us must be familiar with Rolls of Honour, especially from the First and Second World Wars, commemorating the men, and sometimes women, who served in the conflicts. Although we can be rightly proud of our relatives who served, these lists are not usually very helpful to the family historian other than to confirm that a person did take part. I have recently come across an exception to this generalisation in the Tyne and Wear Archives - the Elswick Methodist Circuit Roll of Honour (Accession No. 441/12).

The Elswick Circuit covers a large area, not only Elswick in the west of Newcastle, but also places such as Heddon-on-the-Wall and Ponteland. The Roll consists of a list of all the men of the Circuit, and one woman, Nurse W. Swindale, who served in the First World War; there is a total of six hundred and thirty names. What makes this list particularly interesting is that it also has quite a lot of personal details about many of the individuals.

The Roll is divided into ten columns: name and number on the Roll, regimental number, regiment, whether a casualty, marital status, home address, occupation before enlistment, other information and the church attended.

Whilst for some entries the information is quite sparse, for others quite a lot of detail is given. For example, for W. Atkins, all we know is that he attended Westerhope Chapel, whereas for Victor Craig we are not only given his regimental number, but also that he returned sick from the 189th M.G.C. with the B.E.F. in France and that he was then at Blandford Camp in Dorset. We are also told that he is one of three brothers with a widowed mother and sister at home.

In the 'Other Information' column we are given a variety of detail. For example, Chief E.R.A. Robert Snowdon of H.M.S. "Inflexible" was awarded three distinctions - the D.S.M., C.G.M., and the Croix de Guerre; and 2nd Lieutenant John Bowey of the 4th N.F., a school teacher in civilian life, was awarded B.A. (Dunelm) in 1914.

Anyone whose family came from the west of Newcastle and think that they had Methodist connections is recommended to check this Roll of Honour. A transcribed copy has been placed in the Society's Library.

SURVIVORS OF THE PLAGUE

by J.C. Howe

Until 1670, Bubonic Plague was a frequent visitor to the towns and villages of this country, and there is little doubt that many of our English ancestors died of this dreadful disease. Equally, of course, many of us are descended from the 50% or so of those who were infected but survived, and it can be assumed safely that whenever plague invaded a household, every person in it would be infected eventually by the plague-carrying fleas.

Historians have discovered that Bubonic Plague occurred within fairly rigid, characteristic patterns, and this has made it easier to identify its presence whenever the parish burial registers fail to record it. It was a disease of late summer and early autumn, and any unexplained increase in burials during this period could point to an attack of plague. Bubonic Plague can be recognised by its high family incidence where several members of a household become victims, and by its tendency to attack some communities and some households while leaving others plague free. This has resulted, in a few extreme cases, in the disappearance of a village or of families within it.

Infected rat fleas were the usual carriers and the disease tended to be carried, either in their clothing or among their goods, by travellers and dealers, as they travelled the trade routes from the large ports such as London, Bristol or Newcastle, where it was probably endemic. Markets and fairs provided excellent opportunities for an exchange of fleas, and quite soon the first victim would be displaying the familiar black buboes in his groin or armpit. His family would realise with horror that their days were numbered.

1597 has been described as a '2-star mortality crisis year', with a combination of a poor harvest and, in the North East especially, a particularly virulent outbreak of Bubonic Plague. In the North Riding of Yorkshire that year, there were 45 deaths in Stokesley, 8.4% of the population, a probably 5-fold increase on a normal year, caused by typhus followed by plague. In Marske, more people died (54) in 1597 than in any other single year between 1570 and 1849.²

In County Durham, plague spread quickly down the Great North Road from Newcastle to Durham City and then to Darlington. One of the first known victims in Durham City was John TALENTIRE, a walker or lister from Elvet, together with his entire household, and in Merrington, just off the main road, the COLTMAN and ARROWE families both perished. The deaths of two Durham City Aldermen, Edward HUDSPETH and John FIRBECKE, shows that power and wealth counted for nothing where Bubonic Plague was concerned.³

By September, the 'Visitation' had reached the parish of Auckland St. Andrews and the first victim, 'George BELLERBY of Coundonn' was recorded in the burial register as having died "of the plague" on the fourth of that month.⁴ Over the next 4 months, 23 men, 35 women, and 16 children, 74 people in all, died in an epidemic which saw the usual burial rate increase four-fold, and the weekly rate reach an unprecedented 14 in mid-October against an average of less than one in plague-free years. Typically, with plague outbreaks, in this large and far-flung parish, only two locations were recorded, 33 in Coundon and 27 in Auckland itself, with a further 14 unlocated deaths probably occurring in the latter, at that time a market town of around 1,000 to 1,500 inhabitants.

Coundon, a small village lying to the east of Auckland, was particularly badly hit with at least 11 families suffering plague deaths, and possibly 30% of its population dying, many of them parents and heads of households. Yet even here in such a small community, several families managed to escape completely.

Wills, inventories and manorial records show that at least eight of these plague families were tenant farmers with small arable holdings in the open fields of the township, together with a few heads of cattle, oxen, sheep and horses. This type of occupation, of course, would increase greatly the chances of contact with infected fleas, in comparison with perhaps coalminers or quarrymen who probably made up the rest of the community.

The buildings of the period, although possibly constructed of rubble stone, almost certainly, would have thatched roofs, excellent breeding grounds for rats and other vermin, and the fleas would find the beaten clay floors the ideal medium in which to lay their eggs.

Robert HOPPER, a yeoman and Coundon reeve at the Bishop's manorial court of April 1597, managed to complete his last will and testament before dying of plague on 20th October and this, with his inventory, gives a fascinating insight into the life of the late Tudor farmers. Strangely enough, in Robert's inventory, 'praised' by his

brothers John, Thomas and Raphe HOPPER, clothing and bedding, invariably present among the livestock, produce and household equipment, on this occasion, were conspicuously absent. Did this mean that the villagers of Coundon were aware of the danger from infected fleas and therefore burned anything that might harbour them, just as Chinese peasants did during the plague epidemic at the end of the last century?⁶

In all, the HOPPER family lost 5 members, outnumbered only by the PARKIN family who lost 6. Despite these crippling losses, both families survived, with Thomas HOPPER and three PARKINS acting as jurymen in 1600⁷ and 3 HOPPRs and 9 PARKINs signed the Protestation Oath in 1641.⁸

One curious fact which may help to explain how plague spread is that 8 of the plague families in Coundon had intermarried and 7 were connected by god-parents. It takes little imagination to realise that there would be no closed doors or quarantine in such a close-knit community and little to prevent the transfer of deadly, infected fleas from one household to another. Of the 33 victims in the village, 15 were adolescent or adult females, and it is possible that their attempts to alleviate the sick and dying among their kith and kin may well have resulted in the ultimate sacrifice and the unwitting spread of the disease among their own families.

Although I have little information on the victims from Auckland, there is one clue in the parish burial registers which may be revealing. The curate, John FELL, who had taken over after the death of the previous incumbent, Mylls CASSE, in August 1597 and who copied the old records from pieces of paper into a book, used symbols to indicate important events. These included arrows, a pointing hand and crosses. Three of the plague families from Auckland, ESTERBIEs with 9 victims, KAYs with 3, and WHEATLIEs with 7, all had crosses against their names, again suggesting that even the more important and substantial members of the community could fall victim to Bubonic Plague.

The accompanying list of plague victims in the parish has been arranged alphabetically in order to emphasise the family incidence of plague within the community.

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PLAGUE VICTIMS IN THE PARISH OF AUCKLAND ST, ANDREWS IN 1597

Source: Parish Burial Register

ARASMYTH, HENRY of Coundon, October 2nd.	ESTERBIE, RICHARD'S manservant, October 22nd.
ARASMYTH, widow of Coundon, November 18th.	ESTERBIE, RICHARD of Auckland, October 25th.
BELLARBIE, GEORGE, of Coundon, September 4th.	ESTERBIE, RICHARD'S son PETER, October 26th.
BELLARBIE, widow of Coundon, September 9th.	ESTERBIE, RICHARD'S wife of Auckland, October 28th.
BENSON's sister, October 16th.	ESTERBIE, WILLIAM, of Auckland, November 2nd.
BENSON's wife, October 16th.	ESTERBIE, RICHARD'S daughter JANE of Auckland, November 3rd.
BIRDSALL, JOHN's child, November 17th.	GLADAME, ROBERT, October 15th.
BIRDSALL, JOHN's child, November 22nd.	GRAVE, NICHOLAS, October 2nd.
BLAICKLOCK, Elizabeth of Coundon, September 13th.	GRAVE, JOHN of Coundon, October 23rd.
CLAXTON, MARGRAT, November 17th.	GRANGER, JOHN'S wife, October 15th.
CLOSSE, JENNAT of Coundon, September 12th.	GRANGER, JOHN'S daughter, November 2nd.
DICKISON, EDWARD of Auckland, November 7th.	HOPPER, JENNAT of Coundon, October 2nd.
DICKISON, widow of Auckland, November 22nd.	HOPPER, THOMAS the younger's wife of Coundon, September 18th.
ESTERBIE, ANNAS of Auckland, September 26th.	
ESTERBIE, PETER of Auckland, October 17th.	

