

THE JOURNAL OF THE NORTHUMBERLAND & DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Vol. 18 No. 1

Spring 1993

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CONTRIBUTORS

ADDRESSES

Chairman -

Mr G Nicholson, 57 Manor Park, Concord, Washington, Tyne & Wear NE37 2BU.

General Correspondence and Enquiries -

The Secretary, Mr J.A. Ashburner, 10 Melrose Grove, JARROW, Tyne & Wear NE32 4HP.

Accounts and other financial matters -

Mr. P.R.G. Thirkell, 100 Stuart Court, Kingston Park, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE NE3 2SG.

Letters and Articles for the Journal (Other than 'Members Interests') -

The Journal Editor, Mr J.A. Readdie, 38 Archery Rise, Nevilles Cross, DURHAM DH1 4LA.

Members Interests and Queries -

Mr P.R.G. Thirkell, 100 Stuart Court, Kingston Park, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE NE3 2SG.

New Members, Applications for Membership -

Mrs J. Ashburner, 10 Melrose Grove, JARROW, Tyne and Wear NE32 4HP.

Changes of Address and Missing Journals -

Mrs J. Ashburner, 10 Melrose Grove, JARROW, Tyne & Wear NE32 4HP.

Computer Co-ordinator -

Mr R. Hale, 88 Reading Road, SOUTH SHIELDS NE33 4SF.

Requests for Items from the Society Library -

The Librarian, Mrs D. Tait, 26 Beechwood Avenue, Low Fell, GATESHEAD, Tyne & Wear NE9 6PP.

Projects Co-ordinator -

Mr W.E. Butterley, 51 Ashley Road, SOUTH SHIELDS, Tyne & Wear NE34 0PD.

Monumental Inscriptions Co-ordinator -

Mr G. Corbett, 1 St. Leonards Walk, Lancaster Park, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 3SZ.

Strays Co-ordinator -

Mrs M. Furness, 8 Shadfen Park Road, Marden Farm, NORTH SHIELDS, Tyne & Wear NE30 3JD.

Publication Sales and Journal Back Numbers -

Mrs C. Davison, 22 Ferndale Avenue, EAST BOLDON, Tyne & Wear NE36 0TQ.

Monumental Inscription Sales -

Mrs K. Willans, 9 The Ridge Way, Kenton, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE NE3 4LP.

Exchange Journals (other Societies) -

Mrs K. Willans, 9 The Ridge Way, Kenton, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE NE3 4LP.

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

EDITORIAL

Once again, your Editor has to get his sackcloth and ashes out of his wardrobe and apologise on behalf of the Society to a large number of members for the very late arrival, or non-arrival, of the Winter Journal. That edition should have been safely through your letter boxes long before Christmas.

Many people did not receive it until late January and should have received a covering letter with it, from the mailing house we employed, explaining that the error was theirs and not the Society's. An out of date data base was used, with the result that many people whose membership had lapsed in 1991 received Journals. Many of them have rejoined as a result, so every cloud has a silver lining, and we are very pleased to welcome them back. However, those who joined in 1992, and many more besides, did not receive their Journal. The mailing house arranged a complete reprint and re-issue at their own expense so those of you who were fortunate enough to receive the Winter edition on time may well have two copies now and will now understand why they are so doubly lucky! If it is any consolation, your Editor was one of the non-recipients, along with all other members in the city of Durham. There must be a moral here somewhere. Anyway, sorry folks - with hands on hearts, we can say "it wasn't us", and hope that all goes well with this edition and in the future. If anyone has still not received a Winter Journal, despite all our efforts, please contact Jennie Ashburner and she'll send you one. And, no, we do not want you to bother to return the second copy to us!

NOTES AND NEWS

A leaflet was enclosed with the 'missing' Journals about the newly printed Volume 9 of the Northumberland 1851 Census Index series, covering Longbenton, Walker, Killingworth and Weetslade in the Registrar's District of Tynemouth. It contains over 9000 names with ages, occupations, birthplaces and references to the census. It was published both in book form and on microfiche. The book costs £4 post free and the two fiche are £1.50 post free and can be obtained from me at the address shown on the Contents Page. Cheques payable to NDFHS, please.

With this Journal, there should be a leaflet and application form about a One-Day Conference to be held in April in Gosforth. This is a new venture, following the poor response to the Weekend Conference arranged for last September and we hope you will come along if you possibly can.

Since the formation of the Society way back in 1975, we have published a Directory of Members Interests periodically, in which members have been able to list the families they are researching, hoping that there could be an exchange of information with others interested in the same surname. A new project by the Federation of Family History Societies is the 'British Isles Genealogical Register' - BIG R - whereby a 'Directory' will be made available in county sections to which anyone, here or abroad, and whether a member of this or any other Family History Society or not, will be able to contribute. Thus, for example, the Northumberland section will contain Northumberland interests only, but hopefully there will be many people from outside our Society who will want to contribute, as well as our own members. There will be a nominal charge of £1 per application form covering up to 16 surnames. Further details and application forms will be supplied with the next issue of this Journal. In the meantime, please don't write to us about it!

Many members will have seen the 'Family Tree' and 'Where Are You Now?' pages on Independent Television's Teletext (Channel 4, pages 681-683). I have news from Carol and Chris, 'Tree Tops', 15 Farnborough Road, Park South, Swindon SN3 2DR, Wiltshire, who have a record of these pages dating back many months and also many lists from the Adopted Children's Register and an Adoption Contact Register. They are a voluntary group and would appreciate a donation of £1 per surname search to keep the service available.

The Guild of One-Name Studies annual conference is planned for 17/18th April at Crewe. Details from Philip Coops, 4 Lakeside, Betley, Crewe, Cheshire CW3 9AH.

If you have Jewish Ancestors, you may be interested to know of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain. The address is 36 Woodstock Road, Golders Green, London NW11 8ER.

I have been given details of Residential Courses at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth 16/18th April and 7-14th August on Welsh genealogy and a weeks course 'Beginning Your Family History in England and Wales', aimed at the absolute beginner with plenty of freetime for individual or family activities. For details contact Mr. J. Wallace, University of Wales, Aberystwyth, SY23 3BY (telephone 0970 623757).

Yorkshire Archaeological Society, Parish Register Section, Claremont, 23 Clarendon Road, Leeds LS2 9NZ announces that some long out of print Yorkshire parish registers are now available again on microfiche - write to C.S. Preston at the above address for details of the 14 available volumes. Full sets cost £7/£8 including postage.

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

by Gordon Corbett

A tombstone is an enduring monument to a relative raised to mark their passing and to act as a focus for grieving. The presence of a monument is dependant on the personal circumstances and feelings of the people surviving the deceased, and the actual details incised are those determined by the person commissioning the work, based on their recollections and beliefs. It is second hand information biased by emotion and as with all family history records should be read with caution until corroborated.

When you are running out of primary sources, or want to know more about an ancestor, where do you look? Monumental Inscriptions! The local library, churches, Record Office or local history society may hold MI records, but what is available and who do you contact? Perhaps there are no transcriptions.

Since becoming Monumental Inscriptions Co-ordinator, I have been gathering together information on all possible locations of monuments in Northumberland and Durham and am forming a database. The information being gathered is basically the name and address of the place, whether or not monuments have been transcribed and details of the location of the transcriptions. In a lot of cases the Society has a copy of the transcription and from these photocopies can be obtained, for personal use only, at cost from Kath Willans. The format for the recordings is not uniform, may not contain all the inscriptions from the cemetery or may only contain parts of them. If the monumental inscriptions have been transcribed then I will probably know its location.

At the moment, however, I do not know the locations of all inscriptions or transcripts, either because I am not aware of them or they have not been transcribed, so please tell me if you have, or are transcribing independently any monuments. This will benefit others and your work will be recognised. If an accurate and full transcription can be made then a valuable reference document will be produced.

On looking through the transcriptions that are available the most impressive are those that have been prepared by individuals or teams who have adopted a recognised protocol. The basic requirements are that all stones are located, identified and transcribed. An easy job? A pleasant way of spending a morning with friends?

I want to form a team of volunteers from throughout the two counties. Some people willing to visit churches within their area to gather basic information, others who want to transcribe tombstones and others who want to correlate and index the information in the comfort of their homes. If you can help, please contact either your Local Group Secretary or me directly. When I have a team we will need current details of those churches and graveyards that have not been transcribed, and your help is again required. Local knowledge is invaluable, so tell your Local Group Secretary or me of any that you think need recording and I shall make the necessary arrangements.

For those who are keen and want to get involved, I will be basing the transcribing on "Rayment's Notes on Recording Monumental Inscriptions" which is published by the Federation of Family History Societies.

There is an urgent need for a record to be made of all tombstones and monuments. They are, through erosion, time and vandalism, both official and malicious, being removed from us as a source of contact with the Past. Your help is needed to record them for the Present and Future.

Your Group Secretary's address is to be found inside the back cover of the Journal, or can be contacted at the meetings.

Editor's Note: Gordon Corbett's address is 1 St. Leonard's Walk, Lancaster Park, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 3SZ, or telephone: 0670 517160.

TWO WHO DIED FAR AWAY

"On 27th January 1854 to the inexpressible grief of a devoted mother, while on his voyage to Buenos Aires, wrecked on the Cletus Bank on the River Plate, Mr. Luke Jobson chief officer on board the barque *Hermes* of Liverpool eldest son of the late Captain Jobson, Belevue Street, Swansea and formerly of Spittal."

(From 'Deaths' column of *Berwick Advertiser*, May 22nd 1854)

"At Melbourne, Victoria, Australia drowned on the night of 1st April last by the upsetting of a boat whilst in the execution of his duty as a pilot and attempting to land the crew and passengers of the brig *Colombine*, wrecked outside the Heads, Captain Matthew Davidson late of Spittal, Berwick on Tweed. Deceased left a widow and 5 children to deplore his loss."

(From 'Deaths' column of *Berwick Advertiser*, July 2nd 1854)

MORE FIRST WORLD WAR MISCELLANY

In the article in the last Journal entitled "A First World War Miscellany", the author mentioned the use of Absent Voters Lists as a means of obtaining service numbers, regiments etc. of men who served in World War I. Northumberland Record Office have kindly supplied details of the lists they hold - the Parliamentary Constituencies of Hexham, Berwick and Wansbeck. These cover the years 1918 to 1939 but of most interest to family historians will be those for 1918, 1919 and 1920 which give name, address, rank and regiment of the absent voter and there are also handwritten details of changes e.g. "missing". All three constituencies were extensive in area and cover virtually the whole of Northumberland except Newcastle and the extreme south east of the country.

The previous article noted that the Absent Voters Lists in Darlington Library merely indicated that a man was a service voter but gave no details of rank etc. Mr. Graham Stewart of Darlington has pointed out that lists giving full service details are held by Voters Registration Department, Town Hall, Darlington. Also, Hartlepool Library have copies relating to their area, whilst Durham County Record Office holds microfilms of the 1918 lists for the "county" areas i.e. excluding the Boroughs.

Members with World War I relatives may like to know of the existence of the Western Front Association, formed in 1980 'to further interest in the period 1914-18'. Members of all ages are welcomed, a Journal called 'Stand To!' is published three times a year and there is also a thrice yearly bulletin. Bi-monthly meetings are held in London and there are also local groups. As well as battlefield tours, a weekend seminar and a 'Trench Map Service', our members will be interested to learn that the W.F.A. has a Historical Information Officer to respond to members queries and provide advice and guidance to those doing personal research. UK subscription for 1991/92 was £14 and the Membership Secretary is Paul Cobb, 50 Wealden Way, Tilehurst, Berkshire RG3 6DA.

Our members Colin and Ken Wanless have transcribed an 'Index of Officers and other Ranks who Served Overseas with the 19th (Service) Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers (Pioneers) 28 January 1918-28 April 1919 and those who were on the strength of the Battalion November 1918'. A copy has kindly been donated to our Library. This list gives service number, name, rank and further details such as "D 20.2.19" or "Killed in Action 27.7.16 Buried in Carnoy Cemetery, Somme." The list has been extracted from a volume which was not mentioned in the previous article - *Historical Records of the 19th (Service) Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers (2nd Tyneside Pioneers)* by Captain C.H. Cooke (Newcastle 1920). This volume also includes over 40 pages of abridged War Diaries covering the period 28 January 1916 when the Battalion left Southampton for France, until April 1919 when it was dispersed at Ripon.

Also omitted from the list in the last Journal is another work by Captain C.H. Cooke entitled *Historical Records of the 16th Service Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers* (1923). This book includes over 50 pages giving the Embarkation Roll of November 1915, a Roll of Officers and Men at the Battle of Thiepval 1 July 1916, and a Roll of Honour listing the many who died.

FAMILY BIBLES

Family Bibles, frequently containing lists of births, marriages and deaths from the late 18th or early 19th centuries, can often be picked up cheaply and can be invaluable to researchers. Members who have such Bibles are invited to send brief details for publication here - but only those which have a Northumberland or Durham connection.

An American member has sent photocopies of two pages containing details of a DODD family in Weardale, with entries from 1829 to 1974. Some thirty members of the family are mentioned. The pages are now in our Library and details can be obtained from the Librarian.

Mr. J. Moon, 23 Ravenstone, Albany, Washington (tel: 091-416 8588) has details of an ASPINALL Bible, starting with William Aspinall, son of Laurence and Mary, born 21st October 1840.

Details of a MILLS family (from 1849 to 1887) and a PLUMPTON family in the late 19th and early 20th centuries are in a Bible owned by Mr. C.R. Riddell, 98 Mount Road, High Barnes, Sunderland SR4 7NN (tel: 091-528 4113), who says that the Plumptions owned a greengrocery business in Monkwearmouth up to and after World War II.

Mr. R. Pruddah, Hazel Cottage, Burley Lane, Overton, Hampshire RG25 3AG has a PRUDDAH Bible dating back to William, of Fellside, Hexham who married Ann Dodd who was born in 1714.

THE AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS OF NORTHUMBERLAND

by P. Thirkell

Most of us must have ancestors described as 'Ag Lab.' The following contemporary description of agricultural labourers in Northumberland was written by MacKenzie in his *History of Northumberland*, published in two volumes in 1825.

"... The Agricultural Labourers of Northumberland are a hardy race of men, capable of bearing considerable fatigue, and retain all that resolution in enterprize [sic] which distinguished their ancestors. They are, generally, of a tolerable height, well formed, and remarkably stout; so much so, that it has been frequently remarked, that the Northumberland militia covered more ground, in proportion to its number, than any other regiment in his majesty's service.

The Northumberland cottagers are particularly cleanly in their habits, and their dress is always plain and decent. The shoes, or clogs, which they wear on working days, have wooden bottoms, and are found extremely conducive to health, as the wood resists dampness, and keeps the feet in their natural heat, by which the labourer can remain with impunity a whole day in clayey and wet ground. They are usually better informed than those of the same class in the southern parts of the kingdom. Parents consider it as an indispensable [sic] duty to have their children taught the rudiments of education, and to neglect it incurs a considerable portion of disgrace. As to skill and activity in agricultural operations, they are incomparably superior to the people that inhabit the fertile counties in the south.

It has been justly remarked, that in several of the provinces of France, and some northern parts of Europe, where there is a scarcity of fuel, the effects of the coal compel whole families in winter to retire to their beds: there they remain in a state of torpor, unable to labour, and consume, in a few days, all their little earnings. In this highly-favoured district, the peasant, placed beside an enlivening fire, repairs his implements of husbandry, while his wife is employed in preparing a warm supper; and his daughters, from eight years old and upwards, in spinning, knitting, sewing, &c.: or frequently the happy group, accompanied by a few neighbours, devote an hour to play, while the tempest blows by unheeded.

The common diet, in most parts of Northumberland, is homely, but wholesome fare. In the northern and western districts, bread is made of barley, or barley mixed with grey pease or beans. Previous to grinding, they are mixed in the proportion of two parts of barley, and one of pease or beans. After being ground, the meal is sifted through a sieve, made of wood, to take out the rough husks and coarse bran; it is then kneaded with water, made into thin unleavened cakes, and immediately baked on a girdle. In these parts oatmeal also constitutes a principal article of food with the peasantry, not as bread, but in crowdies and hasty-pudding (provincially meal-kail) for breakfast, and sometimes for supper, eaten with butter, or more commonly with milk: the latter is an agreeable, nutritive, and healthy food. In the southern parts of the county, a few years ago, the most general bread of the labouring poor was rye, which, being leavened until it gained a considerable degree of acidity, was made into loaves and baked in a large brick oven, or made into thin cakes, one and a half or two inches thick, called "sour-cakes", and baked on the girdle. This bread was very firm and solid, dark coloured, and retained its moisture longer than any other kind. Wheat-flour, coarsely dressed, is now substituted for rye. Others use bread made of maslin (wheat and rye mixed), which many think superior to wheat alone.

The dinner of farmers' servants consists mostly of milk, curds, and whey, eaten cold with bread, to which butter, and skimmed milk cheese, are often added, as also a dish of hot potatoes. On pot-days, of which Sunday is always one, flesh, broth, dumplings, and a profusion of vegetables, form a family feast. Potatoes, eaten with a little salt and milk, are now the common supper of the labouring people; but it is to be hoped that this root, so pregnant with physical, moral, and political evils, will never become the principal food of Northumbrians. As an auxiliary part of food, it is harmless and useful.

Tea now almost universally forms the breakfast of mechanics in the country villages, and even of the wives of farmers' servants: but this change of diet proceeds rather from the difficulty of procuring milk than from choice. It is to be hoped that this expensive, washy, and sickly diet, will soon be substituted by one more solid and healthy. The pernicious practice of dram-drinking is almost totally abandoned; but our villagers are fond of malt liquor, which, in general, is very bad and unwholesome. Were the husbandman encouraged to brew his own ale, a great improvement would follow in the circumstances and happiness of his family. In the western parts of the county, and in those districts that are remote from market towns, or large villages, the regular course of industry is but seldom interrupted by acts of intemperance.

In many particulars the manners and customs of the Northumbrian peasantry, and their immediate neighbours, differ from those which distinguish the inhabitants of the southern counties. A few of the most remarkable deserve notice.

