

THE JOURNAL OF THE NORTHUMBERLAND & DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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EDITORIAL

Have we now left behind us the 'Journal Distribution Problems' which have plagued the Society over the past year or more? We sincerely hope so - the Spring *Journal* seems to have reached almost all members satisfactorily, but if there are still any problems, please let Jenny Ashburner know.

Interest in family history shows no signs of abating and more and more 'aids' and indexes of one sort or another are being produced. This Society's contribution by way of publication of Census Indexes has been under way for some years now, and will continue, but we now intend to diversify by publishing material outside the Census field but which will, we hope, make material of genealogical interest which is held locally more widely available to our members all over the globe.

We are making a start with the Quarter Sessions Indexes mentioned elsewhere in this issue and will be looking at other possibilities in the near future. I would welcome suggestions, especially from our members abroad, on the type of material you would like to see published. Please remember, though, that not every kind of record lends itself to publication, that there may well be copyright restrictions on certain items, and that we would not want to print anything of very narrow interest, such as the logbook of one particular school - which might well be fascinating to you but would not be of much relevance to other researchers. It is likely that microfiche will be the format of much of our output. Though we all prefer book form, the fact is that fiche can be produced at a fraction of the cost of a book, and most people nowadays will have easy access to a microfiche reader in a local library or elsewhere.

Keen-eyed readers might spot that this *Journal* contains 36 pages instead of the usual 28. Your Editor pleads guilty to an inability to count the number of pages he had put together, but has decided to give you the benefit of a bonus - if that is what it is! - of 8 pages this time. This should not be taken as a precedent - but if you flood the Editorial desk with interesting articles and snippets who knows what might result next time round? Articles for publication are always welcomed, so get out your typewriter, or pen and paper!

NOTES AND NEWS

The last *Journal* contained a note about the British Isles Genealogical Register - 'Big R' - being compiled under the auspices of the Federation of Family History Societies. A leaflet should be enclosed with this *Journal*. This is a massive project but it seems that a pilot issue by our neighbours, Cleveland FHS, has gone well. All recorded interests will be merged on a large database after which all participating Societies, including the NDFHS, will receive the interests for their areas.

Felton and Swarland Local History Society has now published Volume 2 of its '*Index to the Census Returns for the Felton District of Northumberland*'. This covers the 1861 and 1871 censuses for Acton, Bockenfield, Elyhaugh, Eshott, Felton, Guyzance, Hazon, Newton-on-the-Moor, Swarland and Thirston and costs £3.40 post free in the U.K. and £3.80 overseas from Mr. P. Cook, 23 Benlaw Grove, Felton, Morpeth, Northumberland NE65 9NG. A few copies of Volume 1 (1841 and 1851) are still available price £2.50 plus 40p inland postage.

Mr. John Lee, 29 Dale End Road, Hilton, Derby DE65 5FW (telephone 0283-732548) is indexing the 1891 Census for the Byker area of Newcastle - a sub-district which includes Byker, Heaton, Jesmond and St. Anthony's. All surnames have now been indexed and Mr. Lee will provide extracts in return for a stamped addressed envelope and a small donation towards the expenses of the project.

Mr. W.E. Rounce, 40 Salcombe Avenue, Jarrow NE32 3SY has extracted all Norfolk born people shown in the 1881 Census for the Registration Districts of South Tyneside, Chester-le-Street, Houghton-le-Spring, Gateshead, Sunderland and Durham - some 3000 in all. Stamped addressed envelope with all enquiries, please.

'Yesterday Belongs to You' is the title of a Local and Family History Day being held at County Hall, Durham on Saturday 16th October. Over 30 organisations are participating. Admission is free so make a note in your diaries.

'Family History for Beginners' is the name of a residential course, being held at St. John's College, 3 South Bailey, Durham - 7 nights 7-14th August. 'Family History Plus' is a 7 or 8 night stay in Durham. From Monday to Friday you may follow your own research in local repositories and at the weekend there will be some courses and practical sessions - 8-15th August for 7 nights or 13-21st August for 8 nights. Details of all these courses from Martin Clemmett at St. John's College. Details of courses at Northumberland Record Office and at Newcastle University will be found on pages 49 and 51 respectively.

Mr. P. Corrigan, 10 Marsh Road, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 5NH (telephone 081-868-2497) has a World War One campaign medal issued to Private Richard Ellis 1/5th Battalion, Durham Light Infantry. Regimental No. 7938. Private Ellis, who was killed in France in October 1916, lived in West Stanley, County Durham. Mr. Corrigan wishes to locate any surviving members of the soldier's family.

'Our Heritage' by Harold Smurthwaite describes in words, pictures and drawings the people, places and buildings in the history of Preston township in North Shields. It is available price £7 post free from Mr. J. Wailes, 35 Kelvin Grove, Preston, North Shields, Tyne and Wear NE29 9LE.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MAY 1993

The Annual General Meeting of Northumberland and Durham Family History Society was held at Pelaw Social Club, Gateshead on 4th May 1993. The Chairman, Mr. G. Nicholson began by referring to the loss suffered during the year by the death of Ralph Tait. He is sadly missed.

The Chairman noted that 4 volumes of the 1851 Census Index for Northumberland had been published and that a volume for the Heworth area of Gateshead was now ready. Much more was in course of preparation, both in book form and on microfiche, including material other than Census items, and a fiche index to Newcastle Quarter sessions is now available.

After problems with Journal distribution (via the second distribution agency we had used), the Secretary and his wife personally sent out all the overseas copies of the Winter Journal. The entire issue of the Spring Journal was handled by Society volunteers. The Durham Group have volunteered to handle the issue of the Summer Journal. Since, for many members, regular receipt of the Journal is the main reason for remaining with the Society, distribution problems had an inevitable effect on numbers. However, present membership is growing again and currently stands at about 1700, with new members joining daily.

A series of meetings have been held successfully, and there is much healthy activity on the Branch front, both locally and in London. The Society continues to play a part in the activities of the Federation of Family History Societies and will participate in the issue of forms for the British Isles Genealogical Register being compiled.

Before asking the Treasurer to present the accounts, the Chairman mentioned the problems the Society had faced in this area, which had resulted in delay in production of audited accounts and other difficulties. The Committee has decided that the financial affairs of the Society are always going to be complex, with relatively large sums involved and it had been decided to approach Mr. Donald Mason of Hexham, who is a certified accountant by profession, as well as being a keen genealogist and a founder member of the Society. He has agreed to be nominated for the position of Treasurer on a paid basis, and will take over at the year end (October). A vote of thanks to Phil Thirkell, the outgoing Treasurer was proposed.

The Society was disappointed that the Conference planned to take place in Durham last autumn had to be cancelled due to lack of support, but a One-Day Conference in Gosforth in April was a marked success. With no overnight accommodation and only one meal to be provided, the cost was kept down to £10 and 150 people attended a crowded and hectic but enjoyable day, with three full programmes running simultaneously. It is now too late to organise a weekend conference for the autumn but we hope to repeat the one day event next year. Following the Chairmans remarks, the Treasurer presented the accounts for the year to 31 October 1992, commenting on the healthy state of finances and that he did not propose any increase in subscriptions for the year 1993/94. The accounts were approved. Election of the Committee then took place and there was a discussion of Constitutional changes which were felt to be needed and which will be considered by the Committee. Mr. D.G. Mason was elected Treasurer, and Messrs. Humphries Ribchester & Co., Chartered Accountants, of Durham were reappointed as Auditors.

Any member who would like a full copy of the Chairman's Report should write to him directly.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAID

February 11th 1815.

MARRIAGE.

On Wednesday last at North Shields Church. John Gunn of Percy Main, aged 67 to Mary Moncaster of the same place aged 64. This loving couple have only one tooth between them.

June 21st 1817.

MARRIAGE.

On Monday last at Startforth near Barnard Castle Mr. Charles Addison to Miss F. Bowman.

This lady was long detained a prisoner in the Seraglio of the Bey of Algiers from whence she lately made her escape.

December 31st 1808.

MARRIED.

On Friday se'nnight Mr. T. Cobbert to Miss Eleanor Darling both of Crookham.

To damp the pleasures of the bridal day, it happened unfortunately that Mrs. Cobbert, mother of the bridegroom, died on the same day - and Matthew Heale, a stout young man, servant to Mr. Liddle of Ewart, going to the coals, fell in with the marriage party near Crookham, where being induced to take a glass too freely, became intoxicated and was found a short time after he had left the company lying upon the road speechless. He was carried to Ford where he died soon after.

KNOW YOU PARISH - XXXIII

WARK

by J.K. Brown

Wark in Tynedale, through which flows the North Tyne, is set in one of the loveliest parts of the county of Northumberland.

The name Wark is derived from the old English "Weore", meaning fortification.

Wark did not become a parish until 1811 when it was separated from the large parish of Simonburn, which at that time was the largest parish in the country, much too large to administer to the needs of the people.

Originally Wark was a Roman settlement, which was sited near to the largest ford across the river. Much later in 788 "the just and pious King" Alfwald of Northumbria was murdered, here at Wark. For nine years he had upheld the Christian way of life among his people, but on his death their standards lowered.

The Normans came and built a 'motte and Bailey' Castle and then in 1159 North Tynedale, which included Wark, came under the Scottish crown and Scottish Kings held their court. The 'Motte and Bailey', 'the hill of meeting', close by the river was doubtless the spot where the courts were held. Proceedings of the courts for the years 1279 and 1293 have been discovered in the Tower of London and the rolls give a curious picture of the manners and customs of the age. The clergy seem to have been little better than the lawless people among whom they dwelt and one such example is in the records of the case of Beatrice Quitefield (Whitfield). Beatrice summoned Thomas the archdeacon of Northumberland, his chaplain and other churchmen for robbery and other felonies. All appeared at the court with the exception of the Archdeacon who provided letters from the Bishop proving Beatrice had been excommunicated and her evidence was not accepted.

In the reign of Edward I, in 1293 North Tynedale reverted to the English crown and it remained so until James I, in 1603, granted it to the Earl of Suffolk, who later sold it to Francis the 1st Earl of Derwentwater. After the execution of James, the 3rd Earl, the estates in 1731 were entrusted to the Greenwich Hospital.

After the formation of the new parish of Wark the church of St. Michael was erected in 1815 and the first service to be held there was in the year 1818.

The church is a plain, but neat edifice in early English style with a square embattled tower and unlike so many of the older Northumbrian churches has a very small chancel.

Within the churchyard is buried Abel Chapman (1851-1929) whose home was at Houxty. Abel Chapman was a foremost naturalist, traveller and a writer of outstanding merit. Many of his big game trophies and most of his natural history specimens are now on show at the Hancock Museum, Newcastle.

Apart from the main village of the parish Wark, there are few other townships. There is Warksburn which includes the tiny hamlet of Rosesbower. The name Rosesbower is derived from the Anglo Saxon 'dwelling place'. Perched on the Crag overlooking the Warksburn is the ancient Pele Tower or Bower which was the home of Anthony Milburn, the head of the Milburn clan. Rosesbower today is a modernised farmstead with holiday letting accommodation, sited within a short distance of the Tower. Latterford is the other hamlet alongside the Warksburn.

The other two townships have the unattractive names of High and Low Shitlington. Shitlington, or Shotlynton as it was originally named, was formerly the seat of the Allgoods. In 1528 however, the laird was William Charlton, head of a branch of the powerful Charltons. William, like almost everyone else of that ilk, was a notorious freebooter, a sheep and cattle stealer, a border reiver of no mean repute. He was slain whilst returning from his last raid into County Durham, by Thomas Errington, and his body was later hung in chains at Hexham.

Dr. Ed. Charlton in his *"Memorials of North Tynedale and its Four Surnames"* gives an account of the last raid of his namesake.

William Charlton and Archibald Dodd, acting with two Scotsmen, Noble and Armstrong, (usually their hereditary foe) and five others formed the raiding party which entered into County Durham, plundering houses at Wolsingham and even riding off with the parson as prisoner at Muggleswick. The country rose in pursuit. Edward Horsley, the bailiff of Hexham, led the fray. Henry Percy, sixth Earl of Northumberland in a letter to Cardinal Wolsey wrote:-

"The water of the Tyne was that night one great flode (flood) so that the sayd (said) theves (thieves) coult not passe the same at no fordes, but were driven of necessitie to a brygge (bridge) within a lordship of myne called Adon Brygge (Haydon Bridge) which by my commandment was barred, chayned (chained) and lokked faste (locked fast) so that the sayd theves coult not passe with their horses over the same, but were constrained to leave their horses beynde them and flee away afoote. And upon the same a servant of myne called Thomas Errington, ruler of my tenantes in those quarters, persewed after theyme with a sleuthe hounde, to the which pursuite of theyme, after the scrye in aid, came to theyme one William Charlton with dyverse other inhabitants in Tyndail men."

Charlton, Dodd, Noble and Armstrong were all executed but the others escaped, no doubt to later seek vengeance on the Erringtons.

Today in Wark and the whole of Tynedale there are still many Charltons, Milburns and Dodds, but life there is quieter, much quieter.

The church registers commence in the year 1818 when St. Michael's was consecrated. Parishioners previously were baptised, married and buried at the mother church of St. Mungo at Simonburn. A microfilm of the register is at Northumberland Record Office, which also has a list of tombstone inscriptions, inclosure papers, tithe awards and much other material.

THE FRUITS OF OUR LABOUR

by Robert O'Keefe

So why are you tracing your family history? Perhaps curiosity got you started; it did me.

Some years ago I was researching a background for a fictional story set in Newcastle in 1771, when I began to wonder what part my own ancestors played in the events of the day. I've been doing this huge jig-saw puzzle ever since.

At first I thought that the puzzle was simply a family tree, but it isn't. The component parts of the 'tree' - names, dates, places: births, deaths, marriage (not necessarily in that order) - these things are merely the 'straight bits', the edges of the jig-saw. The complete picture lies within their framework.

As a writer I prefer to record my family history in more storied terms. I like to place each character in the correct geographical and historical context. To set his or her life against the background in which it was lived. To graphically invest their story with the colour, the tradition, the humour and the beauty of this most marvellous part of the world.

The facts, of course, may never be altered, but logic can be applied and contemporary sources drawn upon to give the piece a 'factional' quality.

Whatever our individual reasons for tracing our family history, I would think that most of us would like to see the fruits of our labour written down, perhaps for the curiosity of future generations.

However, it is in undertaking this task that distance or remoteness from the ancestral homeland becomes a real stumbling block. Here in the heart of Northumberland and Durham we are blessed with endless sources through which to approach our story from every angle. Away from the area, detail surely becomes more difficult to find.

If any member of our Society - particularly those overseas - would like his family history written up but feel he does not have the means to do the job justice, then I would gladly write it for him. All I ask in return is for postage and a donation towards my costs.

Editor's Note: Please contact Mr. O'Keefe if you wish to take advantage of his generous offer. The address is 17 Naworth Drive, Westerhope, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE5 5PT.

BLACK BOY REVISITED

by Tom Manners

One of the fascinations of reading Census Returns is to contemplate the addresses where people lived, and where they were born. Most of the old properties mentioned in the Census have now been demolished, and we can only speculate as to what "Gregory's Yard" and "Jock's Row" looked like, teeming with children and with no running water in the houses.

Places of birth can present a problem for family historians however, because of the frequency with which only a vanished village or street and the county is stated with no town mentioned. Sometimes a workplace or colliery is given, and thus in the Coundon Grange Census for 1881 we get, "Brickyard DUR", "Bigg's Main NBL", and "Blue Row DUR" as places of birth. These are difficult enough to locate if you are a native but impossible for those from a distance.

We get "Black Boy" as a place of birth for several young children in the Coundon Grange Census for 1881 and it obviously means the Black Boy Colliery area east of Gurney Villa, but we also get Black Boy as a place of birth in the 1851 Census, for people born in 1818, before there was any colliery in Gurney Villa and in that case it must mean Black Boy at Canney Hill or Coundon Village.

In view of the elusive nature of that place Black Boy and the Black Boy Collieries and to clarify some of the remarks I made in my article *"In Search Of Black Boy"* published in Winter 1989, I would like to give a brief outline of the history of the Black Boy Collieries in the Auckland Parish.

There was no permanent village or settlement called Black Boy; it was a coal mining concept.

In Bishop Auckland, from the earliest times, coal was known to outcrop along the banks of the river Gaunless in the Bishop's Park, and it was mined, as a "Day Level", drift mine, presumably for the Bishop and his minions. This was known as Bishop Auckland Colliery. Mining proceeded eastwards under the high plains, as they were known locally, and alongside the turnpike road to Durham in what was later known as the 5 quarter seam, but every half mile or so a new shaft had to be sunk for ventilation and raising of coals.

By 1769 there were several pits serving this seam in the name of a Mr. Pratt and some of these were located around the only significant habitation to be found at that time on the main road about a mile from Auckland, namely the Black Boy Inn at Canney Hill. They therefore became known as the Black Boy pits, although they were mainly being worked on the Bishop's land and were continuous with, and draining through the Bishop Auckland Colliery to the Gaunless.

Most of the land between Auckland and Coundon was held either by the Bishop or Copyhold from the Manor of Bondgate and became known as the Black Boy Royalty, bordered to the North by Westerton Royalty, on the West by the River Gaunless, on the East by Eldon and Coundon and extending South to include Gurney Villa, and Auckland Park.

In the neighbourhood of Coundon village, however, the land was held by numerous small land owners, all of whom appeared to have had the mineral rights to the underlying coal. The 5 quarter seam was only about 30 fathoms deep and could be mined without resort to expensive forced ventilation systems. Therefore many shafts were sunk, and all the pits went by the name of Black Boy as they were all working in the Black Boy Royalty. Land owners included Mr. George Brooks, Mr. John Lookup, Joshua I'Anson, J. Lloyd Wharton, Richard Brittain, William Garth, Elizabeth Johnson, and the Reverend Manisty, to mention just a few.

My ancestors were coal owners, not land owners, and, as shown on the land tax returns of 1817 and other documents they worked on Brittain's and Brook's lands at the west end of Coundon village, and this became known as Manners' Black Boy pit. Adjacent to it, to the south east, were Messrs. Dixon's Black Boy pit and in 1816 there was a dispute, due to Dixon working too far north onto Wharton's land, which was always a risk, as the patches of land were so small. In 1829, on land south of Canney Hill, Jonathan Backhouse held a tenancy agreement from the Bishop, and this pit came to be designated as the Old Black Boy Colliery on the first Ordnance Survey maps about 1860.

By 1880 the pits in the area of the old Black Boy Inn and Coundon village had been worked out, and the winning had proceeded Southwards. The main collieries were in the Auckland Park area, still, of course, working the same seam, still in the Black Boy Royalty and still called Black Boy Collieries.

This is probably not an isolated example of a colliery name migrating over a distance of a mile or two, as all collieries work progressively in one direction or another, but few collieries have been under so many different ownerships as the Black Boy Collieries of Coundon.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I have been greatly facilitated in preparing this paper by reference to the N.C.B. Archives held in Durham C.R.O. and the archives of the North East Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers held in Northumberland C.R.O.

I am also very grateful to Mr. J.C. Howe for his help and information about Coundon properties.

Editor's Note: Dr. Manners' address is 6 The Crescent, Loansdean, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 2DQ.

THE HEALTH OF SUNDERLAND IN 1849

by William Neil

Tracing one's ancestors is one thing, but trying to put some flesh on the bare bones of how they might have lived is quite another. Certain writers of fiction around the early and middle part of the last century have painted a fairly grim picture of life for some of the population, but how true was that and was there another side to the story? What we are never told in those works of fiction is what, if anything, the government was doing to alleviate conditions for those at the wrong end of the social scale.

Fortunately, things were happening at governmental level as a result of official reports into the state of particular towns. The government was so concerned at the conditions in some of these places that it set up a commission to investigate them, and this resulted in *"The Second Report of the Commissioners for Inquiring into the State of Large Towns and Populous Districts, Presented to Both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty in 1845"*. In the "Appendix, Part Second", Dr. D.B. Reid reported on Sunderland (British Library Ref: Reports, Commissioners, 1845 XVIII).

In those times England was in the middle of the Industrial Revolution, and many centres such as, say, Birmingham or Sunderland, had absorbed a major influx of people looking for work. An examination of the 1841 census for Sunderland will show large numbers born elsewhere including many from Ireland and Scotland. These centres were, in every sense of the word, "boom towns", but they had not been built to cope with dramatic increases in population, and the housing stock and support services were completely inadequate.

There was no United Nations to turn to for help, money, or advice; England was at the forefront of a new social dimension never experienced before anywhere in the world, and the only way out was to pull itself up by its own bootlaces, which, by the process of the Commissioner's Report mentioned above, it was attempting to do in the area of public health. As a result of that Report the Public Health Act (11 and 12 Vict., cap 63) was passed in 1848, and the General Board of Health was created to carry out its purposes.

The crunch part of the Act directed that if any place had a death rate of greater than 23 per 1000 then an Inspector would visit that place and "make public inquiry and examine witnesses". Such a place was Sunderland which in 1841 (census year, when they had an accurate count per head) had a death rate of 34 per 1000, and that was a non-epidemic year. The year of the visit was 1849, the Inspector was Robert Rawlinson and his findings appeared in the *"Report to the General Board of Health on a preliminary inquiry as to the sewerage, drainage, supply of water, and the sanitary condition of the Borough of Sunderland - 1851"* (British Library Ref: CT 137 [4]). Also included were paving, burial grounds, lighting and boundaries. He also had to consider how much money was raised by rates and how these were dispersed to the different Boards for the upkeep and repair of facilities. This then was no weak-kneed attempt to look simply at sickness, but a very powerful and wide ranging investigation into the whole running of the town - the Inspector had enormous power under the Act. The Paving and Lighting Commissioners (of the town) wished to "protest in the strongest possible terms against the resolution ... to send an Inspector to Sunderland". Nevertheless, they got one! The visit was to include Sunderland, Bishopwearmouth, Monkwearmouth and the separate village of Southwick.