HOPPER, ROBERT's wife of Coundon, October 18th.
HOPPER, ROBERT of Coundon, October 20th.
HOPPER, THOMAS the elder of Coundon.
HUMBLE, widow, November 7th.
KAY, ROBERT's wife of Auckland, October 22nd.
KAY, ROBERT's child of Auckland, October 22nd.
LAISBORN, HENRY's sister of Coundon,
September 9th.
LAIBORN, HENRY's sister's child of Coundon,
September 9th.
LAING, MAGDALAINE of Coundon, December 9th.
LAING, ALLISON of Coundon, December 12th.
LAWELL, ELINOR of Coundon, October 15th.
MIDELTON, ELIZABETH of Auckland,
November 22nd.
MIDELTON, CUTHBERT's child of Auckland,
November 24th.
MIDELTON, CUTHBERT of Auckland,
December 12th.
MIDELTON, CUTHBERT's daughter of Auckland,
December 17th.
NICHOLSON, CHRISTOPHER of the Park,
November 9th.
PARKIN, RICHARD's child of Coundon,
September 8th
PARKIN, DYANES of Coundon, September 9th.
PARKIN, THOMAS's child, October 4th. .
PARKIN, RICHARD's wife of Coundon, October 7th.
PARKIN, RICHARD of Coundon, October 15th.
PARKIN, RICHARD's child of Coundon, October 15th.
PEARSON, JOHN's wife ELIZABETH of Coundon,
December 19th.

ROBINSON, widow of Coundon, September 4th.
ROBSON, BARNARD, of Auckland, November 22nd.
SILVERTOP, JOHN's child of Coundon,
September 20th.
SILVERTOP, THOMAS's child of Coundon,
September 23rd.
SMYTHE, LANNCLOT's child of Coundon,
October 29th.
SMYTHE, LANNCLOT's child of Coundon,
October 23rd.
THOMSON, PAULL of Coundon, September 7th.
THOMSON, PAULL's child of Coundon,
September 16th.
WAKER, RAPHE the younger's child, October 16th.
WHEATLIE, ANTHONY's child of Auckland,
December 10th.
WHEATLIE, ELIZABETH of Auckland.
December 10th..
WHEATLIE, ANTHONY's child of Auckland.
WHEATLIE, RAPHE's child of Auckland,
December 14th.
WHEATLIE, RAPHE'S child of Auckland,
December 14th.
WHEATLIE, ANTHONY's wife of Auckland,
December 14th.
WHEATLIE, MARGRAT, a child of Auckland.
December 28th.
WILLSONN, CHRISTOPHER, October 17th.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COUNDON PLAGUE FAMILIES BY MARRIAGE

(The names in brackets are not plague families).

(HARPER)	(GOWLAND)		
LAING	PARKING	LABOURNE	SILVERTOP
ROBINSON	HOPPER		(HEIGHINGTON)
	SMYTHE	PEARSON	

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DURHAM UNIVERSITY LIBRARY ARCHIVES

AND

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Among the major record repositories in our part of the world is Durham University Library's Archives and Special Collections at 5 The College, Durham. It is one of the richest for genealogists to plunder and yet is surprisingly little used, despite having much material not available elsewhere. Do not be misled into thinking that only members of Durham University can consult the records; they are in fact open to all. Admission is free, although donations are welcomed. Postal searches are not undertaken, but a personal visit could prove well worthwhile. An information leaflet is available on request from the department.

Formerly, this was the dauntingly named Department of Palaeography and Diplomatic. Palaeography is the art of deciphering ancient manuscripts and handwriting; diplomatic refers to the format, authenticity and dating of documents and has nothing to do with foreign affairs. The name change followed administrative alterations at the University Library and further changes will take place late in 1992 when the archives at The Prior's Kitchen, Durham Cathedral are moved to 5 The College. This involves mainly the archives of the Dean and Chapter of Durham and of the medieval priory and convent.

The opening hours during University term time are 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. Monday to Friday, with an extension to 8.00 p.m. on Tuesday, provided an appointment is made by 5.00 p.m. on the previous Friday. In 1993, term opening times will apply from 14th January to 17th March, 22nd April to 23rd June and 6th October to 8th December. Outside term time, the same hours apply, but there is no late opening on Tuesday. The search rooms close for about a week at Christmas and Easter.

The College is a cathedral close, immediately to the south of the vast Norman building. No parking is allowed there - use other car parks in Durham City. Appointments are unnecessary but users will be asked to register and to produce evidence of their identity and address. You should give advance notice of requirements if possible. The telephone number is 091-3743610.

At 5 The College are many of the central ecclesiastical archives of the Diocese of Durham. Until the creation of the Diocese of Newcastle in 1882, the Durham Diocese covered the whole of the pre-1974 counties of Durham and Northumberland, except for Hexhamshire (the parishes or chapelries of Allendale, Allenheads or Allendale St. Peter, Binglefield St. Mary, Carrshield or High West Allen, Hexham, Ninebanks or Low West Allen, St. John Lee, St. Oswald in Lee and Whitley Chapel) and the York ecclesiastical "peculiar" of Thockrington. There are few ecclesiastical records at Durham for these areas prior to 1837; most will be found at the Borthwick Institute of Historical Research at York University. However, in that year Durham Diocese was extended to include these regions and most of the post-1837 records are at Durham.

Also at Durham are ecclesiastical archives relating to the Bishop of Durham's "peculiar" of Allertonshire in Yorkshire and to Crayke in Yorkshire until 1846 and 1837 respectively.

The first three classes of record outlined below, which in each case cover the whole of Durham Diocese, are those of primary interest to family historians, but there are many others which cover a specific area and which frequently contain relevant genealogical information.

DURHAM PROBATE RECORDS

Before 12th January 1858, the exercise of probate jurisdiction was an ecclesiastical responsibility, commonly administered through the consistory court of the local diocesan bishop. In the case of Durham the surviving records of this jurisdiction consist of wills proved and letters of administration granted in Durham diocese between 1540 and 1857, and related documents for the same period and area. All of these documents are now deposited at 5 The College.

Prior to 1858, probate matters concerning the estates of deceased persons holding property in more than one diocese were dealt with either by the Prerogative Court of York or the Prerogative Court of Canterbury and the records are at the Borthwick Institute, York and the Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, London respectively.

It is beyond the scope of this article to discuss wills and other probate documents in detail. Suffice to say that if you are fortunate enough to locate the will of an ancestor, it can provide a great deal of genealogical information, difficult to obtain elsewhere, and can give details of the possessions of the dead person, ranging from ships and farms to, literally, pots and pans. A will is also one of the few places where you can be sure to find the ancestors signature, or his "X" if he could not write or was too ill to do so.

There is a popular misconception that only wealthy individuals left wills. Certainly, many of them did, but the number of relatively humble folk who made their testamentary wishes known is surprisingly large, and a check is always worthwhile.

Indexes exist at 5 The College for all wills etc. There are also indexes for certain periods at Newcastle Library and elsewhere. However, many of the indexes are not modern and some of the wills shown in them no longer survive. There is a tale, possibly apocryphal, of a custodian who used to light his pipe using the wills in his care, saying "There goes the testator!"

In addition to pre-1858 wills and associated documents, there are volumes of Register copies of all wills proved at Durham Probate Registry between 1858 and 1940. Photocopies of wills can in most cases be obtained at a cost of 25p per page, plus a handling charge, postage and VAT. Payment for copies should not be sent in advance.

BISHOP'S TRANSCRIPTS

A 16th century law required copies of all baptism, marriage and burial entries in the registers of each parish to be sent to the diocesan bishop. These are the so-called "Bishop's transcripts". Those for Durham diocese unfortunately no longer exist for the 16th and 17th centuries or for the first half of the 18th century. For most parishes, transcripts exist from about 1760 to about 1840, but there are usually gaps in the series, especially during the earliest part of this period. Pre-1760 transcripts exist for only seven parishes; Bishopwearmouth 1742-3, Haltwhistle 1758-60, **Heddon-on-the-Wall 1727-8, Durham St. Nicholas 1740-41, Newcastle St. John 1748-49, Stannington 1755**, Kirkwhelpington 1748-49.

The transcripts have been sorted into parishes and are in boxes in approximate date order. You will be given the appropriate box and can peruse the original document (as, indeed, you can do with wills) rather than a microfilm of it! There are no indexes of names. As with wills, the archive does not cover Hexhamshire prior to 1837.

A volume entitled "*Bishop's Transcripts of Parish Registers: Summary List of Outside Dates of Transcripts*" (1982 with minor revisions 1991) can be bought from 5 The College. A provisional list of these dates was printed in Volumes 1, No. 3, and No. 4 of this Society's Journals (April and July 1976).