At the hirings for farmers' servants, which take place half-yearly, those who offer their services stand in a body in the market-place, each sex forming a district company; and in order to distinguish themselves, the young men fix a green branch to their hats, and the maids hold a small green twig or flower in their hands. It is frequently amusing to hear the plough-boys, who are dependent on their own resources, questioning the farmers respecting the duties expected, and determinedly opposing all attempts at undervaluing their labours.

The market being over, the fiddlers take their seats close to the window in public houses, the girls begin to file off and gently pace the streets, with a view of gaining admirers; while the young men, with equally innocent designs, follow after, and having eyed the lasses, pick up each a sweetheart, whom they conduct to a dancing-room, and treat with punch, ale, or hot ale mixed with brandy. Thus they spend the afternoon, and part of their half-year's wages, in dancing and drinking. Even the most moderate make it a rule to spend, on this occasion, what they received as arles, which usually amounts to two shillings and sixpence or five shillings. At this time, also, the honest and warmly affectionate maid endeavours to fall in the way of a lad with whom she had formerly toiled and played, but whom envious fortune had removed to a distant part. When the old partners meet, the hearty squeeze and shake of the hand, the kind glance, the slap on the shoulder, and the numerous interrogations that follow, evince the pleasures of the meeting.

The lively and accurate description which that interesting writer, Mr. Housman, had given of the customs observed at the Cumberland fairs, is, in general, applicable to those of Northumberland. "At fairs", says he "as well as hirings, it is customary for all the young people in the neighbourhood to assemble and dance at the inns and ale-houses. The fair ones continue walking backwards and forwards in the streets, till an admirer begs the favour of their company to a dancing room, there to take a dance, a glass, and a cake: this request is of course complied with; and, after half an hours dancing, they return to the streets again, and each party seeks a new adventure. This conduct, though it may seem rather light, particularly among the females, has nothing of criminality about it; it is a custom to which they have long habituated, and its effects are tantamount to those of balls, assemblies, &c. among the higher orders of life. In their dances, which are jigs and reels, they attend to exertion and agility more than ease and grace: minuets and country dances constitute no part of the amusements of those rural assemblies. Indeed, these dancing parties often exhibit scenes very indelicate, and unpleasant to the peaceable spectator. No order is observed, and the anxiety for dancing is great; one couple can only dance their jig at the same time, and perhaps half a dozen couples stand on the floor waiting for their turns; the young men, busied in paying addresses to their partners, and probably half intoxicated, forget who ought to dance next; a dispute arises; the fiddler offers his mediation in vain; nay, the interference of an angel would have been spurned at: blood and fury! it must be decided by a fight, which immediately ensues. During these combats the whole assembly is in an uproar; the weaker part of the company, as well as the minstrels, get upon the benches, or stand up in corners, while the rest support the combatants, and deal blows pretty freely among each other; even the ladies will not infrequently fight like Amazons in support of their brothers, sweethearts, or friends. At length the fight is over, and the bloody-nosed pugilists, and unfeathered nymphs, retire to wash, and re-adjust their tattered garments: fresh company comes in - all is again quiet, and the dance goes on as before; while the former guests disperse into different public-houses, and the rencounter, which generally commences without any previous malice, is rarely again remembered." We, however, have the satisfaction to observe, that these frays are not near so frequent in this county as formerly, and that a forward combatant has, in a great measure, ceased to command or approval of our rustic maids, to acquire which was always the latent cause of those quarrels.

At these country dances practices prevail which would shock the delicacy of more refined society. The youth usually sits with his arm around his girl's waist; and if the room be much crowded, the young women not infrequently sit upon the knees of their partners. Towards the close of the entertainment, the fiddler, at the end of every dance, gives a shrill shriek with his instrument, which is understood to say, "kiss her"; the eager youth obeys the well-known signal, and flying into the arms of his seemingly reluctant partner, salutes her with a hearty and audible kiss. Were a youth to neglect the performance of this established ceremony, his mistress would consider herself affronted, and he would be generally condemned for his want of gallantry.

The Northumbrians are, indeed, distinguished for their fondness of dancing. A number of itinerant musicians, like some of the ancient minstrels, are continually traversing the county. At the time of sheep-shearing, the joyous shepherd presents his musical visitant with a quantity of wool; at seed-time the farmer presents him with a bowl of corn; and at all times the piper or fiddler is a welcome guest, and receives the most hospitable entertainment. When the fiddler strikes up in a farm-house, the barman drops his flail; the weary hind lays aside his clogs; the neighbouring cottagers hasten to the scene of merriment, and all join in the sportive dance. When the wandering musician remains during the night, he closes his performance with the recitation of some tragical ballad, or popular story, which, though told a thousand times, is still attend to with undiminished satisfaction.

Our Northumbrian rustics frequently contrive to render their amusements subservient to the purposes of benevolence. On the approach to winter, a few young men unite their influence, and convene a merry-meeting, in the name and for the benefit of some poor honest neighbour in distress. The summons is gladly obeyed; each pays a shilling, which frequently form a considerable sum, as many pay who do not, or cannot attend. The ale and bread and cheese is paid for by a small contribution among the young men of the company.

In the rude and turbulent times of our forefathers, many practices were wisely instituted, for the purpose of gathering neighbours together, and promoting good humour, friendship, and benevolence. Several traits of this ancient hospitality still remain in this county. The villagers usually observe a certain day, on which they hold their village feast. Every family invite their own friends and acquaintances, who live in the neighbouring parts, and entertain them with good cheer. Music, dancing, cards, and drinking, are the amusements of the day. If any stranger happens to pass this scene of mirth and jollity, he is sure to be entertained with the greatest kindness and hospitality.

In the courtships of the peasantry there is something singular, which, although certainly imprudent, is not attended with those criminal effects which, it might be apprehended, would be the natural consequence. The practice is exactly similar to that retained by the Cumbrians, which is described by the writer before quoted.

Connections are often formed early in life, which the numerous dancing parties, not only at fairs, but at most of the village ale-houses several times a year, and the connivance of parents, afford easy opportunities of doing. At these places of rural amusement, it is usual for almost every lad to select his lass. "After the acquaintance has commenced, the youth visits his sweetheart at her own home. These visits are most commonly made on the Saturday evenings, that the next day's work may not be incommoded. After the family are gone to bed, the fire darkened, and the candle extinguished, he cautiously enters the house. In this murky situation they remain for a few hours, adjusting their love concerns, and conversing on the common topics of the day, till the increasing cold of a winter's night, or the light of a summer's morning, announces the time of separation. With these proceedings the parents or masters of the lovers are well enough acquainted, but generally connive at them: they have no notion of denying those under their care that indulgence which they themselves and their ancestors have practised with impunity before them."

When the day of the marriage is fixed, the friends and neighbours of the bride and bridegroom are presented with white gloves, and invited to the wedding. The company having assembled, the bride-cake is broken, and they breakfast together. If the church is at a distance, the weddingers mostly ride, and at the alehouse near the church (which is never wanting, for "Where'er the Lord erects a house of prayer, The Devil always builds a chapel there"), they cheer their spirits with a hearty glass before the performance of the ceremony. An ancient but indecent custom formerly prevailed at the performing of the marriage service; the young men strove who could first unloose, or rather pluck off, the bride's garters, which were borne in triumph round the church. This is probably a fragment of the ancient ceremony of loosening the virgin zone or girdle. It is still usual for the young men present to salute the bride immediately after the ceremony. A party attend at the church-gates, to demand of the bridegroom money for a foot-ball. Having hastily swallowed some more liquor, the whole company remount their nags, and furiously scamper to the bride's house, contending who shall bring the good news, and "win the kail", i.e. a smoking prize of spiced broth; while the villagers are standing on the neighbouring hills to see this singular race, which is often attended with some serious or ludicrous accidents. A knot of white ribbon, called bride-favours, is still worn by the attendants at our weddings. It was anciently used by the Danes, as a symbol of love and faith. The ladies wear white top-knots, emblematical of the ties of duty and affection between the bride and her spouse.

After dinner the music strikes up, and dancing beguiles the hours till the time arrives of performing the last ceremony, of putting the wedded couple to bed, and throwing the stocking. The cushion-dance is thought the proper termination of the entertainment.

At the lying-in, the lady in the straw is visited by all her acquaintances, who are entertained with bread and cheese, and a dram. Slices of the first cut of the groaning-cheese are also given to the young people, to be laid under their pillows, that they may dream of their sweethearts. There is a vulgar tradition of the streets of Newcastle being formerly haunted by a guest (ghost), which appeared in [the] shape of a mastiff-dog, with large saucer eyes. It generally accompanied the midwife when going at night to discharge her office. When they parted at the door, it uttered a loud laugh when the result was to terminate favourably; but, when otherwise, it departed with the most horrid howlings!

It would be thought very unlucky to send away a child first time its nurse has brought it on a visit without giving it an egg, salt, or bread. When a child is carried out to be christened, the midwife, who heads the procession, presents the first person she meets with large slices of bread and cheese. Formerly, the person who received this homely present gave the child, in return, three things, wishing it, at the same time, health and beauty. The christenings are often attended with great expence [sic], but not so much so at present as formerly. It is customary, at these times, for the sponsors to make small presents to the midwife; or, if a doctor has been employed, to the mother of the child. Sometimes, when the parents are poor, a collection is made by the guests, sufficient to defray the expences [sic] of the feast.

When a person is dying, the neighbours are called in during the expiring moments, and continue to assist the family in laying out, or streaking the corpse, which is placed on a bed, hung round and covered with the best linen the house affords. It is also customary to set a pewter plate, containing a little salt, upon the breast of the deceased, and also a candle in some particular place. Salt was an emblem of immortality among most nations, and a candle was an Egyptian hieroglyphic for life, and was probably meant to express the ardent desire of having the life of the deceased prolonged. The looking-glass is covered and the fire extinguished where a corpse is kept; and it is reckoned so ominous for a dog or cat to pass over it, that the poor animal is killed without mercy. The coffin is left unscrewed till the time of burial, which is the remains of a custom of the Anglo-Saxons, who left the head and shoulders of the corpse uncovered, that relations, &c. might take a last view of their deceased friend.

Between the death and interment, which is from two or three days, the neighbours watch the corpse alternatively. This is called the lake-wake, from the Anglo-Saxon *lic*, a corpse, and *wacce*, a vigil. The old people attend in the day, and the young people at night. The abuse of this vigil is of old standing, and is among the catalogue of crimes that were anciently cursed with bell, book and candle. Brand observes, that of those who abuse such solemn meetings think at all, they think with epicurean licentiousness, that since life is so uncertain, no opportunity should be neglected of transmitting it, and that the loss by the death of one relation, should be made up as soon as possible by the birth of another. Such a consequence, however, seldom follows a Northumbrian lake-wake; and the ancient custom of praying and singing psalms on this occasion, is now generally adopted by religious people.

The friends of the deceased, as well as the neighbours, are generally invited to the funeral by bidders dressed in black silk scarves. The company are served with bread and cheese, ale, drams, pipes, and tobacco. The ancient custom of the nearest relation carrying the corpse out of the house, and into the church, is retained in many parts; as is also the ceremony used in all funeral proceedings among the ancient Christians, of singing psalms in exultation for the conquest of the deceased over hell, sin, and death. After the burial, a select party of friends and neighbours are again invited to supper. Funeral sermons are now very common amongst Dissenters.

In this county, the coffin is always covered with a black velvet pall, edged with white linen or silk, for a bachelor or maid, or for a woman that dies in child-bed; the hat-bands are also tied with white ribbon, and white gloves are worn. In other cases, black is wholly used. A young virgin, or woman who died in child-bed, is generally attended by young women dressed in white, two of whom walk before the corpse, while six or eight of the most respected of the acquaintances of the deceased, with white silk hoods, support the pall. The coffin is carried on men's shoulders, who are nearly covered by the pall; but if the distance to the church be great, a hearse is used. Black silk or satin scarfs, crape [sic] hat-bands, and gloves, are given when the circumstances of the party concerned admit of the expence [sic] ... "

AN HISTORICAL ATLAS OF COUNTY DURHAM

This is a recent publication by Durham County Local History Society which comprises 41 maps and plans illustrating various aspects of the County's past. Each map is A4 size, clearly printed and faced by a page of data and historical background to the detail of the map. Beginning in prehistoric times, we are led through the County at various historical periods and then find maps relating to a variety of topics, such as Enclosures, Population, farmsteads, Coal and Coal Owners (there is a useful list of 76 owners of collieries in 1913), lead, iron and steel, and the growth of towns. Religion is covered, including maps of Methodist chapels in 1791 and 1851, there is a plan of Sunderland in 1854 and another illustrating the growth of Gateshead, and after pages devoted to the political scene from the early 19th century, the book ends with post World War II developments. Of especial interest to our members will be a map of chapelry and parish boundaries circa 1800. There is a handy bibliography. The book is available from Mr. D. Butler (3 Briardene, Margery Lane, Durham DH1 4QU) for £6.70 including postage.

ROUNDING-UP OR ROUNDING DOWN IN DURHAM IN 1851?

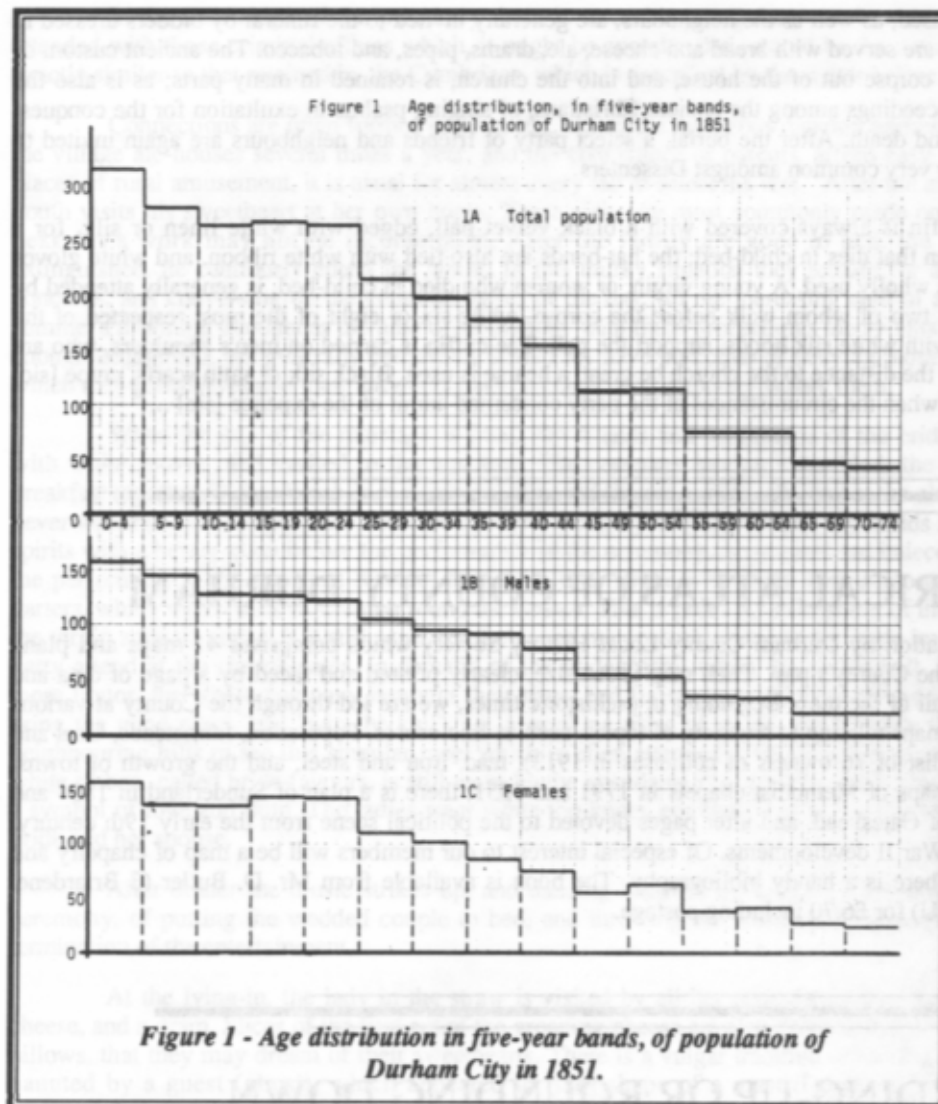
by David Butler

I am sure that anyone who has found ancestors in the census returns has had doubts about some of the ages given. Edward Higgs, in his recent book on the census returns, notes that 'the recording of ages is without doubt one of the most problematic features of the manuscript census returns'.⁽¹⁾ In this article I do not wish to discuss the general accuracy of age reporting but to consider one aspect of this question, in the light of information from the 1851 census for Durham City.⁽²⁾

As users of the 1841 census will be only too aware the treatment of ages in that census is confusing. For children a correct age was to be given, but for those over 15 it was only necessary to give an age to the next lowest multiple of five, thus anyone aged between 20 and 24 was recorded as 20, but anyone between 45 and 49 was recorded as 45. In practice the instructions were not always adhered to, and indeed an exact age could be given if a respondent wished, but it is not possible to be certain from census information alone if an age which is given as a multiple of 5 is exact or rounded-down.

With the 1851 census the requirements were more straightforward (although they were implied rather than stated) and an age in whole years at the last birthday was to be entered in the appropriate column of the householder's schedule, for eventual entry into the enumerator's book. It is the ages recorded by the 13 enumerators for the 13188 people resident in Durham City on census night 1851 that I wish to consider.

If the age distribution of the population of Durham City is plotted in the usual five-year age bands then the graph (Figure 1A - page 8) appears as irregular but not especially noteworthy. If the data is disaggregated to provide separate male and female graphs (Figures 1B and 1C - page 8) then the larger-than-expected number of females in 15-19, 20-24 and 50-54 age bands can be seen as the major cause of the irregularities in the total population graph.



If the totals for actual ages are now plotted (Figure 2 - Page 9), then it immediately becomes apparent that the use of five-year aggregate age bands serves to conceal an interesting situation.

The figures for the decadal ages 20, 30, 40, 50, 60 and 70 are clearly substantially higher than the figures for the preceding and following years. One of these peaks might be explained as a statistical quirk but the fact that this pattern is repeated at ten-year intervals precludes this as a coherent explanation.