Several dozen places in England were chosen to be inspected and some of these were in Northumberland and Durham (see References).

Prior to his visit a notice dated 20th November 1849 was posted around the town to advertise this and to invite people (witnesses) to come forward and give evidence. Although he carried out inspections personally, he was assisted on his visits by leading members of the town and industry, and authors of various earlier reports, in addition to "a vast amount of documentary evidence most of which had been published in local papers" (I assume he means newspapers, in which case those reports should still be accessible, but I have not pursued this).

Before Rawlinson even arrived he had already concluded that the local authority was complex, the rates unequal and that the borough should be extended. As to the factual aspects, 60,000 inhabitants lived within a 1 mile radius circle of the bridge and annual shipping traffic was 2,725 ships with a total tonnage of 355,570. In the decade 1831-1841 Sunderland had "totally ceased to add to its population, there being no space left". He noted that "with the great natural facilities which exist for drainage, it ought to be healthy, and when the present divided local bodies are consolidated and the proper works completed there is no doubt it will be so". He recorded that "the site of old Sunderland is a steep slope down to the river. Many of the yards, middens and cesspools drain into the soil so that it is saturated with refuse percolating beneath the foundations and putrid emanations are passed into the houses. It has been observed that in these situations cholera is most fatal". His solution was full and complete drainage with surface cleaning and all cesspools etc. abolished.

From his tables of statistics it can be seen that infant and adolescent death rates were very high indeed, but that 20 years of age was the critical "cut-off" age. After that age, if you were still alive, a normal modern-day life span could be expected. However, from birth, he computed the average life span in 1841 to be 29 years for Sunderland, 41 for Monkwearmouth and 40 for Bishopwearmouth. There had been 3 epidemics before his visit, one in 1824 of measles, and the cholera ones of 1831/2 and 1849. In a 'strange but true' comment on these factors he said "It has been demonstrated as a general law (in the 1845 reports) that amidst large masses of people the ravages created by an excessive mortality are more than made up by an excess of births, and that pestilence, instead of diminishing, rather increases the population". I find this a staggering observation and presumably it still applies in third world countries today. From what I read about famine, war and disease, their numbers go on increasing regardless.

The money to finance work on public facilities came from rates and the Commissioners pointed out that many of the houses were let out as tenements and that most paid no rates at all. The annual income from these rates was a mere £2532, and this in parallel with the split responsibilities of the various Boards, they said led to inactivity, and they sought changes to the Acts to rectify the deficiencies which they knew he would find.

The only streets which were flagged were High Street and Church Street (my great grandfather lived there in the 1840's and my great great grandfather died there in 1846); lighting in some streets was by oil lamps. The main means of lighting was by gas which was supplied by a single company, and here there appears to have been large scale corruption at work. The price of the gas was so exorbitant that a competitive supplier was set up and gas was then offered at half the price of the other company, but the Commissioners did not put the supply out to Tender and awarded the town contract to the most expensive supplier. The gas lights were also being illegally switched off 3 hours before dawn in order to increase the gas suppliers' profit, and workers "had to grope their way to work on dark winter mornings". A number of commissioners were also directors of that company. 140 years on, council rates, competitive tendering and privatised competition are still political hot potatoes. One witness wrote, "to the many slaughterhouses in the narrow lanes are driven infuriated bullocks, about the usual time people are proceeding to work; and, as there is difficulty in inducing them to enter the slaughterhouses a serious risk to life and limb is caused by the dark state of the streets. There are awkwardly situated public privies adjoining the river; four men have been drowned when going to use these early in the morning, the lights being out at the time".

There were many places for slaughtering, most of which were exposed to public view. There were 3 clean ones in Stamps Lane, 1 very dirty in Church Street, 4 very dirty at the top of Market, 1 clean in Covent Garden, 2 clean in Union Street, 7 very dirty in Harris Lane, and 1 very dirty in Back Sans Street. Every butchers' shop in town was also used for killing. A witness, Mr. Smart, said "in the shop opposite bullocks were killed all day long and I had to go to another room to avoid seeing it; and on one occasion seven sheep made their way through my dining room". A Mr. Kidson said that "in front of the shop in Sans Street I have counted as many as 40 children amusing themselves watching the slaughter, which I do not think will lead to a very humanising tendency".

Shifting sewerage and other waste matter was a major problem, although there were some drains - the railway had laid deep underground drains across the Town Moor and there were 15 sewers and 27 small drains discharging into the river at the ferry boat steps (which created a mighty stench in summer), with 5 also into the sea. Because the river was tidal there, the sewerage simply moved up and down a fixed stretch and was never flushed out to sea. "Silver Street contains 2 dunghills which are removed by a farmer for which he pays 1s 6d (7p). Pigs are also kept here creating a disgusting stench and adding to the increase of dunghills and dirty stagnant pools, there being no drains and no visitation of the scavenger. In Fitters Row a most offensive midden is rented to a man for 9d (4p) a week and cleaned out, he says, every 10 weeks. But to all appearances never fully emptied, being, as we found out, the chief depository for all the abominations of this neighbourhood. The privies of the factory houses also empty their contents into this dunghill. This Row, in which human odure (sic) and other disgusting objects are so thickly deposited that one can hardly step, has no drains at all". House and land values had depreciated as whole streets became "impassable quagmires, and undrained houses the seat of excessive disease, many of the streets are axle deep in mud". (NB, axle deep, not ankle deep).

The Local Inspector of Nuisances (Nelson Wake) said of Portobello Lane "This I found to be in a most filthy state from top to bottom with 20 cartloads of filth, with a common hole for filth which ran into a cottage. Barrack Yard was most filthy with a well covered over for the past 20 years and a very large midden swarming with pigs in a filthy state. A row of houses had 2 feet of water under their floorboards and sometimes above them". And "Behind John Street is the Stinking Ditch and it is literally so. A little beyond this is an open yard with a very offensive pool which has been undrained for 14 years but none of the poor people dare complain to the magistrates; I had it partially cleansed to a depth of 6 feet but was obliged ultimately to leave it alone".

The common lodging houses in the east end were appalling "sometimes as many as 7 in one bed, in the larger rooms (14 by 18ft) there were as many as 6 beds with most rooms sleeping 16 people". The police report said they were prolific sources of crime, vice and misery "men, women and children crowd the same room, the old with the young and the most vicious leavens the whole mass. Males and females, strangers to each other, may occupy adjoining beds almost touching but without the slightest division or curtain: the males habitually strip themselves naked before lying down even in the presence of children and young girls, and women give birth surrounded by such inmates. The atmosphere was suffocating. How it could be breathed for a whole night, and the inmates live, seemed a wonder".

Of particular interest is the description of the 11 burial grounds, all of which were overcrowded, and 'extramural sepulture' was required, i.e. burial outside the town limits. They were:- Sunderland Parish Church (600 interments per annum); Bishopwearmouth Parish Church (no burials - it was closed by the General Board of Health on 15 October 1849 as it was full), which had overflow sites at Rector's Gill Cemetery on Silksworth Row (400 per annum; to my own knowledge many memorial stones were stacked around the boundary walls in the 1960's, - where are they now?), and one underneath the National School opposite in Low Row (unusable, see comments below); Friends Burial Ground, next to their chapel bounded on the south by Borough Road and on the east by Nile Street (1 per annum); Jew's Burying Ground, bounded by Crescent Row and Ayres Quay (2 per annum); Bethel Chapel in Villiers Street, where half of the annual burials (14) were into underground vaults, the rest into graves (there was still room for a further 450 in vaults and 200 in graves in 1849); Baptist Burying Ground, Sans Street; Independent Chapel, Dundas Street, Monkwearmouth (2 per annum); Monkwearmouth Burying Ground attached to the ancient Anglo-Saxon Church (320 per annum); All Saints Burying Ground, Monkwearmouth (doesn't say where), had only been open for 6 months - 1 child burial.

The National School Cemetery must have seemed like something out of a horror story; through it flowed the Wearmouth Burn and "underneath the school - where a very great number of children are daily educated - there were 12 large vaults with 70 bodies, the entrance to which is several inches deep in stagnant water. When these vaults are opened, the effluvium which escapes is most offensive and dangerous, so much so, that some of the medical gentlemen in attending funerals do not enter them but remain at some distance. This place is in the most horrible condition and ought not to be tolerated any longer".

The Bethel Chapel vaults were gothic; "the vault is opened from the surface of the ground down a flight of 10 steps, at the bottom of which is a chamber 10 yards long by 4. In the door leading to the vault are apertures for air. On all sides are small compartments 7 feet in length, 2 ft by 2 inches in width, and 8 ft in height, separated from each other by a partition wall half a brick thick. In these compartments the coffins are deposited and covered with 6 inches of sand or loam; the front is built up with bricks to the level of the coffin, and then further coffins and sand are added later etc".

It wasn't all bad news. When Dr. Reid arrived for his visit in 1845 he said "In none of the towns I visited was I assisted by a more anxious and able Committee than in Sunderland. I expected to have found matters much worse, and it did not exceed what I had found in Gateshead and other places". The education of the children, and their health at school, was "very satisfactory". A new (in 1849) pumping station at Humbledon Hill supplied water of "excellent quality" to every house in the town, via a 19 inch cast-iron main, which is big even by modern standards. Also, the whole borough was not anything as bad as the picture painted of the old East End. Unfortunately, it is usually the worst aspects of a place which can fix its identity in the public mind.

Rawlinson recommended the consolidation of the borough, one complete system of sewers on both sides of the river, highways to be maintained in proper order, all streets to be paved and drained, and cemeteries created outside the town. He also urged powers of closure against cellar and tenement dwellings and to provide public walks and areas of recreation so that the people might enjoy fresh air and healthy exercise.

Below is a list of the other places in Northumberland or Durham which received Inspections, with British Library References (although some, including Sunderland, are available locally - contact your local reference library) - Alnwick (CT 134 [1]), Barnard Castle (CT 141 [1]), Berwick, Tweedmouth and Spittal (CT 1343 [3]) Crook and Billy Row (CT 163 [8]), Darlington (CT 141 [3]), Durham (CT 153 [7]), Gateshead (CT 135 [1]), Houghton (CT 164 [13]), Morpeth and Bedlington CT 133 [4]). Stockton (CT 142 [1]), Tynemouth (CT 143 [6]).

THE SCHOLARS OF SIMONBURN

Tucked away in files and bundles in Record Offices are all kinds of pearls for genealogists. Not just the raw details of dates and names, but also records of quite trivial incidents of day to day living can be found. Rich sources, and I suspect underused ones, are the collections of papers of 'landed families' of our forefathers time. Many of them contain information about the 'common people' in the parish as well as about the local squirearchy. So a search in Record Office indexes for family papers relating to a family who lived in the country parish which interests you could prove profitable. Take the papers of the Allgood family, for example. Prominent in the North Tyne valley, they have deposited papers in Northumberland Record Office (reference ZAL) covering all kinds of local and national matters. Boxes 83 and 84, for instance, contain papers relating to the children of Simonburn parish.

There is a list, dated 19th June 1799, of 'Scholars to be put to Simonburn School by Mr. and Mrs. Allgood'. The named children were Edward Kirsop, William Birkit, Thomas Maughan, Edward Robson, John Boid, John Kirsop, Thomas Moor, William Maughan, Isaac Newton, William Anderson, Mary Pattison, Margaret Brown, Jane Liddell, Margaret Hirdman, Mary Aynsley, Mable Robson, Ann Thompson and Jane Cowing. There is another list, dated December 4th 1799, headed "An Acc't of Children Innoculated at Simonburn and Hallbarns by Mr. Jefferson" which names Thomas Newton, Edward Kirsopp, John Moore, John Robson, Isaac Jackson, Thomas Brown, William Dods grandchild, and a Codling child whose first name goes unrecorded.

There are bundles of papers, one for each week over a period of years from 1800 to 1807, of 'Scholars absent' - a weekly schedule of the children who, for one reason or another, were not at a school. So, nearly 200 years on, you can learn that in the week from February 24th to March 2nd 1800 Edward Kirsop did not turn up for two days, apparently because he was 'working', and Thomas and William Maughan were also each absent for two days.

The children of the parish can also be traced in an "Attendance List, Sunday School, Simonburn" for March 1808, whilst their elders might be named in "An Account of Rice Delivered to the Several Persons within mentioned at Sundry Times" which is dated 1801.

THE CHOLERA CARRIED THEM OFF - NEWCASTLE 1831-32

In 1831, Asiatic Cholera struck England. William Sproat, a Sunderland keelman, was the first confirmed case in the British Isles. Before the epidemic completed its course, more than 31,000 people had succumbed to its effects. From Wearside the disease spread to Newcastle and other neighbouring areas and the burial registers of the suffering parishes often bear grim witness to its progress, recording briefly the cause of death of the victims. In addition, in Newcastle, a 'Register of Persons who have died of Cholera' was maintained and we are grateful to Newcastle Central Library for drawing attention to it, and permitting publication of the details - name, age, address, date of death and some fascinating 'character references' to some of the luckless sufferers mentioned in this manuscript.

Ann EDDY

60. Sandgate, Eddy's Entry. Dec. 7. Of intemperate habits. Wife of William Eddy, Waterman.

Maria MILLS

40. Sandgate, Johnson's Entry. Dec. 7. Common Prostitute.

Thomas TAYLOR

50. Soap House Entry, Sandgate. Dec. 10. Labourer in a Soap Manufactory.

Barbara TAYLOR

70. Sandgate Shore. Dec. 9. Widow (blind for many years) of Richard Taylor.

Isaac WAILES

23. Soap House Lane, Sandgate. Dec. 10. Hawker and Pedlar.

Helen McDONALD

25. Keel Entry, Sandgate. Dec. 11. Common Prostitute, was delivered of a still born child the day before her death.

Ellen PEARSON

24. Folly, Sandgate. Dec. 11. Wife of John Pearson. Temperate habits.

Elizabeth RIDLEY

70. New Pandon Street. Dec 1-. Widow of John Ridley, Raffyard Keeper.

Isabell LINTON

50. sandgate. Dec 1-. Previous worn out constitution, wife of Charles Linton.

John ROBSON

40. New Road, Dec 1-. Master Bricklayer of intemperate habits.

Ann DONNISON

25. North Shore. Dec 14. Single woman.

Robert BAILEY

56. Dead House Quayside. Dec. 13. Employed at Corporation Ballast Yard, of intemperate habits.

John WAUGH

60. Bells Entry, Sandgate. Dec. 1-. Itinerant musician of intemp: habits.

Michl WOODFIELD

39. Wide Open, Sandgate. Dec. 1-. Labourer of temp: habits & a spare subject.

John RIDLEY

40. New Pandon Street. Dec. 14. Cooper.

Thomas RIDLEY

3. New Pandon Street. Dec. 14. Son of John Ridley above named.

Martha SCOTT

10. West House, Township of Byker. Dec. 15.

Jane SCOTT

55. Pandon. Dec. 15. Of irregular habits, a fish Carrier.

Elizabeth MAVING

58. Trafalgar Street. Dec. 14. Spinster of

intemperate habits.

Mary DUNCAN

80. Dead House Foot of Quay. Dec. 14. Widow of William Duncan and had been attending upon two Patients who died of Cholera.

Ann GARFORTH

56. Stepney.

Mary CLARK

35. Sandgate, Crown & Thistle Entry. Wife of Jos Clark, weaver, and a vendor of dying speeches.

Thomas SPENCE

55. Blue Bell Yard, Sandgate. Dec. 15. Keelman, a sober regular man.

Grace LEONARD

8. Robsons Entry, Sandgate. Dec. 15. Parents are Common Vagrants.

James GIBSON

38. Manor Chare. Dec. 15. Labourer.

Rosamond EMMETT

31. Dents Hole. Dec. 15. Of regular habits.

Henry STEPHENSON

66. Dents Hole. Dec. 15. Pilot, of regular habits.

Jane DRYBROUGH

35. Swerle, Sandgate. Dec. 16. Married woman of temperate habits.

John NICHOLSON

-. Byker Bar. Dec. 16. Pitman at Walker Colliery.

Peter LEONARD

3 1/2. Robsons Entry, Sandgate. Brother to Grace Leonard. Parents Common Vagrants.

Elizabeth BARRAS

39. Flag Entry, Sandgate. Dec. 16. Widow, irregular habits.

William BROWN

45. Wall Knoll. Dec. 16. Miller by Trade, industrious.

Thomas RICHARDSON

62. Walker. Dec. 14.

Ann WELDON

70. New Road. Dec. 15. Widow of regular habits.

Isabella HIGGINS

35. Coburg Place. Dec. 16. Regular habits, but destitute of both food and clothing.

Jane SPENCER

32. Flag Entry, Sandgate. Dec. 18. Sister to Elizth Barras. Of regular habits, took the disease from her sister.

Sarah ARMSTRONG

60. Johnsons Entry, Sandgate. Dec. 18.

Sarah DAY

77. Keelmans Hospital. Dec. 16. Widow of John

Day.

John DAY

60. Keelmans hospital. Dec. 19. Keelman formerly, but latterly in the Corn Lofts.

Andrew REED

33. Half Moon Entry, Sandgate. Dec. 19. A shoemaker, a very Decent Man, a Pensioner.

Blair STEWART

66. Downes Entry. Dec. 18. A seaman but latterly plied a Coal Boat. A regular living man.

Elizth SELLARS

61. Sellar's Entry, Sandgate. Dec. 16. Widow of intemperate habits.

Margt STOREY

39. Wallknoll. Dec. 19. A married woman whose husband had deserted her, of temperate habits but destitute.

Isabella HARVEY

35. Coburg Place. Dec. 16.

Ann SHELDON

63. St. Anns Street, Sandgate. Dec. 20. Widow.

Jane DONNISON

38. Pot House Entry, Sandgate. Dec. 20. Wife of William Donnison, seaman of regular habits and industrious.

Mary SMITH

45. Keel Entry, Sandgate. Dec. 20. Wife of Geo. Smith, Barber of irregular habits.

William CLEGHORN

66. Saint Peters. Dec. 15. Labourer at a Glass House.

Margt. MARR

50. Smith's Buildings, East Ballast Hills, near the Glass House Bridge. Dec. 19. Wife of Jos Marr, a Keelman of regular habits.

Thomas NICHOLSON

65. Byker Bar. Dec. 15. Pitman.

Mary MARJORIBANKS

75. Blue Bell Entry, Sandgate. Dec. 9. Widow & Pauper.

Elizth RICHARDSON

77. Blue Bell Entry, Sandgate. Dec. 11. Widow & Pauper.

William ANDERSON

45. Blue Anchor Chare, Sandgate. Keelman, intemperate.

Elizth BALLYNTINE

22. Steelyard Close. Dec. 21. Wife of ---- Ballyntine Painter of regular habits.

Michl McNEVINS

45. Close near Mansion House. Dec. 23. Labourer.

Mary McINTYRE (MUFFATTEE deleted)

36. North Shore near Hospital. Dec. 22. Wife of ---- Muffatee Irish Labourer.

Thomas JOBLING

20. North Shore. Dec. 21. Sailor.

Elizabeth GOLIGHTLY

64. Byker Bar. Dec. 21. Wife of George a Waterman.

William TEMPEST

37. White Boar Entry, Sandgate. Dec. 22. Keelman.

James DEWAR

47. Mate of ship Nimble (?) Dec. 21. Seaman, died in the Hospital.

Jane DONNISON

58. Saint Anns Ropery. Dec. 21. Wife of Thomas, Roper & Constable.

Ann CURRY alias ANDERSON

48. Keel Entry, Sandgate. Dec. 21. Lived with George Curry a beggar of irregular habits.

Jane FADDY

60. Cocks Close Quayside. Dec. 21. Widow, a Decent Woman.

John MARSHALL

80. Keelman's Hospital. Dec. 21. Old Keelman.

James THOMPSON

70. Flag Entry, Sandgate. Dec. 21. Travelling Mendicant.

Barbara SCOTT

50. East Ballast Hills near the Fighting Cocks Row. Dec. 22. Widow, of temperate habits.

Frances SCOTT

28. East Ballast Hills near the Fighting Cocks Row. Dec. 22. Wife of Isaac Scott, Waterman.

Mary TITLA

4. Youngs Entry, Sandgate. Dec. 22. Daughter of Robert Titla, Seaman.

Ann WAILES

35. Sandgate Soup Ho. Entry. Dec. 23. Widow of Isaac Wailes who died of Cholera Dec. 10.

Elizabeth CLINT

50. Sandgate Soap Ho. Entry. Dec. 23. Widow, temperate but very poor.

Willm McLACHLAN

44 (70 deleted). Forest's Entry, Sandgate. Dec. 23. Vagrant.