MARRIAGE BONDS

Marriages in England could, and still can, be celebrated after the issue of a licence by the diocesan bishop, avoiding the need to call banns in the local church and thus minimising possible unwelcome publicity. It also avoided the need to wait three weeks, which could be useful if there was an urgency to marry. The marriage licence itself would be given to the marrying couple, but the allegations and bonds remain with the Bishop's records. An allegation is a statement made, usually by the bridegroom to the effect that there was no known impediment to the marriage, whilst a bond was a financial guarantee, backed by a bondsman, that the conditions to the licence would be fulfilled. The bondsmen were often kinsman and the documents can thus provide useful evidence of relationships. The documents state the names, places of residence, occupations, whether single or widow/widower, and ages (unfortunately often merely 'of full age') of the parties. In the case of minors, the names of parents and their consent to the wedding would be included. If your search of a parish register indicates a marriage by licence, it may be worth checking the bonds and allegations for possible further information.

The surviving Durham marriage bonds run from approximately 1664 (with a few earlier examples) until 1823, after which date bonds were no longer legally required. However, from about 1738, the bonds were accompanied by allegations and the series of these documents continues up to 1978, although items less than 60 years old may only be consulted with prior permission from the Durham diocesan registrar. The bonds and allegations are arranged in chronological order, rather than by place or surname, and there are usually one or two boxes for each year.

E. Dodds and J.W. Robinson produced "*Durham Marriage Bonds 1590-1815*" in 14 volumes, each indexed, and there are copies at Newcastle and Sunderland Libraries, as well as microfilm copies at 5 The College, where there is also a card index for the years 1817 to 1819.

HALMOTE COURT RECORDS

These are records of copyhold land, a type of land ownership abolished in 1926. They date from 1519. Microfilms of earlier records (from 1348) in the Public Record Office are also available.

As there was a potential hereditary element in copyhold tenure, details of family relationships are often recorded. These records cover only certain areas in the diocese, mainly in County Durham. Only Bedlington in Northumberland is included.

A full description of these records, by Dr. J.M. Fewster, was published in NDFHS Journal, No. 2 (Summer 1991).

ORIGINAL PARISH REGISTERS

The original registers of Muggleswick, County Durham including Baptisms and Marriages 1784 to 1812, and Burials 1783 to 1812 are held.

ORDINATION PAPERS OF CLERGY

These papers comprise documents submitted by men seeking ordination, and should include a copy of the ordinand's baptismal certificate and testimonials from educational establishments, local clergy etc. They cover the period 1729 to the 20th century, with some gaps especially in the earlier period. Permission of the Diocesan/Registrar is needed to consult papers under 60 years old. List of ordinations are also found in episcopal registers/act books and, at certain periods, in separate ordination registers.

MEETING HOUSE CERTIFICATES

These relate to applications from Protestant Dissenters to the Bishop of Durham for registration of their meeting-houses as places of worship from the second half of the 18th century to the first half of the 19th century. There are a few earlier strays c.1669 among the Durham Cathedral Archives. The certificates were signed by a list, often quite long, of members of the dissenting congregation. They are arranged alphabetically by township. There is no index of persons.

CONSISTORY COURT RECORDS

This Court, the Bishop's court for the Diocese, still survives, but today it deals chiefly with disputes about church fabrics and furnishings, and the odd clergy discipline case. However, until quite recently, it handled cases affecting a great variety of people: matrimonial disputes, correction of manners and morals, adultery, bastardy, accusations of defamation, quarrels over the right to pews, non-attendance at church, disputes over wills and bequests etc. Many records, sadly, are abbreviated and difficult to read and most are in Latin up to 1732. But Consistory Court depositions may be of interest - they are verbatim copies of evidence given by witnesses in case before the Court. They are in English and the headings to each deposition give the age, occupation and place of abode of each witness.

Most 16th and 17th century depositions have been bound in unindexed books. Later depositions are in the series of loose Consistory Court cause papers, which are not yet fully sorted or indexed but there is an index of parties to disputes 1716-1897. Names of witnesses are not yet indexed.

DURHAM ATTORNEYS

The Palatinate of Durham had its own courts and, before an attorney could practice in them, evidence had to be provided of his service of articles under a qualified attorney. Two volumes among the Durham Court of Chancery records contain information about them. The first book, 1768-1792 covers 150 clerks and gives father's name (or mother's if father was dead), name of the master, date of articles and place of residence. The second, covering 1792 to 1875, gives abbreviated information about 370 clerks, usually including father's name, master's qualifications and the occupation of the person who made the affidavit.

DURHAM CITY GUILDS

At 5 The College are the surviving records for the following Durham trade companies - barbers, bakers and tanners, butchers, cordwainers, couriers, drapers, dyers and listers, joiners, masons, mercers, plumbers, saddlers and smiths and weavers. The records of the fullers' and skimmers' companies are not held.

These records give a variety of useful information such as details of apprenticeships, lists of members, accounts and orders governing the trade. They can yield information about people of quite lowly status, often giving details of parentage.

MORPETH COURTS

The Howard of Naworth papers include the records of the manorial courts (the court leet and the court baron) for the Manor and Borough of Morpeth 1696 to 1883. These courts were the chief organs of government of the borough. The records of the Courts of the Manor and Barony of Morpeth Castle, covering places such as Ulgham, Longhorsley, Stannington and Hartburn, are also held. A detailed article about these records, under the title "*Of Ale Tasters and Bread-Weighers*", appeared in the Summer 1992 Journal of this Society.

The Society gratefully acknowledges the assistance given by the staff at 5 The College in the compilation of this article.

THE ROBSON SURNAME OF NORTH TYNE DALE, NORTHUMBERLAND

by Edward S. Robson

There are two theories of the origins of the Robson surname in the North Tyne valley. In the Newcastle Museum of Antiquaries, there is a fragment of a cross which dates back to the seventh or eighth century. This cross was found a little above the church of Falstone, which was the seat of the primary Robson branch. The stone is inscribed on both sides in the same language, but with Roman letters on one side and in Anglo-Saxon runes on the other side. The cross is a monument (gravestone) and is inscribed thus:

**"Eomaer set this (cross) up for his Uncle,
Hroethbert. Pray for his soul."**

Hroethbert is the Old English equivalent of Robert. Is it possible that the Robson surname dates back 1200 to 1300 years in the very place where they centred during their heyday? Are we all sons (descendants) of Uncle Hroethbert?

The other theory holds that the Robson surname derives from the bastard sons of Robert with the Beard, or Sir Robert de Umfraville, Lord of Tours and Vian. In 1075, he received from his kinsman, William the Conqueror, a grant of the lordship, forest and valley of Redesdale.

The Robson surname was one of the so-called riding or border reiver surnames. The family was located primarily in the North Tyne valley, especially around Falstone. Sir Robert Bowes claimed that "the countrey of North Tynedail,...is more plenished with misdemeaned people..." In 1551, he wrote, "They stand most by Surnames whereof the Charltons are the chief, and in all services or charges imposed upon that country the Charltons, and such as are under their rule, be rated for one haft of that country; Robsons for a quarter; and the Dodds and the Milburns for another quarter." Our ancestors have been described as "a wight riding surname," wight meaning vigorous. The riding surnames were families on both sides of the borders, (the majonly, in tact), who engaged in cattle, sheep, and horse rustling, extortion, kidnapping, blackmail, and robbery. Initially this was out of necessity and, sometimes, due to government instigation. Eventually, it became a way of life until King James VI of Scotland and I of Britain pounded the borders into submission in the early 1600s after the union of the crowns.

Small groups of Robsons lived in other parts of Northumberland, Durham and Yorkshire and even in Scotland. In fact, North Tynedale was ruled by the Scottish king for 150 years ending in 1289. To be sure, pockets of Robsons lived in Teviotdale and Middlesknoves. The Robson families living in Scotland may have moved there during the war for Scottish independence which started in 1296. During the reign of King Henry VIII, such a number of Robsons and Halls were represented in a Scottish incursion into England that the English Warden began to suspect that family loyalties could transcend those of nationality. In fact, when Robsons living in Fawslaw and Plenderleith in Scotland were attacked by a group of Tynedalers, only the Robsons, of all the surnames in North Tynedale, refused to participate in the invading force.

Early in the sixteenth century, the Robson surname was comprised of four "graynes" or branches, each led by a heidsman. Graynes seemed to reflect cousinly relationships living on neighbouring farmsteads. The primary grayne appeared to be the Falstone branch, the head of which has been described as the Laird of Falstone. John Robson was heidsman of the Falstone grayne at least from 1535 to 1552. John shared Falstone with his older brother, Henry, and their sons. Lyell Robson (Courr de Lion, Cuddy Lion, Lion Hearted) was heidsman of the Yarrowhall grayne during this time. The Belling of Bimmerhill grayne of the Robson surname was headed by Geoffrey Robson. In 1559, Sir John Forster summoned the heidsmen of the Tynedale surnames to meet him at Chipchase to give bonds for keeping the peace. The following Robsons signed the document: Symont Robson of Langhaugh, Andrewe Robson of the Bellynge (Selling) and Hobb Robson of the Fawstone (Falstone). In the 1570's another John Robson was the heidsman of the Stonehouse grayne. In 1524, Robert Robson was identified as the heidsman of Bimmerhill (Byndmyrehill).