It is possible to suggest a 'corrected' figure for the over-subscribed ages by calculating an average of the figures for the two preceding and two following ages (i.e. the $x-8$, $x-9$, $x+1$ and $x+2$ ages). If this is done then the actual figures can be compared with these 'corrected' figures and it can be found that the former are, on average, 82% higher than the latter.

Clearly there is evidence of a considerable amount of guessing or rounding of ages. Almost a quarter of the people claiming to be 20 in 1851 were unlikely to have been that age; a third of those claiming to be 30 and 40% of those noted as aged 40 were similarly inaccurate; and fewer than half of those claiming to be 50, 60 or 70 were likely to have been those ages. In all, about 500 people, or about 4% of the population, are likely to have rounded their ages to a multiple of 10.

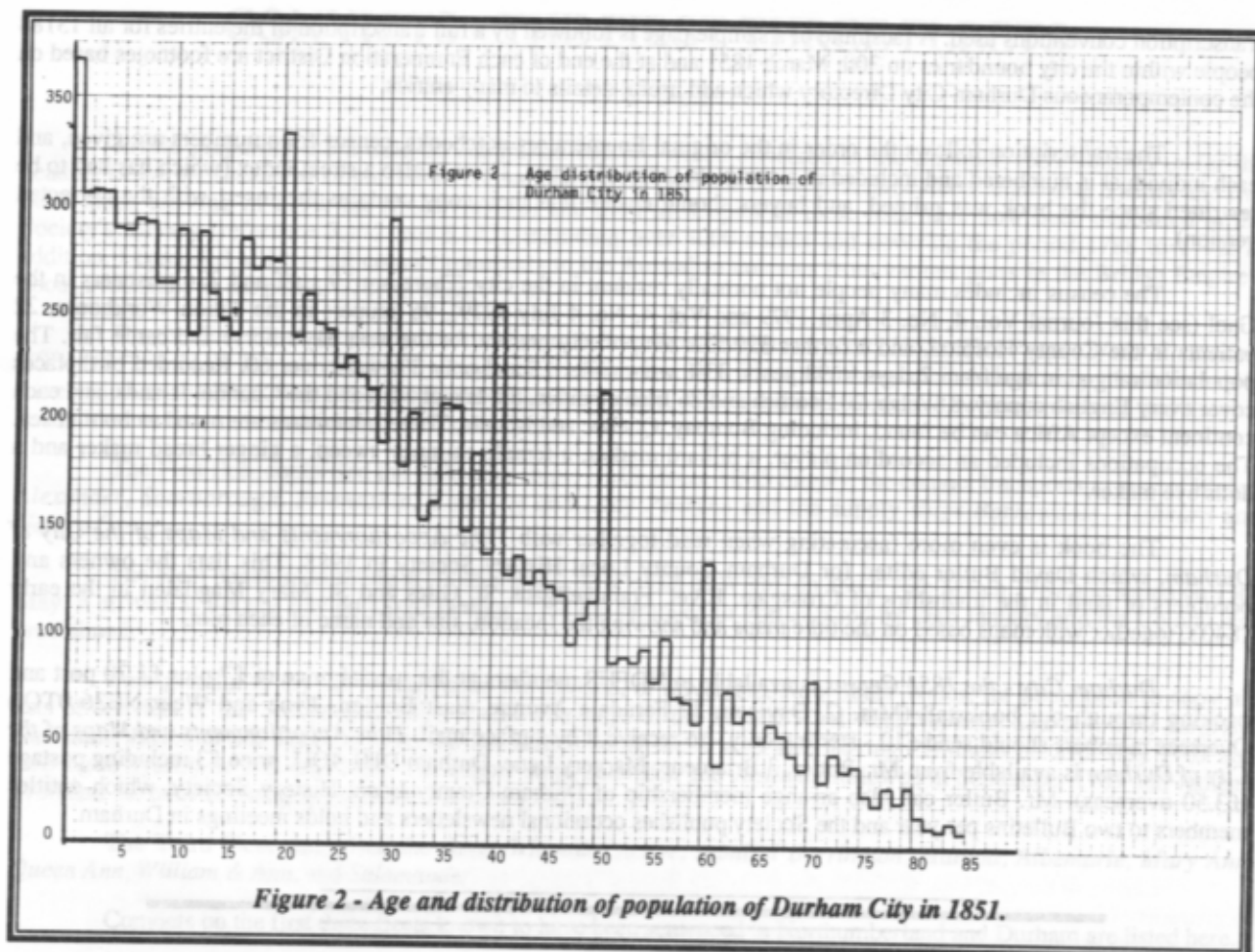
If we turn to the differences between men and women, 22% of men and 21% of women supposedly aged 20 were not likely to have been that age. However, thereafter consistently a higher proportion of women than men appear to have been making a rounded estimate of their ages.⁽⁵⁾

It is interesting to note that the rounding phenomenon does not appear to occur at age 10 or at age 80. It is possible that in the former case correct age reporting is more likely since the birth occurred relatively recently and within accurate memory range. In the latter case it is possible that the population used is too small (15 people) to show any distinctive features.

We should not be surprised at the situation revealed above - it is human nature to make a guess when information which is required is not known, and, if an age is required, such guesses are most likely to be of rounded ages. If, instead of an honest guess, a deliberate attempt is being made to give an incorrect age, then again, this is likely to result in a rounded age being selected.

Higgs notes that the decadal rounding phenomenon exists and he also notes a similar (though lesser) tendency to round to multiples of five.⁽⁶⁾ However, there appears to be little evidence in Durham City of the latter, with the possible exception of males claiming to be 35.

It is not possible to make any statements, from the statistics, about whether we are looking at a rounding-up or rounding-down, although Higgs suggests that 'there is evidence that there was a greater tendency to round ages down than upwards'.⁽⁵⁾



It is clear from the evidence of Durham City in 1851 that scepticism has to be expressed if an ancestor claims to have an age which is a multiple of ten, since the probability of that ancestor being correct is about 60% if male or 55% if female. In the future I hope to be able to identify, in the parish registers, as many of the individuals with decadal ages as possible to discover whether the levels of accuracy match those suggested above and also to see if rounding-up or rounding-down predominates - watch this space!

FOOTNOTES

- (1) Edward Higgs, *Making Sense of the Census: The Manuscript Returns for England and Wales, 1801-1901* (1989), page 67.
- (2) David J. Butler, *Durham City: The 1851 Census* (1992)
- (3) Variance between actual and 'corrected' ages as a percentage of the former

age	total	males	females
20	22%	22%	21%
30	33%	31%	34%
40	42%	37%	47%
50	53%	51%	56%
60	55%	52%	57%
70	52%	43%	57%
- (4) Edward Higgs, *Making Sense of the Census: The Manuscript Returns for England and Wales, 1801-1901* (1989), page 68.
- (5) Edward Higgs, *Making Sense of the Census: The Manuscript Returns for England and Wales, 1801-1901* (1989), page 68.

DURHAM CITY: THE 1851 CENSUS

Members may recall receiving a leaflet with a Journal last year about this publication. David Butler, who edited it, and wrote the article above, is resident in the area, is Secretary of the Durham County Local History Society and is a former Durham County Archivist. He knows the area and its historical background and has a Archivist's approach to the documents concerned. We make no apology for again drawing the work to your attention.

A 235 page book, it begins with a useful map showing the Enumeration Districts within and around the 1851 boundaries of the City of Durham, and the township and parish boundaries. A comprehensive introduction includes the official description of the 15 Enumeration Districts, an introduction to the census of 1851, and a good explanation of the

transcription conventions used. A facsimile of a sample page is followed by a full transcription of the entries for all 13188 people within the city boundaries on 30th March 1851 and at the end of each Enumeration District are footnotes based on the contemporaneous Durham City Directory which add useful details to many entries.

The transcription follows the order in the original Enumerators notebooks, census folio numbers are given, and each individual is numbered and included in a complete index of names. There is also a street index (which has had to be rewritten since the book was printed, and buyers should ensure that their copy contains the insert with the corrected version).

The census includes many people not normally resident in the city. There are 19 staff and 226 prisoners in the Gaol (see this Journal Vol. 4, No. 3 April 1979 and Vol. 4, No. 4 July 1979), 96 paupers in the Union Workhouse, 22 patients in the County Hospital, and a further 320 folk temporarily present for the next day's horse and cattle fair. The population ranged in age from 2 days to 98 years, 33% were under 15 and only 8% were over 60. Recorded birthplaces cover every English county, 8 Welsh, 20 Scottish and 26 Irish counties, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, and each continent except Africa can be found, including Bombay, Quebec and Manila. Three inhabitants are noted as born at sea. The occupations included an accordion player, a billiard marker, a female chimney sweep, a ginger bread maker and a dolls eye maker.

The book is even more fascinating when read together with *Tithe Apportionments and Maps of the City of Durham*, which David Butler edited for Durham County Local History Society in 1988. This lists the owners and occupiers of land in the townships of Crossgate, Elvet, Framwellgate, St. Giles and St. Mary Magdalen in the early 1840's, together with maps based on the tithe maps and showing the location, size and name of each plot.

Durham City - the 1851 Census is available to NDFHS members at the special price of £7 plus £1.70 post and packing through our bookstall (Mrs. C. Davison, 22 Ferndale Avenue, East Boldon, Tyne and Wear NE36 0TQ.) Overseas members should send £10 - sterling only - to receive it by surface mail. *Tithe Apportionments and Maps of the City of Durham* is available from Mr. Butler, 3 Briardene, Margery Lane, Durham DH1 4QU, price £3 including postage (£3.50 overseas). Mr. Butler can also arrange membership of Durham County Local History Society, which entitles members to two Bulletins per year and the Society publishes occasional newsletters and holds meetings in Durham.

MANORIAL COURT ROLLS IN NORTHUMBERLAND RECORD OFFICE

by Dr. Constance Fraser

Anick Grange	1627-1758, 1843
Bamburgh, Castle and Manor	1695-1911
Black Callerton	1554-71
East Coanwood	1659-1818
Ford	1658-1774
Hartley	1560-70, 1719-1831
Henshaw	1747-1860, 1862-1925
Hexham, Court of Pleas	1559-60, 1624-1743
Borough Books	1634-1872
Court Rolls	1579-1668
Holy Island	1739-1876, 1879-1912
Melkridge, Court Baron,	1756-1862 (indexed), 1867-1923
Morpeth	1654, 1656, 1653, 1659, 1660, 1668, 1632, 1654
Netherwitton, Court Baron	1760, 1761, 1764, 1794, 1817
Court Leet	1760, 1761, 1794, 1817
Court Rolls	1656, 1697, 1698, 1700, 1723, 1733
Riddell Barony (Longhorsley)	1698-1712
Ridley/Thorngrafton	1749-1857, 1860-1931
Tynemouth (admissions)	1836-49
Wark (Carham)	1718-22, 1713, 1723-28, 1730-50, 1753-67, 1769-71, 1773, 1774, 1778-82, 1784-1814, 1816-20, 1822-25, 1827-47, 1850, 1896
Wooler	1789, 1690, 1695, 1696, 1718-63, 1770-82, 1784-89, 1790-1820, 1822-25, 1827-47, 1850

The Benwell Court Rolls are now deposited at Blandford House (Archives). The Berwick-upon-Tweed, Norham, and Tweedmouth Court Rolls are in the Berwick Archive Office.

CONVICTS - THE FIRST THREE FLEETS

By G. Bell

While preparing the article on Australian sources which appeared in the Summer 1992 Journal under the heading *Leave the Ladder at Home, Mate!*, I compiled lists of convicts on the first three fleets to arrive at Sydney and two other ships arriving in 1792, the *Royal Admiral* and the *Pitt*. Copies of these lists have now been deposited in the Society's Library (reference 3.172 and 3.173), including over 4000 names and covering the period 1788 to 1792. In addition, I compiled a list of all convict transports to the Australian colonies from various ports in the British Empire - about 1400 ships in the period 1787 to 1868.

For the First Fleet, I extracted the information from Don Chapman's book, *1788 - The People of the First Fleet* (ISBN 0 7269 1417 7), published in Sydney in 1981. This is a well illustrated biographical dictionary of all known to have sailed on the First Fleet. The details I extracted are name, ship on which transported, where sentenced and to what term - if a convict, and remarks such as known aliases.

The First fleet comprised the following ships: HMS *Sirius*, HMS *Supply*, the convict transports *Prince of Wales*, *Alexander*, *Scarborough*, *Friendship*, *Charlotte* and *Lady Penryhn* and the supply ships *Borrowdale*, *Fishburn* and *Golden Grove*.

The Fleet began assembling at Mother Bank, off the Isle of Wight, on about 16th March 1787 and sailed on 13th May. It arrived at Botany Bay on 18-20 January 1788 but removed to Port Jackson by 26th January and the Colony was proclaimed.

I am grateful to my old friend James McClelland, of Silverdale, New South Wales, for permission to copy his lists of convicts of the Second and Third Fleets. The ships of the Second Fleet were *Neptune*, *Scarborough*, *Surprise*, *Guardian*, *Justinian* and *Lady Juliana*, the last named being the first to sail, leaving Plymouth on 29th July 1789 and arriving at Sydney on 3rd June 1790. The supply ships *Guardian* and *Justinian* followed in September 1789 and January 1790 and the convict transports sailed in January 1790.

The Third Fleet comprised the ships *Britannia*, *Active*, *Admiral Barrington*, *Matilda*, *Albemarle*, *Mary Ann*, *Queen Ann*, *William & Ann*, and *Salamander*.

Convicts on the first three fleets known to have been sentenced in Northumberland and Durham are listed here.

SURNAME	FIRSTNAME	SHIP	SENTENCED AT	TERM	FLEET
Clough	Richard	<i>Alexander</i>	Durham 1784	D-7	First Fleet
Colepitts	Ann	<i>Lady Penryhn</i>	Durham 1785	7	First Fleet
Cook	John	<i>Surprise</i>	Newcastle-upon-Tyne 1787	7	Second Fleet
Dickson	Thomas	<i>Alexander</i>	Durham 1785	D-7	First Fleet
Hall	Elizabeth	<i>Lady Penryhn</i>	Newcastle-upon-Tyne 1786	7	First Fleet
Lindsay	Ephriam	<i>Surprise</i>	Newcastle-upon-Tyne 1787	7	Second Fleet
McIntire	John	<i>Alexander</i>	Durham 1785	D-7	First Fleet
McLellan	Charles	<i>Alexander</i>	Durham 1785	7	First Fleet
Miller	John	<i>Surprise</i>	Berwick-upon-Tweed 1787	7	Second Fleet
Sharp	George	<i>Alexander</i>	Durham 1785	D-7	First Fleet
Sheppard	Robert	<i>Alexander</i>	Durham 1785	7	First Fleet
Sprigs	Isabella	<i>Mary Ann</i>	Newcastle-upon-Tyne	7	Third Fleet
Stacey	Alice	<i>Mary Ann</i>	Durham	7	Third Fleet
Stacey	Phillip Barbara	<i>Mary Ann</i>	Durham	14	Third Fleet
Stevenson	Jane	<i>Mary Ann</i>	Newcastle-upon-Tyne	7	Third Fleet
Stoker	John	<i>Alexander</i>	Durham 1785	D-7	First Fleet
Thompson	William	<i>Alexander</i>	Durham 1785	D-7	First Fleet
Welsh	John	<i>Alexander</i>	Durham 1785	D-7	First Fleet
Wilson	Isabel	<i>Mary Ann</i>	Northumberland	7	Third Fleet
Winstrip	William	<i>Surprise</i>	Durham 1787	7	Second Fleet

In this list, the "Term" is the number of years to which sentenced. "D" indicates a death sentence and, for example, "D-7" indicates a death sentence which was commuted to 7 years transportation.

The list of convict ships is extracted from James McClelland's books on Convict and Pioneer History. The list I prepared gives the name of the ship, name of master and surgeon, date and port of departure, and date and port of arrival. Also noted are the group and class references to the Journals of Ships Surgeons in the Public Record Office - ADM 101/. As I mention above, the list includes ships from all Empire ports, although it is largely British in content.

McClelland's books on Convict and Pioneer History of Australia number over 100, many of them devoted to the arrival of convicts up to 1822. Most are hand-written and photocopied affairs and are still available from the author at 1968 Silverdale Road, Silverdale 2752, New South Wales, Australia. Prices of most are \$16. A list of available books can be had on application.

PEOPLE COUNT

by K. Arundel

This is an edited version of a talk given on March 9th, 1991 by Kristin Arundel to the Cornwall Family History Society and is reproduced by permission of that Society and of the authoress.

I gave it this title for two main reasons. One that in my business we count people into and out of their lives, and the other that we try hard to make sure that they count as people.

What follows is partly an account of Civil Registration in England and Wales, and partly about how Register Offices work, illustrated with some experiences I have had as a Superintendent Registrar in Liskeard with all names and details changed to protect essential confidentiality. I hope in the process to give you an idea of what to do in your dealings with the Registration Service, whether in a district Register Office like mine or the General Register Office and, much more importantly perhaps, what NOT to do. Trying to trace your family history can waste a lot of time and money if you are not sure of what information you need and where it is available.

Let me begin by introducing myself. I am a very rare animal, which I will prove to you by telling you first of all that I am an Icelandic. There are only about 250,000 of us, which makes each of us feel special. It also means that we know quite a lot about each other, and as I have been known to say on other occasions, we probably invented this stuff called genealogy - that is if you do not count the Bible. Only in Iceland could you possibly trace your family back thirteen generations before 1000AD as I have, partly because there were always very few of us around so we have always been fiendishly curious about each other and partly because we have been literate enough for the past thousand years or so to write down what we found out.

Secondly I am, as I said, Superintendent Registrar. I do not actually superintend or register anything, but it sounds impressive. There are somewhere around 400 of us in England and Wales, but we are a vanishing breed as I will explain later.

Thirdly, as a Superintendent Registrar, I am what is called a Statutory Officer, which means that I do not have an employer as such. Although the County Council pay my salary, I am answerable only to the Registrar General.

Lastly, of course, I am Chairman of a Family History Society. I do not know whether any other member of the Registration Service has this honour but I doubt it, if only because some of my colleagues will turn an interesting sort of puce if you mention family historians, which occasionally makes me feel like a fifth columnist. I prefer to think of myself as a bridge over troubled water.