Catherine FOX

46. Steel Yard Close. Dec. 23. Widow of Regular Habits.

Isabella (Sarah deleted) FENWICK

48. Near Royal Sovereign Lime Street. Dec. 23. Wife of Richd Fenwick.

Thomas TATE

70. Quayside. Dec. 24. Porter to a Coal Fitter.

Ruth MILLER

56. Close adjoining Tiger Public Ho. Dec. 23. Wife of --- Miller, Glassman.

Eliz HARRISON

23. Blyths Nook. Dec. 24. A Woman of the Town.

Ruth McDUGAL

32. Tyne Street near the Shore. Dec. 24. Wife of James McDougal, shipwright.

Hannah MITCHELL

53. Sandgate Youngs Entry. Dec. 24. Widow of James Mitchell.

Ann GIBB

72. Keelman's Hosp. Dec. 24. Widow of sober habits.

Susanna GIBSON

75. Keelman's Hosp. Dec. 24. Wife of Joseph Gibson, Pilot.

Ann WILKINSON

49. Pandon Bank. Dec. 24. Wife of an Irish Labourer.

Esther SMITH

44. Sandgate White Boar Entry. Dec. 24. Wife of Wm. Smith, vagrant.

Eliz RICHARDSON

22. Sandgate Shore. Dec. 22. Wife of -- Richardson, Seaman.

Jane DAVIDSON

45. Shore Side Sandgate. Dec. 24. Widow.

Elizth RIPLEY

57. New Road. Dec. 23. Wife of Thomas Ripley Keelman.

Ann SPOTTISWOOD

67. Sandgate Shore. Dec. 24. Widow of very intemperate habits.

Thos ARMSTRONG

30. Soap House Yard. Dec. 24. Labourer, moderate habits.

Winnefrid HINES

67. ---. Dec. 25. Not known.

Elizth MOONEY

75. ---. Dec. 25. Not known.

Martha DAVISON

5. Castle Garth. Dec. 15.

Saml MILNE

2. Castle Garth. Dec. 12.

James MILLER

4. Castle Garth. Dec. 12.

Cuth WARD

56. Leazes Crescent. Dec. 24. Labourer, Public House Close.

Geo (Joseph deleted) SCOTT

38. Liverpool Street. Dec. 25. Cartman, well marked case of cholera.

John COLMAN

45. Forest's Entry, Sandgate. Dec. 26. Vagrant.

Mary FAWCETT

27. White Boar Entry, Sandgate. Dec. 26. Married woman.

Eleanor THOMPSON

53. Blue Bell Entry, Sandgate. Dec. 26. Married woman.

Robt DICKINSON

35. High Bridge. Dec. 25. Cartman to a Tallow Chandler.

William IRWIN

70. Tyne Brewery, Sandgate. Dec. 26. Labourer in a Brewery.

James MURRAY

67. Tyne Street. Dec. 26. Seaman.

Isabella PEACOCK

56. Clarence Place. Dec 2-. Widow, a very drunken woman.

Jane BELL

72 (60 deleted). Freeman's Hosp. Dec. 27. Widow of regular habits.

Jane ROBSON

28. Prudhoe Street (Liverpool deleted). Dec. 26. Married woman (single woman deleted) Water Carrier.

Ann TAYLOR

70. Handyside's Entry, Side. Dec. 26. Wife of William Taylor, Shoemaker.

--- SMALL

Castle Garth. Dec. 24.

Ann WRINKMORE

22. Black Horse Pant Newgate. St. Dec. 27. Single woman.

Martha ELLIOTT

40. Blue Achor Chare. Dec. 27. Wife of Wm. Elliott, very decent woman.

Judith SWINBURN

44. Nun's Gate Goulburn's Entry. Dec. 27. Widow with a large family.

Mrs. SMITH

28. Westgate Hill. Dec. 26. Wife of --- Smith, Butcher.

Margt FORSYTH

11. Mount Pleasant. Dec. 27.

Geo PINKERTON

85. Newcastle Chare. Dec. 28. Vagrant.

Ann SLOAN

45. Mackford's Entry, Pandon Bank. Dec. 28. Wife of Hans Sloan, intemperate weak constitution.

Mary Ann JONES

14. Back Row. Dec. 28. Daughter of Edwd. Jones, Flax Dresser.

Jane MILBURN

28. Dec. 28.

Joseph SENIOR

11. Dec. 28.

William SMILES

27. Castle Garth. Dec. 28.

Mary SOUTER

40. Castle Garth. Dec. 8. Married woman.

Mary WALKER

56. Close. Dec. 28.

Elizth SHIELDS

50. Closeburn above the Pottery over Coy Bridge. Dec. 26. Single woman.

Richd SHIELDS

34. Closeburn above the Pottery over Coy Bridge. Dec. 26. --- of above.

Ann LONGERWOOD

77. Head of Side. Dec. 28.

Mary HUTTON

60. Castle Garth near Dog Leap Stairs. Dec. 28. Widow of Adam Hutton, Clogger.

Isab CAPSTAFF

5. Saint Peters. Dec. 26. Daughter of Elijah, Shipwright.

John BROWN

67. Dent's Hole. Dec. 26.

Joseph FORSTER

27. Westgate above Wingates. Dec. 27. Son of a Cartwright.

Martha (Jane deleted) SCOTT

75. Freeman's Hosp. Dec. 28. Widow.

Elizth (Mary deleted) HUNTER

30. Low Bridge. Dec. 28. Married woman.

Isab CALLAGHAN

44. Ship Entry Cloth Market. Dec. 27. Wife of an Irish Labourer.

Margt BROCK

34. Ballast Hills, Quality Row. Dec. 29. Wife of a Labourer, sober habits.

Richd IRWIN

40 (32 deleted). No. 173 Pilgrim Street. Dec. 29. Gardener, irregular habits.

Mary als Jane COATES

53. Blue Bell Entry, Sandgate. Dec. 29. Wife of Wm. (Josph deleted), very drunken woman.

Peter NEVINS

28. Foot of Wall Knoll. Dec. 28. Irish Labourer.

Mary DOBSON

59. Prudhoe Place. Dec. 28. Married woman of regular habits.

Margt WALKER

Forth Banks, Embleton's Buildings. Dec. 27. Widow, intemperate habits.

Jane SCOTT

4. East B. Hills near the Fighting Cock Row. Dec. 27. Daughter of Isaac Scott, Waterman.

Sydney Johnson RUTHERFORD

6. Sandgate Bank. Dec. 27. Son of John Rutherford, Sailmaker.

John DUNN

58. Pandon. Dec. 27. Cartman.

Margt DOWEY

71. Pandon. Dec. 28. Wife of Robert, Shoemaker.

Isab DIXON

56. Keelman's Hospl. Dec. 28. Wife of a Keelman.

John SCOTT

2. East Ballast Hills, Foot of Fighting Cock Row. Dec. 26. Son of Isaac Scott, Waterman.

Augusta WYATT

30. Castle Street. Dec. 29. Married woman of temperate habits.

John LAIDLER

52. Near the Pottery, Ouseburn. Dec. 29. Pitman.

Mary DIXON

48. Meeting Ho. Lane Silver Street. Dec. 29. Wife of John, intemp habits.

Jane SOMERVILL

65. Sopwith's Entry, Pilgrim Street. Dec. 29. Widow.

Robt ADAMSON

5. Heath's Entry, Pilgrim Street. Dec. 29. Son of John.

Dorothy BLENKLEY

30. King Street. Dec. 30. A married woman, temp habits.

Jane CHAMBERS

35. Rosemary Lane. Dec. 30. Widow of intemp habits.

Patterson HALL

40. Ouseburn. Dec. 30. Pitman.

John OLIVER

40. Queen Street. Dec. 30. A very drunken man.

Mary CLIVE

40. Queen Street. Dec. 30. Widow of temp habits.

Ellen LESLEY

50. Foot of Manor Chare. Dec. 30. Wife of an Irish Labourer.

Lyilia NEALANS

60. Floor of Flag Entry, Sandgate. Dec. 30. Wife of Matt., a waterman of intemp habits.

Margt FORSTER

50. Opp. Mansion Ho. Close. Dec. 30. Widow.

John WATSON

36. St. Peters. Dec. 28.

Elizth HESLOP

36. St. Peters. Dec. 29.

Elizth YOUNG

26. Silver Street. Dec. 30. Woman of the Town.

Eliz WATSON

10 months. Stock Bridge.

Mary NOBLE

54. Prudhoe Street. Dec. 30. Married woman.

Hector SCOTT

60. High Bridge opp. the Killing Yard. Jan. 1. Of intemp habits, dealer in Manure.

Thos BRICE

7. White Boar Entry, Sandgate. Dec. 31. Child of a Travelling Vagrant.

Bryan LESLIE

45. Grindon Chare (foot of Wall Knoll deleted). Jan. 1. Labourer.

Isabella CROCKETT

26. Ouseburn near White Lead Manufy. Dec. 31. Married woman.

Ann WILSON

26. Ouseburn near White Lead Manufy. Dec. 31. Married woman.

Eliz MORRISON

84. Wide Open, Sandgate. Dec. 31. Widow.

James TELFORD

20. Dawson's Court. Jan. 1. Stable man.

Geo GREAVES

41. Queen Street. Dec. 31. Wire worker of intemp habits.

John LOFTUS

20 months. Postern. Dec. 31. Child of --- Loftus, Stable man.

Jos HALIDAY

41. Dowe's Corner. Dec. 30. Shoemaker of temp habits.

Richd THOMPSON

51. Sandgate. Dec. 31. Publican. A very drunken man.

Ann ARTHUR

50. Barras Bridge. Jan. 1. Spinster of regular habits.

Sarah GALLAGHER

2. St. Peters. Dec. 31.

Andrew CADWELL

51. St. Peters. Dec. 30.

— GARDNER

34. Angus Court, Bigg Market. Jan. 2. Wife of a Gunsmith of Intemp Habits.

Mary FORSTER

47. Rosemary Lane. Jan. 1. Widow.

Geo DAVIDSON

50. Close near Bottle Ho. Jan. 1. Bottle Maker.

Hy CUMMINGS

35. Ballast Hills, Quality Row. Jan. 1. Seaman.

Mary STEEL

85. Ouseburn near Pottery. Jan. 1. Widow.

Walter ORMSTON

Blue Bell Entry. Jan. 1. Keelman.

Ann WHITTINGHAM

37. Pandon Bank. Jan. 1. Wife of Jos a Constable rather intemp.

Elizth BLACKBIRD

54. Wall Knoll. Jan. 1. A married woman Pawnbroker of temp Habits and very respectable.

— SHUTE

Jan. 1.

Margaret COOK

56. Ballast Hills (east). Dec. 31.

Eliz CHAMBERS

22. Quality Row. Jan. 3. A married woman.

Jane WHITE

35. Sandgate Swerle. Jan. 2. A married woman of intemp habits.

Margt WILSON

23. White Boar Entry. Jan. 3.

Jane ARMSTRONG

35. Opp. Keelman's Hospl., New Road. Jan. 2. A married woman of temp habits.

John STOREY

7. Thornton Street. Jan. 3.

Jane STEPHENSON

10. Ouseburn near Coy Bridge. Jan. 2. Sister to Elizth above named.

Thomas SADLER

66. Quality Row. Jan. 2. Keelman.

Elizth ELLISON

32 Swerle, Sandgate. Jan. 2. Wife of Jos, Keelman.

Sarah MICKLE

77. Dents Hole. Jan. 1.

Isab DIXON

62. Back Side. Jan. 3. Widow.

Richd BRUCE

14. Queen Street. Jan. 3.

Mary FORSTER

21. Rosemary Lane. Jan. 3. Daughter of Mary Forster before reported.

Thos WHITFIELD

35. Blue Anchor Chare. Jan. 3. Seaman of temp habits.

Robert (Jos deleted) SINGLETON

62. Black Horse Entry, Newgate Street. Jan. 3. Cartman very poor.

Rob BROTHERTON

65. Mushroom. Jan. 3. Bottle Maker.

Isab DOBSON

27. High Bridge. Jan. 2. A married woman.

Robt DIXON

70. Bank Side.

William TOTTEN

38. Arthurs Hill. Jan. 3. Musician of intemp habits.

Mary SUMMERS

40. Bank Side. Jan. 5. Single woman.

Mary JEFFREYS

60. Behind Old Castle. Jan. 5. Of regular habits.

Thos WARD

60. Ouseburn near Spinning Mill. Jan. 4. Pitman.

Dorothy ALLAN

64. New Road opp. Garth Heads. Jan. 4. Widow of Regular Habits.

Eleanor DOUGLAS

58. Pot Ho. Entry. Jan. 4. Widow of Regular Habits.

Thos NATTERCLIFF

60. Hogs Yard Close. Jan. 4. Labourer at a foundry.

Cath LOGAN

40. St. Nich Churchyd. Jan. 5. A married woman.

John SINTON

21. Castle Garth. Jan. 6. Of very irregular habits.

Thos RUSSELL

2. Dents Hole. Jan. 3.

Mary MARR

60. Dents Hole. Jan. 4.

Maria STEPHENSON

30. Ouseburn near the Spinning Mill. Jan. 3.

Thos RICHARDSON

25. St. Nich Churchyd. Jan. 6. Grocer & Tallow Chandler.

Mary BUCHAN

50. Stepney Square. Jan. 5. A married woman.

Elizth THOMPSON

40. High Bridge. Jan. 5. A married woman living apart from her husband.

Mary DRUMMOND

55. New Pandon, St. Mackfords Entry. Jan. 3. A married woman living apart from her husband.

Thomas CARR

50. Dents Hole. Jan. 3.

Robert CLARK

39. St. Peters Quay. Jan. 6.

Margt PATTERSON

45. Rewcastle Chare. Jan. 7. A married woman.

Thos TINLING

30. Pattersons Buildings, Percy Street. Jan. 7. Joiner.

Peter MACKEY

45. Chabers CL, Newgate Street. Jan. 7. Widow.

John CHIPCHASE

76. Middle of Back Row. Jan. 6. Clogger.

Julia TURTON

44. Close in a Pawnbrokers Passage. Jan. 6. A married woman living apart from husband, a very abandoned woman.

Ann (Jane deleted) PEARSON

75. Tuthill Stairs. Jan. 7. Widow.

John IRWIN

70. Westgate Hill. Jan. 6. Keelman.

Geo REED

5. Dents Hole. Jan. 6.

Martha JOHNSON

39. Dents Hole. Jan. 6.

— ELLIOTT

1. Rewcastle Chare. Jan. 7.

Sarah HARRISON

30. Gavel Group. Jan. 8. A married woman, rather intemp.

John DIXON

64. Ball. Hills near the Burial Ground. Jan. 7.

Mary RUTTER

81. St. Anns Row.

Hannah NICHOL

49. Close opp. Bottle Ho. Office --- a married woman.

David KIDD

25. Close opp. Soap Ho. passage. Jan. 7. Millwright.

Phillip SWINBOURN

20. Golbourns Entry. Jan. 7. Son of Judith reported before.

Peter McFARELANE

12. Fighting Cock Row.

Joshua FOTHERGILL

45. Quality Row. Jan. 8. Sailor.

Andrew REAY

70. Keelmans Hosp. Keelman.

Sarah WATSON

5. St. Peters. Jan. 9.

Barbara ROBSON

44. Eddy's Entry Close. Jan. 9. A married woman, a very decent woman.

Eupha BURRELL

53. Rewcastle Chare. Jan. 9. A married woman, a very decent woman.

George WASCOR

50. Rewcastle Chare. Jan. 9. Coachman.

Isab ROBSON

30. Close opp. the late Northd Glass House. Jan. 11. A married woman.

Elizth FLETCHER

21. Reays Entry, Westgate St. Jan. 11. A woman of the Town.

Ann CHILD

5. Dents Hole. Jan. 9.

William KIRTON (?)

70 (40 deleted). Jan. 9.

Isabella STOREY

7. Thornton Street.

Ann ASHTON

22. Dents Hole. Jan. 8.

Mary INGLIS

80. Close Gate.

Ann GLAHOLM

34. Tuthill Stairs. Jan. 11. A married woman.

Emerson BAILEY

9. Sir M.W. Ridley's Glass House. Jan. 11.

Charles LORD

15. Skinner Burn. Jan. 10

Mary OLIVER

70. Gallowgate.

Hannah HARDING

46. St. Ann's Street, Sandgate. Jan. 11.

Mary LEE

32. Bank Side. Jan. 13.

Ann SANGSTER

72. Close Yard where Almoner keeps a Pawnbrokers Shop. Jan. 14. Assistant in a Pawnbrokers warehouse.

Benjn HAILING

45. Side Cross Keys. Jan. 14. Publican.

Isab ROBSON

44. Close near Newtons. Jan. 14. Single woman.

Stewart WILSON

55. Mill Entry Side. Jan. 13. Labourer, Irishman.

Margt JAMIESON

50. Sandgate. Jan. 14. Widow.

Sarah THOMPSON

79. Ouseburn Bridge. Jan. 14. Widow.

John BROWN

53. Stock Bridge. Jan. 14. Tailor.

Jane (Mary deleted) McDONALD

54. Downeys Entry, Sandgate. Jan. 13. A married woman.

Isab (Mary deleted) RENSCHAW

50. Quality Row. Jan. 15. Widow.

Jane (Ann deleted) CALWELL

30. Groat Market. Jan. 14. Wife of a Guard of a Coach.

Marshall LAING

53. Cocks Chare. Jan. 14. Running Fitter.

Rose KELLY

30. Close opp. Mansion Ho. Jan. 15. Wife of an Irish Labourer.

James ROBSON

35. Close near Dolphin. Jan. 15. Husband (brother deleted) of Isabella Robson first and brother to Isabella secondly reported.

Mary MURRAY

54. Skinner Burn. Jan. 16.

Edwd DUFFY

36. Mill Entry Side. Jan. 15. Irish Labourer.

Wm HARLEY

55. Dead Man's Row. Jan. 15. Shoemaker.

Mary JONES

30. Middle of Back Row. Jan. 15. Wife of a Flax Dresser.

Stephen WHEATLEY

41. Low Friar Street. Jan. 15. Shoemaker intemp habits.

Timothy DAVISON

55. Queen Street. Jan. 16. Tailor: Intemp Habits.

Isab OYSTON (AUSTIN deleted)

24. Reay's Entry, Westgate Street. Woman of the Town.

An Irish Labourer - NAME UNKNOWN**Michl CARTER**

1. New Road.

John THOMPSON

70. All Saints Poor Ho.

Elizth WILSON

61. Geo Stairs.

William LARMAN

66. Bank Side. Jan. 16. Cartman.

Penelope HUGHES

54. Sandgate, Downeys Entry. Jan. 16. Irish woman.

Mary CURRY

68. Skinner Burn. Jan. 17. Married woman of regular habits attending upon a person who died of Cholera.

Elizth CARR

72. Long Stairs. Jan. 17. Married woman of regular habits attending upon a person who died of Cholera.

Mary ROWBOTTOM

76. Groat Market. Jan. 17. Widow.

Henry BAILEY

8. Glass Houses. Jan. 17.

James McCORMOCK

5. Heath's Court, Pilgrim Street. Jan. 16.

Elizth STEPHENSON

13. Queen Street. Jan. 17.

Mary GIBSON

24. Pandon. Dec. 16. Married woman of regular habits 7 months advanced in pregnancy.

Wm CUMMINGS

10. Craigs Alley. Jan. 16.

Ann LEE

66. Bank Side, Castle Garth. Jan. 18. Widow.

James RUTHERFORD

66. Castle Garth, 3 Bulls Heads Entry. Jan. 17. Shoemaker.

Dorothy BUSTIN

39. Groat Market. Jan. 17. Single woman.

Mary BLAKEY

42 (29 deleted). Wallknoll High End. Jan. 19. A married woman.

Mary BROADBENT

29. Ouseburn White Leadworks. Jan. 18. Single woman.

Geo GIBSON
15. Infant School Yard, Castle Garth. Jan. 18. App. to Hair Dresser.

Nich GILES
67. New Road. Jan. 18. Mason. Intemp habits.

Ann NESHAM
67. Byker Bar. Jan. 18. Married woman temp habits.

Isab ROBSON
22. Tyne Brewery, Sandgate. Jan. 19. Single woman.

Cath (Ann deleted) PEARCY
41. Glass Ho. Bridge - Stone Cellar. Jan. 20. Married woman pregnant.

Robt LONGRIDGE
57. Pilgrim Street. Jan. 21. A Matchman, intemp habits.

James STEWART
60. Westgate. Jan. 20. Keelman.

Jane CLARK
36. West end of Close. Jan. 21. A married woman.

Elizth BISSETT
81. Close opp. Mansion Ho. Jan. 17. Widow.

Mary HUDSON
1½. St. Lawrence. Jan. 18.

Mattw GIBSON
2. Pandon. Child of Mary reported above.

Jane WRIGHT
81. Silver Street Jan. 20. Pauper.

Wm WILSON
5. Forth Banks.

Eliz SINGLETON
57. Black Horse Entry, Newgate Street. Jan. 21. Married woman, intemp habits.

John HARLEY
1½. Sandgate.

Ann PEAREY
10. St. Lawrence. Jan. 22. Daughter of Thomas a Waterman.

Stephen DIXON
54. Pandon Bank. Jan. 22. Sawyer.

Eleanor METCALF
--. Queen Street. Jan. 22. Married woman.

Elizth JOHNSON
42. Allan's Entry, Castle Garth. Jan. 23. Married woman.

Robert HALL
--. Byker Bar. Jan. 2-. Pitman.

James HADRICK
62. Sandgate, near Tyne Brewery. Jan. 24. Pensioner, very intemp.

James CHILTON
17. Castle Garth. Jan. 24. A Prisoner in the House of Correction.

Mary McLACHLAN
20. Castle Garth. Jan. 24. Single woman.

Hannah ARMSTRONG
35. Mins Gate. Jan. 24. A married woman.

Edwd STEPHENSON
8. Cloth Market. Jan. 24.

Robt EMERSON
78. Brues Buildings, Sandgate. Jan. 25.

Cath DHU
--. Stock Bridge.

Joseph PEARCY
1 week. Stone Cellar Glass Houses.

Mary McKIE
23. Castle Garth.

Mary SOULSBY
29. Dents Hole. Jan. 25. Married woman.

Hannah COOK
67. Liverpool Street. Jan. 25. Married woman.

James FORFAR
12. Tyne Street. Jan. 25.

Margaret BUCK
76 Hardy's Entry, Sandgate. Jan. 26. Widow.

John HALL
2. Head of Side. Jan. 26.