An early reference to a Robson is found in a Roll of Pleas held at the Court of Wark dated 1293. Thomas Robson was stabbed by Ralph Bond of Newbrough whose home he was burgling; also William Robson was beheaded at Bellingham. He had killed Alicia, the daughter of Bernard the miller, with an axe. In a letter of testimonial by Richard, Bishop of Durham, dated September 25, 1498, Lawry Robeson, Davy Robeson and Sandy Robeson, among others, were released from a sentence of excommunication.

Most of this information was derived from three sources: *Memorials of North Tynedale and its Four Surnames*, Charlton, Dr. Edward, J.M. Carr Steam Printing Works Newcastle-upon-Tyne: 1871); *The English Highland Clans: Tudor Responses to a Mediaeval Problem*, Robson, Ralph, John Donald Publishers, Ltd., (Edinburgh: 1989); *The Steel Bonnets: The Story of the Anglo-Scottish Border Reivers*, Fraser, George McDonald, Pan Books Ltd., (London: 1974). Other books of interest on the subject include *From Border to Middle Shire: Northumberland 1586 - 1625*, Watts, S.J., Leicester University Press, (Leicester: 1975); *The North Of England: A History*, Musgrove, Frank, Basil Blackwell Ltd., (Oxford: 1990); *The Border History of England and Scotland, Deduced from the Earliest Times to the Union of the Two Crowns*, Ridpath, Rev. George, Unwin Brothers Ltd., (Berwick: 1848), Reprinted by The Mercat Press, (Edinburgh: 1979).

Editor's Note: The author, Mr. E.S. Robson (11905 Marnelan Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23233 USA) invites anyone interested in the Robson surname to subscribe to a newsletter dedicated to the name with 4 issues per year for £9 or \$18 Canadian, or \$15 US.

THE TRANSCRIBERS

A LIGHT HEARTED LOOK AT THE 1881 CENSUS

by J. Blenkin

The title might suggest one of those potted family histories, so familiar to readers of these Journals, in which the family of Transcriber is traced back to Jeremiah Transcrybore, yeoman of Nether Bagwash, Bassetshire in umpteen hundred and fifty six, which are no doubt extremely fascinating to present day Transcribers but a bit of a turn off to the rest of us. No, I refer to that gallant band of brothers and sisters who beaver away transcribing the photocopies of the 1881 census on to pro forma sheets for the joint Mormon-Family History Societies venture so that the information may be put on computer and eventually regurgitated in a form to rival Domesday Book or even the I.G.I. These intrepid volunteers are sent wads of photocopies by mysterious co-ordinators, to whom the completed transcripts are returned. Communication between transcriber and co-ordinator is minimal and, you sometimes suspect, may even be discouraged. In fact, many co-ordinators are not even traceable in the F.H.S. membership lists - perhaps they are from the Mormon side of the partnership?

The work itself is addictive, as I can confirm after experience with records from two county Societies. Often, plugged into Radio 3 or my Hi-fi, belting out Classical Music, I have been amazed to realise it is midnight and the hours have flown by. This is substantiated when the time taken for each batch has to be recorded, with dates of starting and finishing. Strange really, a kind of time and motion study, even though we are all volunteers. Perhaps there's a prize at the end for the quickest transcriber (20 minutes per sheet).

There are standardised forms for recording the information, all in block capitals and black ink, and the blank sheets are headed with address, surname, forename, relationship, age, occupation etc. Since the original census forms were written in longhand, part of the fun is in deciphering beautiful but illegible copperplate, the obscurity compounded by someone who later counted the number of households, the totals of males or females, or the total not born in the county, by liberally making heavy strokes with a broad nib against the salient information. Unlike last year's census, birthplaces were recorded - but, while these were often meticulously detailed when the location was a nearby farm or hamlet, if your ancestor was Scottish or Irish, hard cheese! His or her provenance was probably recorded as "Scotland" or "Ireland."

There are incidental trends in the information of which you become aware. On one hand, the records of a coal mining village in County Durham may show the majority of the adults coming from Wales, Cornwall, Scotland or other parts of England, while the birthplaces of the children catalogue continual movement of the family around the coalfield. Census returns of an agricultural hamlet in Cumberland may show an opposite trend with a whole sheet of people born within a small area around the village. Another fascination lies in the possibility of finding one's own ancestors. If you can manage to obtain the records of a village where your great grandparents, or whoever, lived, you are on to a winner, but be discreet, don't let on. Each photocopy announces that it is the copyright of the Public Record Office and must not be reproduced, so be warned.

Well, maybe I've whetted the appetites of some members, who will now be looking up back copies of the **Journal to find the address of that co-ordinator who asked, a couple of years ago, for volunteers to transcribe the 1881 census.** So lay in your supplies of Tippex (mistakes do occur) and black ball point pens and then watch out for the postman bringing that parcel from your co-ordinator.

Editor's Note: if your appetite is one of those whetted, don't bother looking-up back Journals. Just write to Miss Susan Mackay, Northumberland Record Office, Melton Park, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne.

ACCIDENTS & DEATHS AT SEA 1773 AND 1774

The following local seamen were injured or died at sea whilst serving on ships. *Ships' Journals* from northern ports, according to information in the Public Record Office at reference BT 98/126:

Benjamin BRADLEY, servant on *Experment* (200 tons, 13 crew), born in and abode Newcastle, was drowned 16th January 1774 off the Start Point.

Robert SADLER, seaman aged 32, born Shields, serving on *Charming Betty* (200 tons). "Wounded at sea 21st December 1773 in his right hand by a stab with a sail needle as he was repairing a sail at sea and is rendered incapable of pursuing his business."

Thomas DIXON, seaman aged 20 born Whitby abode Shields, serving on *Blackett* (400 tons, 17 men) "much hurt by a Fall from the Foreyard in Norway 12th November 1773" and discharged 6th January 1774.

James PATTEN, carpenter aged 38, on *Industry* (300 tons) "Drowned 14th June 1774 falling overboard into the River Thames as he was repairing the ship".

Joseph STOREY, seaman aged 26 born Blythnook abode Shields, on *Jesmond* (240 tons) drowned 9th March 1774.

David SMITH, servant aged 20 born Scotland abode Shields aboard *Strathmore* now *Will and Mary* (160 tons) "Drowned 22 July 1774 in the passage from Hambro off Scarbro".

Thomas TAYLOR, carpenter aged 36, born and abode Newcastle, on *Alice and Mary* (200 tons) "Wounded at Bordeaux 7 April 1774 and died the 20th April 1774".

William BEADNELL, seaman born and abode Shields on *Brothers* (160 tons) "was on the 27th Sept 1774 whilst in the main topmast yard seized with a complaint that rendered him speechless in which state he continued until this 4th day of October 1774."

John SCOTT, mate aged 37, born Shields, abode Tinnmouth, on *Zephyr* (300 tons). "25 Nov 1774 John Scott the mate had his leg torn off and much hurt by the Bower Cable 1 Dec 1774 John Scott died and was buried off Boston from the Bruises he received from the Cable".

THE PARISH REGISTERS 1798 to 1812

by John Ayton

Many researchers from the North East must feel as I do. Having worked back through censuses, they have the parish registers to look forward to. I feel that we are particularly fortunate in some Northumberland and Durham registers when we look at those records which were written between 1798 and 1812, as the details given in the baptisms are often wonderful for the family historian. Most registers give the parish of birth of the father and, if you are lucky, the name and job of the mother's father.

I was recently researching my ancestors in the parish of Stanhope and I realised how lucky I was. The registers are beautifully written and very informative. However, it was not the baptism details which give me my break, but those for the burials. There, I found the entry for the burial of one of my 5 x great grandmothers, Elizabeth Robinson. She had married my 5 x great grandfather Theophilus Norwood in June 1770 and was his second wife. He was a lead miner and his first wife had recently died. I had estimated that Elizabeth's date of birth would have been about 1745 to 1750. But I could find no evidence of an Elizabeth Robinson on the I.G.I. between those years. I'd rather given up and felt that I was at a dead end. Her burial entry, some years later, was however most illuminating - "Elizabeth Norwood, late Robinson, widow of Theophilus Norwood, miner on April 7th 1810 aged 81 years."

This was definitely my ancestress as she was the wife of Theophilus Norwood and I knew he was a miner. The surprise was Elizabeth's age - 81. I now realised that she had been born a lot earlier than I had previously estimated, probably in 1728 or 1729. I returned to the I.G.I. and found only one Elizabeth Robinson, baptised on 6th August 1728 at Stanhope. She was the daughter of a George Robinson of Heatherycleugh and this took my research back into the 1600's. Many of us realise that our ancestors continued having children until their fertility failed. However, I am sure that lots of us must think that beginning our families in our forties is something of a modern phenomenon and rather unusual. Here I had an ancestress marrying for the first time in 1770 aged 41 to a man nearly 10 years her junior. Perhaps Theophilus just married his young children's minder. Elizabeth then proceeded to have her own family - Theophilus Junior baptised on 8th September 1771 and my ancestor Robert baptised on 11th September 1774, born in Elizabeth's forty-sixth year. It makes us all look old hat. She lost both Theophiluses in the 1780's and life must have been hard but she lived to a good age. Her son Robert had 12 children of which I am aware and she must have seen 10 of them.

So family historians, go gleefully into all those records between 1798 and 1812. You never know what you'll find. We've always known how lucky we were to be Geordies!