Now you are all people to whom family history is important, so obviously all of you know where your great-great-grandfather slept on the night of 6th April 1841. 1991 is another Census year so I hope, for your descendants' sake, that you made sure you slept in the right place on Census night, otherwise they will not be pleased.

I mention the Census because the General Register Office is part of an organisation called OPCS - the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys. Just as a little aside, the first Census bill was introduced in Parliament in 1753 by Thomas Potter, the M.P. for St. Germans. It was carried in the House of Commons but turned down by the House of Lords, which is why the first Census in this country did not occur until 1801. Since then a Census has been held every 10 years (except 1941 - I think they were busy with something else at the time), but for family history purposes the first three are useless because the returns of names were destroyed once the statistics had been extracted. 1841 was the first to include names, but age was rounded up or down to the nearest 5, and place of birth only given as in this county or not. 1851 is therefore the first really useful Census to look at for family historians, as long as you do not take either the parish of birth or the age as gospel, without further proof. I have found several people who gave a different parish of birth in each Census, and as for age, then as now people do not always tell - or know - the truth.

The date 1st July, 1837 should be engraved on your hearts. It is the date on which Civil Registration began in England and Wales. In Scotland it began in 1855 and Ireland in 1845. Before that date you have parish registers of baptism and burial, after that you also have civil registers of births and deaths.

The General Register Office at St. Catherine's House in London holds combined indexes to all births, deaths and marriages in England and Wales since 1837. That used to be the only place where you could go to consult it if you did not know in which Registration District your ancestors were born, married or died. These indexes are now also available on microfilm in several places, including the Genealogical Centres of the Church of Latter Day Saints.

Do not, if you can help it, write to St. Catherine's House for a certificate. First, because all postal applications are now handled from the General Register Office, OPCS, Smedley Hydro, Southport, Merseyside PR8 23HH, and if you write to London your application will join a large heap to be forwarded eventually to Southport, where there will be another waiting period because of backlog. Secondly, because that is the most expensive way to acquire a certificate. If you apply by post and include the volume and page number from the St. Catherine indexes it will cost you £12. If you do not include those the certificate will cost £15.

If you go in person to St. Catherine's House, look up the reference, fill in a form, hand it in and come back some days later to collect it, a certificate will cost £5.50. I would recommend, therefore, that you go - or write - to the local

Register Office, if you know which Registration District is involved. If you do not, try to get to a place which holds a microfilm copy of the combined indexes. These will tell you which district to apply to. A certificate from that office will cost you £5.50 whether you go or write. Do not, however, think that by including page and volume number from these indexes you will get a reply by return of post. Those reference numbers ONLY apply to the combined St. Catherines House index and do not mean a thing to the local office. What *will* help is to include the year and the quarter in which you found the entry.

Has it ever occurred to you to wonder how St. Catherines House accumulates its indexes? Are you sitting comfortably? Then I will begin: From 1st July, 1837 all births, deaths and marriages have had to be registered in the district in which they occur.

To register a birth or death is more complicated than you may think. The law says that a birth must be registered within 6 weeks. That is, in theory at least, what happens. I recently came across a gentleman who was born on April 13th, 1905, but was not registered within 6 weeks or six months, or even six years. I found eventually, and I do mean eventually, that his birth was registered on November 26th 1958, so you can see that a Superintendent Registrar's life is not always as simple as it should be. I wish I could have gone back to his parents and said: "Why then?" But that is just one of many questions which will never be answered. The vast majority of births are, and always have been registered, although fines for non-compliance were not set until the 1870's.

A birth has by law to be registered, as I said, in the actual Registration sub-district in which it occurs. It cannot be registered anywhere else. And yet several times a year someone comes to me and says: "I was registered in Liskeard and I need another birth certificate", to which I reply - always - "where were you born? and (s)he says: "Plymouth". "In that case", I say, "I am awfully sorry, but all I can do for you is to give you an application form and the address of the Plymouth Register Office." Whereupon they say: "But my mum told me she registered me here". And I say: "Well, not quite. What she may have done is to come here and sign a declaration, giving all the details of your birth, because that was easier for her than to go back to Plymouth. The actual registration can only have taken place in Plymouth after the Liskeard Registrar sent the declaration there. Only Plymouth can therefore issue a certificate, because we do not even have a record of the declaration." So, if your ancestor's parents lived all their lives in one district, but the mother went to her old home - or to a maternity hospital - in another district for the birth you will find no trace of it anywhere else.

If I asked you who can register a birth your likely answer would be: "The parents" - obvious, is it not? And yet, they cannot - always. Which is why if someone rings me and says that she wants to register a birth, my first, rude, question is whether she was married to the child's father when it was born. Then there is usually a little pause, as if they would like to ask whether that is any of my business. But it is. A child's mother can certainly register the birth, but if she was not married to the father his details cannot be included in the register unless he comes too, or she brings a legal declaration or a court order stating that he is the father. This means equally, that if the child's father comes to register the birth, but he was not married to the mother at the time of the birth, he too has to be sent away with a flea in his ear. Unless of course he happened to be present at the birth, in which case he might be able to register the child, but still could not have his own details included, unless the mother is present or he brought a similar declaration from her. So you can see that who registers is important. A grandparent cannot do it, unless neither parent is available and he or she is the owner or the occupier of the house in which the birth took place and - as the law says - aware of what was happening at the time (I really like that bit). There is in fact a list of qualified informants as they are called, and unless you fit in under one of those headings, you cannot register a birth.

The same procedure applies to deaths. A death has to be registered within 5 days. You cannot usually bury or cremate a person without the registration being completed, because to do that you have to have a certificate of registration which is handed to the person in charge of the burial or cremation. Which brings me to my second anecdote. You may not think there was a great deal of hilarity about registering a death, and yet I do occasionally hear some strange sounds out of the Registrar's office (after the informant has left, I hasten to add). This particular occasion was some time ago. I went into her office and she told me that a man had been registering the death of his grandmother who lived in Scotland and had come down to Cornwall on holiday. When they got to the bit about the certificate for burial which was to take place in Scotland, the Registrar asked whether she should send it to the undertaker. Whereupon the man said: "Oh no, you don't think I'm going to pay an undertaker a thousand pounds to take Granny up there on the train - I've got her in the back of the van" This is the absolute truth. The Registrar said she desperately wanted to go and have a look if only she could have been certain that he was not saving on the coffin as well, in which case granny might have been sitting in the passenger seat. At that point we both collapsed. So if you ever hear strange noises coming out of a Register Office you will know why.

Just as with births, a death has to be registered in the sub-district where it occurs. This can cause problems if the relatives live far away, because again only certain people can legally register a death. If no relatives are available someone who was present at the death, or is causing the body to be buried or cremated, may qualify as an informant.

Marriages are different. Births and deaths are quite simple by comparison. Civil weddings can only take place in a Register Office, and are registered by the Registrar, not by the Superintendent Registrar who is only there to tell people what to say. There are also sundry religious weddings which can only take place in a church or a chapel if these places have been licensed for the solemnisation of marriages, except in the case of Jews and Quakers. The Clergy do the registration in the Church of England. Weddings for any other religious denomination can be registered either by a Registrar, or by a so-called Authorised Person, who is a specific named person whom the Registrar General has

authorised to register marriages in that particular building only, in a register exclusive to that place. It is not necessarily the same person who performs the marriage.

No matter how long you have been living with somebody if (s)he dies you are not acceptable in law as an informant, unless no relative is available and you qualify in some other way by having been present at the death, being the owner or occupier of the house, if you were what is called "in attendance" during the last illness, or you are causing the body to be buried etc. This is because a live-in partner is not a qualified informant unless the two were legally married which can cause a great deal of grief. It is even possible to have a situation where a wife, who had not seen her husband for 50 years could register his death, whereas the woman who had lived with him all that time as a wife in everything but law could not. I think it is a pity, but this is what the law says.

At the end of every March, June, September and December a copy of every entry which has been made in any register of birth, death and marriage in my district in that quarter should land on my desk. This can be quite a lot since my district covers the area from the Fowey river to the Seaton river, and from the Channel to Bolventor. The entries from the Register Office are usually no problem. The marriages registered by the clergy and authorised persons can be. A copy of every such entry made during that quarter should, according to law, arrive in my office within the fifteen days following the end of that quarter or there could be a fine of £20. The Registrar sends them stamped, addressed envelopes and the forms to be filled in; nothing could be simpler, you would think. All they have to do is to fill them in and put them in the post. They even get paid to do it. Alas, I have decided that some of our brethren in Christ are either illiterate or forgetful to an awesome degree. Sometimes I have to chase them for months without success. I ring them up, they are going to post it tomorrow. I write to them - they tell you they did mail it - must have been lost in the post. If a parish is vacant the Rural Dean is responsible for any copying to be done. This sometimes takes as long as six months. Maybe none of them have cars and have to go round on foot? Whatever their reasons, all of this takes up an inordinate amount of my time and causes me to say words no Superintendent Registrar should know, let alone utter.

I have to go through every single copy very carefully, wherever it come from, to check whether it is accurate, that it should have been registered in this district and by that person, and in the case of deaths, to make sure that the medical certificate was valid. Here again, my religious friends cause me most grief. They will use biro instead of registration ink to write in their registers, they will put unemployed as an occupation of a bride or groom; deceased as the occupation of their fathers, or leave a column blank instead of drawing a line through it, to show that no information was available. This means that I have to ring them up and ask whether the column is blank in the register or whether they just forgot to fill it in. They will correct what they have done wrong in the most horrendous way, which makes it even worse.

A colleague once telephoned me from Wales to tell me that a lady who had recently been married in my district had come in with her marriage certificate, issued by a Minister. She was worried because there were at least four errors in it, and because she has just begun to sign the registers in her previous name when the minister said: "Oh no, you are married now, so you sign in your married name." I rang this Minister to check on the errors, and asked him to tell me exactly what was in the entry, whereupon he said: "Which register do you mean?" It turned out that each of the entries was different and that neither of them agreed with what was supposed to be a certified copy, otherwise known as a marriage certificate.

That was an edited version of how I acquire quarterly copies. After checking them I used to forward them to Titchfield in Hampshire, but since February 1990 they are sent to Southport, where they are checked again, photocopied and bound. Then an index is made of all the copies received that quarter from all Registration districts in England and Wales. So - that is how the combined index is created. It explains why the volume and page numbers given in that index only refer to St. Catherine's House copies and also shows you how many possibilities there were for mistakes to happen during the hand-copying, first from the original in the register and then from that copy into an index. Even making a single index from a register can cause mistakes, which may mean that your application for a certificate is turned down, because the name, or the initial letter, has been misread and therefore misindexed. Nowadays most quarterly returns are photocopied, so there should be less opportunity for anything to go wrong in the process.

The earliest indexes I hold are more than 150 years old and some of them show it. Some are beautifully written, others most definitely are not. You try going through a few hundred of those entries and you will see why you do not always get a reply by return of post, and why so many Superintendent Registrars wear glasses and frown a lot.

Within sight are - probably - the greatest changes in the Registration Service for 150 years. At the moment a White Paper has been waiting for parliamentary space for over 3 years. Some local authorities are trying to prepare for the changes which would occur if it became law. One proposal would give people a greater choice of places for civil weddings, although the list would be strictly limited and would NOT include your garden or a hot air balloon, which I had been looking forward to. At the moment the only place where such a ceremony can take place is the Register Office in the district in which either the bride or groom lives.

Another possibility is that local authorities would have complete freedom to decide where and when Register Offices would be open. It is very likely that in Cornwall, for example, there would eventually be far fewer Registration Districts than the 13 which it has now. A Working Group has discussed several options including having only 3 or 4, so that each might have at least 1 full-time office with perhaps a few part-time in other places. Whether or not these proposals become law I am fairly sure that in 3 or 4 years time the situation will have changed considerably.

If the law is passed, one of the biggest differences would be that all Registration Officers would be able to do any registration duties. The 1836 law laid down that there should be two different kinds of people, a Registrar and a Superintendent Registrar, and never the twain should be confused, because of the essential differences in their work. A Superintendent Registrar is not just a different kind of Registrar, she is not any kind of Registrar. The Registrar is the person you go to if you need to register a birth or a death, or if you need a certified copy of a recent entry. As soon as a register has been filled, it is passed to the Superintendent Registrar, who from that moment on is the only person who can issue certificates from the entries, so if you are writing to a Register Office, do address your letter to the Superintendent Registrar. If the office is only open part-time like mine, the Superintendent Registrar and the Registrar may not be there at the same time, on the same days or even in the same building, so your letter could be delayed for up to a week in the process, if you address it to the Register Office or to the Registrar. A cheque can be made out to either the Register Office or the Superintendent Registrar.

A further change recommended in the White Paper is that any registers over 75 years old should be accessible to the public. What this is likely to mean in practice is that they will be microfilmed or copied in some other way, because public access can be very destructive to the originals. It would save a lot of time and money, though, because you would be able to look things up for yourself, and if you want a copy of an entry, you could either have a certificate, which is what we have now, or a much cheaper uncertified copy.

Which brings me neatly back to the applications I get for certificates. Births and deaths are relatively simple. Each district probably has a few sub-districts. Mine has four, so for each application where the place of birth is not known, I have to go through four sets of indexes. Sometimes I do that anyway if I do not find an entry in what should be the right sub-district in case the mother nipped across a boundary for the birth. If you know her maiden name please include it on your application form, although that may of course be the very information you hope to get. Perhaps you thought immorality was a new problem? Let me tell you that it is not. Let me also tell you another strange fact, which is that a lot of parents do not tell their children the truth about where they were born, when they were born, or even who their parents are. So, if you write to a Register Office giving full details of date, place, name and parents and do not have anything back for months, stay calm. It could just be that your child was born up to five years earlier - or later - than you thought, that it was born and registered in the name of its unmarried mother with no father's details, or that it was born in another district entirely, where its mother had gone to hide the fact. Any or all of these can multiply the difficulty and the time it takes to find the entry you want. If I have gone through all the usual detective work without success, any of the above could be the reason. So could the fact that they had been adopted, re-registered in a different district under the name of the man whom the mother subsequently married, or that the child was born to some entirely different people who gave it to the people who brought it up, without telling anybody. All of these have happened in my searches over the years.

In spite of all this, as I say, births and deaths are not really a problem, because the places you can look are limited. Marriages - as always - are different. I get several letters a year which read: "Dear Sir, I want my great-grandparents marriage certificate. They were called John and Mary Smith and I am sure they were married in your district, probably before 1860, because my grandfather was born then." This causes me to say worse things than about the Vicars' delay of quarterly copies. Even if the letters include more details, like the approximate year, it is very time consuming if I do not know where they were married. In an office like mine there are no combined index of marriages, although I have made a small beginning. If I have a request for a marriage that took place in the third quarter of 1859, helpfully quoting volume and page which means nothing to me as I have explained, I have to look through every separate index for each church and chapel as well as the Register Office. This can take an inordinate amount of time, which I do not have.

I am paid for 10 hours a week including weddings, marriage notices, administration, accounts, banking, quarterly copies, the lot, leaving very little for extended searches. Which is why I have on my desk a thick bundle of application forms, which I take to the index cupboard, when I have a spare minute - which is not very often - and start to go through one of the 170 or so marriage indexes (hand written remember). At this point, inevitably, the phone-rings or someone knocks at the door. So, please, do include any information you think might be helpful, especially if you tell me where you found that information. I do not want, nor do I have the time, to read seven volume letters, but if you know where they were living when their first child was born, or where the mother was born and/or working, it could save a lot of time.

If someone rings me and says: "Look I wrote to you in 1979 and I have heard nothing since", I will explain that I have tried about 132 different registers without success and ask whether anything else is known about them, whereupon this somebody will say. "Oh yes, well of course they were living at Callington, when they got married." Now this is where I explode very quietly because what this person did not know is that Callington lies in what I call the Bermuda Triangle. Parts of it have changed districts about three times since 1837, so whereas I hold several years of births and deaths in the parishes in and around the town until 1936, I do not have the Callington church marriage register. This is in the St. Germans Registration District because that is where Callington is now, and I have therefore wasted at least 3 hours.

As for the more recent marriages I have now learnt not to go straight to the register which covers the given date, but take in the index in passing. It remains a permanent surprise to me how many people get the year of their marriage wrong, and sometimes the date as well.

Certificates are what I spend about half my time doing. There are a large number of different kinds, but what most of you will want is a standard (or full) birth, death or marriage certificate. If you have ever read one of those carefully, you will know that printed underneath is the sentence: "Certified to be a true copy of an entry in a register in my custody". There is not, and never has been, an original of your birth certificate, in spite of the fact that several times a year I am asked for a copy, because the original has been lost.

A few words now about what information you can get from each kind of birth certificate. If you know who the parents are and just want the exact date the child was born, a short birth certificate will, for £2.50, give you the full name and the date of birth. If you write and ask for a short birth certificate of A. who was born in the first quarter of 1857 or whenever, but only if he was the son of B and C, you are not likely to get a wrong one. There are special certificates, which you can have for £1.50, but only for certain specified purposes like a pension or social security and these are not returned to you from the DHSS.

A full birth certificate can tell you an astonishing amount if you know how to read it. In the first space on the left is the number of the entry in the register. The column marked 1 contains the date and place of the birth. If it was a multiple birth you should also have the exact time. In column 2 are the forenames of the child. In the case of an illegitimate child the mother sometimes gave it the surname of the father as a second name. Legitimate children were quite often (in my district at least) given the mother's maiden name as a second name, which can be a great help in your search. Column 3 has the sex of the child. Column 4 should contain the father's full name and surname and 6 his occupation, or alternatively both are left blank except for a line drawn across. Be careful even if the details are present; it has been known for people not to tell the truth, especially if the mother was married to someone else at the time. NEVER treat anything as certain unless you have at least one other piece of evidence to support it. Column 5 has the name of the mother. If this is given as Mary Jones formerly Smith, that means that she is married, and that the second surname is her maiden name. If it says Mary Smith, now Jones, it means that she has married someone, not necessarily the father, since the child was born. If it says Mary Jones, late Edwards, formerly Smith, she has been married at least twice. Column 7 tells you the name, address and qualification of the person who came to register the child, and contains their signature or mark, in which case the Registrar will add: "the mark of", and the full name of that person. Column 8 contains the date of registration, column 9 the name of the Registrar, and the last column is blank, unless the child was given a different or additional name, for example in baptism, within 12 months of the birth. The right margin should have a line drawn through to show that it is blank, a note of any changes made to the entry after registration, or the word Adopted.