--- BROWN
3. St. Peters. Jan. 25.

Christian GRINTON
70. Hardys Entry. Jan. 26.

Hannah HEDLEY
61. Close near Pollocks. Jan. 27. Married woman.

Margt LAMB
68. Orchard Court. Jan. 27. Married woman of temp habits.

Jane HEDLEY
74. Head of Gallowgate. Jan. 28. Single woman.

John PARKER
38. Castle Street. Jan. 28. Iron Founder of very intemp habits.

Adam PIGG
45. Forth St., 2nd Door fronting the Field. Jan. 28. Tailor.

Geo NEWTON
45. St. Peters. Jan. 28. Copperas Maker.

Mary WARDLE
14 months. 10 Pandon Bank. Jan. 31. Daughter of James, Labourer.

Margt STANSFIELD
55. New Road. Jan. 29. Widow of Intemp Habits.

James CRAIG
67. Silver Street. Jan. 29. Block & Mast Maker, Intemp Habits.

Jane MOORHEAD
50. Sandgate Pin Entry. Jan. 29. Married woman, Intemp.

Robt ANDERSON
60. Mackfords Entry, New Pandon Street. Jan. 29. Sawyer, Intemp Habits.

--- CLARK
60. Corner of Percy Court. Jan. 31. Married woman.

Cuth HOPPER
70. Opp. White Lead Manufactory, Gallowgate. Jan. 31. Coachman, rather intemp.

Hannah ANGUS
81. Head of Gallowgate. Jan. 31. Widow.

Samuel WILSON
44. Round House Entry Close. Jan. 31. Hawker & Pedlar.

Hugh Percy RIDLEY
7. New Pandon Street. Feb. 3.

--- SPENCE
Silver Street. Feb. 3. Married woman.

Joseph SCOTT
45. Fells Pottery, St. Peters. Feb. 8. Cartman.

Ann GREGORY
14. Ouseburn near Scotts Raffyard. Feb. 8.

James ELLIS
24. St. Lawrence Bottle Ho. Feb. 8. Seaman.

Ann WALTON
44. Mosely Street behind Bells Shop. Feb. 13. Married woman, temp habits.

Margt WANLESS
49. Clerks Yard, Pilgrim Street. Feb. 15. Married woman living apart from her husband.

Jane BROWN
48. Lambton Place, Prudhoe St. Feb. 19. Married woman who attended upon Ann Walton reported above.

Margt RENWICK
62. Dog Bank. Feb. 20. Widow.

Eneas McKENZIE
54. Eldon Place. Feb. 21. Printer & Publisher.

Elizth HORSFIELD
23. Steel Entry, Sandgate. Feb. 22. Woman of the Town.

Francis EMMETT
52. Three Tuns Entry, Sandgate. Feb. 25. Vendor of Small Wares.

Ann COOPER
60. Black Horse Entry. Mar. 2. Widow.

William WOOD
27. Tyne Street. Mar. 8. Shoemaker, a sober man.

Jacob LOWDON
45. Broad Garth Quayside. Mar. 8. Seaman.

Elizth THOMPSON
25. Cut. Married woman, 4 months advanced in pregnancy.

McEWEN OR McCUAN

In the front of the Wooler St. Mary Baptism Register volume 10 1847-1881 (NRO EP 33/10 -- on microfilm M248) the Rev. J.J. Green, Vicar of Wooler notes "The Irish name McEwen that occurs in this register, and also in the Burial Registers of Wooler parish, is sometimes to be met with spelt McCuan. Whichever way it is spelt it is the same family."

IRISH OLD AGE PENSION RECORDS - A GENEALOGICAL SOURCE

Godfrey Duffy

The Old Age Pension Act introduced by Lloyd George in 1908 for Great Britain and Ireland provides a unique genealogical source. In Ireland, it utilised information contained on the Irish Census Returns of 1841 and 1851, subsequently destroyed. The census returns were used to verify a claimant's age when a baptism record or birth certificate could not be provided. Anyone aged 70 years and over could make a claim by paying two shillings and filling in a P.R.O.N.I. form, providing information on townland of birth, parents names, and names of family members. A search was then made of the 1841 or 1851 census to verify this. The P.R.O.N.I. then wrote on the forms, for example, 'claimant aged in 1841' or 'claimant/family not found in 1841 or 1851'. Thus the information on the forms gives townland, claimant's names, age on the 1841 or 1851 census, parents names and sometimes other family members names and ages.

The searches were conducted by the P.R.O.N.I. between 1908 and 1922. In 1911 alone 85,000 searches were conducted. Providentially, the forms were held by Customs and Excise Officers at the time of the P.R.O.N.I. fire in 1922.

A number of genealogy text books incorrectly state that the forms for the counties of the Irish Republic are held in the National Archives in Dublin and that the forms for the counties of Northern Ireland are held in Belfast's P.R.O.N.I. In my researching I have discovered hundreds of forms for the Irish Republic in Belfast.

The claim forms in the National Archives for the Parish of Clonmany, Co. Donegal failed to show even one person of my surname making a claim. This seemed odd, as the information I had from the 1901 Census for Clonmany indicated that up to sixteen persons of my surname were eligible. In the P.R.O.N.I. in Belfast I found the missing forms for Clonmany, showing thirteen claimants in the name of Duffy. The P.R.O.N.I. accession reference is T550, which gives access to four volumes of forms and each page is an original form. The first three volumes are mainly counties of Northern Ireland while the last is exclusively the 'Free State Counties'. Simply researching Clonmany parish revealed a high percentage of claimants and at least one from every townland. Most claimants were born in the 1830's and 1840's while their parents were born around the close of the 18th century. By cross-referencing this information with other genealogical material such as the Tithe Books and Griffiths Valuation, I was able to identify and isolate various families in their specific townlands, over a number of generations.

SOURCES

P.R.O.N.I., Belfast.

The Irish Roots Guide. Tony McCarthy. Dublin 1991.

Tracing Your Irish Roots. Christine Kinealy. Belfast 1991.

THE RETURNS OF THE STAFF OFFICERS FOR PENSIONERS

Captain (Retd) Erik A. Gray

Like all other old War Office records, the monthly returns rendered by the various staff officers for out-pensioners of the Royal Hospitals at Chelsea and Kilmainham are housed at the Public Record Office.

Pensioners had originally received their monies from local civil officials such as excise officers; but in 1842 the War Office established a network of pensions payments districts throughout Britain and Ireland. A staff officer for pensioners was appointed to each. He was normally a half-pay officer (i.e. retired with a retainer) and made payments to the men living within his district on a fixed day each month at a number of different places. In many instances, particularly in remote areas, men had to walk many miles to receive their monies. Each staff officer submitted a monthly return to the War Office. It gave details of pensioners' movements into or out of the district, of men newly admitted to pension, of adjustments and cessations of pension, and of men who had died. In respect of deaths, the staff officer was required to state in his return, the date of the deceased's admission to pension, which was normally the date of discharge, the rate of pension, and the date of death. Sometimes, the place was included but this was not mandatory.

For the various districts of Britain and Ireland, the pensions returns survive only for the overall period of 1842-1862, but for payments made in the Colonies they exist for a longer span. For examples, the returns for New South Wales and New Zealand survive until 1880 and 1875, respectively.

Payments districts in England were centred on Bath, Birmingham, Bolton, Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Canterbury, Carlisle, Chatham, Chester, Coventry, Deptford, Derby, Durham, Exeter, Falmouth, Gloucester, Halifax, Hull, Ipswich, Leeds, Leicester, Lincoln, Liverpool, London, Kings Lynn, Manchester, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Norwich, Nottingham, Oxford, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Preston, Salisbury, Shrewsbury, Sheffield, Southampton, Stafford, Stockport, Taunton, Trowbridge, Wolverhampton, Worcester and York. There were also districts for East and West Wales; and in Scotland, staff officers operated from Aberdeen, Ayr, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, Paisley, Perth, Stirling and Thurso. Ireland was similarly divided and possessed thirty-one districts.

Provided that a pensioner died within a surviving span of the returns, they can be an invaluable aid to establishing the title of his regiment and tracing details of him and his service. This is illustrated by the case - one of general application - of William Whiteford, who is recorded in the 1851 Census for Paisley, Renfrewshire, as a 'Chelsea Pensioner'.

The return for August 1853 made by the staff officer for Paisley has the following entry:-

Corps	Argyll & Bute Militia
Rate	One Shilling
Admitted	20th October 1835
Rank	Serjeant
Names	William Whiteford
Permanent or Temporary	Permanent
Deceased	29th July 1853
Age at Death	72 years

This entry is immensely helpful. First, it yields Whiteford's approximate year of birth. (Had he been a regular soldier, not a militiaman, caution would need to be exercised, as lads under the age of 18 seeking to enlist in the Regular Army tended to add a year or two to their legal ages). Second, it provides the title of his regiment and date of discharge. These facts dictate a search for the nature of the entry appearing in his name in the appropriate register of the Chelsea Hospital, as well as one for a discharge document, which, if found to survive, would provided similar information.

Normally, then pensionable discharges of soldiers of the militias are reflected in the Chelsea and Kilmainham Hospital registers alongside those of regular soldiers; but a separate militia register exists for 1835, when the militias of Britain and Ireland were reduced. Within it is an entry in respect of a number of men admitted to pension on 20th October 1835 and this refers to Sergeant William Whiteford of the Argyll and Bute Militia in the following terms.

Age	54 years
Service: as QM Sergeant	1 year 5 months
as Sergeant	29 years 11 months.
as Corporal	11 months
Total service	32 years 3 months
Non reckonable : disallowed	2 months
Total reckonable	32 years 1 month
Rate of Pension	One shilling (per day)
Reason for Discharge	Reduction
Birthplace	Paisley, Renfrew
Trade	Weaver
Height	5' 10½"
Colour of hair	Fair
Colour of eyes	Dark
Complexion	Fair
Character	Good

For purposes of research, it was, of course, a matter of luck that Whiteford died within the span of the pensions returns. Had his death occurred after 1862, he would have been much more difficult to trace in the absence of the precedence number or title of his regiment.

JOHN TAYLOR'S DIARIES

Anne T. Simmonds

I recently inherited five small note books and two sketch books which belonged to my grandfather John Taylor. The note books are really diaries. The first one starts in May 1892. John was fifteen and had been working for two years at the Dunston Engine Works. He had grown up in Dunston, the tenth child and fifth son in a family of eleven children born to Thomas Taylor and his wife Isabella nee Leathard.

The diaries tell of his busy life. When not at work he attended evening classes at the Gateshead School of Art, he wrote stories and sent them to *Boy's Own Paper*, he painted and he sketched all the time and there was always a sketch book and pencil in his pocket. There are lists of the books he read and he was a Sunday School teacher and lay preacher at Ravensworth Road Methodist Chapel. He joined the Bewick Club and the Newcastle Sketching Club and still found time to walk up the lane with the young lady who at first is Miss. P. or Miss. Pugmire and later becomes Miss Lizzie. He married her in December 1903, almost at the time the Diaries end.

At first he comments on local events such as weddings and funerals and there is quite a lot of political news such as the assassination of the Tsar. He writes of the ships he sees being built on the Tyne and of the "Hoppings" and outings to Tynemouth and Morpeth. He tells of holidays in Scotland and later in London where he visited every picture gallery he could find. In the later books the Diary peters out except for major events such as the deaths of his little nieces and of his best friend Andrew Hopper. At the end are lists of money he made from painting pictures or portraits and also from tutoring a young boy called Wheeler Dryden. He was Charlie Chaplin's half brother and later, in the twenties when John was out of work, Wheeler invited him to go to Elstree Studios to work as his secretary. Thus the family came to London and my parents met and married. In the late thirties a son moved to Luton to work at Vauxhalls and John and Lizzie lived on in Luton until she was 95.

I have gone through the books and extracted all the names mentioned, except the 'political' ones. Some are only there once and some are mentioned many times. Some have sketches. If anyone would like more detail of the entries about their ancestors I would be pleased to copy out the releant entries. Here are the names:-



Mr. W.M. Abbott. Dr. Abrahams. Rev. Allwork. Dr. Angus. W.H. Angus. Martin, Sam, and Tom Archer. Joe, John George and Miss. Maggie Arkless. Joe Arkley. Mr. A. Armstrong. Miss Is, Miss M. Thomas and Barlo Atkinson. J.W. Bainbridge. Tom and Will Birtley. Prof. Blackie. Dr. Blacklock. Councillor Blakey. Alec, Jane Agnes, E., May, Jim, Joseph and John Blenkinsop. Mr. Boarn (Whickham). Rev. Booker. Old Mr. Braden. Andrew, Billie, Miss Nellie. Jas, Joe, Robert, John, Tom and W.B. Brown. Joe Brown (Durham Boats). Arthur T. and Mr. D. Brunswick. C. and Ned Buckden. 'Old' Buckden. Ralph Bullock. Theodore, Mrs. B. and Tom B. Burnett. H. Campbell. Edmond Carr. Councillor R. Cameron J.P. John Chambers (the Armless Wonder). Tim Chator. Kit Chicken. Mrs. Adie Clasper. Florence and Louisa F. Collings. A.C. Coning. Frank Cook (of Glasgow, a Dunston man). Rev. Cooper. John Corbett. A Coulson (boilersmith). Mrs. Thomas Coulson. W. Cowen. Rev. Mr. Curruthers. Davies (fitter overseer). Tom and Miss Denham. Jas Dickinson. Thomas, Joe, Mrs., Jack, Jos and Is Dinning. Jack, Will, Wm Dixon. Mrs. L. Emma Dixon (Mrs. Hoppers sister). J. Dodds (Liz's grandmaters bro). Geo Duncan. Mr. Dunn (mayor). Mr. Easey of Whickham. Matt, Bella and Sam Ellis. H.H. Emerson. Matt English. Mrs. Evers. Fairly (colliery manager). Walter Fearon. Archbd Forbes. Sallie Frost. Bob and Miss. D. Fulthorpe (Anchor Inn). Thos Gardiner.

Rev. Garthwaite. Sebastian Gates (Catholic Priest). Miss Gladson (Liz's cousin). Mrs. Gladson (Lizzie's grandmother or Ganny). George Gladson (Liz's grandpater). Miss. Fanny Gloveman (Mrs. Ogden's sister). Goften. Jenny, Tom and Will Golightly. Harry Goodwin. Rev. Goodwin J.P. Rev. Gordon (Gateshead). Th Graham. Mr. and Mrs. Graham (Hartlepool). Mr. Ted and two Misses Grey. Kate Hall (Taylor). Enoch, Isabella, Miss Frances, Cissie, Geo, Hilda Mary and Rena Margaret Hall. John Halliday (Australia). Geo J. Harney. Sue Harrison (Hunter). George Harrison. Geo Harvey. A. Harpur. Rev. Hawels. Alexander Hay. Mr. J. and Ralph Hedley. Miss A. Hedworth. Sarah and Sallie Hemingway. Miss. E., Miss Joanna, Ralph and Barbara Henderson. Maggie Henry. Mr. Wilson Hepple. Mr. Johnson Herley. Jim, Andrew, Bob, Annie (of Cookstown, Ireland), Jas, Hannah, Sallie, Victoria, Arthur, Dick, Emma Hopper. Vicky Hopper (AH sister). Mr. An'ty Hopper. Miss Allis

Horne. Rev. Mr. W. Hudson. Will and Dottie Hunter. Nellie Hutchinson. M. Innes. Jno Geo Ismay. Lillie, Miss Maud, Miss Matilda Jeffery. Joanna and Billie Johnson. Mr. Herley Johnson. Miss Clara Joicey. Ellis Jones. Rev. Mr. Jones. Rev. Walter Kenyon. D. and Mr. and Mrs. Kettlewell. Thomas Lambert (solicitor, Gateshead). S. Laws. Mr. W. Laws (AH uncle). P.C. Lawson. A. Lawson (fitter). Maggie Lawson. Uncle George Leathard. Miss Bella Leathard. M.A. Leek. Tom Legg. Miss Aggie Liddle. Sallie Lindsay. Miss J. and Miss Maud Lucas. Jan McFarlane. David McGowan (Belfast). John McHenry. Jack, Will, Misses Maddock. Cedric William Arthur Maddock. J. Marshall. Geo Mathers. Supt Maxwell. A.R. Miller. Caretaker Miller. Tutor Miller. Lizzie Miller. Hy Moore. A. Moyes (Stirling). Walter Murphy (Sea on Land Roundabout). Lizzie Murrey. Will Nicolson. Jack, John, Thos, Geo, Bella and old Mrs. Noble. John (son of Mr. and Mrs. I.) Noble. Mrs. Lizzie Noble (Taylor). Rev. Mr. Ogden. Jas Ogden. R., Bob, John Orley. Oxley (at farm). Rev. Mr. Packer. Joe Parker. Jno and Mrs. Jno Pattison. Will and Matt Penman. Miss Eliz Pickering (cousin Lizzie). Stanley, Miss Hilda, W.F., Frank Poad. Rhona A. Poad (Sadler). Sallie Pugmire (Liz's sister). Geo Pugmire (Liz's brother). William, Walter, Harry, Grandma and Grandfather Pugmire. Mrs. Margaret Pugmire (Gladson). Jim Ready. Thos Reay. Master Freddy Rhead. Rev. Mr. Robinson. Mr. H. Rochester. Robert Rose. R. Rowat. Miss Rachel Rutherford. Mr. Rymer. Rhona A. Sadler (Poad). T.F. Sadler (Australia). Mrs., Jennie and Percy Satchwell. Mrs. Jno Sanderson (of Sunderland). Miss Jennie and Miss Kate Scott. Liz Ann Scott. Geo and Charlie Scott. Mr. Seymour (storeman). Miss Lizzie Seymour (LP cousin). Miss Lydia and Miss Agnes Sharp. John Shaw. Dr. or Mr. Shaw. R.H. Sherard. Bill Shotton (to South America). Ed and Mr. Tom Smart. Mr. Geo Smith (Stowe) (Tailor). Susan, John, Lily, Baby Geo, Jno and Mr. G. Smith. Davis Smith. John (Jack) Snee. J. Solomen. Mr. Ted Sondsby. Hannah Soulsby. Old Mrs. Stoker. Ed and Miss Kate Sullivan. Andrew, Miss Mavis, Thos and Mrs. Peggy Swaddle. J.W. Swinburne. Mr. Tom and Teasdale Swinburne. Jennie, Mrs., Percy, Annie and Jim Tatton. Ada, John, Thomas, old Tommy Taylor. William and Lily Taylor. Kate Taylor (Hall). Robert, Ed., Mrs. Isabella, Minnie, Maggie, Ada, Mrs. Robert, Bob, Albert, Bella and Isabella Mary Taylor. Miss Charlotte Taylor (cousin). Miss C. Taylor (Winnie Hill). Dr., Dick, Robert Taylor. Alfred Leathard Taylor Jnr. Ettie, Marian Isabel and Hugh Gordon Taylor. Edward Leathard Taylor. Jno Terris. Thos Thompson (Tom the clerk). Mr. Cole Thompson. Ben and Mrs. Thompson. 'Old' Thompson. J.E. and Maggie Thompson. Jennie and William Thompson (cousins). Maggie Trewhit. Mary, Ann and Jack Tulip. M.W. Turner. Jack Turnbull. Mrs. Vallances (Edinburgh). Mr. Ventris. Fred Villiers. Jim Wake. G.H. Wallace. M.W. Walls. Rev. Frank Walters. Rev. Mr. Ward. M. Wheatley. Miss Emma and Maud Wheatley. Mr. W.F. White. Mr. and Mrs. White (School of Art). Eli, Beatrice, Bessie Fox, Geo, Walter and Mr. Tom Whitfield. Mr. H. Wilkinson. Dr. Wilkinson. Michael Wilson. Edwin Wilson (of Stanley). Jack Winship. Major Woolner. Sep. F.W.W. and T.W.W. Wright.



People in Sketch Books include W.H. Booker, Kit Hall 1893, Mr. Anty Hopper. Dr. Jameson, Liz Newbigin 1899, Rev. Mr. Scott, Uncle Will Maddock, Tom Swaddle 1903, Jack Tulip, Mich Wilson, Colin Woodville and Rev. Jno Young.

Editors Note: Anyone interested in any of these names in the Dunston area of Gateshead may like to contact the authoress, Mrs. Anne Simmonds at 6 Marlborough Road, Bedford MK40 4LG, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope (or 2 International Reply Coupons from overseas).

ARE YOU SEEKING HELEN BURNS?

Mr. T.W.F. Walker, Sarum, 12 Palm Grove, Whitby, S. Wirral L66 2PU (telephone 051-356-3992) says that the tombstones of his 3 x great grandmother names her father and his place of birth. Helen Burns was the daughter of Henry and Jane Burns. Born in Beltingham near Haltwhistle in July 1807, she left her parents and went to live and marry in a small village near Bristol. Anyone researching this line would have no idea what happened to her and Mr. Walker will be pleased to pass on details of the family she married into in Bristol. Apparently, her father Henry Burns, born in Northumberland about 1770, married Jane Johnson at Beltingham having found work there as a labourer. Previously he had been a smelter. His tombstone is in Beltingham churchyard.

WHEN THE TRAIL GROWS COLD

by Geoff Nicholson

1. THE PROBLEM

One fact which must be faced by all family historians, however unpalatable it may be, is that sooner or later their efforts are doomed to end in failure. Once a line has been traced back to some, one would hope remote, ancestor whose origins defy discovery, what is to be done next?

Two rather glib suggestions are usually put forward. One is "trace another line". In time, however, this will only lead to a repetition of the original problem in a different context, as the new line also grinds to its inevitable halt. The second suggestion is often "research the surname". This means taking an interest in all people of that name, particularly those from an earlier period than that at which one is "stuck", considering the meaning and possible place of origin of the name and possibly joining - or starting - a one-name group. All this can be very interesting and quite rewarding if one has an uncommon surname but what if it is quite a common one - perhaps, horror of horrors, a patronymic (a -son surname)?