Editor's Note: Mr. Ayton's address is 37 Oyster Row, Cambridge CB5 8 LJ.

Editors Note On
PARISH REGISTERS
1798 TO 1812

The author has a point. The 1798 to 1812 entries for most Northumberland and Durham parishes are remarkably informative, uniquely so, as far as I am aware, among English parish registers. In 1797, the then Bishop of Durham, Shute Barrington, issued detailed instructions to his clergy about the information he wanted included in the registers. The baptismal entries include such details as dates of birth and baptism, order of the children in the family, occupation and place of birth of the father, and the name maiden surname and place of birth of the mother. In the case of burial entries the details cover such items as dates of death and burial., aU **and cause of death and occupation and, in the case of wives, as Mr. Ayton's example shows, the name and occupation of the husband. In children's burial entries, the name and occupation of the father is normally given. These forms of entry were included in all registers in Durham Diocese except, for some reason, Berwick (does anyone know why?) . The Hexhamshire parishes were, of course, not under Bishop Barrington's jurisdiction. It is such a pity for the north eastern family historian that the extra information given in the registers ceased to be included from 1813, when the standardised forms introduced by Rose's Act of 1812 came into use.**

AUCKLAND CdS2'LE, September Zcyb, 1797•

REVEREND SIR,

HAVING explained to my Clergy, at the late Visitation, the *Modes* which induced the to recommend an improved Form of Parochial Reglifiers, nothing further is requifite on my Part, but supplying the Forms. **They accompany this Letter. I wifh them to be inferted in your prefent Regyer Books, unlefr nearly filled ; in which Cafe, new Regiyer Books Jhould be procured; and the Ufe of the new Forms to commence on 7anuary 1798.**

To preferve the Forms and to tranfinit them to your Succors, as well as to if-certain the Mode of introducing them into the Regoer Books, it may be advifable to pa le the Forms themfelves, together with this Letter, either in the Beginning or the End. ~f the Register Books.

To give Authenticity to Registers it is neceffary that the Bottom of each Page be figned by the officiating Minider and the Church Wardens.

I am, Reverend Sir, with much Regard,

your fincere Friend and Brother',

S, *Dunelm.*

Bishop Barrington's instructions are illustrated here, with permission of Durham University Archives and Special Collections.

THE RETURNS OF PAPISTS 1705

by Andrew Morton

Many of you will, like me, have sent off to the Society for the booklet "*Roman Catholics in the Diocese of Durham ...Extracted from returns of Papists 1767*" by John P. Perkins and Pauline M. Litton. This gave me invaluable details of my Catholic great great great great great great grandparents; Andrew Morton was a mason in Lowick near Berwick, aged 55, having been born in Lowick. His wife Mary aged 54, also born in Lowick lived with him together with their youngest son, also Andrew, aged 9, also born there. There is as much detail there as I found about his great great grandson, Andrew Morton, in the census more than a hundred years later.

What is perhaps, not generally known, is that this was one of a series of returns, the first of which took place when, in 1603, the Canons of the Convocation of Canterbury decreed that there would be annual censuses of Catholics.

"Every parson, vicar or curate shall carefully inform themselves every year hereafter, how many popish recusants, men, women and children above the age of thirteen years, and how many being popishly given (who though they come to church yet do refuse to receive communion) are inhabitants or make their abode, either as sojourners or common guests, in any of their several parishes and they shall set their true names in writing..."

In theory this should have given us a superb picture of the English and Welsh Catholic community; in practice it resulted in only 8,630 names, mostly the wealthier Catholics. Few of the original returns survive (amongst them are those for the Diocese of York which are held in the Bodleian Library in Oxford) and it seems that the practice of taking such censuses was soon dropped as there are few other returns remaining, and the coverage of those that do is very patchy.

Other returns of papists were requested throughout the seventeenth century but these were either statistical, giving no names, or partial in their coverage, containing the names of only the wealthier members of the community or only covering certain areas - for example, the lists of Papists compiled in 1680 for a Papists (Removal and Disarming) Bill and the 1689 returns of the names of Papists in Westminster and the London suburbs.

Fortunately (!), the expulsion of James VII & II from the throne set in motion a series of plots and rebellions over the course of the next half century or so, culminating in the '45 rebellion. The authorities were worried by the possibility of "popish plots" and were concerned both to ascertain the exact number of Roman Catholics and force them to pay for the defensive measures which had to be taken. This resulted in a fresh series of enquiries, the most well known of which are the 1767 returns.

The first of these returns were called for in January 1705 (N/S). An Order in Council called on Deputy Lieutenants to give statistics of Papists in their counties. Unfortunately the returns, such as they are, were not very informative. Consequently, on 2nd March 1705 (N/S) the House of Lords asked Archbishops and Bishops to come up with the required statistics. Again, the results were patchy, but most of those incumbents who did furnish returns gave names (House of Lords Record Office, Main Papers 1 March 1705/6 No. 2249 c) Calendared in Manuscripts of the House of Lords. VI 421-3).

Both the Northumberland and Durham returns survive almost in full, and the details given, whilst not so uniform as those in the 1767 returns, are in many cases more revealing. For example, in Ponteland:

"Isobel Wightman wife of John Wightman a Dutchman and protestant in the service of states of Holland, she lives in Pontisland having five small Children."

Who'd have thought that their ancestor, John Wightman, was a Dutchman?

In Tynemouth:

"Mr. James Burino & his wife, lives within the precincts of Tinmouth Castle, of no visible estate.

Elizabeth the wife of Nicolas Davis clerk to Colonel Villiers, lives in Tinmouth.

George Beadnell and his wife, living in North Shields has an estate in Tithes out of the parish, supposed about £40 p an. but in dispute."

In Kirkharle:

"Mrs. Margaret Buoy that came to ST Thomas Loraine's out of Scotland and lives in the Family, and is a Companion to his Lady."

The vicars and curates (who are named) could not resist putting in the odd word for themselves or their parishes. There are two especially good examples:

"I hope that wn ye Queen's Bounty for ye poor Clergy is distributed you'l be pleased to Remember Alnwick. I cannot add save that I make bold to subscribe my self.

Sir

Alnwick
August 3d. 1705

Yr. Most Humble & Obedient Sevt.
Joseph Ritson. Vicar"

"We have taken off the thatch of our church, in order to have it slated, but the very walls and Timber are so much decayed, that it will require a considerable time to repair it, but of this you may be assured that I shall do what I can to forward it, and that I am

Reverend Sr.

White-house
Aug. 24 1705

with all respect and duty
your very humble servant

James Allgood
Rector of Ingram."

Trades are usually given; an interesting example of this can be found in the return for Brinkburn:

Rob^t. Tod father. **Rob^t. Tod** son Dishers & Ladle-makers at Lyns-wood-head in Brenckbourne Pish, y^e. father receives Pish-Almes."

Finally just to show that nobody was overlooked, in Newcastle upon Tyne, St. Andrew parish was:

"Robert Fenwick a prisoner".

Editor's Note: The author, Andrew Morton, whose address is 27 Osprey Avenue, Westhoughton, Bolton, Lancashire BL5 2SL has fully transcribed the Northumberland returns, which contains about 420 names, and provides separate name and place indexes. Copies can be obtained from him for £3.50, together with an A4 size stamped, addressed envelope.

NEW MEMBERS

The following new members, whose names do not appear in the Member's Interest column, have joined since the deadline for publication in 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 membes.