Adoptions can make life difficult. There was no legal control or register of those until 1926, so it may prove impossible to connect an earlier entry of birth to the adopted person.

Re-registration is another factor which can cause confusion. Until quite recently it was not possible at all. A child can now be re-registered if the parents subsequently get married or, if the mother turns up with the father or his legal declaration of paternity, she can have his details included in a fresh registration. Both cases need the authority of the Registrar General. If the parents' surnames are different, most likely they were not married, although some women do not change their surname on marriage. If the parents' names are the same but the date of registration is considerably later than the date of birth, the most likely cause is re-registration.

You can save time and trouble, particularly if you are looking for a marriage certificate, or want to find several entries of birth, by going to a Register Office and asking to search the indexes yourself. For a few of £14 you can look at any indexes you wish for up to six hours. If you see an entry which you think might be the right one, up to eight checks in the register can be made without further charge. If you ask for more than those you will be charged £2.50 for each of them but, if one turns out to be the entry you want and you buy a certificate, the checking fee is subtracted from the price. You may have to wait some time for these checks if the Superintendent Registrar is busy.

If you do go, try not to go on a Monday, they may be very busy, or a Friday, when there are several marriages. Do not, whatever you do, go on a date which in 3 months time will be a Saturday. On those days there may well be a long queue of people who would like to be married that Saturday, particularly if it is a Bank Holiday week-end, so they come to give the notice of marriage at the earliest possible opportunity, which is 3 months ahead, to the day. So be warned and, if you can, try to ring each office to find out when would be the best time to go. Different offices may turn out to be busy on different days for some strange local reason like a market day or early closing day. Not all Register Offices have a suitable room where you can look at the indexes, so you may find yourself, as in Penzance, trying desperately to hold everything on your lap in a narrow and crowded corridor which doubles as a waiting room.

A list of all Register Offices in the country with the addresses, telephone numbers and names of Superintendent Registrars and Registrars is published annually. Every office has a copy so, if you need to find out any details, just call in at your nearest one. If they have a copy of the Census Gazetteer they can also tell you which district covers the parish or village you want. What they cannot tell you, unfortunately, is what hours that office will be open to the public, unless it is within the same local authority. Cornwall has no full-time Superintendent Registrar for example, and many offices in this country are only open part-time, sometimes extremely so, maybe two or three hours a week. Try ringing that local authority, or another office in the same county or nearest big town. They should be able to tell you. If not, try to write to the office you want to go to. There is nothing more frustrating than making a special journey somewhere, thinking you will be able to spend a whole day tracing some much needed information only to find when you get there, that not only are they not open that day, they may not open again until next week when you will be back home again. So do find out before you set out, and be careful - what you need to know is when the Superintendent Registrar is there, not the Registrar, remember?

When you are handed a stack of indexes please check how they are organised before you begin so you can give them back in the same order. If you forget this the result may be quiet catastrophic for a Superintendent Registrar on a busy day.

Note down the volume numbers of all the indexes you look at, which kind they are (sub-districts, births, deaths, church etc.) and the dates which each of them covers, even if you did not find anything. Negative evidence can also be useful and at least you will know that you do not have to look at that one again.

Always look twice at a page, once going down and once going up. It is easier than you might think to miss a name, particularly if the handwriting is difficult. Make sure, especially with an early marriage index that you know whether males and females are indexed separately. One clue is, of course, whether forenames for both sexes appear under that initial letter. Names are in chronological, not alphabetical order under each capital letter heading, so you need to check every name in that section to be sure whether the one you are looking for is there or not. If you know the surname of both bride and groom, check each to see whether the page references are the same. Some early indexes of births include the father's first name, or the mother's if the child's is illegitimate, which saves a lot of checking in the register.

Several Register Offices have a separate register, which the Registrar takes when she attends marriages in churches and chapels of various religious denominations other than the Church of England. Until the turn of the last century very few had a person authorised to register marriages, which meant that they had no registers of their own. Several still prefer not to, which means that a Registrar has to be present to enter the marriage in a register from her office. Some of these could take a long time to fill, especially in a smaller district like mine, so the index could cover several decades and be vastly out of chronological order. I have an index of this kind in the office, which covers the years from 1861 to 1902 so, of course, it stands between the indexes for 1901 and 1903, which is not necessarily where you would think to look for a marriage in 1863. Make sure you ask the Superintendent Registrar whether there are any registers like this in her custody and where you should look for the indexes to them.

What with the fee and the problems I have outlined above, it would be understandable if you asked why you should not use the Parish Registers instead of going to the Register Office. After all, most Record Offices do not charge for entry - yet - and you are allowed to look at the original, or at least a microfilm, and do your own copying for free if you want to.

Here are some good reasons: First of all the Record Office has nothing relating to any Register Office marriages. Secondly, there are usually no indexes available for registers, and thirdly, not all registers are in the Record Offices. When I took over in Liskeard four parishes were still using their original 1837 register of marriages. I rang each of the vicars and said I was sure that by now the pages must be like blotting paper and could I, as in the story of Aladdin, offer them new registers for old? Three of them fell for it. The fourth would have liked to but the church committee would not let him, so I borrowed his register for a week and made an index of the entries to date. Without that index there would be a hole in my knowledge of the marriages in the district, and in the St. Catherines House indexes there would be several references to marriages which I had no record of. Now at least I know which applications I should forward to that vicar.

Where the parish registers are with the vicar you may occasionally have problems with access. Some can be positively hostile to family historians even going as far as refusing to let them in. This is rare, but does happen. Some may not be terribly willing to let you in at time to suit you. None will have an index; several will charge you for looking at the registers; and if you want a certified copy, it will cost you the same as in the Register Office.

For you as family historians the most important reason for preferring the civil register entries may be the difference in what is recorded, as I mentioned in the beginning. In parish registers you will find the date, not of birth, but of baptism, which can take place months - and sometimes years - later. You will not find the maiden name of the mother, or whether she has been married before. You will find the date of burial, not of death. You will sometimes find the marital status or the occupation of the deceased, but you will not find the place of death, whether it was certified by a doctor or not, and whether there was an inquest, in which case you might find the story in the local paper. You will also miss out on a most useful piece of information: the name and address of the person who registered the death and whether he or she was a specified relative, present at the death or in attendance during the last illness. All of these can help you to make sure you have the right entry or give you new leads in your family history.

Thinking of causes of death reminds me that I looked in some old registers for items to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Civil Registration. Apart from sundry visitations by the Almighty, I discovered a cholera epidemic in Callington in the 1840's and more than 30 children dying of measles in Looe in the 1880's. To my delight I also found a host of unsuspected (by me, at least) reasons for dying, such as mental excitement, old age, indigestion, constipation and my two absolute favourites: morbid irritability of the nervous system and softening of the brain.

That was just a little titbit in passing.

Marriage entries should contain the same information whether it was a religious or a civil ceremony and whoever registered it, but bear in mind my description of the way in which a few gentlemen of the cloth still make their register entries. If a registrar attends it means that the bride and/or the groom had to give a notice of marriage to the Superintendent Registrar of that district, so some of the more obvious mistakes I mentioned earlier should not occur. It is also far more likely that the entry will show any change of name which the bride or groom may have had. I have been startled to find how often people do this, particularly the brides who may have changed back to their maiden name after a divorce, or taken the surname of the groom if they have been living together for some time before the wedding.

St. Catherines House indexes will not help you to find the name of the parish in which your ancestor was born, married or died, but they will tell you the Registration District. Always try to look at a Census if a marriage is proving elusive or if you cannot get to the combined index but you know where either of them was living in a Census year. The marriage is most likely to take place in the parish where the bride was either living or working at the time, which might be the one where she was born, but could equally be at the other end of the country.

Not so long ago I was looking for the family which lived in my house in Boconnoc at the time of 1881 Census. Having found them I went on to see who else was living in that parish, which happens to coincide more or less with a very large private estate which still has its original mediaeval deer park. I found a large number of various kinds of servants attached to the estate. They were divided into two distinct groups. The people working outside like the gardeners, woodmen, gamekeepers and milkmaids were mostly Cornish born, but the nearer their work took them to the owner and his wife like housemaids, cooks, valets, butlers and personal maids, the more likely they were to have been born all over the country, even in Scotland.

That was another little aside, but if you know where your ancestors were living, do try to find them on the Censuses first, before setting off to visit Register Offices. They can give you the information you need to send off for a birth certificate, especially if you can compare one or more Census entries. But remember, like all other information, the Census is only as accurate as the people who filled it in. You may, like me, find someone giving a different date or place of birth every 10 years, but then, they still do things like that. Only the other day a couple gave notices of marriage, he in his district and she in hers, which happened to be mine. On his notice she was 52, on mine, after a number of searching questions, she turned out to be 58, which he certainly did not know. There were several other things he turned out not to know about her either . . .

This article contains some of the facts, anecdotes and hints which I thought you might find amusing or useful in your dealings with the output of Registration Service in England and Wales for the last 150 years.

The best and the quickest way I know to save money and time in this business of searching for your ancestors is to join a Family History Society. Read as many books and journals about family history as you can, to benefit from the experience and mistakes of others who were there before you. Several good books are available. One which I keep in the office is Colin Rogers's *Family Tree Detective*. Stella Colwell is another name to look for, as is Eve McLaughlin's inexpensive series of guides to various aspects of family history.

Look up what is available locally, and find out as much as you can about what you want to know BEFORE you write or go to a Register Office. If you do it afterwards you may want to kick yourself for having wasted your time and money.

As a reward to you for having made it this far, I will finish with the text of a little notice, which is displayed in my marriage room. I like to see how the expression on the face of people changes as they read it:

CAUTION:

To be exhibited or read by the Registrar to every Informant or other Person whose Signature is required to any Entry of Birth, Death, or Marriage.

Extract from the Act of 6 and 7 Wm.IV.cap.86, "for registering Births, Deaths, and Marriages in England."

"And be it enacted, that every Person who shall wilfully make or cause to be made, for the purpose of being inserted in any Register of Birth, Death, or Marriage, any false statement touching any of the Particulars herein required to be known and registered, shall be subject to the same Pains and Penalties as if he were guilty of PERJURY." (Section 41.)

N.B. Every Person guilty of Perjury is liable to Fine and Imprisonment with Hard labour for a Term not exceeding Seven years, or to Fine and Transportation for the like Term.

Aah, those were the good old days, weren't they?

Mr. Roy Horabin, formerly a Superintendent Registrar in Sunderland, gave an interesting talk to the Society in January. Having read the previous article, he has kindly contributed the following.

The original system of civil registration was based on the union of parishes which had been set up under the Poor Law Act of 1834. These unions formed the Superintendent Registrars Districts (for marriages) and were sub-divided into Registrars Districts for the purpose of registering births and deaths. They were administered by 619 Superintendent Registrars and 2193 Registrars who were paid on a fee basis. Each Registrar could expect to register about 300 events a year, for which he received 2s/6 (12½p) for the first 20 entries and 1/- (5p) for each succeeding entry. Because of loopholes in the regulations some Registrars were able to make fictitious entries to boost their income. One such was a Registrar in South Shields who caused suspicion because of an unexpected increase in the birth rate! This led to the introduction of an Inspectorate in 1844. It was not until 1929 that Registrars received a salary from their Local Authority.

There are some unusual entries in the early years - a girl whose parents called her River Jordan, a sailor whose death was registered under his nickname of Bottled Beer, a girl registered with the forename Enough because her parents had already had 12 children! I can also recall the baby girl born in 1973 whose parents decided to add in baptism the names of all the members of the F.A. Cup winning Sunderland side in 1973.

I recall a couple who turned up three days late for their wedding because they had preferred to go to the York Races on the planned date! And the man who returned to the Register Office shortly after his marriage and begged for the page to be torn out!

The Sunderland Registrar became involved in the infamous 'Yorkshire Ripper' murder case, when taped messages in a Wearside accent were received by the police. Permission was given for the police to extract information from Sunderland birth registers and over many months males born in Sunderland during a prescribed period were traced and interviewed, unnecessarily as the messages were shown to be hoaxes.

THE DUKE'S SCHOOL, ALNWICK, 1811-1911

by Mrs. J.E. Walker

On October 25th 1810, in the town of Alnwick in Northumberland, the golden jubilee of King George III was celebrated in splendid style, with military parades, music and feasting. On the orders of Hugh, second Duke of Northumberland, an ox was roasted in the market place and three cartloads of ale and bread were distributed. To commemorate the day, the foundation stone was laid for a school, capable of accommodating 200 boys, the children of the neighbouring poor, who were to be clothed, fed and educated at the Duke's sole expense.

The school was officially opened the following year, on August 12th 1811, when 182 boys were entered on the roll. The date being the birthday of the Prince Regent, the Duke insisted that the day should be observed for ever as a holiday, in order that the boys might 'learn to reverence and bless that Prince to whose honour this munificent establishment has been dedicated'.

Seventy-five years later, on 9th September 1886, the school held a grand anniversary re-union at Alnwick Castle. Of the original 182 pupils ten were still alive in 1886; they were John Hay, Charles Jobson, George Rogerson, Bartholomew Thompson, Thomas Wallace, Robert and William Whinham, John Willcox, Robert Staig and John White. All, apart from the last two, managed to be present in the guest hall.

The first headmaster, Richard Flint, was at the school only until 1814, but his successor, John Beilby, held the post for thirty years. John Garthwaite was head from 1844 to 1846 followed by John B. Holland from 1846 to 1851. Thomas Collinson was the last headmaster under the old regime; he remained at the school from 1851 until his retirement, forty-seven years later, on 15th June 1898, when a farewell banquet was held in his honour.

Between 1898 and 1902 the school was reorganised as a secondary school with a preparatory department, working in unison with the Board of Education and Northumberland County Council. This entailed the erection of additional school buildings, which were officially opened by Eleanor, Duchess of Northumberland, on 27th July 1904.

The headmaster throughout this period was F.E. Skinner Jones. He was succeeded in 1906 by Percy W. Shelford, who was still headmaster when the centenary celebrations took place in 1911.

It was decided to mark this unique occasion with the publication of a book containing a register of all admissions to the school from the date it first opened. Forms of enquiry were sent out to every Old Boy whose name and address could be found and advertisements were placed in local newspapers. The Preface to the book states: 'Our object has been to give not merely a list of names, but rather a concise biography of every Old Boy, his past career and present achievements, so that friends and schoolfellows, the whole world over, might know at a glance what he has done, what he is doing, and where, (if alive) he may be found'.

For family historians the book makes fascinating reading. In some cases, particularly the very early ones, little is known, apart from occupation after leaving school, address, or date of death. For many pupils, however, dates of birth, death and marriage are given (including father's and wife's father's names), as well as details of career, sporting and academic achievement, etc. Several of the boys ended up overseas.

The following list (about a third of the surnames in the register) shows those ex-pupils for whom more than basic information is given; many of the names cover several members of generations of one family. The writer of this article would be happy to extract full details for members of any surnames they are researching. (SAE please to Mrs. J.E. Walker, 1 Garden Place, Church Hill, Crook, County Durham DL15 9DR.)

Ainslie, Aitchison, Aitken, Allison, Amory, Anderson, Appleby, Archbold, Archer, Arkless, Armstrong, Ashburn, Asplet, Atkinson. Bainbridge, Balmbra, Barrass, Baxter, Beattie, Bell, Beverley, Bickerton, Biggs, Bird, Blagburn, Boddy, Bolton, Borrell, Bradford, Brewis, Briggs, Brown, Bryant, Buglass, Burkitt, Burman, Burn, Burnett, Butterfield, Butters. Cairns, Caisley, Campaign, Campbell, Carmichael, Carlisle, Castle, Chambers, Chrisp, Clark, Clements, Clough, Cockburn, Collier, Collinson, Common, Cook, Corns, Cossar, Coulter, Coulthard, Cowans, Coxon, Cronan, Croudace, Cunningham, Curry. Dales, Darling, Davis, Davison, Dickinson, Dingley, Dixon, Dodd(s), Donald, Douglas(s), Duncan, Dunn, Duns. Eadington, Ellacott, Elliott, England, Evans. Fairbairn, Fairgrieve, Farr, Flint, Flintoff, Foreman, Forrest, Forster, Foster, Frater, Furlonger. Geggie, Gelson, Gepp, Gibbison, Gibson, Glass, Glover, Goodfellow, Graham, Gray, Green, Grey. Haddon, Hall, Hardy, Harrison, Hart, Hatley, Heatley, Hebron, Henderson, Hewitt, Hindmarsh, Hogg, Holmes, Holt, Honeyball, Hood, Hook, Horne, Housby, Houston, Howe, Hudson, Humble, Hume, Hunt, Hunter, Hutchinson. Ireland, Isherwood. Jackson, Jefferson, Jobson, Johnson. Keen, King, Kinghorn, Kinnaird, Kirby, Kirk, Knox, Krausgrill, Kyle. Lackenby, Laidler, Lamb, Lambert, Leach, Lingwood, Lloyd, Lockey, Lorimer, Luke, Lumsdon. Mackie, Maltby, Marr, Marshall, Mattison, McFarlane, McQueen, Meech, Mennem, Middlemas(s), Milburn, Millar, Miller, Mills, Mitchell, Moffett, Moffitt, Moir, Moore, Mordue, Moreby, Morrell, Muckle, Muers, Mundle, Munro, Muras, Murray. Nesbitt, Nettleship, Newby, Nixon. Ord. Padley, Parker, Patterson, Pattinson, Peacock, Pearse, Pentleton, Percy, Pettitt, Pickard, Pickford, Pigg, Pinkney, Pitt, Potter, Potts, Pringle, Purdie, Purdue, Purvis. Railston(e), Redpath, Rennison, Richardson, Riddle, Ritchie, Robertson, Robinson, Robson, Rogers, Ross, Rowden, Rowsell, Ruddock, Rutherford. Sanderson, Scorer, Scott, Shell, Silk, Simm, Simpson, Skelly, Smart, Smith, Sordy, Staig, Stenhouse, Stephenson, Steven(s), Stewart, Storey, Straker, Straughan, Strother, Sullivan, Summers, Swan(n), Swinney. Tait, Taylor, Teasdale, Temperley, Thompson, Tindall, Trobe, Trueman, Tully, Turnbull, Turner. Walker, Wallace, Walton, Watson, Weall(e)ans, Wetherell, Weddell, Weightman, Whell(e)ans, Whinham, White, Whiteford, Whittle, Whyte, Wight, Wightman, Wilkin, Williams, Willis, Wilson, Wood, Woodward, Wright. Yeaman, Young.