Even with a patronymic, all is not lost. What follows is meant as an example to encourage those who find themselves in this situation.

My own Nicholson line can be traced with as much certainty as is reasonably possible to a Martin Nicholson who was probably born in the 1680's. In spite of much searching Martin's exact birthplace has not been found. The first that is known of him is that he turned up in Newton Reigny, Cumberland, a parish overflowing with Nicholsons, in 1711, when he married Elizabeth Wilson. On this occasion Martin was described as "of Catterlen". Catterlen is a township in Newton Reigny parish, containing little more than a couple of farms and a small castle, Catterlen Hall, the property at that time of the Richmond family.

Martin and Elizabeth eventually settled in Kirkoswald parish, where Martin died "a pensioner" in 1755, Elizabeth having died in 1747. The line downwards from them leads through several generations of coal-miners, living in the Kirkoswald area in the 18th century, the Farlam area in the 19th and on Tyneside in the 20th. Although Martin's personal origins - and those of his "pension" - are still a matter for speculation, that speculation has taken various interesting forms, as follows.

2. CUMBRIA

The English "sons of Nicholas" seem to have been concentrated in the North from an early date, as indeed seems to be the case, in very general terms, with many patronymics. The largest grouping of Nicholsons by far was always in the North-West. As late as the 1851 Census it was the fifth most common surname in northern Westmorland (*Cumbria FHS Newsletter* 47, page 20, which shows that the most common ten were all patronymics). The west-facing dales of Cumberland - in particular Eskdale and Ennerdale - also seem to have been replete with Nicholsons and the name was very common also in the Eden valley, especially around Newton Reigny, Penrith and Kirkoswald. Concentrations elsewhere were along the Lancashire coast and a spread down the East coast from Berwickshire as far south as at least Suffolk.

Is it coincidence that these areas are those most subject to Viking invasion in the 9th and 10th centuries? Probably not, as we shall see.

3. THE WEAR VALLEY

It seemed at one time that the way to make progress with my own Nicholsons might be to look for other such families using the not-too-common Christian name of Martin. This name has been continuously present in my family from the Martin mentioned above until the 1960's.

So far, apart from a few isolated individuals, I have found only one group of such families, all living in County Durham and probably all connected. They form two sub-groups, one in Weardale and another, perhaps an offshoot of the first, further east around Pitlington and Houghton-le-Spring.

The earliest generation of the Weardale family traced to date is that of Anthony of Wheatbottom between Willington and Crook, originally in the parish of Brancepeth. Anthony was probably born around 1590 and was a yeoman farmer. He was contemporary with a Martin of Willington and a Richard of Crook who were possibly his brothers. Richard's family included a Martin. Of Anthony's children, Martin succeeded his father and had several children of his own. One of these was James, who was sent to the local big city - Durham - to make his fortune as a butcher.

James was apprenticed to William Heslop, a relative of John Duck, a self-made wealthy butcher and Durham City's "Dick Whittington". On completing his apprenticeship James married his master's daughter, Jane, and in true traditional style seemed set for a career as successor to his father-in-law. Unfortunately, tragedy struck. James died shortly after his marriage, but his widow gave birth to a posthumous child, another James, who inherited a fortune from his mother's Duck relations but precious little from his father's family.

This James Nicholson who grew up to be, briefly, MP for Durham City bought an estate at West Rainton, where he lived with his wife and three daughters, Jane, Ann and Mary. At that time the Earl of Strathmore had an estate nearby at Hetton-le-Hole and in 1736 James' daughter Jane married Thomas Lyons, who eventually succeeded as 8th Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorn. What must have been a close relationship between these two families was further strengthened by the marriage of another of James' daughters, Ann, to Thomas' brother, Patrick Lyons. From Thomas and Jane are descended all the later Earls of Strathmore and the Bowes-Lyon family, including Her Majesty the Queen Mother. Hence the Royal Family have a direct descent from these yeoman Nicholson of the Wear valley.

4. SCOTLAND

It would be foolish to investigate Nicholsons while ignoring the Scottish Nicolsons. Although it is, of course, true that before the later nineteenth century both spellings must have been interchangeable, the choice of which to use being at the discretion of the clerk concerned, nevertheless Nicolson was always almost as rare in England as Nicholson was in Scotland.

Most of my knowledge of the Scottish Nicolsons is taken from J.G. Nicholson's book *"The Clan Nicolson"* (1938, 2nd Edition 1988, by Scotpress) in which is gathered together all that is known of the early days of the surname, especially of the Nicholsons of Scurrybreac, Skye. Here a Viking origin is definitely claimed. It appears that at the time of Norse settlement in the Western Isles and on the West coast of Scotland a group of Norsemen founded a settlement of Nicolsons on the promontory of Coigach, near Ullapool. Although some branches took the Gaelic form of the name, MacNiceal or MacNichol, most stuck with the Scandinavian form of Nicolson (Nicholasson). The Coigach area came under the influence of the expanding Clan of MacLeod of Lewis, against whom the Nicolsons were too few to defend themselves and when the heiress of their Chief was carried off by the MacLeod invaders (or "decided to marry him", as a MacLeod would say!), a rapid evacuation was called for. Traditions has it that these dispossessed Nicolsons found a refuge with another group of the name who had become established on Skye.

Later, in 1263, the matter of Norse influence on the West coast came to a head with the efforts of Alexander III to establish Scots rule over the whole of the area. The first stage was diplomatic - ambassadors from Norway met with the Scots. One of these ambassadors was "Sir" Andrew Nicolassen. Perhaps he was of Norwegian origin or perhaps he was one of the Skye Nicolsons. He was certainly an important leader of the Norse forces when diplomacy (never a Nicholson strong point) failed and Haakon the Old of Norway sent a fleet of longships which met the Scots at the Battle of Largs. The battle was effectively a Scottish victory, for never again did Norway try to claim rights on the West coast, but in the immediate aftermath both sides claimed victory and the Norwegians are recorded as having divided the spoils as victors would, "Sir" Andrew receiving the Nicolson lands of Trotternish on Skye. Nevertheless, after a turbulent history Trotternish became recognised as MacLeod territory and the Nicolsons, from sitting on the council of the Lords of The Isles at their most influential point, eventually became mere tenants of the MacLeods. John Nicolson, the 18th Chief emigrated from Scurrybreac on Trotternish in 1825 and his line now continues in Tasmania.

From my own personal point of view, one of the most interesting points about the Skye connection is that another of the "minor" surnames of Skye is "Martin". Could my Martin Nicholson (remember him?) perhaps have come from Skye to Cumberland? The IGI has, of course, been consulted. It includes only one Martin Nicholson from Skye - a baptism in the mid-19th century. It may well be significant, however, that it was from Uig parish, on the Trotternish peninsula.

Other Scottish Nic(h)olson concentrations are a small group of Nicholsons in Orkney, possibly of a separate Norse origin, and some extension of the English East coast Nicholsons into Berwickshire has already been mentioned.

5. CONCLUSION

Each of the two main groups of Nicholsons (Cumbria and Skye) seems to have had a Norse origin. The next question must be "Can anything be done to unite the history of these two groups?" It is well known that Viking settlers, after moving down the West coast of Scotland eventually reached Ireland. They established themselves for a while at Dublin, which celebrated its 1000th anniversary in 1988. After their expulsion by the Irish it is believed to have been some of the Dublin Vikings who moved on to the Isle of Man and to Cumberland. Hence the idea of all Nicholsons having a common ancestor, or at least all being descended from the same small group of Norse adventurers, is not so far-fetched after all!

There are many more interesting lines of enquiry to be followed. For instance, I now have quite a large collection of Nicholson family information, including pedigrees of over 60 separate families and masses of indexed Parish Register material and Census extracts. Not as exciting as tales of Viking battles, but the stuff of solid genealogical research nevertheless.

To answer the obvious final question - no, I am not forming a one-name group, but if anyone else does, I'll join! Nic(h)olsons are, of course, eligible to join the Clan Nicholson organisation.

This article was previously published in the Cumbria FHS Newsletter 56, August 1990.

NEWS ITEMS

NEWS FROM NORTHUMBERLAND RECORD OFFICE

The Northumberland Record Office is running two courses on 'Family History for Beginners'; one at Berwick-upon-Tweed Record Office on Saturday 6 November 1993 and one at the Northumberland Record Office, Melton Park on Saturday 20 November 1993. Each one day course will consist of talks and workshop sessions with practical advice for people beginning to research their family tree. A half day course on Saturday 25 September 1993 is being held at the Morpeth Records Office. The title for this course is 'Tracing Your history of Your House'. Details of all three courses may be obtained from: Northumberland Record Office, Melton Park, North Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 5QX. Telephone/Facsimile No: 091 236 2680.

Also of interest to family historians are two acquisitions at Melton Park: (1) Amble Congregational Church Baptism records 1851-1862, 1895-1902, marriage records 1851-1857 and (2) microfiche of the old parochial registers of Scotland, an index of baptisms and marriages in the Church of Scotland from the earliest times to 1855.

NEWS FROM TYNE AND WEAR ARCHIVES SERVICES

Additions To Storage Areas

The five Tyne and Wear local authorities, which jointly fund the Archive Service, have agreed to provide funds for extending the storage facilities at Blandford House. At a cost of around £130,000, a new area of over 4000 square feet of storage, with Halon Gas fire-extinguishing protection will be opened up, which will provide a further 7500 feet of shelving.

This will enable the Archive Service to continue to preserve newly acquired archives for a further 10-15 years at current rate of intake.

Busiest Year Ever

A total of 6170 visitors consulted records in the Searchroom at Blandford House during the year ending March 1993. This represents the busiest year for the Archives Service, up 5.5% on the previous year. A further 1766 visited the Service as groups from schools and college for guidance from the Education Officer.

Searchroom Alterations

These have now been completed, and Tuesday evening opening has been recommenced. Comments on the new arrangements, and indeed any aspect of the public service, are always welcome.

THOMAS PROCTER'S LAST VOYAGE

by W.P. Ridley

My maternal great-grandfather Thomas Procter was born at Monkwearmouth on 23rd March 1821. He was baptised at Monkwearmouth Shore Presbyterian Chapel on 15th April 1821, his parents being William and Margaret. On that occasion the family name was given as Proctor, but almost all the subsequent records relating to Thomas have the "er" spelling. For several years Thomas's father earned his living on the water, at various times being described as a keelman, pilot or waterman, although 3 baptismal entries between 1828 and 1841 record him as a "running fitter", whatever that was. As his grandfather, also William, was a mariner it is not surprising that Thomas seems to have gone to sea at an early age. This is shown by the fact that he was only 30 when he received his master's certificate, this being granted because of his length of service and not as a result of examination.

In 1862 Thomas became master of *Pride of the Wear*, a barque with a tonnage of 373, built in 1859 by Pickersgill and Millar and owned by Mears & Co., both of Sunderland. During the summer in 1862, this ship sailed from Sunderland to the Mediterranean, returning to London in September. Its next recorded voyage was to Constantinople, coming back to Liverpool, via Ancona, in May 1863. The same ship left Liverpool on 29th May 1863 for Corfu and the Black Sea. Official Log Book no. 3 for this voyage shows that Thomas's 17-man crew gave him a number of problems.

These started even before the ship sailed as two men came on board 2 days late, whilst another two were three days overdue. All had money deducted from their wages. On the second day at sea, Thomas had to warn the cook - oddly enough called Abraham Cooke - about dirt on the food. On 11th June, after several more warnings, Cooke was removed from the job. Four days later, he came to Thomas for "medecin for the Venereal disease". After "looking at the booke", Thomas gave him "a Purgative powder with Cream of tarter to drink". A few weeks later, Cooke complained of having a bad finger. Its condition was not improved when he got one of his shipmates to lance it with "an old rusty knife". By the time that the ship got to Constantinople, Cooke's finger was so bad that a doctor on shore declared him unfit to sail and he had to be left behind.

A worse fate befell another member of the crew, a Norwegian called Charles Johnston - I imagine that this is an anglicised spelling of his surname. On 18th July, whilst he was working in the hold at Corfu, "a large coal fell on his back", causing a severe flesh wound. Johnston was taken to a hospital ashore and at first seemed to be recovering. However, he died on 1st August, the doctor telling Thomas that Johnston had been "a great drinker of raw spirits that his liver was affected". During the stay at Corfu, another man, John Daley, returned from a visit ashore and started to fight. The next day, Daley refused to work and was taken off the ship by local police. Other minor problems about the crew are recorded in the log, which also shows that *Pride of the Wear* left Constantinople on 4th October 1863 and reached Ipswich on 8th December. This voyage, with all its problems, turned out to be Thomas's last as he died on 16th February 1864, aged only 42, the cause being given as dysentery. Perhaps Cooke's cooking had something to do with this.

The log's crew list includes 8 others with British names. These were William Palmer (mate), James Thompson (bosun), Robert Thompson (carpenter), Peter George (A.B.), Thomas George (ord. seaman), Malcolm Beeswick [? Beswick] (Cook), George Vine and John Stevens (both apprentices). There is no indication where any of these came from.

NOTES

Much of the information in this article was obtained from material held at the Public Record Office, Kew and I am indebted to Miss Angela Barlow of Surbiton, Surrey for doing the research there for me. The open shelves of the Reference Room at the P.R.O. have indexes to master mariners, from which the number of Thomas's certificate was found - 49,779. This number tied in with PRO Register BT (for Board of Trade) 124.11, which contains details of masters and mates who gained their certificates because of long service and not by examination. In Thomas's case this register contains information about the voyages which he made in the last 3 years of his life. A search for *Pride of the Wear's* crew lists led to the discovery of Box BT 99/170 of the Official Log Book No. 3. This is the log in which Thomas recorded matters relating to the crew as distinct from day to day information about location or problems with the ship itself. It is fairly certain that but for the unfortunate death of Charles Johnston the log would not have been preserved.

The system of examinations for masters and mates and the issuing of certificates was introduced in 1845. At first it was voluntary, but from 1850 it was gradually made compulsory. The National Maritime Museum at Greenwich can usually supply a copy of a successful application for a certificate. In addition to personal information such as date and place of birth, this itemises all the voyages undertaken by the applicant over at least the previous 4 years. Unfortunately, the Museum have not been able to find Thomas's application for me.

The Museum do have the report of the survey carried out on *Pride of the Wear* shortly after it was launched. Most of the information in this report covers technical matters such as weight and type of anchors, but it does mention that the ship was constructed primarily of English and German oak, with some American elm and yellow pine decking. Other information about *Pride of the Wear* was found in the 1863 edition of Lloyd's Register of Shipping. Copies of this register, which has been issued annually since at least 1764, are held at many large libraries, including Newcastle.

A very useful guide for anyone wanting to research a sea-going forebear is *My Ancestor was a Merchant Seaman* by Christopher T and Michael J. Watts. Copies can be purchased from the Society.

Editor's Note: The author of this article, Mr. W.P. Ridley, can be contacted at 23 The Riding, Newcastle NE3 4LQ.

Certificate in Family History

Members of the NDFHS may be interested to learn that The University of Newcastle Upon Tyne is to launch a part-time certificated course in family history in October 1993. The course will run for four terms, three of which will be taught and classes will normally be held on one evening (Wednesday), each week. The aim of the course is to provide serious genealogists with a knowledge of the variety of sources that are available to them and to provide the students with the necessary skills to use these sources in their own research. Subjects covered will include palaeography, simple Latin, parish chest records, borough records, sources for non-conformist ancestry and methods of storing information. During the fourth term students will be expected to research the history of a family and to present their research as a project. In addition, two short assignments will be set in each of the three taught terms.

Anyone interested in obtaining further information about the course should contact:

THE CENTRE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

King George V Building, The University, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 7RU.

FAMILY BIBLES

Two members have responded to the invitation in the last *Journal* to send details from any Family Bibles held which contain information relating to Northumberland or Durham families.

Rev. R.S. Wilson, Greenside Vicarage, Ryton, Tyne and Wear NE40 4AA says that his church has accumulated a number of Bibles and a rather nice Sampler which are available for inspection. There is a Bible of Robert Urwin (born 27th July 1857) and Ann Wilkin Urwin nee Collins (born 25th November 1861) and also a Bible of Catherine and David Timney which contains little detail. The Sampler is worded 'Elizabeth Burn marked this at Mrs. Corbetts School, Sandhoe in the year of our Lord 1846, aged 14 years'.

Mr. T.W. Weddell, 47 Kingswood Avenue, Shortlands, Bromley, Kent BR2 ONE has a Bible started by Walter and Janet Curry (born 6th July 1814 and 26th November 1814) which contains birth dates, and some death dates, of their twelve children. The twelfth child was Mr. Weddell's grandfather William (born 1860) who married Ellen Toppin (born 1863) and details of their three daughters, Hannah, Janet Young and Mabel Mary are given. There are also various newspaper cuttings.

There must be many more Bibles out there, so to assist your fellow members, please send details of any you know about to the Editor.

NEWCASTLE QUARTER SESSIONS

A New NDFHS Publication

Quarter Sessions! To many of us, the words bring to mind the crime reports which used to appear in the press - of offences not serious enough to warrant a trial at the Assizes but which were sometimes nasty nonetheless! These four times a year meetings of Justices of the Peace had responsibility for administering justice in their area. Until 1888, moreover, they also had an administrative role over a very wide field - supervising high constables, Overseers of the Poor, the upkeep of bridges and maintenance of highways, and much more. They issued alehouse licences, they dealt with the registration of Friendly Societies and the licencing of Freemasons Lodges, they handled repairs to gaols and Houses of Correction. They were indeed a vital part of administration at county level.

Their administrative functions were, in the main, transferred to new elective County Councils in 1888, but the judicial role continued until Quarter Sessions were abolished by the Courts Act of 1971.

Not surprisingly, their records can be voluminous and cover hundreds of years. They were usually held by Clerks of the Peace and have now found their way into County Record Offices. Typical of them are the records of Newcastle Quarter Sessions, now in Tyne and Wear Archives in Blandford Street, Newcastle. The most important types of record are the Sessions Order Books and they cover the period from 1650 to modern times, with some gaps. Specifically, the periods covered are 1650 to 1651, 1655 to 1671, 1700 to 1802, 1818 to 1855, and from 1867. There are also Sessions Minute Books which contain much the same type of material as the Order Books. They run in a complete series from January 1838. The documents will be found catalogued under Accession Number 540 and some of them are on microfilm.

The records can be difficult to use because of their sheer volume and because of the lack of indexes to most parts of them. However, during the 1980's, our members Fred and Moira Furness and Ron Veitch completed some valuable work in indexing some of the Order Books. These indexes, themselves of almost 900 pages, covering the periods from October 1818 to 1831 (Accession number 540/7), 1831 to 1855 (540/8 and 540/9) and January 1867 to January 1876 (540/10). Our indefatigable indexers have listed much more than just names; they have extracted and listed, in alphabetical order, almost all the significant detail, whether in recording a crime or in noting some mundane administrative act. A typical 'crime' entry is "Dixon, Jane. Simple larceny in stealing the goods and chattels of George Dodsworth. 7 years transportation. 14 January 1830". It would be wrong to assume that you will only locate a particular individual if he or she had been up to no good! As this entry shows, the 'victim' is usually also named. There is also a reference to the page in the Order Book where the entry will be found, so you can look it up for yourself if you can get to Tyne and Wear Archives. But it must be said that there is normally no further information there, so extra details of the crime must be sought elsewhere. For instance, we find an index reference to 'Masterman, John. Larceny and receiving. 3 months hard labour. July 1867'. You may then have to resort to the local press, in for example Newcastle Library, to learn that John Masterman was a mere 15 years old, a labourer, and that he was found guilty of receiving, from Samuel Hay, 16 brushes and a comb, the property of Robert Cooper, knowing them to have been stolen.

Important genealogical information might be found in reference to appeals against Removal Orders. 'Isaac Mattison. Husband of Ann and father of Isaac aged 11 years 6 months, Jane aged 9 years, Hannah aged 6 years 6 months, William aged 3 years 6 months and Margaret aged 5 months. Appeal against removal from Byker to parish of Norton, County Durham. 5 April 1843. Appeal squashed. Byker to pay £9-12-2 expenses.' This is not the place to discuss Poor Law papers but suffice to say that detail of this sort could indicate a parish, in this case Norton, from which an ancestor came and to which another parish, in this case Byker, was attempting to return him, in an effort to prevent him becoming on a burden on Byker's funds.

You could learn that John Lowrey gave sureties to appear at the Sessions concerning a child likely to be born to Margaret Wheatley in 1825 - as clear an indication as you are likely to find that Lowrey was the father of the unborn infant. Hundreds of names of men who were members of various Masonic Lodges are listed, often with addresses and occupations. There are appointments to new jobs, like Jane Davie, a spinster, who was appointed Matron of the New Gaol in 1828 at a salary of £10 per year. There are payments for work done, like the eight guineas paid in 1828 to a widow Jane Redford, for making bedclothes for the House of Correction, and the payments to William Burnup and Matthew Miller Lee for bricklaying and painting there.

These are just a few of the thousands of 'happenings' listed in the indexes and their value to local and family historians is obvious. The Society has therefore arranged for a limited number of microfilm copies of the indexes to be prepared and these are now available for sale. An application form will be found with this journal.

WHAT'S ON THE I.G.I.?

"Not as much as you might think", is the glib answer to the question in the title.