4793 Mr. K.I. RANSOME, 4 Cleekim Road, Edinburgh EH12 8NJ. 4795 Mrs. C. ABBOTT, 83 Gidley Way, Horspath, Oxford, Oxon OX33 1TQ. 4796 Mrs. M.E. GLENISTER, Appletree Cottage, Godshill, Fordingbridge, Hants SP6 2LW. 4797 Mr. A.E. DUROUR, 84 Lancaster Drive, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 3TT. 4798 & 4799 Mrs. S. & Mr R. PEARSON, Summer Lodge, Beanburn, Ayton, Eyemouth, Berwickshire TD14 5QY. 4800 Mr. AJ. PARKER, 5 Kilverton Drive, Enfield, Middlesex EN2 0BD. **4802 Mrs. A. FLACK, 40 Magdalene Road, Claremount Wood, Owlsmoor, Camberley, Surrey GU15 4UT. 4803 Mrs. JJ. GREENWOOD, 36 Stonehill Road, Leigh on Sea, Essex SS9 4AY. 4805 Mr. N. FORSYTH, 3 Keble Close, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 UN. 4806 Mrs. M. WEST, 5 Barlborough Avenue, Whitehouse Farm, Stockton on Tees, Cleveland TS19 0QL. 4807 Mrs. M.M. BENNETT, Ael-Y- Castell, Porth Y Green, Cowbridge, South Glamorgan CF9 7JR. 4808 Miss B.P. HERRON, 82 The Avenue, Fareham, Hants P014 1PB. 4809 Mrs. M. DIXON, 17 Tynedale Terrace, Benton, Newcastle upon Tyne NE12 8AY. **4810 Mr P.K. LARK, 1 Eastwood Avenue, Urmston, Manchester M31 1XG. 4811 Dr. T.N.P. WILTON, Walnut Tree Cottage, Alveston Road, Tockington, Bristol BS12 4PH. 4812 & 4813 Mr. S. & Mrs. B. BRODIE, 29 Hadrian Court, Garth 33, Killingworth, Tyne & Wear NE12 0BY. 4814 Mrs. M. WALKER, 67 Benfieldside Road, Shotley Bridge, Consett, Co. Durham DH8 0SE. 4815 & 4816 Mrs. M.A. & Mr. E. HANDS, 5 Amersham Road, Chesham Bois, Amersham, Bucks HP6 1PB. 4817 & 4818 Mrs R.S. & Mr E. LOCKHART, 17 Downlands Close, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex TN39 3PP. 4821 Mr. E.R. MILLER, 2 Leeholme, Warden Grove Estate, Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne & Wear DH5 8HR. 4823 Mrs. J. ROBERTS, 29 Sheraton Road, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 5PH. 4825 Mrs. O.L. PLUMB, 20 Lilburne Crescent, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham DL5 4LY. **4826 Mr. T.R. BLACKETT, 18 Bridge Road, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 8XT. 4827 Mr. K. CADEN, 813 Monroe Street, Herndon, Virginia 22070, U.S.A. 4828 Mr. A. BROWN, 18 Dundas Crescent, Eskbank, Dalkeith, Midlothian EH22 3ET. 4829 Mr. P.W. DOBSON, 370 Hereford Street, Christchurch, New Zealand. 4830 Mrs L. NEVILLE, 113 Heybridge Road, Ingatestone, Essex CM4 9AH. 4831 Mrs S. BAILEY, 20 Linden Close, Hutton Rudby, Yarm, Cleveland. 4832 Mr. N.M. DORNEY, 13 Collingwood Terrace, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear NE26 2NP. **4833 Mr. W.B.D. CRAGGS, Flat 1, 380a Richmond Road, Twickenham, Middlesex TW1 2DX. 4834 Mrs. A. WALTER, 4 Montalbo Road, Barnard Castle, Co.Durham DL12 8BP. 4835 Dr. W. DUNN, Newlands Grange Cottage, Whittonstall, Nr.Consett, Co. Durham DH8 9LS. 4836 Mrs. CJ. LAW, 1-3K mringa Road, Park Orchards, Victoria 3114, Australia. 4837 Mr D.J. CRAGGS, 27 Station Road, Tadcaster, North Yorkshire LS24 9JB. 4839 Miss L.E. ATKINSON, 36 Otterwood Lane, Azamb, York; North Yorkshire YO2 3JR.********

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 items, the more we can print.

Any inaccuracies in the address shown in these columns should be notified at once to Jenny Ashburner, Membership Secretary at the address shown on the contents page. Welcome to all our new members.

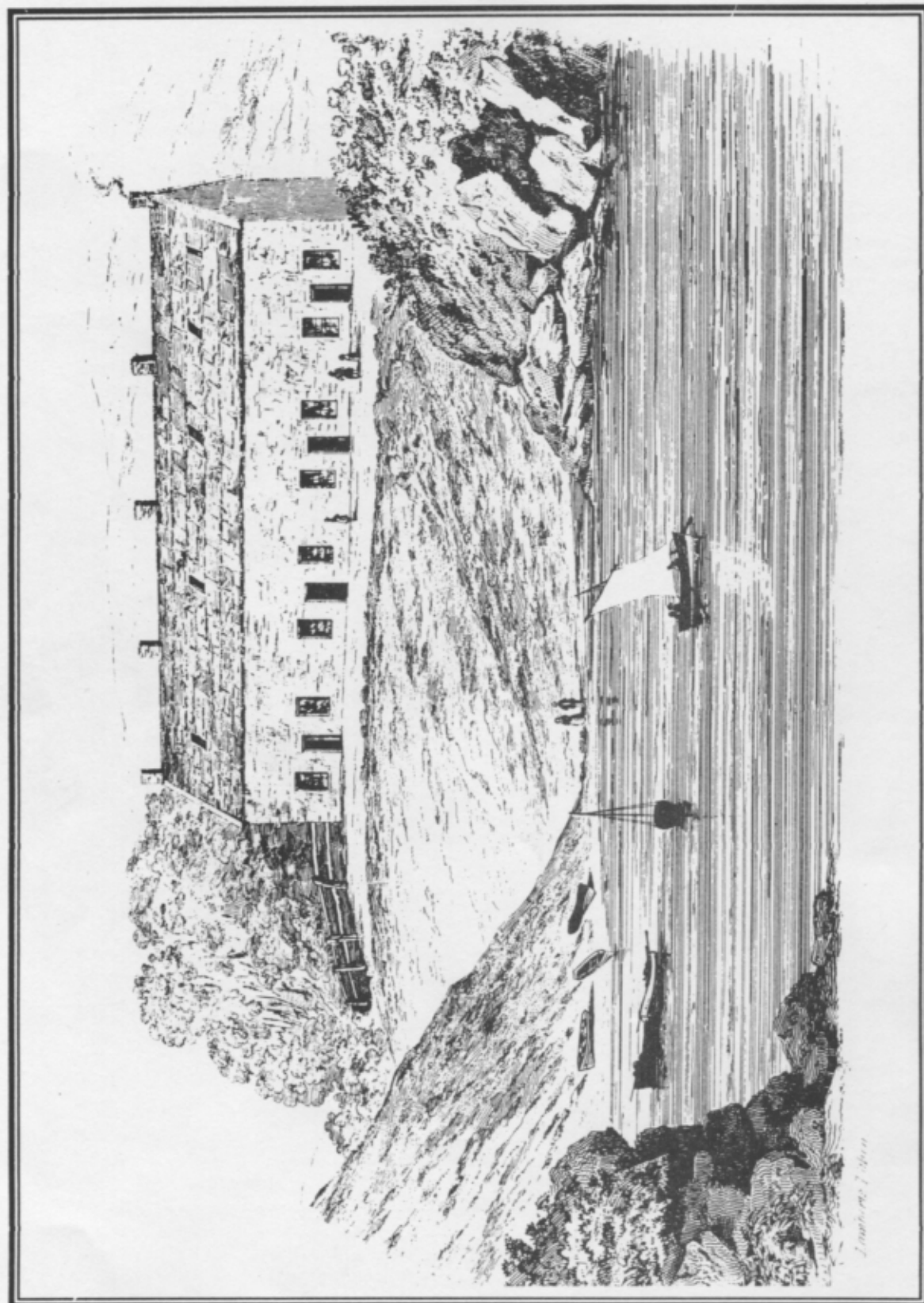
- 0879 DAVID J. ANDERSON, 50 Collywell Bay Road, Seaton Sluice, Tyne and Wear NE26 4RG.
Researching the social history of Seaton Sluice from 1860. Would welcome any information on the following families: Ochiltree, Dryden, Crisp, Taylor, Reay, Major, Pearson and Oxen.
- 1235 Mrs. P.A. THURSTON, 6 Hestercombe Road, Headley Park, Bristol BS13 7PR.
Christopher S. Wetherell of West Hartlepool, Chief Engineer of the steamship '**Luneburg**', was summoned to the Town Hall, Great Yarmouth on 11th August 1893 to attend an enquiry into the loss of the sailing ship '*Mary Ann*' of Yarmouth after she had been in collision with the '**Luneburg**'. Does anybody have any information regarding this accident, or can they offer advice on how to obtain more detail?
- 1634 Mr. F.G. HOLMES, 12 Hadex Lane, Hest Bank, Lancaster LA2 6EZ.
Seeks any information about: Bowser of Staindrop area; Harle of Hexham/Slaley; Heron of Upper Weardale; Holmes of Scruton/Ainderby Steeple, North Yorkshire; Longstaff of South Church/Gainford/Ingleton and Soulby/Kirby Stephen in Westmorland. All of 16th-17th centuries.
- 2267 Mr. EDWARD S. ROBSON, 11905 Marnelan Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23233, U.S.A.
Seeking descendants of Charles Wentworth Robson, son of John and Ellen (Helen) Robson, baptised South Shields 1838. He married Ellen Scott at St. Hilda's, South Shields 1858 and they had children: Mary (1859), Ann (1861), Jane Isabella (1864), Ellen (1867/8), Isabella (1869/70) and John (1873); all born South Shields. Ann married Robert Alexander at St. Hilda's and Jane Isabella married James Norman.
According to *Pedigrees of the County Palatine of Durham*, edited by Joseph Foster in 1887, arms were granted to William Robson of West Morton, Co. Durham in 1615. Where is West Morton? Can anyone help with more information about William Robson?