Bibliography:

A Register of Admissions to the Duke of Northumberland's School, Alnwick 1811-1911.
Published 1911 by William H. Lead, Silver Street, Leicester.

Local Records or Historical Register of Remarkable Events, Vol. II, by John Sykes.
Published 1866 by T. Fordyce, Dean Street, Newcastle.

NEWS FROM DURHAM COUNTY RECORD OFFICE

Saturday Opening. For a trial period from 6th February to 26th June Durham Record Office will be open on Saturday mornings from 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon. Arrangements will be the same as those for Wednesday evenings - i.e. microfilm readers must be booked in advance and any documents must be requested by the preceding Friday.

Local Government Review. As members of the NDFHS are probably aware, a review of local government structures is underway, and the counties of Durham and Cleveland are in the first block of areas to be considered. The Local Government Commission is currently drafting its recommendations and these will be published in April. There will then be a two month period for comment and consultation before the Commission prepares the final report which is due out in November.

As with all local government services in Durham, the County Record Office is in the position of not knowing, at best who will administer it or at worst whether it will still exist, following the Commission's final report. Members may wish to write to the Commission putting the case for retention of the County Record Office whatever the future structure of local government in Durham.

Local and Family History Event. The Record Office, in conjunction with the County Arts, Libraries and Museums Department, is planning a local and family history day, to take place on 16th October 1993 at County Hall, Durham. Specific details will be available in due course but we would encourage all members of the Society to come along for at least part of the day.

NEWS FROM TYNE & WEAR ARCHIVES DEPARTMENT

Alterations to Search Room. During February 1993, building work will be carried out to the search room at Blandford House to improve security and reception facilities. This will entail the use of the Education Room as a temporary search room for about a month and there may be delays in production of records, although it is hoped there will not be too much disruption.

Street Index of 1891 Census. A temporary staff member has been taken to complete a computerised street index to the 1891 Census for the whole of Tyne and Wear. Despite hardware problems it is hoped to complete this by late Spring 1993, when copies of the index will be available to the Local Studies Libraries in all five Districts. Unlike previous Tyne and Wear Archives census street indexes, the new one will employ the original Public Record Office reference to facilitate its use.

UNWANTED CERTIFICATES

In the previous two Journals we listed "unwanted" birth and marriage certificates held in our Library and invited you to send any of your own "wrong uns" to the Librarian, Mrs. Doreen Tait. Our thanks to those of you who responded. We now list the Death Certificates we hold, and also further Birth and Marriage Certificates received since publication of the last lists. If any of them interest you, contact Mrs. Tait - please quote the reference number, name and type of certificate. And don't forget, keep on sending your unwanted ones to Mrs. Tait - someone else may be overjoyed! - But please, Northumberland or Durham only.

DEATH CERTIFICATES

- 5 BELL Elizabeth, 18 October 1945 Ebchester.
- 4 BELL William, 17 April 1932 Hamsterly.
- 26 BROWNLESS Jane, 7 July 1895 Aycliffe.
- 25 BROWNLESS Margaret, 16 July 1863 Easington.
- 24 FAWCETT John, 22 January 1940 Stockton.
- 38 FORBES Annie Alexandria M, 19 February 1937 Newcastle.
- 39 HAY Ker, 29 August 1873 Newcastle.
- 44 IRWIN Wm, 2 December 1865 Tanfield.
- 23 KITCHING John Henry, 9 June 1843 West Hartlepool.
- 37 MIDDLEMISS James, 10 February 1840 Alnwick.
- 36 MIDDLEMISS Margaret, 22 March 1865 Alnwick.
- 40 NESBIT John, 6 March 1877 Berwick.
- 42 NESBIT Wm, 23 March 1843 Wooler.
- 43 NESBIT Wm, 8 July 1856 Wooler.
- 41 NESBITT John, 1 April 1877 North Shields.
- 35 ROBERTSON Ann, 29 November 1911 Dunston.
- 33 ROSS Ada, 24 November 1914 Bishop Auckland.
- 8 SCORER Charles, 1 December 1857 Wallsend.
- 9 SCORER Charles, 15 October 1854 Kirkstall.
- 10 SCORER Charles, 19 April 1890 Gateshead.
- 12 SCORER Charles, 16 January 1855 Wimbourne.
- 13 SCORER Charles, 26 December 1858 Byron, Notts.
- 19 SCORER Charles, 23 March 1855 Bristol.
- 21 SCORER Charles, 16 April 1895 Jarrow.
- 14 SCORER Charles Thomas, 9 December 1858 Hulme, Lancaster.
- 20 SCORER Charlotte, 17 July 1863 Wallsend.
- 15 SCORER Eliz, 29 July 1864 Wallsend.
- 6 SCORER Mary, 7 July 1855 North Shields.
- 11 SCORER Mary, 13 July 1851 Willington.
- 7 SCORER Thos, 18 June 1870 Sherburn.
- 18 SCORER Thos, 25 March 1879 Chester-le-Street.
- 3 SIMPSON Jane, 14 December 1845 Berwick.
- 22 SMITH Eliza, 4 November 1865, Hamsterly.
- 1 THOMPSON Eliz, 22 September 1838 Tweedmouth.
- 2 URWIN Wm, 11 April 1857 Stockton.
- 34 WHITFIELD Ann, 16 December 1929 Middlesbrough.
- 31 WOOD Harry, 31 August 1965 Stockton.
- 27 WOOD Jane, 10 October 1874 Shildon.
- 28 WOOD Jane, 28 September 1897 Middlesbrough.
- 30 WOOD Margaret Evelyn, 19 March 1959 West Hartlepool.
- 32 WOOD Mary Ann, 5 August 1968 Sedgfield.
- 29 WOOD Mary Eliz, 25 April 1938 Stockton.

BIRTH CERTIFICATES

- 60 BLACK Thos, 8 September 1853 Wallsend.
- 61 BLACK Thos, 25 May 1851 Ponteland.
- 42 BROWN Gordon, 28 December 1897 Newcastle.
- 43 BROWN Gordon, 23 April 1898 Chorley, Lancs.
- 49 CLARK Sarah Jane, 3 August 1884 Harton.
- 48 DIXON Sarah, 11 August 1845 Earsdon.
- 44 DOWSON John, 22 March 1846 Mickleton.
- 45 DOWSON John, 28 January 1847 Witton-le-Wear.
- 46 DOWSON John, 13 November 1846 Bishopwearmouth.
- 47 DOWSON Simpson Henry, 15 October 1845 Crook.
- 54 GARDNER Margaret, 19 February 1855 Easington.
- 66 NESBIT Margaret, 28 December 1881 Byker.
- 62 NESBIT Mary Ann, 28 April 1877 Stamfordham.
- 63 NESBIT Mary Jane, 23 July 1879 Berwick.
- 64 NESBIT Mary Jane Gertrude, 3 July 1882 Byker.
- 65 NESBIT Robert, 18 August 1863 Longbenton.
- 50 OLIVER Eliz 11 August 1858 Ford.
- 53 OLIVER Eliz, 6 June 1862 Newcastle.
- 51 OLIVER Eliz 27 June 1863 Holystone.
- 52 OLIVER Eliz Ann, 13 September 1858 Gateshead.
- 57 ROBINSON Richard, 22 June 1870 Durham.
- 55 ROBINSON Wm, 23 December 1899 Durham.
- 67 ROWELL John, 8 December 1855 Newcastle.
- 58 SHARP John Edward, 29 August 1878 Carlisle.
- 59 WARD Thos, 6 March 1851 Newcastle.
- 56 WILLIAMSON Eliz Ann, 12 January 1868 Durham.
- 40 WRIGHT Joseph, 15 January 1849 Tynemouth.
- 41 WRIGHT Joseph, 14 September 1862 Bishop Middleham.

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES

- 49 Geo BARTLE/Anne Eliz MacGREGOR 1863 Lancs.
- 50 Geo BARTLE/Eliza EMMERSON 1863 Hull.
- 55 Nicholas John CARR/Dorothy STEPHENSON 1861 Newcastle.
- 47 Ralph FEATHERSTONE/Francis RUTHERFORD 1851 Stanhope.
- 48 James MacCARTNEY/Sarah Jane CLARK 1904 Barnard Castle.
- 52 Wm MIDDLEMISS/Jane FENWICK 1853 Houghton-le-Spring.
- 54 Geo NESBIT/Eliz COX 1840 Lowick.
- 51 Andrew OLIVER/Margaret MIDDLEMISS 1851 Newcastle.
- 53 John SUGDEN/Mary Jane EMBLETON 1877 Gateshead.

THE MERCHANTS' COMPANY OF ALNWICK

by Alan Angus

The existing records of the Merchants' Company of Alnwick, representing the grocers of the town, are continuous from 1582 or 1583 right through to modern times. A paper by J.C. Hodgson and H.M. Wood, published in *Archaeologia Aeliana* 3rd Series, Volume XXI (1924), quotes a considerable number of extracts from the Minute Books, including the rules of admission to the Company. The sons of freemen could be admitted 'by patrimony' on payment of a fee; otherwise an apprenticeship had to be served. In that case "It is ordered and agreed that noe apprentice shalbe free of the Company untill he haith served seaven yeares, and at the end of the yeares shall pay to the hutch of the Company five shillings and make the said Company a free dinner, or XXs."

The paper goes on to give a list of apprentices from 1583 to 1918, together with the names of their fathers and masters, and the dates of Indenture, Enrolment and Admission. To quote these details in full would take up an inordinate amount of space, so the following list gives only the names of the apprentices and the dates of their admission. Where no date is given it generally means that the apprenticeship was not completed. If the list includes a name of interest to the reader it is worth while referring to the original paper, as many of the families can be traced through several generations. As an example of the information available, details of all references to one family, the Strothers, have been appended, starting with Richard Strother (indenture dated 1836) - and finishing with Charles Strother (admitted by patrimony 1836) - a period of 167 years.

THE MERCHANTS' COMPANY OF ALNWICK

APPRENTICES

John Scott	1583	Ralph Wetherley	1651	Arthur Lee	1703	William Scott	1723
John Clay	1591	John Alder		James Thompson	1704	John Thompson	1727
John Scott	1593	John Falder	1658	Robert Davidson		James Thompson	1727
George Alder	1598/9	John Davidson	1661	Henry Facy, jnr.	1706	Thomas Weatherburn	1732
Lucke Bednell	1611	James Varty	1658	Thomas Weatherburn	1709	John Scott	1732
Robert Watson	1611	Ralph Greev	1667	Matthew Scott	1697/8	Edward Kirton	1736
James Watson	1611	Thomas Verdy	1668	Henry Swinhoe	1697/8	Edward Watson	
Andrew Rankey[n]	1612	Robert Weatherley		Edward Forster	1698	Charles Brown	1737
Nicholas Forster	1612	John Dickman	1670	Robert Davison	1698	Edward Gallon	1733
William Shell	1613	Nathaniel Salkeild	1663	James Roddam		Edward Bell	1742
Marke Scott	1619	James Cook		Arthur Strother	1699	Joseph Harle	
John Robinsonne	1619	Michael Pemberton		Ralph Forster		Collingwood Forster	1737
Thomas Salkeild	1619	John Carr	1663/4	Edward Potts	1707	William Forster	1740
William Car	1626	Thomas Forster	1663/4	Tristram Fenwick		Henry Forster	1737
George Fenkeill		Lawrence Forster	1663/4	Edward Potts		George Mills	
Michell Wanless	1628	Nicholas Forster	1664	David Scott	1710	George Selby	[1745]
John Stanton		Joshua Archbold		Thomas Vardy	1703	George Forster	1738
William Scott	1625	Thomas Salkeld	1667	Thomas Alder	1703	Ralph Henderson	1748
Lancelot Scott	1629	James Hesellridg	1668	George Potts	1703	Robert Smith	
Symonde Huntlie		Richard Strother	1676	Richard Grieve	1706	Thomas Taylor	
John Gallon	1636	Frances Ord		William Forster	1707	Joseph Darling	1743
Antonye Hadston	1638	Rowland Grumble	1687/8	William Brown	1715	Robert Alder	
Richard Wyddouse	1640/1	Clement Forster	1672	James Smith		John Forster	1741
John Scott	1628	Robert Brandling	1673	Thomas Potts		John Grey	1741
George Forster	1629	John Atkinson	1675	Thomas Atkinson		Richard Strother	1748
William Sakeild	1629	Thomas Falder	1675	Patrick Hewitt		John Rosedon	1750
Henry Weatherley	1645/6	Mark Forster	1675	Nicholas Browning		James Wilkinson	1741
Henry Stanners	1631	Nicholas Forster	1675	Henry Darling		Martin Morrison	1751
William Clay	1631	Thomas Boswell		Thomas Strother	1720	John Falder	1747
Thomas Oartis	1650	Thomas Partis	1676	Richard Strother	1713	Joseph Falder	1747
Alexander Scott	1645/5	Edward Leak	1689	Thomas Valentine	1723	John Baron	1747
John Scott	1634	Barnabas Falder	1691	Robert Carr	1726	Thomas Taylor	1747
Percival Pott		Mark Groomwell	1689	Timothy Punshon	1726	John Carr	1749
John Salkeild	1635 Vardy	1684	George Forster	1718	Robert Carr	1749
Henry Forster	1636	Richard Lisle	1695	Thomas Strother	1720	Nicholas Forster	1750
John Gallon	1638	James Forster	1687/8	Thomas Parke	1718	Arthur Gair	1751
Clement Forster	1645/6	Frank Partis	1689/90	Christopher Carr	1726	George Forster	1752
Ralph Brancheston	1646	Thomas Partis	1689/90	Charles Carr	1723	John Watson	1759
William Carr	1642	John Partis	1689/90	Joseph Nicholson	1725	Benjamin Adams	
John Alder	1643	Edward Grey	1696	Robert Brown	1742	Edward Archbold	1757
George Stanton	1644	Fargus Clavering	1697	Nicholas Brown		William Barker	
Thomas Forster	1653	Henry Swinhoe		Joseph Baron	1728	Thomas Nicholson	
John Verdy	1651	Roger Vardy	1691	William Grumble	1721	Thomas Wilkinson	
Henry Facy	1651	George Forster	1691	Thomas Dickman	1721	Christopher Little	
Thomas Mitcalfe	1651	William Locke	1692	Charles F. Howard	1721	John Weatherburn	
Thomas Scott	1647	Edward Vardy	1692	John Falder	1722	James Morrison	
William Robinson	1645	Thomas Mills	1700	Thomas Mills	1730	Thomas Muckell	
Robert Hall		George Hardy	1700	Christopher Laidman		James Brown	
John Carr	1656	Roger Huntridge		James Forster	1733	Samuel Brown	
Thomas Falder		Henry Facy	1693	George Hardy	1724	John Scott	
Edward Gallon	1650	Thomas Shipley	1720	Thomas Selby		Ralph Elder	1765
Robert Howey	1658	Thomas Falder	1694	John Kennedy	1733	Henry Forster	1761

John Anderson	1761	William Wilson	1776	Robert Embleton		Robert Falder	1829
Ralph Henderson	1768	George Selby	1777	John Forster		Thomas Embleton	1832
William Hindmarsh	1782	H. Collingwood Selby	1777	William Burrell		Richard Embleton	1832
Joseph Graham		John Bell		William Peacock	1797	William Strother	1833
Thomas Watson	1769	John Wardle	1785	James Peacock	1797	Henry McCree	1841
Edward Gallon	1763	William Brown		William Smith		John Greig	1841
John Gallon	1763	John Chrisp	1785	Richard Story	1806	Charles Strother	1836
Edward Brown	1763	James Gladstains	1786	William Forster	1799	John Henderson	1836
John Wilson		John Dand		Edward Wilson		Henry Embleton	1837
Daniel Wilkinson	1784	Richard Baird		William Landells	1813	James Henderson	1840
John Grey	1765	Joseph Baron	1782	John Henderson	1807	Mark Forster	1841
John Forster	1775	John Morrison	1786	Ralph Henderson	1807	Gawen Forster	1841
Thomas Strother	1765	George Burrell	1793	David Brown		George Forster	1844
George Bum		Henry Robinson		John Forster	1812	John Forster	1846
James Grey	1766	Ralph Smith	1794	William Forster	1812	Richard H. Carr	1847
Robert Watson		George Murton		Richard Carr	1822	John Forster	1849
George Grieve	1769	Thomas Taylor		Joseph Sanderson	1825	John Forster	1851
Robert Baron	1769	Nicholas Graham		Robert Forster	1815	Gawen Forster	1859
Thomas Salkeld	1802	Thomas Bell	1786	Nicholas Forster	1815	John Robert Forster	1863
John Hindmarsh		John Forster	1786	Charles Davison	1825	George Forster	1866
John Sanderson	1776	John Story		William Strother	1818	William Forster	1867
John Peter Cavaleer		Thomas Baird	1793	Francis T. Strother	1818	George Forster	1867
William Peacock, jun.	1769	John Hopper		William J. Henderson	1819	John Forster	1876
George Forster	1771	William Gair	1787	John Forster	1820	Thomas Forster	1879
George Embleton	1789	Francis Strother	1788	Hugh Carr	1830	Gawen Forster	1883
Thomas Jackson	1773	James Anderson		Alexander McAtthey	1831	John Mole Forster	1884
Thomas Weatherburn	1773	William Armstrong		Thomas Forster	1826	Anthony H. Henderson	1884
William Baird	1781	John Marchel		George Forster	1826	John D. Henderson	1888
George Henderson		Thomas Lithead		Robert Atkinson		Bradley Embleton	1906
Ralph Annett	1781	Edward Tindall		Henry Dixon	1826	Ralph Henderson	1909
William Wreight		Richard Wake		Roddam John Falder	1827	Reginald A. Forster	1912
William Rickaby		William Embleton	1796	Collingwood J. Falder	1827	John Robert Forster	1912
Matthew Forster	1775	John Dixon	1801	Robert Sheel	1841	James Forster	1918
Robert Towns	1786	John Scott		George Elder			
Edward Bell	1776	John Tate	1801	William Embleton	1828		