Most readers of this *Journal* will be very familiar with the 'I.G.I.', the vast International Genealogical Index of baptisms and marriages compiled by the Mormon Church and made available to all researchers at Family History Centres throughout the world (Sunderland and Billingham locally), and which is also held by many record offices and libraries. It is indeed an immense finding aid. But it is a great mistake to regard it as a complete index of all baptisms or marriages up to a certain date. Far from it. Coverage varies widely from parish to parish. In our area, for example, the baptisms at Newcastle St. Nicholas are included from the earliest parish register dated 1558 right up to 1877. On the other hand, the thousands of baptisms in Darlington are not included at all. In between these extremes, there are wide variations and the coverage of some important parishes is incomplete. Take Tynemouth - baptisms from 1607 to 1734 only are included so you won't find your early 19th century North Shields ancestor by looking at the I.G.I. Indeed, there are a lot of 19th century ancestors you will be unable to locate, as coverage of many parishes ceases at 1812, so there is that annoying 25 year gap between 1812 and the start of civil registration in 1837 uncovered! And, as you will know, burials are not included at all.

The list below shows the earliest and latest dates for which baptisms and marriages are included on the I.G.I. for each Church of England parish or chapel in Durham and Northumberland which existed prior to 1837. The letter 'g' in brackets after dates indicates that there are 'gaps' i.e. some years between the two outside dates are not included. The details have been extracted from the 'Parish and Vital Records List' which is a kind of master index to the parishes included on the I.G.I. It might be said, in passing, that this 'master index' is a bit odd in some minor respects. A Presbyterian Chapel in Maryport in Cumbria is included under Northumberland, whilst marriages in Shilbottle in Northumberland have allegedly been extracted from the Bishops Transcripts for the period 1695 to 1812, despite the fact that no such transcripts survive for any parish in the Diocese of Durham for any period before the mid-18th century! And the I.G.I. persists in listing the Northumbrian parish of St. John Lee under Lee St. John, to the confusion of those unfamiliar with the region.

The extracts below have been taken from the 1988 edition of the I.G.I. We are told that there are many millions of new entries on the 1992 edition but a comparison between the 1988 and 1992 editions of 'Parish & Vital Records List' reveals that, at least in our two counties, there are very few 'new' parishes or periods included. It would appear that marriages at Chester-le-Street are now included up to 1837 and there are some extra entries for the Northumberland parishes of Haydon Bridge and Longbenton and there are also many more entries from information supplied by Church members.

Non-Conformist churches and chapels included on the I.G.I. (and there are many) will be listed in the next edition of the *Journal*.

NORTHUMBERLAND

	BAPTISMS	MARRIAGES		BAPTISMS	MARRIAGES
Allendale	1662-1875	1662-1877	Bywell St. Andrew	1668-1812	1685-1812
Allendale			Bywell St. Peter	1663-1812	1663-1812
(St. Peter & Allenheads)	1785-1875	1823-1876	Byrness	-----	-----
Alnham	1688-1812	1705-1812	Carham	1684-1812	1690-1812
Alnwick	1645-1812	1646-1812	Carrshield	1823-1875	-----
Alwinton	1694-1812	-----	Chatton	1712-1812	1712-1812
Ancroft	1742-1875	1742-1876	Chillingham	1692-1812	1692-1812
Bamburgh	1654-1757	-----	Chollerton	1643-1875	1664-1877
Beadnell	1766-1812	-----	Corbridge	1654-1812	1657-1812
Bedlington	1643-1812	1653-1812	Cornhill	-----	-----
Belford	1701-1812	1702-1812	Corsenside	1713-1875	1719-1876
Bellingham	1684-1875	1754-1880	Cramlington	1665-1812	1666-1812
Berwick	1574-1812	1695-1812	Doddington	1688-1812	1697-1801
Birtley	1728-1875	1730-1877	Earsdon	1604-1813	1589-1812
Blanchland	1753-1875	1753-1877	Edlingham	1658-1812	1658-1812
Bolam	1661-1812	1661-1812	Eglington	1662-1812	1663-1812
Bothal	1680-1812	1678-1812	Ellingham	1695-1818	1695-1812
Branxton	1736-1812	1754-1811	Elsdon	1672-1812	1672-1780

	BAPTSIMS	MARRIAGES		BAPTISMS	MARRIAGES
Embleton	1660-1812	1682-1812	Newburn	1660-1812	1659-1812
Falstone	1743-1875	1748-1877	Newbrough	-----	-----
Felton	1653-1812	1656-1812	N/c All Saints	1600-1874 (g)	1600-1812
Ford	1684-1875	1684-1877	N/c St. Andrew	1597-1877	1597-1837
Gosforth	1687-1812	1725-1812 (g)	N/c St. John	1587-1812	1587-1812
Greystead	-----	-----	N/c St. Nicholas	1558-1877	1574-1837
Halton	1654-1812	1654-1769	Ninebanks	1767-1875	1767-1877 (g)
Haltwhistle	1695-1875	1656-1882	Norham	1653-1875	1653-1877
Hartburn	1678-1812	1678-1812	Ovingham	1679-1812	1679-1812
Haydon Bridge	1654-1812	1655-1812	Ponteland	1602-1806	1602-1812
Hebron	1680-1812	1680-1812	Rennington	1768-1812	1769-1779
Heddon-on-the-Wall	1664-1875	1664-1856	Rock	1769-1812	-----
Hexham	1643-1812	1579-1812	Rothbury	1653-1812	1653-1812
Holy Island	1578-1875	1813-1885	St. John Lee	1664-1836 (g)	1664-1836
Horton	1648-1812	1660-1809	Shilbottle	1691-1815 (g)	1695-1812
Howick	1679-1814	1686-1812	Shotley	1682-1875	1670-1876
Humshaugh	-----	-----	Simonburn	1682-1875	1681-1877
Ilderton	1724-1812	1727-1812	Slaley	1703-1812	1722-1812
Ingram	1696-1812	1684-1812	Stamfordham	1662-1812	1727-1812
Kirkharle	1695-1875	1692-1877	Stannington	1658-1875	1658-1877
Kirkhaugh	1760-1823	1761-1876	Throckrington	1715-1753	1736-1874 (g)
Kirkheaton	-----	-----	Thorneyburn	-----	-----
Kirknewton	1659-1875	1678-1885 (g)	Tweedmouth	1711-1812	1711-1812
Kirkwhelpington	1679-1812	1684-1812	Tynemouth	1607-1734	1607-1733
Knarsdale	1695-1812	1703-1812	Ulgham	1602-1875 (g)	1602-1762
Kyloe	-----	-----	Wallsend	1669-1812	1669-1812
Lambley	1742-1812	1754-1812	Warden	1695-1724	-----
Lesbury	1690-1812	1689-1812	Wark/Tyne	1818-1875	1818-1877
Longbenton	1670-1812	1653-1812	Warkworth	1677-1812	1685-1812
Longframlington	1653-1717	1685-1717	West Allen	1823-1841	-----
Longhorsley	1694-1875	1668-1876	Whalton	1661-1812	1661-1812
Longhoughton	1646-1812	1646-1812	Whitfield	1612-1875 (g)	1606-1877
Lowick	1716-1826	1729-1812 (g)	Whitley Chapel	1765-1842	1765-1781
Lucker	1769-1875	-----	Whittingham	1661-1875	1659-1812
Meldon	1706-1812	-----	Whittonstall	1774-1875	1750-1877
Mitford	1665-1812	1659-1812	Widdrington	1698-1875	1698-1876 (g)
Morpeth	1583-1812	1583-1812	Woodhorn	1605-1812	1605-1811
Netherwitton	1696-1812	1706-1812	Wooler	1692-1812	-----
Newbiggin	1662-1812	1662-1780			

DURHAM

	BAPTISMS	MARRIAGES		BAPTISMS	MARRIAGES
Auckland St. Andrew	1558-1875 (g)	1558-1877	Durham St. Margaret	1558-1812	1558-1812
Auckland St. Helen	1653-1812 (g)	1653-1777	Durham St. Mary the Less	1560-1812	1559-1812
Aycliffe	1560-1812	1560-1812	Durham St. Mary le Bow	1572-1812	1573-1814
Barnard Castle	1609-1812	1619-1812	Durham St. Nicholas	1540-1812	1540-1812
Billingham	1569-1875	1570-1877	Durham St. Oswald	1538-1751	1538-1751
Bishop Middleham	1559-1812	1559-1812	Durham Sherburn Hosp.	1692-1812	-----
Bishopop	-----	-----	Eaglescliffe	1539-1812 (g)	1540-1812
Bishopwearmouth	1567-1875	1567-1877 (g)	Easington	1571-1812	1570-1813
Boldon	1572-1812	1573-1812	Ebchester	1610-1812	1619-1812
Brancepeth	1599-1812	1599-1812	Edmondbyers	1717-1864	1755-1840
Castle Eden	1661-1871	-----	Egglestone	-----	-----
Chester-le-Street	1582-1812	1582-1827	Elton	1573-1812 (g)	1574-1812
Cockfield	1578-1812	1578-1812	Elwick Hall	-----	-----
Coniscliffe	1590-1812	1590-1812	Embleton	1650-1760 (g)	-----
Croxdale	-----	-----	Escomb	1546-1860 (g)	1543-1877
Dalton-le-Dale	1653-1812	1653-1812	Esh	1567-1877	1570-1877
Darlington	-----	-----	Etherley	-----	-----
Denton	1587-1812	1579-1812	Gainford	1566-1784	1569-1812
Dinsdale	1556-1812	1564-1811	Gateshead	1559-1875 (g)	1559-1877 (g)
Durham Cathedral	1609-1875	1609-1896	Gateshead Fell (St. John)	-----	-----
Durham St. Giles	1584-1812	1584-1814	Great Stainton	1561-1812	1561-1811

BAPTISMS			MARRIAGES		
	BAPTISMS	MARRIAGES		BAPTISMS	MARRIAGES
Greatham	1566-1812	1564-1812	Ryhope	-----	-----
Grindon	1566-1812	1565-1758	Ryton	1583-1812	1581-1812 (g)
Hamsterley	1584-1812	1580-1812	Sadberge	-----	-----
Hart	-----	-----	St. Johns Chapel	-----	-----
Hartlepool	-----	-----	Satley	-----	-----
Haughton-le-Skerne	1569-1877	1569-1877	Seaham	1646-1812	1652-1812
Heathery Cleugh	-----	-----	Seaton Carew	-----	-----
Heighington	-----	-----	Sedgefield	1580-1875	1581-1877
Hetton-le-Hole	-----	-----	Shincliffe	-----	-----
Heworth	1696-1875 (g)	1754-1880	Sockburn	1580-1767	1580-1812
Houghton-le-Spring	1581-1812	1563-1812	S Shields St. Hilda	1653-1812	1653-1812
Hunstanworth	1777-1875	1776-1876	Staindrop	1635-1812	1635-1812
Hurworth	1561-1799	1559-1812	Stanhope	1609-1812	1613-1812
Hylton (South)	-----	-----	Stockton	-----	-----
Jarrow	1572-1696	1572-1812	Stranton	-----	-----
Kelloe	-----	-----	Sunderland	1719-1836	1719-1839
Kirk Merrington	1579-1812	1579-1812	Tanfield	1720-1875	1719-1877
Lamesley	-----	-----	Trimdon	1720-1812	1721-1812
Lanchester	1560-1848 (g)	1561-1837 (g)	Usworth	-----	-----
Longnewton	1564-1812	1564-1812	Washington	1601-1812	1603-1812
Medomsley	1612-1875	1608-1876 (g)	Whickham	1576-1875	1579-1876 (g)
Middleton St. George	1652-1812	1616-1811	Whitburn	1579-1812	1579-1812
Middleton/Teesdale	1578-1752 (g)	1621-1752	Whitworth	-----	-----
Monk Hesledon	1578-1812	1578-1812	Whorlton	1626-1812	1713-1812
Monkwearmouth	1683-1853	1735-1852	Winlaton	-----	-----
Muggleswick	1784-1812	-----	Winston	1572-1875	1574-1837
Norton	1574-1875	1574-1877	Witton-le-Wear	1558-1757	1558-1756
Penshaw	-----	-----	Witton Gilbert	1571-1811	1568-1812
Pittington	1574-1812	1574-1827	Wolsingham	1631-1812	1655-1812
Rainton (West)	-----	-----	Wolveston	-----	-----
Redmarshall	1564-1812	1560-1811			

I HAVE A FAMOUS ANCESTOR - OR TWO

by Cliff Heppell

I knew of this since early childhood. My mother was a Peel, proud of her ancestry as she knew it and she certainly let me know about John Peel, the huntsman. What a proud little lad I was at school when the teacher had us all singing "D'ye Ken John Peel"!

Years passed before I tackled my mother about John Peel. She knew very little more than that there was a link with a cousin. None of the other living Peels knew the full story either. It was not until 1986 that family history began to occupy my mind but by then all the folk who could have helped me, including my parents, were dead. Thus I found myself as clan chief of both Heppells and Peels. Most helpfully, Tyne and Wear Archives in Blandford Street, Newcastle put me on the right track.

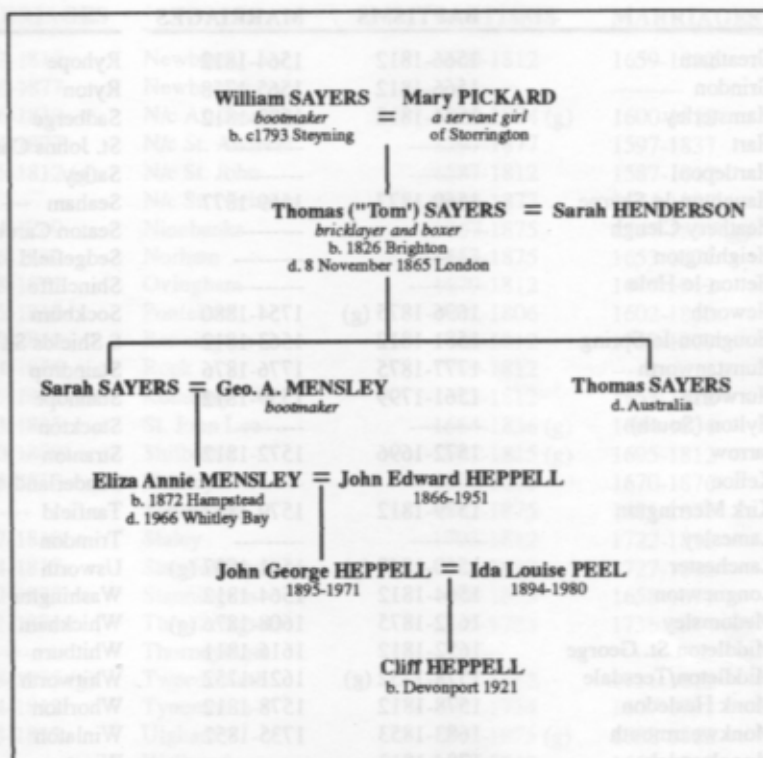
Previous to my grandfather Robert Peel I knew nothing. He had married Ida Ponton, a Devonshire girl, in Newcastle on New Years Day 1891. I was serving in the Army in World War II when he died but some years later, when going through my mothers bits and pieces following her death, I found a brass plate about 5" by 3". It was engraved with the names of Robert and Ida Peel and their dates of death. The plate had in the past been fixed to a cask which had contained their ashes, now scattered!

I turned my attention to Robert's father, Joseph, who, as I discovered, was married to Sarah Ann Maxwell. Now this was interesting - Joseph's father, William, appeared in Queen Street, Newcastle in the 1851 census and also at the same address was a Sarah Ann Maxwell, shown as William's stepdaughter. So Joseph had married his stepsister and his father William must have married twice.

William Peel and Sarah Maxwell married at Newcastle Registry Office in February 1849. William died in 1879 and I found his will but still nothing was known of his first marriage. However, from the birth certificate of his youngest child Sarah in 1841 I discovered that his first wife was Mary Ann Ridge. The St. Catherine's House indexes gave me Mary Ann's death as 23rd May 1848, only nine months before William's second marriage!

The census gave William's place of birth as Harrington, Cumberland. The parish records at the County Record Office in Carlisle Castle were searched, yielding his place of birth as Torpenhow in 1802 but baptised in Harrington in 1803. No marriage came to light although I found Mary Ann Ridge's baptism in Workington in 1802, daughter of Joseph and Phoebe Ridge. Despite ransacking the Castle Archives for the marriage, I was unsuccessful. A word with the knowledgeable archivist suggested a Gretna Green marriage but that has yet to be researched.

My troubles were not yet over as another William turned up circa 1802/3, son of Thomas Piele of Whitehaven. This held up further exploration for some time until Thomas Piele was shown to be a shipbuilder and his son was not baptised in Harrington. As my William was born in Torpenhow and his father was listed as a farmer, I went for the I.G.I. marriage of Thomas Piele and Eleanor Longcake in Torpenhow. They turned out to be William's parents. They were married by licence on 6th May 1789 and the Torpenhow register showed Thomas as aged 24, of Ireby.



I felt the bit between my teeth. Now for our Huntsman! My Cumbrian friend Mrs. Beth Banks kindly took on my researching at Carlisle Castle and eventually sent me photocopies of the Peel family trees relating John, the Huntsman - authenticated trees deposited in the Castle Archives. One amazing chart, showing the line from John Peel's grandparents was almost four feet long. On this chart five offspring of the first Thomas Peel were married and had offspring, including the fourth born child William, father of THE John Peel. The ninth child, Thomas, was born in Ireby and the age quoted at his marriage led comfortably back to 1764. Eureka! My great great grandfather William was a first cousin to John Peel! William had acquired a keepsake from John Peel - a beautiful hunting stick with a fox head on the brass ferrule just below the bone handle. This stick could be bent double and on releasing it would simply swish back straight. I have handled it but it is now with the Australian branch of the Peels.

A branch of my Heppell family tree contains another famous ancestor - a great great grandfather, being my father's mother's grandfather. We all knew of his existence and researching was easy, his daughter's birth certificate being already in my possession and a biography had been in print for some years. His life is well documented; all I had to do was borrow the book from Newcastle Central Library and read it.

My grandmother Eliza Annie Heppell, nee Mensley, was born in Middlesex in 1872, the daughter of George Albert Mensley who married Sarah Sayers in 1866 in South Hampstead. The family moved to Newcastle in 1874 where George, previously a boot manufacturer in Camden, became an Innkeeper - mine host at the Rosedale Hotel in Morrison Street, Shieldfield. Coincidentally, the Mensleys lived quite near to the Peels for a year or two.

Mensley's wife Sarah Sayers was born in 1850 in Camden, the daughter of Thomas Sayers and Sarah Henderson. This Thomas Sayers - Tom Sayers - was the All England Boxing Champion from 1857 until he retired from the ring in 1860. He was beaten only once in his life, when he foolishly entered the ring with raging influenza. The only other match he failed to win had resulted in a draw, a world famous fight with the American John Heenan. The fight began at 7.30 a.m. There were no gloves - just bare fists. The fight was stopped and declared a draw in the 42nd round! Both boxers were utterly shattered. The purse was split down the middle. This was Tom Sayer's last fight. He was famous for his devastating double punch, known as the 'Auctioneer', which usually signalled the end of the fight. Tom died in 1865 of tuberculosis. His funeral stopped London's traffic with over fifty coaches in the cortege holding the aristocracy, Members of Parliament and boxing celebrities. He was laid to rest in Highgate Cemetery. His statuette is to be seen in the National Portrait Gallery in London, and his biography 'The Life of Tom Sayers' by Tom Langley will be found on the sporting shelves in public libraries. The earlier part of the tree above is taken from that book.

Editor's Note: The address of the author, Cliff Heppell, is 17 Ewbank Avenue, Fenham, Newcastle NE4 9NY. Readers interested in John Peel's ancestry may wish to refer to an article 'D'ye Ken John Peel' by Leslie Ellison which appeared in *Family Tree Magazine*, February 1991.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

D. Tait

Another list of additions to our Library which continues to expand the postal service available to all our Members. Unfortunately I cannot send items overseas. The full Library Catalogue may be purchased either from Mrs. C. Davison or Mrs. D. Tait for £1.

Now the bad news. As you know I ask Members to include 10p to cover the cost of packing to the postage cost when returning borrowed items. This 10p has not been increased since I started the postal service in 1984. With so many indexes now in the Library I have to purchase paddy bags which are much more expensive so I must ask you to include 20p in stamps to cover this increased cost.

For members who have not yet purchased a Library Catalogue, the procedure is that you request an item from me giving the Catalogue number and your Membership number and when returning the item please include the postage cost plus 20p, all in stamps.