- 3195 JOHN ROCHESTER, 6 Kingsdown Mount, Wollaton, Nottingham NG8 2RQ.
Seeking the births of William Rochester of Stanhope c.1750; Henry Rogerson c.1831, son of Thomas Rogerson of Tynemouth; George Huntley c.1831, possibly of the Tunstall area of Sunderland or South Hetton. Also the marriage of Alexander Carr and Margaret Bowden c.1820-30, possibly at Howdon Pans, North Shields or Byker. Any help with these names would be appreciated.
- 3476 Mr. K.M. GARRETT, 70 Hambleton Crescent, Marske-by-the-Sea, Redcar, Cleveland TS 11 7JB.
Seeking details of John Hardwick who married Elizabeth Ann Masterman in Leeds area c.1870's. Also Garrett family in the Whitby area 1850 onwards.
- 3477 Mrs. R.G. GARRETT, 70 Hambleton Crescent, Marske-by-the-Sea, Redcar, Cleveland TS 11 7JB.
Seeks information of the parents of John Rain and Suzanna Hall who married at Stanhope in 1778, and William Rain and Elizabeth Myers who married at Stanhope in 1714. Also anything regarding Thomas Moses born Staindrop 1740 and married an Elizabeth, who? when? Any details of Gawen Coulson born Chollerton whose daughter Eleanor married William Raine at St. John's Newcastle in 1849. Any information welcome on the Golightly family of Weardale and the Stark family of Darlington, both during the 19th Century.
- 3604 G. DAGLISH, 95 Hilda Park, Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham DH2 2JS.
Details of any of the following would be appreciated: Joseph Daglish married Ellen (?) c.1820; Nicholas their son living in Gateshead 1841 and Pilgrim Street Newcastle in 1861, but where was he in 1851 and who was his last wife Ann? Joseph, son of Nicholas and Ann born Gateshead c.1846 and married Newcastle c.1864. Had he any offspring? First marriage of Reuben Charles Daglish c.1888 to Jane; he was born Bedlington/Cambois. Ralph Daglish born Gateshead c.1851, son of Thomas (brother of Nicholas) and Ann.
- 3647 Mrs. JOAN MANDEVILLE-DELL, 2 Springfield Park, Barrister, Camborne, Cornwall TR14 0QZ.
Seeking marriage date and name of spouse of Richard Mandeville Hopper, b. Newcastle 1800, baptised at St. Nicholas, Newcastle. Also the birth of their son Richard Mandeville Hopper c.1832/3, and any siblings. Any information on the forbears of Richard Mandeville who married Jane Watson at St. Nicholas Jan 1764.
- 4269 Mrs. SALLY RITCHIE, 39 Grosvenor Road, Caversham, Reading RG4 0EN.
Can anyone help! Sarah Longbottom was baptised at Darlington, St. Cuthbert in 1808, 1st daughter of David Longbottom, woolcomber of Halifax., by his wife Ann Yarker. The family can easily be traced forward as they are the only family in the registers. The problem is, the only marriage is in 1808 between David Longbottom, woolcomber, and Ann Calvert. There is a baptism for Ann Yarker but not Calvert.
- 4272 JAMES FAIRWEATHER HUTCHEON, 4 Rural Way, London SW16 6PF.
Any information please about James Hutcheon, farmer, present at the wedding of his son Alexander, a shipwright, to Margaret Todd in March 1859 at Newcastle Registry Office. Address of bride and groom shown as Byker, Newcastle.
- 4291 LARRAINE WILLIAMS, 12a Julian Place, New Plymouth, New Zealand.
Can anyone help with the whereabouts of an index of actors and entertainers in England. Also, information wanted regarding Gerrard McKenna, supposedly a champion boxer or wrestler in Northern England in the early 1900's.
- 4344 Mrs. O.M. DICKINSON, 72 Raumanga Heights Drive, Whangarei, New Zealand.
Still hoping to prove links with Margaret Fleck, sister of navigator Capt. James Cook (see summer 1991 Journal) and would like to hear from any Flecks in the area. (1) James Fleck, born 1831, was son of another James Fleck, shipwright. Margaret Fleck/Cook's son Thomas had a son James born 1811 who may be Mrs. Dickinson's ancestor. Several documents seen, but no proof yet. (2) Wishes to contact Michael Thornton, born India where his mother Margaret Fleck went in 1936. Does anyone know of him? (3) Information sought on William Green (1859-1925), ship's carpenter who worked on *Mauretania* and lived Grey Street, Newcastle. Also his wife born Elizabeth Jane Tweddle (1865-1950) who was previously a Mrs. Heers but no trace of the Heers marriage.
- 4421 Mrs. M.L. GENT, 6 Trust Cottages, Ringshall, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire BP41NF.
Researching the Tarn family of Middleton-in-Teesdale and the surrounding districts. Any information would be welcome.
- 4446 Mrs. E.B.G. ALLISON, High Tor, Grey Road, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 4BT.
Seeking information about the birth and parents of Peter Allison, miller at Ilderton, Warkworth and Shilbottle, who died at Shilbottle in 1807 aged 52. He seems to have married twice: 1) to Anne Fenwick, Ilderton 1790, and 2) to Isabella Green in 1798, also at Ilderton. He had eight children, four by each wife, the eldest being baptised at Branton Presbyterian, and the three youngest at the Sion Meeting House in Alnwick. Would also like any information about his descendants.
- 4489 Mrs. JOAN LAYBOURN, 74 Tyne Gardens, Crookhill, Ryton, Tyne and Wear NE40 3DR.
Interested in a Hutton family. Wilfred Hutton was born 1836 at Harrington and married Isobel who was born South Hetton in 1837. John William Hutton was born at Shotton in 1859 and married, possibly in 1888, to Margaret Jordon, born West Sleekburn 1863. Any information about the above families would be welcome.
- 4531 Mrs. B. HARVIE, 212 Hebden Avenue, Keld Park, Carlisle, Cumbria CA2 6TU.
Interested in the families of Phillips (Newcastle), Ward (Newcastle), Wilkins (Gateshead, traced back to Birmingham) and Milburn (Newcastle). All in the early 19th century.

- 4537 Mrs K. ANGELL**, 6 Hallfields Lane, Rothley, Leicester.
Interests include the families of the following: James **Armstrong** (Morpeth/Newcastle), Jane **Brabant** (Benwell/Newcastle), Thomas **Davison** and Harriot **Gallon** (Newcastle/Gateshead), Robert **Hipson**, Margaret **Middleton** and John **Chipchase** (South Shields/Newcastle), William Mabel **Lamb** (Newcastle/Lanchester), Michael **Atkinson** (Winlaton), Mary **Porthouse** (Carlisle/South Shields), and William **Franks** (Gateshead).
- 4546 Mrs. CORRIS P. SHARRATT**, Waldrige Fell Guest House, Waldrige, Chester-le-Street, County Durham DH2 3RY.
Seeking information on Vesta **Stubley** born 1896 Hebburn, parents George **Stubley** and Mary Elizabeth **Firth**. She married Joseph **Sharratt** in 1916 at Wallsend and they had two sons Joseph and George, now both deceased. Vesta died in 1936 before her grandson was born. A sister went to Canada, probably in the 1930's and their mother Mary followed later. Can anyone help with information on the sister or descendants?
- 4549 H.J. MENNIE**, 28 Knaves Hill, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 7UD.
Local families of interest include: **Mennie** and **Napier** of South Tyneside (19th/20th C.), **Dowling** and **Pollock** of South Shields (19th C.), **Forrest** (Northumberland early 19th C.), **Urwin** (Tanfield/Longbenton/South Shields 19th C.), **Mason** (Newcastle/Longbenton/Sunderland 18th/19th C.), **Johnson** of Wallsend (early 19th C.), **Beaumont** of Newbottle (19th C.), **Grozier** and **Hull** of Chester-le-Street (19th C.). Also **Lookup** (Northumberland 18th C.), **Best** (County Durham 18th C.) and **Carruthers** (Sunderland in the 19th C.).
- 4577 JOAN CARR**, 225 Wagner Street, Gravenhurst, Ontario P1P 1C3, Canada.
Any information on, or descendants of, William Francis **Carr**, druggist/chemist, who married Jane **Nicholson** and had three known children born in the Westgate District of Newcastle, namely Mary Elizabeth (1855), George B. (1857) and Alice Ann B. (1859).
- 4581 SHIRLEY MAY**, PO Box 1210, Geraldton, Western Australia 6530, Australia.
Would welcome any information regarding the Northern Cycle Battalion Territorials in the early 20th C. James Edward **Johnson** was a member before emigrating to Australia in 1911. Also researching the **Robson** side of the family, some of whom were born at Oakwellgate, Gateshead. George **Robson**, brewer born c.1800, married Elizabeth **Slight**, born Nenthorn, Berwickshire in 1802. Unable to find their marriage, or George's birth. Two children, Robert (1835) and Benjamin **Slight** (1843) were born at Oakwellgate, but unable to find Elizabeth (1836) and George. Any help or suggestions would be welcome.
- 4611 JOHN C. HEDDERLY**, Eikenlaan 9, 1861 GV Bergen, Netherlands.
Seeking the parents/baptism of William, Henry and Ann **Hedderly**, believed to be siblings. William was born c.1814 and married at Heworth in 1833. Henry was married in 1842, and Ann in 1853, both at Newcastle. Any non-IGI information on Tyneside Hedderlys gratefully received and acknowledged, and information freely given from registered one name study.
- 4677 Mrs M.C. COLEMAN**, 18 Suffolk Road, Royston, Hertfordshire SG8 9EX.
Would appreciate help in tracing the origins of George **Cruddas** (died Newcastle 1879), whose second son William Donaldson **Cruddas** was M.P. for Newcastle 1895 to 1900. Also researching the **Swale** family of Yorkshire.
- 4680 BOB PICKERING**, 'Whitehave', Upper Weare, Axbridge, Somerset BS26 2LA.
Would appreciate any help in tracing the families of John **Leighton** and Mary nee **Watson** who lived at Byker, Newcastle 1851-71. Mary's father was Thomas **Watson** of Blackgate, County Durham and her mother was from Scotland. John's father was Ralph **Orren** **Leighton**, born Gateshead 1805. **Orren** and **McDougle** are used as middle names down several generations but have yet to locate the origins. Would also like to prove a connection between Robert **Leighton**, b.1767 Chester-le-Street, m.1795 to Ann **Heaton** and Robert **Leighton**/Ann **Ainsley**.
- 4689 SALLY BYRNE**, 54 Bellevue Road, Ealing, London W13 8DE.
Any information on the following families would be appreciated: 1) **Kennedy** of Kirknewton, 2) **Punton** of Crookham Westfield, 3) **Mills** of Carham, and, 4) **Rutherford** of Kirknewton. The families were all agricultural workers so probably moved around the Glendale area.
- 4709 HILARY MURRAY**, 31 Crusader Road, Hedge End, Southampton SO3 4PD.
Seeking information on Michael **Murray**, pitman born Roscommon, Ireland c.1825. He married Catherine **Whalen** in Staffordshire in 1853 and moved to County Durham after 1861. He had connections with the Miners Union. Their son John married Mary **Collins** at Ushaw Moor in 1879. Also researching **FitzPatrick** and **Ranson**.
- 4741 Mrs. DOROTHY BLENKINSOPP**, 1 Hertfordshire Court, Wharnecliffe Road, Highcliffe, Dorset BH23 5DG.
Would appreciate any information regarding **Blenkinsopp** of Wingate and Houghton-le-Spring prior to 1863. Also **Holland** of Gateshead before 1837, in particular Thomas and Margaret, of Irish birth but married in North East England.
- 4774 Mr. J. SHAW**, 24 Bridge Street, Tutbury, Burton on Trent DE13 9LZ.
Any information on the following would be welcome: 1) John **Gillatt**, scythe maker of Wolsingham, born 1797 and his son William b.1837, d.1915, a farmer and contractor of Old Pit, Witton Park. 2) Thomas **Shaw**, a Chelsea Pensioner and coal miner, b.1788 at Esh, d.1854 at Brandon. 3) John **Hall** died about 1826 Wolsingham, an iron moulder at Witton Park. 4) John **Simpson**, a coal miner at Evenwood, born 1843 at Bishop Auckland.
- 4775 Mrs. KAREN HANN**, 4 Hill Croft, Thornton, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD13 3QR.
Researching **Soulsby** of Longbenton, Bedlington and Blyth 18/19th century, particularly the baptism of Thomas **Soulsby** who married Ann **Craister**, Bedlington 1784. His parish was given as Longbenton but despite checks in the parish registers and the IGI, his baptism can not be found. Any help would be appreciated on this or any **Soulsby** information.