NAME OF APPRENTICE	NAME OF FATHER OF APPRENTICE AND OBSERVATIONS	MASTER	DATE OF INDENTURE	ENROLMENT	APPRENTICE
Richard Strother		John Falder	18 May 1669	4 Oct 1669	7 June 1676
Mark Groomwell	William Groomwell	Richard Strother	2 Mar 1681/2	13 Mar 1681/2	1 Oct 1689
Edward Grey	Martin Grey	Richard Strother	13 July 1688	3 Mar 1689/90	8 Dec 1696
Thomas Mills		Richard Strother	30 Sept 1691	3 Dec 1692	22 April 1700
James Thompson		Richard Strother	20 Dec 1695	5 Dec 1696	21 April 1704
Arthur Strother	As eldest son of Mr. Richard Strother	By patrimony			2 Oct 1699
James Smith	Thomas Smith of Togston	Arthur Strother		6 July 1709	
Thomas Strother	Richard Strother	His father [1712]		13 April 1720
Richard Strother	As second son of Richard Strother	By patrimony			30 Nov 1713
Robert Carr	Mr John Carr	Arthur Strother	21 June 1716	3 Oct 1716	6 April 1726
Thomas Strother	As third son of Richard Strother, deceased	By patrimony			13 April 1720
Edward Bell	Edward Bell of 'Stotterick'	Thomas Strother	21 July 1735	21 July 1735	4 Oct 1742
Richard Strother	Richard Strother, late of Alnwick	Thomas Strother	27 Jan 1740/1	6 Dec 1743	22 April 1748
John Rosedon	Henry Rosedon	Thomas Strother	9 Aug 1742	6 Dec 1743	4 Dec 1750
Edward Archbold		Thomas Strother	7 Nov 1749	24 April 1752	6 Dec 1757
John Weatherburn		Thomas Strother	2 Feb 1754	30 Nov 1756	
Ralph Elder		Richard Strother	5 Dec 1757	4 Dec 1759	23 April 1765
Thomas Strother	As eldest son of Mr. Thomas Strother	By patrimony			14 Oct 1765
John Hindmarsh	Elizabeth Hindmarsh of Alnwick		7 Mar 1767	16 Oct 1769	
William Baird	Mr. William Baird of Alnmouth (otherwise by patrimony)	Richard Strother	12 Nov 1772	18 Oct 1773	23 April 1781
Richard Baird	William Baird of Alnmouth	Thomas Strother			
Francis (otherwise Francis Thomas) Strother	As eldest son of Mr. Thomas Strother	Richard Strother	7 June 1779	13 Oct 1779	
Richard Story	George Story of Sturton Grange	By patrimony			2 Dec 1788
William Strother		Francis Thomas Strother	14 July 1798	24 April 1806	
Francis Thomas Strother	As third son of late Mr. Thomas Strother	By patrimony			22 April 1818
William Strother	As eldest son of late Thomas Strother	By patrimony			22 April 1818
Charles Strother	As eldest son of William Storther, esq.	By patrimony			23 April 1833
	As second son of William Strother, esq.	By patrimony			21 April 1836

THREE TALES OF TRUE LOVE

by Stanley Edwards

Here, for your entertainment, are three stories of marriage, And who knows, maybe they involve some of your ancestors. Each tale comes from the same local newspaper, the *Berwick Advertiser* of the early 19th century, although none of the events took place in the Berwick area. Then, as now, the press liked its 'human interest' stories. Or was it sensationalism? And are the stories true? Judge for yourself, with a little help from our old friends, the parish registers.

"Saturday, December 18th, 1813. Last week, a couple were married at Tynemouth Church, the bridegroom 80 and the bride 21. They seemed to have studied economy, as the bride was churched and the child was christened at the same time."

It should be possible, shouldn't it, to identify the happy pair? After all, the marriage will appear in the Tynemouth parish register and presumably there will also be an entry for the baptism of the child. Alas, as always, things are not so simple. Yes, there are several marriages at Tynemouth at the right time. Unfortunately no ages are given, so we can't identify the lovers that way. Maybe it was Thomas Gill, widower, and Elizabeth Watson, spinster. They married on 5th December 1813. Our 80 year old bridegroom could well be a widower, couldn't he, perhaps several times over. So is there is a christening of a Gill or a Watson child, to tie up the loose ends of the story? Well, what do you think? Of course, there isn't. Indeed, no child was baptised whose stated parents were any of the good folk who married at Christ Church in Tynemouth in that long ago December. So is the story true, or is there a bit of journalistic embellishment? Who knows?

Story number two. The newspaper of May 5th 1810 and again Tynemouth Church is involved.

"On Monday se'nnight at 7 in the morning, a sailor, accompanied by his intended bride (the well known Pegg Banks) and wedding guests, chiefly beggars and ballad singers, set off from North Shields to Tynemouth, escorted by a great concourse of spectators, who with loud huzzas cheered the motley group on their tedious journey, for though not more than a quarter of a mile, they were an hour in performing it, owing to the whole party being drunk, but particularly the bride, whose head often came in contact with the pavement, sometimes accompanied by her two supporters. After many a grievous disaster, they at length arrived at the church, when the priest, on account of the intoxicated state of the parties, refused to perform the ceremony and advised them to retire till 11 o'clock, when if he found them rational, they should be joined in the holy state of matrimony. They accordingly retired and the bride (at her own request) was repeatedly washed over the head and ears in vinegar, which had the desired effect, for when they returned to church the priest buckled them together. They then proceeded with increased numbers in their train and spent the day and night following in a jovial manner."

So this time we have a name, Pegg Banks, and she is "well known". But alas there is no lady (if she can be so described) by the name of Banks appearing in the Tynemouth marriage register of 1810. However, on the 23rd of April in that year, five couples were "buckled together", including George Kerr and Margaret Weatherall, both 'of this parish', no occupations and no indications of their marital status such as spinster, bachelor or widow. Could Margaret Weatherall be 'Peggy Banks'? Well now, on the 28th of June 1794 Robert Weatherall married Margaret Banks at Gateshead. So did Robert Weatherall die, leaving Margaret nee Banks free to marry a sailor groom called Kerr sixteen years later further down the Tyne? And why was Margaret alias Pegg nee Banks formerly Weatherall now Kerr described as "well known"? Anyway, it's a nice story, isn't it, viewed from nigh on 200 years later. Although what the Vicar, Charles Charleton thought is not recorded. Margaret couldn't write, or she was simply too drunk to sign the register other than with an 'X'? Any why does the register show that the banns were read on three days in March 1809 - a full year before the 1810 marriage ceremony? A slip of Reverend Charles Charleton's pen perhaps? It wouldn't be at all surprising, in view of what he had had to put up with!

The third tale - perhaps saga is a better word - is about a wedding at Corbridge that wasn't, and a wedding at Corbridge that was!

On 23rd October 1813, a marriage licence was issued authorising Thomas Hindmarsh, a farmer of Newburn, to marry Anna Snowball. But just a week later, on October 30th, another licence was issued, for Anna Snowball to marry one Robson Lambert, a farmer. The same Anne Snowball? Whatever happened to her proposed nuptials with Thomas Hindmarsh? We know, because the parish register tells us, that Anne married Robson Lambert on the very day the second licence was issued.

Let the press, bless them, tell the story, as they did in their November 13th 1813 edition.

"Sunday se'nnight, at Corbridge, Mr. Robson Lambert to Ann, second daughter of Mr. C. Snowball, both of Dilston. The lady has been affianced to another gentleman for the last three years. Nay the licence was actually purchased and they were to have been married the following morning. In the middle of Friday night, the bridegroom set off from Newcastle, knocked up a surrogate, produced a licence about 3 o'clock in the morning and was back at Corbridge sufficiently soon to have the ceremony performed."

So there is the background. The press seem to have got it right, don't they? And the couple do seem to have lived happily every after, for they baptised no less than nine children at Corbridge church between 1814 and 1828 - the first one much more than nine months after the wedding, so that wasn't the reason for poor Tom Hindmarsh being pipped at the post. Was he heartbroken, I wonder?

NEWS FROM NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY RECORD OFFICE

Changes in Organisation. Northumberland Record Office is now part of the Amenities Department of Northumberland County Council. This department brings together, as a heritage group, the Record Office, the County Museums Service and local studies resources in libraries throughout the county. A new post of Head of Heritage has been created and Mrs. Sally Bird (a former Archivist-in-Charge) has been appointed. She is now based at the County Central Library, The Willows, Morpeth NE61 1TA (telephone 0670-512385).

Accessions. Recent accessions of interest to family historians include Walkergate Banns Register 1951-1992, parish records for the church of St. Mark's, Byker, Newcastle and the records of the Smiths, Glaziers and Armourers Guild of Morpeth 1617-1900. The Record Office has also ordered the 1992 I.G.I. for the northern counties and the Borders.

1881 Census Project. Readers may be interested to have a brief report on the progress made to date on this project. Over 90% of the transcription work is now complete. The majority of the transcripts which have been completed in both A & B stages have been checked and much of this work has been sent to Birmingham to be inputted. It would be helpful if any transcriber with outstanding material could return it to Mrs. S. Wood as soon as possible. If you are unable to complete the transcription it doesn't matter - there are a number of eager volunteers awaiting transcription work who would be happy to complete unfinished pieces.

NEW MEMBERS

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

Welcome to all our new members.

4842 Mrs A. WITTY, 136 Cleveland Road, High Barnes, Sunderland SR4 7JT. 4843 Miss D.J. FORSTER, 32 Wilcott Road, Gatley, Cheadle, Stockport, Cheshire SK8 4DX. 4844 Mrs C. BRIARS, 23 Bramworth Road, Old Hexthorpe, Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN4 0HZ. 4845 Mr J. IVIL, 5 King Albert Place, Crook, County Durham DL15 9DQ. 4846 & 4847 Mrs E. & Mr W. INESON, 20 Broadway, Swindon, Wiltshire SN2 3BT. 4848 Miss A.M. AULD, 23 Rowan Close, Ealing, London W5 4AQ. 4850 Dr J.D. HARTE, 4 Fernville Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4HT. 4851 Mrs E.J. MORRIS, 43 Twelfth Avenue, Chester-le-Street, County Durham DH2 2BW. 4853 Mr E. SENIOR, 19 Station Road, Kenton Bank Foot, Newcastle upon Tyne NE13 8AG. 4854 Mr K. PURVIS, 5 Aspen Drive, Barrow in Furness, Cumbria LA13 0RL. 4855 Mrs J. WALLACE, 11 McKay Close, Goosegreen Estate, Aldershot, Hants NN17 3DB. 4857 Mr K.G. CARR-BROWN, 2 Highfield Gardens, Eaglescliffe, Stockton on Tees, Cleveland TS16 0DJ. 4859 Mrs S. EMMERSON, 7 Hall Lane Estate, Willington, Crook, County Durham DL15 0QF. 4860 Miss J.E. PARK, 2 Leyburn Drive, High Heaton, Newcastle upon Tyne NE7 7AP. 4861 & 4862 Mr D.S. & Mrs D. HOWE, 56 Ripon Street, Roker, Sunderland SR6 0JZ. 4863 & 4864 Mr E.E. & Mrs N.B. NUTMAN, 20 Sidenhill Close, Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands B90 2QD. 4865 & 4866 Mrs J. & Mr B.F.C.M. SCHIPHORST, 27 Hopgarth Gardens, Chester-le-Street, County Durham DH3 3RH. 4867 Ms J.A. BROWNE, 103 Palewell Park, London SW14 8JJ. 4868 Mr T.S. TENNANT, 6 Raby Street, Millfield, Sunderland SR4 7EH. 4869 Mr J.T. ARTHUR, 1 Lenore Terrace, Dyke Heads, Woodside, Ryton, Tyne and Wear NE40 4QX. 4870 Mrs H.M. KOELLNER, 21 Bergalia Street, Moruya, N.S.W. 2537, Australia. 4871 Mrs L.J. KENNEDY, 4 Hartley Road, Coolbellup, Perth, W.A. 6163, Australia. 4876 Mr V. CROOK, 25 Patterborough Road, Newton Hall, County Durham DH1 5QX. 4877 Mr J. ARCHER, 40 High Leys, St. Ives, Cambs PE17 4RX. 4878 Mrs G. CROCKER, 8 Northall Close, Eaton Bray, Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU6 2EB. 4880 Dr A.P. KETTERINGHAM, Croft House, Great Tosson, Thropton, Morpeth, Northumberland NE65 7NW. 4881 Mrs A.M. MOULES, 14 Fenwicks Lane, Fulford, York YO1 4PL. 4884 & 4885 Mrs B.A. & Mr E.T. HEPPLE, 11a Woodend Way, Brunton Bridge, Newcastle upon Tyne NE13 7BG. 4886 Mr K. BLENOWE, 11 Chatterton Street, Southwick, Sunderland SR5 2LB. 4887 Dr A.M. HINDMARSH, 49 Crimicar Lane, Fulwood, Sheffield S10 4FA. 4888 Mrs K.L. CLARKE, 38 Park Drive, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 5QB. 4889 Miss S.J. NICHOLSON, 54 Parkhill Terrace, Treboeth, Swansea, West Glamorgan SA5 7DJ. 4890 & 4891 Mrs M.E. & Mr W.G. KENNEDY, 10 Thornfield Road, Lockwood, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD4 5HQ. 4893 Mr R. WHITTLE, 15 North Terrace, Gainford, Darlington, County Durham DL2 3EE. 4894 & 4895 Mrs C. & Mr A. COCHRANE, 60 Harford Road, Cayton, Scarborough, North Yorkshire YO11 3SU. 4896 Prof. K.D. PEACOCK, 30 Stonehill Drive, Great Glen, Leicester LE8 0EL. 4897 Mr M.R. NOBLE, 5 Post Meadow, Billericay, Essex CM11 2SE. 4898 Mrs M. STEPHENSON, 13 Tynedale Drive, Cowpen, Blyth, Northumberland NE24 4LH. 4899 & 4900 Mrs P. & Mr A. TURNBULL, 7 Shadforth Close, Old Shotton, Peterlee, County Durham SR8 2NG. 4901 Mr R.E. SPARK, Bracken Cottage, Hillside, Ashover, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S45 0BY. 4902 Mrs T. WRIGHT, 39 Devonworth Place, Cowpen, Blyth, Northumberland NE24 5AD. 4903 Mrs P.A. SCOTT, 27 Shaftesbury Avenue, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear NE26 3TD. 4904 & 4905 Rev. D. & Rev. A.A. ELKINGTON, 12 Shannon Court, Kingston Park, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 2XF. 4906 Mrs E.M. DUNN, 8 South Terrace, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 1DZ. 4907 Mr T.M.H. BELL, Inglethorpe, Burlington Road, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 9AL. 4908 & 4909 Mr T. & Mrs N.J. BALMER, 132 Park Avenue, Bushey, Herts WD2 2BB. 4910 Mr J. EGGLESTONE, 4 Castle View, Broompark, County Durham DH7 7NT. 4911 Mrs I.L. POPHAM, 10 Southlands Drive, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 9DW. 4912 Mrs C.J. HUTCHINS, North Bank Road, Bellingham, N.S.W. 2454, Australia. 4913 Mr J. LITTLE, 3 The Knoll, Oxtan, Birkenhead, Merseyside L43 5YZ. 4914 Mrs V. HAWLEY, Tindal House, Killingworth, Tyne and Wear NE12 0BL. 4915 & 4916 Mr W. & Mrs M. WILSON, 5 Sandhill Way, Bilton, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG1 4JN. 4917 Dr P.S. FOREMAN, 60 Leighton Road, Southville, Bristol, Avon BS3 1NU.

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.