- 1.187 Extracts from Log Book of Stanley School, 1875-1975.
- 1.188 Origin of North Shields by Wm. S. Garson.
- 1.189 Crawcrook Wesley Guild Book 1923-1939, donated by R. Goodings.
- 1.190 Township of Heworth by J.M. Hewitt.
- 1.191 Historical Atlas of County Durham, Durham Local History Society.
- 1.192 Reprint of 1st Edition of 1" OS Map of Alnwick.
- 1.193 Portrait of Old Jarrow, Paul Perry.
- 2.322 Walton and Brodie Families - C. Mellor.
- 2.323 Bowmer Family - C.S. Thompson.
- 2.324 Wearmouth Family of Billingham and Stanhope - K. Gould.
- 2.325 John and Adde Coxon of Lambton - K. Gould.
- 2.326 John Snaith and Family, N. Durham - K. Gould.
- 2.327 Lauder Family of North East Northumberland - K. Gould.
- * 2.328 The Branfoot Family - D.W.V. Branfoot.
- 2.329 Mills and Plumpton Family Entries in Bible - C. Riddell.
- 2.330 Dodd Family Entries in Bible - B.C. Getty.
- 2.331 Stephenson - Pilots of South Shields - B. Stephenson.
- 2.332 Watsons of Ryton and Gateshead - L. Williams.
- 2.333 Snowdon of Consett in 1851 Index - N.C. Kelley.
- 2.334 Storey Without Ending (Australia) - J. Ormond.
- 2.335 Fail Family Tree - M. Kennedy.
- 2.336 Kennedy Family Tree.
- 2.336 Turner Family Chart - A. Brooker.
- 2.337 Forster/Foster of Tyneside and Durham.
- 2.338 Morton Family Tree - N. Morton.
- 2.339 Handsome, Fairclough Family Tree.
- 2.340 Rooke Family Chart - K. Stokes.
- 2.341 Jolly Family Tree.
- 2.342 Pedigree of Harding of Hollinside.
- 2.343 Tiffin Family Tree.
- 2.344 Walton Family of Wolsingham - Q.M. Stewart.
- 2.345 May and Blackmore Families - D.G. Walker.
- 2.346 McCalvey, Mulkerrin, Gates Families Trees - P. McCalvey.
- 2.347 Slaughter Family Tree.
- * 3.176 St. Pauls, Hendon, Sunderland Marriage Index 1854-1906 - I. Applegarth.
- 3.177 St. James, Stockton Marriage Index, Volume 1 1868-1884, Volume 2 1884-1899, Volume 3 1899-1910 - M. Johnson.
- 3.178 Transcription on War Memorial, Hetton-le-Hole - F. Furness.
- 3.179 Transcription on War Memorial, Houghton-le-Spring - F. Furness.
- 3.180 Burial Register of The Infirmary, Newcastle 1803-1815 - P.R.G. Thirkell.
- 3.181 Elswick Methodist Circuit, Roll of Honour 1918 - P.R.G. Thirkell.
- 3.182 1851 Census Index, West Surrey - West Surrey FHS.
- 3.187 Baptism Index 1637-1777 Stockton Parish Church donated by C. Jewitt.
- 3.188 Index of Officers and Other Ranks, 19th Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers. Compiled by C. and K. Wanless.
- 3.189 Burial Index 1595-1653, St. Thomas, Stanhope - C. Jewitt.
- 3.190 Baptism Index 1609-1653, St. Thomas, Stanhope - C. Jewitt.
- 4.057 St. Cuthberts Church, Allendale.
- 5.116 Index to Holdings in South Shields Library Local Studies Department, South Tyneside Branch.
- 6.134 Emigrants in Bondage 1614-1775, Durham and Northumberland - P.W. Coldham.
- 6.135 History of Hookergate School 1932-70 - Alan Wright.
- 6.136 Sunderland Daily Echo, 22 December 1873.
- 6.137 Fisher Gansey Patterns of North East England - M.R.R. Pearson.

AN ASTERISK MEANS THE ITEM IS UNSUITABLE FOR POSTAL BORROWING

MEMBERS INTERESTS - A READERS REPLY

In the Winter 1992 *Journal*, Mrs. P.A. Thurston asked how to obtain information about an inquiry which took place in August 1893 at Yarmouth into the loss of a Yarmouth sailing ship after a collision with the steamer *Luneburg*. Mr. P. Hull of 49 Grange Road North, Bearsden, Glasgow G61 3AG states that, as the date is known, it should be possible to locate a report of both the original incident and the subsequent Board of Trade inquiry in *Shipping Gazette and Lloyds List*. He says that several places have a microfilm copy of the index and that details could well appear in local newspapers in Yarmouth and the home port of the *Luneburg*. Mr. Hull has a copy of a May 1890 report of an inquiry involving a Sunderland steamer and a Grimsby smack, which says that neither the master nor the second officer 'navigated with proper and seamanlike care' and that 'every year 3 or 4 smacks out of Grimsby are sunk in collision with steamers which continue on their way without stopping to render assistance and that in many cases no one has been left to tell the tale ...'

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.

0720 Mrs. HELEN ALLINSON, 34 Woodstock Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 4HN.

Researching the **Collins** family of Houghall Colliery and Benton, 19th century; **Hepple** of Benwell and **Smith** of Stockton, all in the 19th century. Also the **Allinson**, **Shield**, **Walton** and **Redfearn** families of Middleton-in-Teesdale. Also the families of William **Branney** and Margaret **O'Connell** who married at Easington in 1916. William's name may well have been changed from Brannen or Brannigan.

0784 Mrs. NELDA C. KELLY, 2224 Skyline Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76114, U.S.A.

Seeking information on John **Snowdon** who married Alice **Liddle**, daughter of Thomas Liddle and Margaret **Patterson**, at Haltwhistle, and their children: 1) Margaret, b. Haltwhistle 1839, 2) Mary b.1841, 3) Jane b.Monkwearmouth 1843, 4) Thomas Liddle b.1845 at Bishopwearmouth, and 5) Charles b.1849 Lanchester. Also seeking information regarding Mary **Hall** b.1853 at Seghill, married Thomas Liddle Snowdon 1882. Their children were Joseph, Robert Hall, Alice Liddle, Frederick and Thomas Richard Snowdon by a previous marriage of Thomas L.

0852 Mrs. J. WEARS, 2 Highfield Villas, East Mill, Halstead, Essex CO9 2EH.

Researching **Wears** - definitely of Weardale 1787 to 1841, but where before this? Help needed to find parentage and baptism of William born c.1744, possibly brother of a Mary Wears who married John **Rutter** in 1787 at Wolsingham. William married Elizabeth Watson of Stanhope in 1786 but some of their six children were baptised at Ireshopeburn Presbyterian Chapel, the others at Stanhope. How did the rural ministers work out the dates for the services? - a burial and two christenings were all carried out on 25th December 1835 at Stanhope.

0856 Mrs. PATRICIA MITCHELL, 19 Woodlands Way, Barton, Preston, Lancashire PR3 5DU.

Seeking any information regarding **Wheatley**, **Bewick** and **Snowball** families, pre-1780, especially in the Ryton/Stella area. Also, can help with the early history of Felton Park in Northumberland, particularly the original owners.

1158 Mr. J. and Mrs. L. BUCHAN, Glenhaven, Freemantle Road, via Bathurst, New South Wales 2795, Australia.

Mr. Buchan would like information regarding the family of John **Buchan** of Alnwick who married 1) Isabella **Taylor**, and 2) Barbara **Hudson**. His son John 1808 married Jane **Dodds** and later moved to Newcastle. Their son Robert **Waldie** Buchan m.1900 to Joanna Allen **Wilkinson**, daughter of James Wilkinson, b.1850 Gateshead and Jane Allen, b.1849. Mrs. Buchan is interested in James **Tremble** b.1846 Wigton, Cumberland, m.1871 Newcastle to Sarah **Coxon**, daughter of George Coxon, painter. Their son William b.1875 Newcastle m.1915 to Mabel Ada **Harris**, b.1880 in Devon. Information on any of these families would be welcome.

2127 Mrs. MAY HAMILTON, Box 3165, Olds, Alberta T0M 1P0, Canada.

Hugh **Hamilton** and his wife Mary **Upton**, both born in Ireland had a son William who was born in Wigton in Cumberland in 1842 and died at Byker, Newcastle in 1906. William married Rachel **Morton** at Carlisle in 1865 and she died at Byker in 1916. Their children were Eleanor 1865, Edward 1868, Georgina 1869, Mary Jane 1871, William 1872, Rachel 1875, Elizabeth 1877, Margaret 1880 and Lilian, all born in Carlisle. Any information on the family would be appreciated, especially help in finding where in Ireland Hugh and Mary were born.

2190 ROY ALLEN, 2 Ansley Way, St. Ives, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE17 4SN.

Seeks help with information on Robert **Schwartz**, who, according to his master's certificate, was born in 1820 at Sydney, Cape Breton, Canada. Where and how can proof be found? When he married in 1856, his father George was given as an army officer. Could he have been garrisoned in Nova Scotia at the time of Robert's birth? In 1893, Robert's wife died, and he was listed as an innkeeper. Where could details of public houses in the South Shields area be found?

Editor's Note: Robert Louis Michael Schwartz, gentleman is shown at 60 Chichester Road in 1899 Directory of South Shields which also includes a list of pubs, none of them showing Schwartz there.

- 2324 Mr. RICHARD A. HAY**, 3618 Ligon Road, Ellicott City, Maryland 21042, U.S.A.
Seeking information on ancestors of Adam **Hay** and his wife Jane **Cristal** who emigrated to Wisconsin, U.S.A. with their children George, John, William, Jane and James, aged 29 to 15. His wife is said to have died at sea. Citizenship papers show they arrived at New York in 1843. Adam's tombstone states he was "a native of Northumberland". Adam and family were accompanied by a nephew (or cousin?) John Hay, born 1824 in Alnwick.
- 3166 Mr. T.R. HAYWARD**, 26 Lilydale Grove, East Hawthorn, Victoria 3123, Australia
Interested in Thomas **Ridley**, born Acomb Mill 1871, and his wife Mary Jane **Rudd**, born Bedlington 1879. The family left Woodbine Street, Gateshead for Australia in 1912. Thomas was a joiner employed by William Hall, Derwent Joinery Works, Gateshead. When William died in the 1950's some land and property owned by the family in Acomb and Allendale was sold. Would appreciate contact with any researcher of the Ridley name in Northumberland 18/19th centuries.
- 3326 LYNNE TOCHER**, 11 Coranto Street, Abbotsford, New South Wales 2046, Australia.
Trying to obtain information on the more difficult female lines of her family tree. Margaret **Burns** married Andrew **Sharp** at Chatton in 1754 - he was a dissenter. Jane **Pattinson** married John **Dunn** 1730, Alnwick. Isabel **Watson** married John **Lisle** in 1697 at Embleton. The following sisters were daughters of Martin **Henderson** and Mary **Dunn**: 1) Jane, bpt. Rennington 1812 married Henry **Wallace**, mariner, was at Seahouses 1841 and 1851. They had five known sons all baptised at North Sunderland; John (1834), Henry (1842), Martin (1844), William (1847) and Joseph (1851). 2) Ann, bpt. Denwick 1814, and 3) Esther, bpt. Denwick 1816. Also anxious to trace a Mary **Swan**, wife of Robert **Davi(d)son**, mother of Robert born at Adderstone in 1816 and baptised at Warenford Presbyterian Church.
- 3548 Mr. J.R. WHARRIER**, 17 Henry Street, Barbourne, Worcester, Worcs. WR1 1RB.
Seeking the birth and death dates for John **Wharrier** (or Wharrer) the Pheby **Thew** who married at Hartburn 1779. They had two sons, Edward baptised 1779 and William 1784.
- 4014 MOYNA HARLAND**, 87 Marmion Street, Fremantle, Western Australia 6160, Australia.
Can anyone help with the following: 1) **Knox** family were publicans of the Bay Horse Inn, North Shields in 1850's. Although it no longer stands, would welcome information or pictures of it. 2) Any records or information of the Pelton Steam Shipping Co. of Newcastle. 3) Where or what was Goldens Hole near Earsdon? Was it a mine? 4) Mary Ann **Davey** died Nov. 1860 in North Shields. She wasn't buried at Christchurch, Tynemouth General or Preston Cemeteries. Where else could she have been buried? 5) William **Bell**, born c.1824 possibly at Bedlington, son of William. Baptism not recorded at Bedlington, but family may have been Methodist New Connection. Any ideas where to look?
- 4025 JOYCE LLOYD**, 68 St. Mary's Walk, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS5 7S.
Seeking the descendants of John James **Elder**, born 1853, married Agnes **Dick** in 1874. They had eight children: Thomas Marshall 1877, Ellen 1876, Margaret 1880, Ann 1882, James 1883, Louie, Agnes 1885, and Alexander 1889-1926. John James Elder was the son of Alexander, wood turner, 1816-1891, who married Eleanor **Marshall**, and they had eight children who were all born in Newcastle. Any help would be appreciated.
- 4229 Mr. C.E. NEWTON**, 49 Lockton Avenue, Heanor, Derbyshire DE75 7EQ.
Despite having brothers and sisters whose births appear in the St. Catherine's House indexes, the birth of William **Melville/Melvin** c.1845 doesn't seem to have been recorded. According to an obituary, and an entry in the family bible, he was born at Newton-on-the-Sea. He may have been of a Methodist family as, after his marriage at Embleton, he moved to Prudhoe where his house was used for Methodist meetings before the chapel was built. Can anyone help to locate his birth/baptism?
- 4377 ALAN DENT**, The Hollies, Church Hill, Ravensthorpe, Northants NN6 8EP.
Researching the **Dent** family in the North East, particularly the Sunderland/Seaham area 19/20th century and Teesdale prior to 1880. Compiling a computer listing of all the Dent parish register entries for Romaldkirk, and would be happy to exchange information with other Dent researchers.
- 4475 BILL GRIFFITH**, 67 Kalakau Avenue, Forrester's Beach, New South Wales 2260, Australia.
Would appreciate information about the family of Ralf **Hodgs(h)on** and Catherine **Sanderson**, married Durham 1728 and had 14 children, all baptised at Auckland St. Andrew, including Thomas (1743) buried Newton Aycliffe 1783, Hugh (1737) vicar of Eglington, Northumberland for 40 years and died there in 1810, Ralf (1738-1818), John (1740) and George (1742). Also anything about the family of son George Hodgson, born 1742, married 1776 and died 1818 at Auckland St. Andrew. His wife was his cousin Margaret Hodgson. They had at least three daughters and two sons - George died at Cullercoats in 1855 and William (1784) married Elizabeth **Ord** at Sedgfield 1817 and died 1870 at Auckland St. Andrew.
- 4570 JUDITH HIATT**, 50 Pierce Street, Wellington, New South Wales 2820, Australia.
Could anyone please check some entries in the Bedlington parish registers? Thomas **Holmes**, son of Thomas and Jane b.22 December 1793 and Thomas Holmes, son of John and Mary b.10 April 1759. Do the registers indicate the mother's maiden names, or any other details? John Holmes married Mary **Homsby** at Bedlington 1758. Any details of the bride? Thomas Holmes married Elizabeth c.1820's. Elizabeth was born at Preston c.1792 and Thomas at Bedlington 1793.
- 4578 CHARLES R. BARR**, 453 Frontier Street, Hemmingford, Quebec J0L 1H0, Canada.
Seeking information about the birth and marriage of William C. **Robson**, born c.1762, married in the 1780's to Elspeth **Thompson** of the Falstone area. There were seven boys, and possibly two girls, born to this couple who emigrated to Canada c.1819/20. Elspeth's family address was given as Longhouse, in the parish of Simonburn.

- 4622 Mrs. M.J. NICHOLSON**, 39 Links Road, Culleroats, North Shields, Tyne and Wear NE30 3OY.
Would be interested to hear from anyone with information regarding the name **Coulman**.
- 4795 Mrs. C. ABBOTT**, 83 Gidley Way, Horspath, Oxford OX33 1TQ.
Would love to find the portrait of Robert **Wight**, iron founder of Seaham Harbour, which he left to his son in 1860, but can find no mention of it since. William's grandson Oswald Loy Wight was a metal merchant in Sunderland and his wife Enid Beatrice only died in 1987. Also seeking other descendants of John Wight and Eleanor **Pringle** of Lumley Forge. Other interests include the Chrystal family of Wooler and Etal.
- 4800 ARTHUR PARKER**, 5 Kilvinton Drive, Enfield, Middlesex EN2 0BD.
John, son of John **Dees**, mason, and Isabella, daughter of Phillip **Young**, miner, married at St. John's, Newcastle in 1853. Unable to find the births of either. Their children: Margaret Elizabeth, b.1854 Newcastle, married John William **Pinder** in 1877 at Hartlepool. William James b.1857 at Greenwith, married Annette in 1882 at Hartlepool. John Henry b.1859 at Stockton, married Marion **Simpson** in 1879, also at Hartlepool. John died in 1906 and Isabella in 1911. Any information regarding the above would be welcome.
- 4803 Mrs. J.J. GREENWOOD**, 36 Stonehill Road, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 4AY.
Researching the **Tate** family. John Tate was apprenticed to a grocer John Bird in Hide Hill, Berwick sometime between 1794 and 1806. He then went to sea, married Mary Lewin, aged 22, in Prittlewell, Southend, Essex. They had one son George Thomas Tate. John later died at sea c.1825/26 when his ship sank with all hands off Greenland. Seeking information on when and where John Tate was born, and who were his parents? Any help or suggestions would be welcome.
- 4807 Mrs. M.M. BENNETT**, Ael-y-Castell, Porth-y-Green, Cowbridge, South Glamorgan CF7 7JR.
Strachan/Straughan. Any information on John, born c.1840-45, lived Howden/Wallsend and South Shields/Jarrow areas, boilermith when he married Rosanna **Mooney** 1864 at St. Hilda's, South Shields. Also his father Robert, a miner, but no other information.
- 4818 Mr. E. LOCKHART**, 17 Downlands Close, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex TN39 3PP.
Looking for the birth/baptism of George **Lockhart** c.1856, son of John Lockhart. He married Sarah Isabella **Milburn** at Tynemouth in 1882. In the 1891 Census, George gave his birthplace as Farlam.
- 4840 Mrs. MARY TWENTYMAN**, 13 St. Abbs Fold, Odsal, Bradford BD6 1EL.
Trying to find the baptism of Mary **Gordon** born c.1818 at Newcastle and her marriage to Robert **Porter** of Penrith c.1838. Also the baptisms of their eldest children born at Peshaw - Margaret c.1838 and Sarah c.1840. These two sisters married Thomas **Birch** and Michael **Lowe**.
- 4858 Mr. J.R. EMMERSON**, 7 Hall Lane Estate, Willington, Crook, County Durham DH15 0QF.
Could any Canadian member help to trace George Lewis **Emmerson**, born somewhere in Canada about 1912? The National Archives were unable to help. Any suggestions? Also interested in Allan/**Elder**, **Bootiman/Dixon** and Mary **Ricalton** and John **Dobinson** who married at Burradon in 1892 but can't find them on the 1891 Census.
- 4861 DONALD S. HOWE**, 56 Ripon Street, Roker, Sunderland SR6 0JZ.
Seeking the marriage of John **Howe**, baptised at St. Helens, West Auckland in 1825, the second son of John Howe, miller, and Margaret **Gibbon**. The 1851 Census shows them living at Broom Mill, a corn mill; John was 25, unmarried and a coke inspector. Any information about Broom Mill itself would also be most welcome.
- 4863 Mr. ERNEST ELVIDGE NUTMAN**, 20 Sidenhill Close, Shirley, Solihull B90 2QD.
Would appreciate any information regarding the family name **Elvidge**, particularly of the Hetton-le-Hole/Pelton area of County Durham. Also information about the names **Nutman**, Durham/Northumberland 18th/19th centuries and **Widdowfield** of the Houghton-le-Spring district in the 18/19th centuries.
- 4871 Mrs. LORRAINE KENNEDY**, 4 Hartley Road, Coolbellup 6163, Western Australia, Australia.
Seeking information regarding Margaret Jane **Amory** born c.1812 and Henry **Rennison** born c.1810 at Snitter near Rothbury. They married c.1837 in the Rothbury area but their baptisms and marriage have not been found. They may have been Presbyterians as their daughter Jessie's marriage, by the "rites of the Presbyterians" to William **Dixon**, is recorded at St. James, Pottergate, Alnwick. Their other known children were Mary b.1836, James (1839-42), John (1841) and George (1844), all born at Snitter. Two other children, Henry (1850) and Margaret (1860) were born at Alnwick. Could anyone help with information about the Presbyterian records of the Rothbury area?
Editors Note: The baptism register of Rothbury Presbyterian Church 1804-1811 and the baptism register of Thropton Presbyterian Church 1799-1847 will be found in Northumberland County Record Office.
- 4875 MOIRA BESWICK**, 2 James Road, Whitchurch, Tavistock, Devon PL19 9NJ.
Searching for the birth/bapt. of Charles **Miller**, born Hull c.1818. Could any member in that area help? Also looking for the marriages of the following: Charles **Emmanuel** born 1843, John **Edward** born 1849 (to Isabella **Hall**), Thomas **Neilson** born 1851, Arthur **Miller** (to Maggie?) born Darlington 1874, and Percy **Miller** (to Emily) born Darlington 1877.
- 4894 Mrs. C. COCHRANE**, 60 Harford Road, Cayton, Scarborough, North Yorkshire YO11 3SU.
Researching the **Rodham** family of Beamish 19th century and Tanfield 18th century. Also William **Eltringham**, born 1852, and his wife Isabella **Walker**, born 1854 Kibblesworth, married Lamesley 1874. Dorothy **Pattison** c.1848 from Craghead; Jane **Moody** c.1831 of Tanfield; Alice **Morton** c.1805 from Tanfield; **Tate** and **Summerson** c.1870 of Stanley and Bishop Auckland.