- 4777 Dr. MICHAEL J. WATTS, 423 Warrington Road, Culcheth, Warrington WA3 5SW.
Seeking marriage of John Curry born 1790 Dalsersf Lanarkshire, died 1867 at South Shields, a shipwright) and Mary Horsbrugh (born 1785 Jedburgh Roxburghshire, died 1865 at South Shields. Their children were born 1811 to 1827 in South Shields. Also John Guthrie, brush maker, born Scotland c.1815 according to 1871 Census for Back Forth Terrace, Newcastle. He was son of John Guthrie, brush maker according to marriage entry with Matilda Shepherd 1839 at St. Mary's Gateshead. Known family: Peter, brush maker born 1843 Newcastle and Michael, fish curer, DoB unknown. Would be interested in hearing from anyone who may need research doing in Lancashire/Cheshire who could do some reciprocal research on the Guthrie line.
- 4780 ALAN PRIDGEON, 27 Longdon Avenue, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP21 9UW.
Any information regarding the following families would be welcome: 1) James Todd b.1850 South Shields. 2) Elizabeth ~~Anna Denmore~~ b.1852 ~~Crampton, Scotland but later moved to South Shields.~~ 3) ~~John Smith, blacksmith born c.1875 in South Shields, or possibly Newcastle or Sunderland.~~
- 4784 Mr. J.R. KERSS, 7 East Priors Court, Lings, Northampton NN3 4LB.
Researching Kerss on Tyneside. Family so far traced back to 1790's, all on Tyneside but interested in tracing other lines. Missing marriage c.1845 of Henry Kerss and Catherine Oldham; possibly Gateshead Presbyterian. Have traced some Kerss of Roxburgh/Kelso area and seeking connection with Newcastle. Interested in Logan prior to marriage between Grace Logan and John Kerss in 1821. Have collected all Kerss references collected with view to one-name study.
- 4787 Mrs. J.E. STADLER, 2 Parkhouse Green Cottages, Bookhurst Road, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 7DN.
Can anyone help in tracing the marriage between Frederick Berry and Sarah Swallow, probably in the ten years prior to 1904. Known address at the time of the birth of one of their four children (Frederick George Berry in 1904) was 14 Salisbury Street, South Shields. They moved to Bradford around 1906/7. Any information about either would be appreciated - or concerning the other children of the marriage.
- 4789 Mrs. H. CATCHERSIDE, 8 Askrigg, Grangetown, Sunderland SR2 9SG.
Looking for information on Catcherside/Catcheside in the Sunderland area. Also seeking help with Peter Mann who married Mary Mackenzie in Banff, Scotland in 1844. First known child was John George Mann born 1854 at **Monkwearmouth. He married Catherine Foy who was headmistress of Jarrow Catholic Infant School 1878-81. Any information on McIntyre in Hebbum would also be appreciated. James McIntyre had three sons, John, Andrew and Henry.**
- 4794 Mr. DEREK J. BOYS, 97 Lyndale Avenue, Edenthorpe, Doncaster DN3 2LB.
Would appreciate information on the birth, parentage and siblings of Thomas Boys who married Emma Margaret Cook at Monkwearmouth in 1842, both being 'of full age' and of Monkwearmouth. Thomas' father was also Thomas Boys, a tailor. Thomas and Emma had at least one son, James Andrew Boys.
- 4801 Mrs. MARTHA M. STITT, 1986 Wexford Circle, Wheaton, IL 60187, U.S.A.
Researching the family of Thomas N. (or P.) Mordue, born c.1825 Bellingham, son of Robert and Kate Newton Mordue. His occupation was a coal miner and he emigrated to the U.S.A. in 1855. Any information welcome.
- 4819 PHIL WILLCOCK, 47a Halesworth Road, Lewisham, London SE13 7TJ.
Researching Willcock/Woolcock families in the Killingworth and Cramlington area from the 1870's to the present day. They originally moved from Calstock parish in Cornwall. Also Willcock/Woolcock in from Calstock, 17th to 20th century. Any information would be welcome.
- 4820 ROB WILSON, 6 Keble Close, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1UN.
Seeking information on Archibald Wilson, born 7th March 1825 in Berwick upon Tweed, and his ancestors. This information is from a family bible which indicated that Archibald emigrated to India where he married Mary Anne MacKenzie. It seems likely that Archibald's parents also emigrated because the bible notes the birth of Mary Anne Wilson in 1835 at Bangalore - presumably his sister. The 'Roll of the Names of the Burgess and Widows of Burgess Resident in Town' for Berwick contains dates and names such as '1836 Mar 26 James Wilson (last Meadow 1843)'. Can anyone explain what 'last meadow' means, and the significance of the date.
- 4822 JACK MacDONALD-HILTON, 2226 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton, Ma 02166-1804, U.S.A.
Seeks any information regarding Hylton/de Hylton/Hilton. William Hylton was born Northwich, Cheshire c.1585, his father also William born c.1535 or 1550 in Lancaster or Durham areas. Collecting all information hoping to show origins were in the area of Hylton Castle. William Hilton emigrated to Plymouth, [Mass. in](#) 1621 aboard the *Fortune*.
- 4824 Mr. N. TEMPERLEY, 12 Bethany Court, Village Close, Woodham, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham DL5 4LY.
Interested in the Temperley pedigree, in particular the families of Nicholas Temperley (1715 - 1781), a coalminer of Stubber House Northumberland and his son, also Nicholas (1747 - 1784), a farmer of Brockinbaugh. Was there a connection with the family of George Temperley, who married Jane Redshaw in 1746 at Hunstanworth? Their son Thomas married Mary Askew in 1786.
- 4838 DAVID K. O'HARA, 5 Napier Court, Dean Bank, Ferryhill, County Durham DL17 8PZ.
Interested in the family names of Nunn, Goddard and Slack, particularly around the Shildon/Auckland area in the 18th/19th centuries. Also keen to gather any details of the **Norman and Ridley** names of the **Crook/Sunniside area** in the same period.

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COTTAGES AT CRASTER