- 1436 Mrs I.A. GRANT**, 52 Kingston Drive, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear NE26 1JJ
Seeking information of the following: John Robert **Dodds** and his wife Jane, nee **Martin**, living at 29 Framwellgate, Durham City in 1891 with their children John, Robert, Elizabeth and Barbara Victoria. 29 Framwellgate is said to be known as the 'Gas House', but why? Barbara Victoria married Thomas **Harker**, also known as **McLean**, but her baptism, marriage or burial has so far not been found. Elizabeth married George Thomas **Fortune** of Redmire, North Yorks. They lived in Percy Main and she died at North Shields in 1923. Also interested in information regarding: 1) Matthew Henry **Allison**, born 1884 at Gilesgate Moor, son of William Allison and Elizabeth Ann **Martin**, 2) Joshua and Harriet **Adamson** (nee **Self**). Joshua is said to be the owner of a drift mine possibly known as 'Frankland' and was in the area of what is now Frankland Prison. 3) Christopher James **Grant** and Mary Ann nee **Maurs**, living at South Shields in 1891, and 4) Benjamin George Joshua **Sarstedt**, born in India.
- 1845 Ms REBECCA LISLE**, Buxton Villa, 4 Richmond Park Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8 3AT
Researching the **Lisle**, **Porteous** and **Burn** families around Ancroft, Wooler, Berrington, etc. Especially looking for the birth/baptism of William Lisle c.1813 and Agnes Lisle in 1814.
- 2130 Mr KEN ILDETON**, Whiteshell P.O., West Hawk Lake, Manitoba R0E 2H0, Canada
Looking for the birth/baptism of William **Elderton** who married Isabel Dawson at South Shields in 1769. Information from the marriage lines and the index to Durham marriage bonds indicate that he was 24 years old and from Hart but baptism doesn't seem to be recorded there. Would the bond itself give more information? (*Not much more, Mr Ilderton! The bond shows that both bride and groom were "24 and upwards", he was a yeoman, and the bondsman was John Ellison of Westoe, "wrighte", William was a bachelor, Isabel a spinster - Ed.*)
- 2678 Mrs M. SODEN**, 116 Vicarage Close, New Silksworth, Sunderland SR3 1JE
Searching for the birth and parents of James **Herbert**, born c.1860, married Margaret Ann **Oliver** at Durham Registry Office in April 1881.
- 2843 ADDISON LOWES**, P.O. Box 305, Heidelberg, 3084 Victoria, Australia
Any help with further information of the following would be welcomed. John **Lowes**, born 1818 Chirton or Preston village, son of Joseph; married in 1842 at South Shields to Elizabeth **Graham**, daughter of Christopher of Monkwearmouth. John, who was a master blacksmith and member of Earsdon Primitive Methodist church, died at Earsdon in 1890.
- 3307 M.J. PARKER**, 44 Lime Tree Avenue, Bilton, Rugby, Warwickshire CV22 7QT
Re the book "*Roots and Branches of the Angus and Leybourn Families*", (Mary McIntosh, Cleadon 1958), my family married into the Healeyfield Leybourns in 1776 and the Angus family in 1811 at Lanchester. Would like to contact Mrs McIntosh in order to find out how the family research has developed.
- 4127 Mrs WYN CHALKER**, 13 Margerison Crescent, Ben Rhydding, Ilkley, West Yorkshire LS29 8QZ
Researching the family of Robert **Straker**, farmer of Longhirst Brooks, and would like to sort out the links with other branches of the Straker families. Desperate to find Alexander **Watson**, age 29, and his wife Rose in the 1891 Census: married Jarrow in 1889, in a Jarrow trade directory for 1891 (cider manufacturer), and in Hexham 1894 (commercial traveller); parents in Jarrow, uncle in Gateshead in 1891. Also, where exactly is/was Warkworth Mains?
- 4176 Mrs NORMA SMITH**, 86 Church Street, Croydon, 2132 New South Wales, Australia
Seeking the marriage of Robert **Fryar**, born 1798, 8th son of Mark **Fryar** and Isabella **Scott**, to Elizabeth **McKay** about 1830-32 in Durham. Also seeking descendants of their children. The fourth son migrated to Australia in 1878. Elizabeth **Fryar** was a widow living in Felling in 1878. Also descendants of Mark, fourth son b.1791; Michael, ninth son b.1800; John, 10th son b.1802; James, 13th son b.1807 and Scott, 14th son b.1810.
- 4262 Mr D.A. THWAITES**, 6 Kinloch Drive, Bolton BL1 4LZ
Seeks any information about a Dr **Thwaites** who was killed when his pony and trap overturned in Newgate Street, Bishop Auckland. Date unknown, but probably in the 1850's. Also anything of the **Stead**, **Stout** and **Million** families of Evenwood and Ramshaw. Jane Ann **Stout** married James Richard **Stead** c.1872.
- 4323 ALEX McNAUGHTON**, 76 Guelder Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE7 7PP
An inscription in a family bible states that it was presented by Anne Elizabeth **McNaughton** to her grandfather James in August in 1858 at Haddington, Scotland. A later inscription says that the bible was presented by John **McNaughton** to his grandson James in 1882 at Wallsend. John was born at Haddington in 1804 and died at Wallsend in 1885, a colliery blacksmith. Any information about the family would be appreciated. Also looking for information regarding John's daughters Alice, born 1830, and Sarah Jane, born 1835.
- 4379 Mrs B. McLEOD**, 16 Dunsmore Avenue, Rugby, Warwickshire CV22 5HD
Seeks information of the following: William **Bridon**, ironmonger of Gateshead, and his wife Eleanor **Purvis**, and their connection with the **Bucktons** of Whickham c.1870. Also the birthplace of Sarah **Childs** c.1818 who married Thomas **Archbold**, civil engineer, and John **Archbold** and his wife Mary **Prestwick**, married in 1759.
- 4446 ROBERT JOHNSON**, 9 Throstle Nest Drive, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 9PB
Would like any information regarding Ralph **Johnson** living at Pitlington in 1860, at which time a son Robert was born. Also anything regarding Thomas **Johnson Turncliff** (Turncliffe?), illegitimate birth at Sunderland in 1874 to M. Turncliffe. Adopted by William **Hodgson** and renamed William Turncliffe Hodgson, the adoption being witnessed by Sarah **White**.

- 4522 **Mr MICHAEL CORNER**, 101 Hartburn Village, Hartburn, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland TS18 5DR
Would like any information on Eugene Edward **Clephan**, born Stockton 1843 and died at Gateshead 1904. He married a cousin, Clara Clephan and they had family: Horace (b.1873), Hilda (1875), Bertha (1877), Annetta (1878), Mabel (1880), Ruth (1883) and Angus (1881). Would particularly like to contact any descendants of the above.
- 4551 **ELIZABETH McMURDY**, 13 Willow Street, Kippa Ring, Queensland 4021, Australia
Has been trying for years to find the birthplace of William Grieve **Hunter** and the name of his mother. His father was John Hunter, a painter. He was born c.1846 and married Elizabeth **Ballentyne**, nee Fry, at Gateshead Registrar's Office in 1874. They lived in the Tynemouth area and had seven children: Kathleen, John Polson, Isabella, Sarah, William Grieve and Jenny (twins) and Edward Fry. Also seeking information on George **Russell**, born Alnmouth 1815 and his wife Mary **Downie**. They lived at Newbiggin and had children: Elizabeth, William, Margaret, John, George and Sarah.
- 4564 **ADRIAN LINCOLN**, 316 Cloverdale Boulevard, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547-1408, U.S.A.
Families being researched include: **Lincoln**, **Edgar**, **Williamson**, **Norman**, **Harkins**, **McLoughlin**, **Baily**, **Fairbairn** and **Kennedy**.
- 4603 **MICHAEL PARTRIDGE**, 39 Wallingford Road, Handforth, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 3JT
Can anyone help in tracing a pedigree for the **Bowart** family. Also researching **Boutland** (all) and **Kirkup** (Ashington area). John Tweddle **Sparke**, accountant of Haydon Bridge/Hexham, born before 1829. William Bootland (Northumberland Militia) married Elizabeth **Cockburn** c. 1790, probably at Newcastle, daughter of Thomas. Ann **Jolly** (a Huguenot name), born c.1813 in Newcastle married Thomas Boutland, born 1818 Gateshead (a cabinet maker) c.1830. Any information appreciated and all letters answered.
- 4608 **JOHN JOHNSTONE**, 61 Salisbury Road, Farnborough, Hants GU14 7AG
Researching the ancestors of William Carr **Robinson**, born Sunderland 1907, and his wife Alice Scouler **Carlton**, born Ashington 1907. William's parents were Richard Robinson and Jane Carr, daughter of George Carr, sailmaker of Sunderland.
- 4610 **MARGARET KENNEDY**, P.O. Box 718, Shepparton, Victoria 3630, Australia
Would welcome any information concerning Peter **Calvert**, plumber. Had issue: Ada, married **Thompson**, Jemima m. Charles Nash, Jimmy, Billy, Benny, David, Jack and Peter b.1880 who married Jane Annie **Hamm** at Pallion, Sunderland in 1902. Also Samuel **McLaughlan** b.Newcastle 1816 married Anne **Laidler** and had issue Mary m. William **Burdiss**, James m. Elizabeth **Fall**, William m. Mary **Short**. James and Elizabeth's daughter Mary Ann married 1) James **Duncan**, and 2) Richard **Kennedy**.
- 4630 **JEAN GRAHAM**, 41 Hollinhill, Rowlands Gill, Tyne and Wear NE39 1AZ
Does anyone know of any local records of the Salvation Army? Particularly interested in finding out more about Edward **Bulman** and his wife Isabella nee **Gibbon** who were married at Heworth in 1870 and later moved to Ryhope. Isabella was said to have sold *The War Cry* around the local public houses. Also interested in information about Stephen **Bulman** of Newcastle who married Mary **Bulman** of Kelloe in 1734 in Durham Cathedral, and William **Graham** and Mary **Robinson** living at Lanchester in 1855.
- 4638 **Mrs M. COLLIER**, 6 Spean Crescent, Spean Bridge, Inverness PH34 4ER
Researching the family of Jane **MacDonald**, born 1863 at Pitme, Rochester near Otterburn and baptised at Birdhopecraig Presbyterian Church. Her father was Hugh MacDonald from Inverness-shire and her mother Mary **Dunn** of Pitme, Rochester. Mary's may have been related to Thomas Dunn who died at Pitme in 1888 aged 91 and Jane who died at the same place in 1889 aged 84. Interested in learning where Mary was born, and where she and Hugh married.
- 4686 **Mr TONY WESTBROOK**, 5 Newlands, Northallerton, North Yorkshire DL6 1SJ
Looking for details of Matthew Adamson **Hunter**, possibly born 1850 Framwellgate, and may have had a brother James born c.1854. Father was Henry or Hermes who was a colliery agent. The brother moved to the Cleveland ironstone mines about 1871.
- 4691 **Mrs ANN CHAPMAN**, 2 Wordsworth Avenue, Pilton, Barnstable, Devon EX31 1QQ
Seeking information on: William **Bennett** (mariner) and Margaret Ann **Baker**, the parents of Alice Mary Bennett, b.1880 at Bell Street, North Shields. Daniel **Griffiths** (coal miner), b.1854 North Wales who married Jane **Dickman**, b.1858 Littleton County Durham, before 1881. Thomas **Jobes**, or **Jobb** (blacksmith), b.1836 North Tyneside. William **Percy** (husbandman), father of Robert **Percy**, b.1835 North Northumberland.
- 4696 **JIM JOHNSON**, 1 The Orchard, Risely, Bedford MK44 1EB
Needs help with his paternal grandmother's family. She was Elizabeth Emma **Bridges**, b.1864 at Kirklington, and married George **Johnson** at Cornforth in 1886. Her father was William **Bridges**, b.Newcastle c.1832 and her mother was Elizabeth **Rymer**, born c.1832 at Newton, near Stockton. They were married at Hartlepool in 1855. Any information about the family would be appreciated.
- 4736 **Mrs C.W. THOMAS**, 61 Marshals Drive, St. Albans, Herts AL1 4RD
Any information on John **Wrangham** of Lumley, yeoman, born c.1589, apparently not baptised at Chester-le-Street, married Elizabeth **Dixon** 1612, and/or Isabella **Acheson** 1613; children Robert, Anna, John, Jane, Richard, Oswald, 1614 to 1626. All marriages and baptisms at Chester-le-Street. Constable for Protestations for Lumley 1640-42. 'Next heir' aged 46 in Inquisition post mortem of elder brother Richard died 1635/6, of Langton, Malton, Yorks. John's eldest son Robert in possession of Richard's land at Langton by 1641. Possible parents of John, 'wife' (sic) of Oswald, buried 1598/9 and Oswald, buried 1610, perhaps from Witton Gilbert, or Margaret buried 1619 and Richard buried 1625, all at Chester-le-Street.
- 4785 **Mrs GLYNIS MORRIS**, 56 Armond Road, Witham, Essex CM8 2HA
Would welcome information about William **Morris** who had a shop at Amble in the early 20th century. William married 1) Elizabeth who died 1925/6, and 2) Sarah/Sally. His children were William, Elizabeth, Janet, Lavinia, John Robert, Valentine, Irene, George, Gwen and Lilian.
- 4796 **Mrs M. GLENISTER**, Appletree Cottage, Godshill, Fordingbridge, Hants SP6 2LW
Researching her maiden name of **Earsdon** and would welcome any information regarding the name or associated places.
- 4832 **NEIL DORNEY**, 13 Collingwood Terrace, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear NE26 2NP
Is there any connection between George **Thompson**, butcher of the Grainger Market, Newcastle, died 1918, and Thomas Thompson who started a butcher's shop in St. Peter's Road and lived in Gosforth? Thomas' son Robert lived in Kenton until he died in the 1950's. George had two sons, William and Thomas, by his first wife, and five daughters, Mary, Georgina, Eleanor, Catherine and Florence by his second marriage to Margaret Ann **Varley**. All the children were born between 1860 and 1895.

- 4836 Mrs CORAL LAW**, 138 Berrington Road, Park Orchards, 3114 Victoria, Australia
Researching the *Surtees/Dinning* family of Chollerton, Warden and Newbrough. George Surtees, b.1803, married Jane Dinning, b.1796. Issue: George, b.1828, d.1889 Australia and Richard, b.1833, d.1910 Australia. Would appreciate any information on the family or the history of the Newbrough/Chollerton area.
- 4837 DAVID CRAGGS**, 27 Station Road, Tadcaster, North Yorkshire LS24 9JE
The parish registers for Chester-le-Street show the baptisms of brothers David, Christopher, Thomas and John Craggs, three of whom were born at Floters Mill or Flottismill. Can anyone help by identifying the location of this place. (*Floters Mill is just west of Fencehouses. There is a bridge of that name which spans the Lumley Park Burn, and a public house - Ed.*)
- 4839 Miss LYNNE ATKINSON**, 36 Otterwood Lane, Acomb, York YO2 3JR
Trying to find the birth or baptism of John French. Earliest record of him is on the 1841 Census, living at Knock Shield, Allendale with his parents John and Jane French, and brother Thomas. John's age given as 15, therefore born c.1822-26. He later married three times and lived at Peasmeadows, outside Allenheads. Any information about him or the family would be welcome.
- 4849 Mrs M. CARTWRIGHT**, 1 Bailey Green Cottages, Longridge Road, Hurst Green, Near Blackburn, Lancashire BB6 9QP
Interested in the following families, all of Wallsend, Felling and Lancashire, 1900 onwards: Cameron, Nissan, Gibson, Futton, Austin and Dewhurst.
- 4852 Mrs N.H. SENIOR**, 19 Station Road, Kenton Bank Foot, Newcastle upon Tyne NE13 8AG
Seeking the baptism of John William Hayton, born 1877, possibly in Wales. Married Annie Henderson at Wingate, County Durham 1899. Father named as William, deceased, occupation unknown. At the time of his marriage, John was a miner living at High Pittington. Any help would be greatly appreciated.
- 4856 Mr G.B. MARSHMAN**, 7 Kirkby Road, Grettton, Near Corby, Northants NN17 3DB
A marriage certificate issued in 1874 was countersigned by a chaplain to the V.C. Union. Can anyone explain what the V.C. Union was?
- 4858 Mr S. EMMERSON**, 7 Hall Lane Estate, Willington, Crook, County Durham DL15 0QF
Descendants sought and information wanted about Daniel Jenkins, a private in the 'Carmathen' Militia stationed at Newcastle, who married Elizabeth Ryder at Monkwearmouth 1811. Also researching Dobinson, Jude, Todd (Newcastle and Durham areas), and Ryder (Sunderland area).
- 4872 Mrs ELAINE KIRKHAM**, 16 Sandown Avenue, Scarborough, Ontario M1N 3V9, Canada
Researching her Clint family history. Thomas Clint married Jane Askew in 1797 at Whitfield, Northumberland. They later had eleven children: Ann married Thomas Coulson, Jane, Eleanor may have married Thomas Harrison, Mary married John Pearson, Hannah, Edward married Mary Chalmers, Isabella, Thomas, William, Margaret, Elizabeth may have married John Peacock. Much of the information is based on the IGI and an old family bible and help to confirm the information would be appreciated.
- 4873 Mrs J. CAMPBELL**, P.O. Box 2, Buirum Heads, 4659 Queensland, Australia
Interested in Campbell and Paterson/Peterson families of North Shields 18/19th century.
- 4874 MARY WOODRUFF**, 41 Larkhall Street, St. John's, Newfoundland A1B 2C5, Canada
Interests include: Abraham Pearson, b.1801 Longbenton; Abraham Pearson, b.1824(?) New Brancepeth; Robert Pearson 1852-1932 New Brancepeth; Wilson, Bennett and Hall of Hartlepool and Eaton of Middlesbrough.
- 4875 Mrs M.N. BESWICK**, 2 James Road, Whitchurch, Tavistock, Devon PL19 9NJ
Interests: Dorin of Stocksfield, Acomb, Durham and Lancashire (19/20th century), Robinson of Cornforth area of County Durham (19th century) and Miller of Tynemouth/North Shields/Newcastle (19th century). Searching for the baptism and marriage of Charles Miller, a freeman of Newcastle, who was an ironmonger in North Shields. He married c.1840 to Elizabeth Gregg, but not at North Shields. They had four sons: Charles Emanuel and George William (1845) (twins), John Edward (1849) and Thomas Neilson (1851).
- 4882 ROBERT M. GALE**, 2537 Sechelt Drive, North Vancouver, British Columbia V7H 1N7, Canada
Particular family interests include: Robinson (Newcastle/Hexham and Cumbria 19/20th century), Grierson (Hexham 18/19th century), Maughan (Haydon Bridge 17-19th century), Thompson (Simonburn 18/19th century), Scott (St. John Lee and Greystead 19th century) and Longlands (Chollerton 18/19th century).
- 4883 Mr H. MOORE**, 30 Meadow Rise, Dawlish, Devon EX7 9AZ
According to the 1881 Census, George Edward Moore, a coal miner, was born at Crook c.1872/3. He died in 1960 and was married in 1897 to Mary Longstaff at St. Andrew's Auckland. His parents were Edward and Mary Moore who in 1871 were living at Crook and in 1881 at Shildon. Despite searches at the Auckland registrar's office and St. Catherine's House indexes, his birth hasn't been found. Has anyone come across him in the local registers? Or suggest how to proceed?
- 4892 PHILIP CRAMPTON**, Woodmans Yard, Damerham, Fordingbridge, Hampshire SP6 3EU
Interested in tracing his Crampton family name in Barnard Castle at the beginning of the 19th century. Wishes to contact any member researching the same name or area. Firm information so far gives Thomas Hill Crampton b.1805 and Elizabeth Crampton b.1807, children of James Crampton and Elizabeth Hill, both of Barnard Castle.

OFFERS OF HELP

- 4852 Mrs J. WEARS**, 2 Highfield Villas, East Mill, Halstead, Essex CO9 2EH
Has copies of Wolsingham registers, baptisms January 2nd 1825 to January 19th 1831 and marriages December 4th 1824 to February 21st 1831, and would be happy to check for entries. A stamped addressed envelope or two International Reply Coupons please.
- 4875 Mrs M.N. BESWICK**, 2 James Road, Whitchurch, Tavistock, Devon PL19 9NJ
Offers to do research in Plymouth in exchange for equivalent research time in Northumberland or Durham.

Northumberland and Durham Family History Society was founded in 1975 and is a registered charity. Membership is open to all - current UK subscription is £10. The Journal is published four times a year. Correspondence and contributions are welcomed by the Editor.

South East Aspect of Darlington in 1790.