- 4911 **Mrs. I.L. POPHAM**, 10 Southlands Drive, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 9DW.
Researching the **Hutchinson** family, in particular the descendants of Lancelot Hutchinson, b.1805 in Newcastle. He was one of seven sons of William Hutchinson and Mary **Iredale** or **Iredell**. Lancelot married Elizabeth(?) in 1829 at Jarrow. He may have been related to a Lancelot Hutchinson of South Hylton who died in 1882.
- 4921 **Mrs. M. QUIRKE**, 6 Spring Vale, Swarthmoor, Ulverston, Cumbria LA12 0XA.
Researching the family of Joseph **Oxley**, born in St. John's parish Newcastle. His first wife was Barbara **Edmeston**, and his second Mary **Thomas**, born in Rothbury. They lived in Wooler in the 1790's.
- 4925 **Mrs. SUE LUSH**, 5 Blackfriars Lane, Chirnside Park, Victoria 3116, Australia.
Would appreciate any help in locating the birth/baptism for Matthew **Vasey**. He married Mary **Raper** in 1873 at Pitlington and although his age is given as 21, a search of the St. Catherine's House birth indexes 1848 to 1856, has not revealed the registration of his birth. Matthew and Mary had a son Matthew who married at Gateshead in 1921 to Annie May **Ward**, daughter of Thomas Ward and Hannah **Bowman** of Hexham.
- 4934 **NIGEL PROUD**, 5 Church Close, Shepley, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD8 8HD.
Researching James **Proud**, born 1847 Benfieldside, son of Sarah Proud. He married Barbara **Jowcey** in 1869 at Earsdon, daughter of Joseph Jowcey, miner. Known children were: Hannah 1870, Joseph 1872, Frederick 1874 (lived in Jesmond in the 1920's), John 1876, Ethel B. 1880 and Arthur 1884. The family were living in North Shields in 1881 and 1891. Where did they live 1847 to 1869? Possible parents of Sarah were John Proud and Sarah **Wallus**. Could they have married at Westgate Primitive Methodist Chapel c.1820?
- 4937 **Mrs. J. MORRIS**, Kashette, Sandbeds Lane, Westwoodside, Doncaster DN9 2DW.
Before moving to Yorkshire in 1936, Francis **Oxenham** lived in Houghton-le-Spring with his mother Margaret, father William, and five brothers and five sisters. The births of five of the children have been traced in Durham between 1895 and 1902, but the others, including Francis born in 1892, have not been found. Does anyone know the Oxenham family or have information that could help?
- 4939 **Miss M. PERCY**, 19 Sycamore Avenue, Guide Post, Choppington, Northumberland NE62 5NU.
Seeking information on the following: 1) Edward **Yellowley**, born Lynemouth 1808/9 and his wife Mary **Bell**, born Bolam 1816/7. The couple were living at Blagdon in 1851. 2) Robert **Davison**, born Bedlington c.1799 and wife Jane **Reay**, born Stanington c.1802. Living at Bedlington in 1851. 3) Henry **Gray** of Newburn and Isabella **Norris** of Cramlington, living at Seghill in 1851. 4) Robert **Percy** and Sarah **Patterson**, both born at Murton, and living at Spittal in 1841. 5) William and Mary **Murray**, born in Ireland and at Berwick at the time of the 1861 Census. 6) James **Flannigan** and Ellen **Tucker** at Alnwick in 1866. 7) Robert **Laws** and Elizabeth **Thompson** living at Cramlington in 1847.
- 4941 **Mr. D. PAUL**, 3 Newton Road, Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands B93 9HL.
Seeks information on Duncan **McGregor** born c.1834 in Scotland. He lived in Southwick, Sunderland in the 1870/80's working as a ship's caulker. Also William **Forster** born c.1834, a boilersmith who lived in Ouse Street, Newcastle.
- 4942 **ROBERT WALKER**, 36 Kent Drive, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 6TB.
Seeking information on Captain Matthew Bryce **Walker**, born in Newcastle 1845, and his wife Jane nee **Thompson**. They had two children: Maria born 1875 and Robert in 1876, both at South Shields. Also any information on Matthew's parents: William Walker and Marianne nee **Mathison**, who ran an academy at Gibson Street and Howard Street in 1855. Any information on what happened to Robert and Maria after 1909 would also be much appreciated.
- 4944 **Rev. R.S. WILSON**, Greenside Vicarage, Ryton, Tyne and Wear NE40 4AA.
Any information on the following would be useful: Dorothy **Simpson**, born c.1811, possibly at Dinnington, and thought to be related to the Newcastle firm of chemists, Wilkinson and Simpson; George John **Bell** who married Dorothy at Dinnington Church in 1842; Robert **Coxon**, farmer at East Mason Farm, Dinnington c.1860, may have been related to Coxons farming in the Longframlington area.
- 4945 **Mrs. ELMA WICKENS**, 12 Dellmount Drive, Bangor, County Down, N. Ireland BT20 4UB.
Looking for information on the following: 1) William Carson **Wightman** (born 1858 in Dumfries) who was living in Croxdale in 1893, and 2) Dr. **Mason**, who was living in Northumberland in 1861. His wife was a **Carson** from Dumfries.
- 4951 **Mrs. J. CREE**, 4 Allen View, Catton, Hexham, Northumberland NE47 9QQ.
Interested in the following families: **Hopper** of Cambois, Earsdon, Ryton, Durham for all periods; **Douglas** of Cambois and Marley Hill; **Taylor** of Killingworth; **Wheatley** of Cambois; and **Cree** and **Ridler** of Marley Hill.
- 4957 **Mrs. ELAINE MESSENGER**, 3 Detling Avenue, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 1SP.
Seeking the marriage of John **Hall**, farmer, and his wife Margaret **Clarke**. Known children were George bapt. 1789 and Hector bapt.1792, both at Falstone Presbyterian Church. George and Hector were later cattle/sheep drovers and moved to Castleton, Roxburghshire. They may have been connected to the Halls of Redesdale. Also interested in information on the **Corker** family, especially Thomas born c.1782 and married Penelope Hilton **Peacock** at Barnard Castle in 1808. Researching the names **Peacock** and **Hilton** in the Barnard Castle area, **Allinson/Allison** of Teesdale and **Field** of Hartlepool and Stockton.

- 4960 **Mrs. L. RAINE**, 32 Tintagel, Great Lumley, Chester-le-Street, County Durham DH3 4NF.
Researching the names **MacKnight**, **Raine**, **Telford**, **Spoor**, **Spalding**, **Errington** and **Samuel**. Can anyone explain the following? When Ann **Anderson** married John Telford in the presence of James **Richardson**, her father was given as Joseph **Johnson**, farmer, but in the 1871 Census she was living in James Richardson's house and was described as his daughter, born at Easington.
- 4963 **Mr. T.H. PATTISON**, 30 Gilesgate Road, Hetton-le-Hole, Tyne and Wear DH5 0EZ.
Has traced his family back to Ralph **Pattison** who was living at Nettlesworth, County Durham at the time of the 1871 Census. Is anyone tracing the name **Pattison**, or able to help?
- 4966 **JUDY BROWN**, 45 Odra Street, Camira, Queensland 4300, Australia.
Northumberland interests include the family of John **Dawson** who married Margaret **Jewit** at Newburn in 1791. Their children Ann, Robert, John, Nicholas and William were baptised at Newburn between 1792 and 1804. John married Elizabeth **Scott** and their children, born North Shields/Tynemouth were John (1829), Anne (1831), Margaret (1836), William **Jewitt** (1841) and Thomas (1843). Any further information would be appreciated.
- 4974 **DENISE MAIR**, P.O. Box 411, Forster, New South Wales 2428, Australia.
Interests include: **Taylor**, **Garside**, **Platt**, **Houghton** and **Lonsdale**.
- 4975 **EILEEN DERBYSHIRE**, 3 Hartley Old Road, Purley, Surrey CR8 4HH.
Local family names being researched are **Anderson** and **Darbyshire** of Shotton, County Durham. Futher afield, interests include **Darbyshire** of Pemberton, Lancashire, and **Jackson** and **Vickers/Viccars** of Leicester and Peterborough.
- 4977 **Mrs. V. BURT**, 258 Herbert Avenue, Poole, Dorset BH12 4HY.
Looking for information on the **Sterlings** of Newcastle and the **Websters** of Gateshead. Robert Sterling married Elizabeth **Olphin** in 1855 in Middlesex but their son Robert was born at Benwell, Newcastle. Why did he go to Newcastle, or did he come from there originally? Were there any other children? Robert the younger married Emily Jane Webster in 1886 at Gosforth parish church.
- 4983 **GERRY DAVISON**, Enghavevej 9a, DK7800 Skive, Denmark.
Has traced his northeast ancestry back to Robert **Davison**, born Willington Quay 1811, son of Richard and Mary, and Elizabeth **Ogle**, daughter of Andrew and Mary, born 1817 at Hexham. Robert and Elizabeth probably married at Christ Church, Tynemouth in 1836. Can anyone help with information on these families?
- 4987 **Mrs. VERNAE SCOTT HANSEN**, 211 Klamath Road, Mesa, WA 99343, U.S.A.
Would like to have pictures and the human side of her ancestors as well as birth/death dates. At least one relative was still alive in 1902: Thomas **Easten**, 29 Callerton Place, off Brighton Grove, Newcastle. Letter to the address brought no result. John **Scott**, born 1818 Doddington, Northumberland married Ellen **Easten**, born 1819 Newton-by-the-Sea. They went to the U.S. in 1855 with their sons John and George. Family tradition places **Davison** cousins in Pennsylvania. Who were they? John **Scott's** father, also John, bapt. Ford 1783, married Isabella **Fleming**, born 1781 Ford. Ellen **Easten's** parents were Stephen, born 1781, Scotland, married Ann **Croft**, born Alnwick 1779. Her father Thomas **Croft**, mother Margaret **Allen**. Some family were buried at Bamburgh. Any help or information would be greatly appreciated.
- 4989 **Mrs. SHIRLEY HODGSON**, 24 Eastfield, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol BS9 4BE.
Seeks information of the **Hodgson** and **Walker** families from South Shields and Sunderland area respectively. William Hodgson married Elizabeth Jane **Turnbull** in 1899 at South Shields, his father Thomas married Anne **Horsley** in 1872 at York. There was a second marriage but no details are known. William Walker married Agnes Jane **Atkinson** in 1893 at Westoe. His father was Matthew Walker, and hers was Ralph **Atkinson**, miner at Harton Colliery. Any details would be appreciated. Would also like to hear from anyone who attended the Hodgson 'get together' at Raby last year. Unfortunately she did not hear about the event until after it had taken place.
- 4991 **Mr. J.T. BATMAN**, 83 Woodside Road, Lenton Abbey, Nottingham NG9 2SB.
Birthplace and family sought for Esther **Twist**, born 1889 'Corby', County Durham, but not in the St. Catherine's indexes. She married in 1907 at York to Alfred **Batman**, no father named on the wedding certificate. Would be grateful for any information on the Durham Twists.
- 4995 **Mrs. JILL OLIVER**, 2 Claydon Gardens, Hawley, Camberley, Surrey GU17 9HG.
Trying to trace the ancestry of the parents of William **Kelley** of Greystones, Bowburn, born 1878 at Monkwearmouth, died 1949. Father William born c.1850's and mother Mary (nee **Garney?**). Four children: William, James, Kate and another. Would be willing to undertake some research for members in her local area.
- 4996 **Mr. T. STRONACH**, 12 Fordland Place, Pallion, Sunderland SR4 6UR.
Seeking information about John **Stronach**, merchant, married Ann **Purvis** in 1790 at All Saints, Newcastle. Their son, John, born 1800 worked as a miner in North Shields, married Margaret **Mason**. He later moved to Ryhope with his wife and son Henry, born 1841. Henry married Harriet **Johnson** of Monkwearmouth, Sunderland.
- 5001 **JOSEPH H. THOMPSON**, 43 Middle Drive, Darras Hall, Ponteland, Northumberland NE20 9DN.
Anxious to trace descendants of Archibald **Thomson** (sawyer) of Corbridge who married Isabella **Frater** or **Wilson** of Wooler in 1789 at St. Andrew's, Newcastle.

- 5005 ROGER BROWELL**, 4 Cotes Way, Wing, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 0RB.
Researching his **Browell** ancestors: great grandfather Benjamin Browell born Castle Eden 1853 and his father Edward who was married to Mary, nee Stephenson. Any information greatly appreciated.
- 5008 Mrs. SHIRLEY HAMMER**, 3176 Mariner Way, Coquitlam, British Columbia V3C 4E7, Canada.
Local family interests include **Mossman** of Newcastle, Hartlepool, York, Sheffield, 1860 onwards, and **Mowbray** of Newcastle and Hartlepool since 1850.
- 5009 CAROL A. SMALL**, R.R.=1, Denfield, Ontario N0M 1P0, Canada.
Was born in High Spen and is interested in learning about the area she was born in, and corresponding with any relatives who may be researching her family lines. These families include **Calvert, Charlton, Carr, Robinson, Brunskill, Dawson, Greener, Laws, Breckness** and **Rayne**.
- 5011 NORMAN MORGAN**, 15 West Park Avenue, Newby, Scarborough, Yorkshire YO12 6HH.
Seeks information regarding Janet **Kerr**, born Berwick c.1836. Her father was Michael Kerr a labourer. She married at Liverpool in 1860 to James **Canning**, a police constable, and died there in 1880.
- 5014 Mrs. AVRIL PRIDMORE**, 3 Kensington Close, Bishopstoke, Eastleigh, Hampshire SO5 6NS.
Researching the families of: 1) William **Davison**, grocer's assistant 1878, and Mary Ann **Rackstraw** (later married a **Marshall**) of Bishopwearmouth. 2) William Henry **Burn**, ship's steward 1891, and Mary Hannah **Orwin** of Nicholson Street, Sunderland. 3) Eleanor **Holmes** (married James **Blackett**) of Stobley Moor, East Rainton in 1874. Any information gratefully received. All letters will be answered.
- 5017 VICTORIA J. REBNERIS (nee WHITELEY)**, 4764 Beaver Road, Victoria, British Columbia V8X 3X1, Canada.
Research interests include **Whiteley** and **Starford**.
- 5018 Mr. JOSEPH FORSYTH**, 15211-83 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5R 3T5, Canada.
Interested in any Forsyth/Appleby marriage connections. Any information on the ancestors of Thomas Forsyth and/or Dorothy Ann **Thompson**, married St. Andrew's Newcastle 1875; of Joseph Appleby and/or Jane **Middlemas**, married Houghton-le-Spring 1911 - he lived at Fatfield in 1891. Also John **Wearmouth** and/or Mary Ann **Thompson**, married Dorothy **Smeaton** at Hartlepool in 1860 - his father Thomas was a gamekeeper. Would also be interested in the whereabouts of any descendants of the above or their siblings.
- 5030 Mrs. SUSAN WATSON**, 10 Meadow Close, Spondon, Derby DE21 7GS.
Would be pleased to receive any information on the following: Robert Stainton **Hill** (1815? - 1901) who was married to Martha and was believed to be one of the first photographers in Northumberland. His son James (1831 - 1908) was an artist who painted a portrait of the Duke of Wellington. It is also thought that he was a photographer like his father. He married Rachel **Cofton**, a schoolmistress, in 1868 at St. Hilda's, South Shields. She kept a general store for many years. Also John George **Myers** (1865-1911) married to Annie Elizabeth **Carr** (1867 - 1941)
- 5058 BARBARA ORME**, 85 Reading Road South, Fleet, Hants GU13 9SY.
Would welcome any informatin about **Whinham** families in the Gateshead area, especially of George Whinham, quarryman, married c.1861 Mary Ann **Young**, and William Whinham, quarryman, father of Jane who married Walter **Scott** c. 1855. Seeking information of the predecessors of Jospeh **Armstrong**, brakesman, married Isabella **Porter** and had a son Joseph b.1864. Also Michael **Storey** 1819 - 1876 m.1849 to Margaret Dawson 1824-1898 born Whitley Bay, and Isabella **Storey** owner of 44 Hawes Street (Gateshead?) included in her estate in 1889.
- 5060 Mrs. L. FRY**, 4 Coronation Cottages, Routs Way, Rownhams, Southampton, Hampshire SO1 8JG.
Interested in her maiden name of **Blann**. Matthew Blann bapt.1788 at Wallsend, son of Matthew and Ann. Were they related to John Blann, pitman, who married Isabella Reay at All Saints Newcastle in 1848? Where and when did Matthew and Ann marry? Any information would be gratefully received.
- 5063 Mr. H. DARNELL**, 1 Chase Gardens, Binfield, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 5HY.
Researching his family name of **Darnell**.
- 5067 Mr. R.E. CROUDIS**, 434 Rapaura Road, R.D.3 Blenheim, Marlborough, New Zealand.
Researching the name **Croudin** in Northumberland and Tyneside. Would like any information regarding George Croudin and Mary **Dodds** who married at Edlingham in 1809. They had children baptised at Rothbury - Margaret 1818, Andrew 1820 and Mary Anne 1823. Looking for the death/burial of George Croudin 1823-1842 after which his widow married Edward **Noon**. The family emigrated to New Zealand in 1842. Would like to correspond with anyone interested in the name Croudin or its variants.
- 5069 GEOFF BRUNSTROM**, 2 Gale How Park, Ambleside, Cumbria LA22 0BW.
Trying to trace the following who were last known when the family were living at Newcastle and Gateshead; Otto Leopold **Brunstrom** b.1852 last known 1872; John Hans Korsholm **Brunstrom** b.1854 last known 1881; Charles Hambleton **Brunstrom** b.1858 last known 1871; Arthur Ainsley **Brunstrom** b.1887 and Harold **Brunstrom** b.1895. Of the last two nothing is known except the dates of their births.

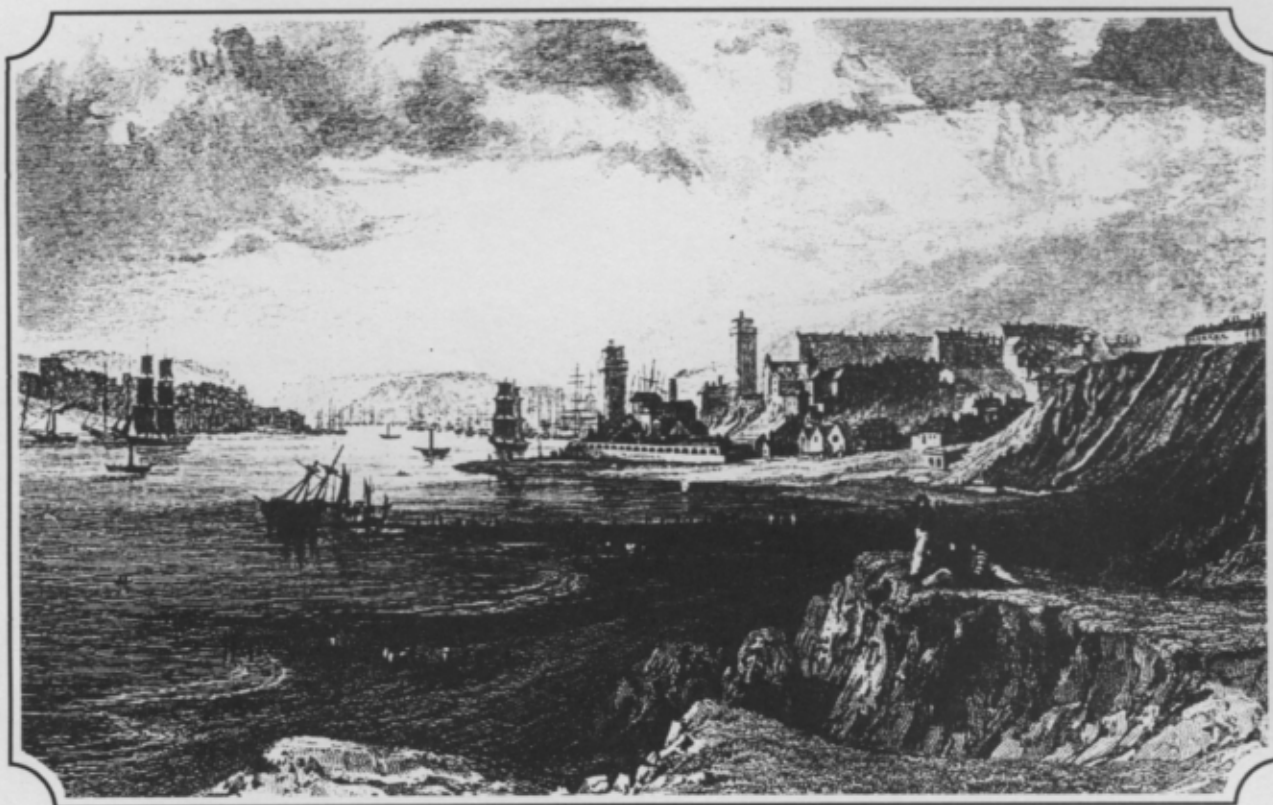
NEW MEMBERS

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 future Journals at any time, if they want to.

Welcome to all our new members.

4878 Mrs. G. CROCKER, 17 Bincombe Drive, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 7BE. 4879 Mrs. J.P. OLIVER, 8 Northall Close, Eaton Bray, Dunstable, Beds. LU6 2EB. 4918 Mr. K.G. DUFFIN, 44 Bewcastle Grove, Leicester, Leicestershire LE4 2JW. 4919 & 4920 Mrs. M.G. & Mr. T. THOMAS, 35 Gibbs Road, Newport, Gwent NP9 8AR. 4922 Mr. A.D. HALL, 3 Browning Close, South Shields, Tyne and Wear. 4923 Mrs. S.L. WORRAL, 206 Carrwood Road, Great Falls, VA 22066, U.S.A. 4924 Mr. D. GRICE, 14 Ridgeway Crescent, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear SR3 1YL. 4926 Mr. C.R. PEACOCK, 41a Hill Road, Clevedon, Avon BS21 7PD. 4927 Mr. C. ANDERSON, 14 Denewell Avenue, High Heaton, Newcastle upon Tyne NE7 7YB. 4928 Mrs. C. DOBSON, 38 King Stable Street, Eton, Windsor, Berks SL4 6AB. 4929 Mr. B.P. MARRON, 2 Beech Walk, Tring, Herts HP23 5JQ. 4930 & 4931 Mr. J.I. & Mrs. P.L.M. TAYLOR, 2 Melbourne Court, Welwyn Garden City, Herts AL8 6LL. 4932 Mrs. S. FILMER, 11 St. Aidans Road, Wallsend, Tyne and Wear NE28 8QG. 4935 Mrs. A. 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North & South Shields
TAKEN FROM THE ROCKS NEAR TYNEMOUTH