

THE JOURNAL OF THE NORTHUMBERLAND & DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Vol. 18 No. 4

Winter 1993

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

EDITORIAL

Over the last few months, the Society has ventured into new fields of publication. Having confined ourselves in the past to book and microfiche editions of various 1851 census indexes, we produced an *'Index to Newcastle Quarter Sessions 1818-55 and 1867-76'* in a set of 16 fiche, followed by the 13 fiche *'Family Notices from the Newcastle Courant 1723-1800'*. Both sold far better than we had expected, approximately 10% of the membership having bought each of them. This is gratifying -- and must be particularly so to the three members who laboured for some years over the Quarter Sessions Index -- and we will certainly continue in this field of non-census material, finding items which are available locally but are difficult or impossible to obtain elsewhere. We will also, of course, continue to produce Census Indexes too.

Whilst 1 in 10 of you bought, and hopefully were happy with your purchase (although feedback has been minimal), what about the 90% of you who were not tempted? What sort of material would you like us to publish, what sort of records would you be likely to buy if we produced them? We would welcome your suggestions. We realise we have many newcomers to the hobby and many who live far away and simply don't know what exists and therefore may hesitate to make suggestions but it would nevertheless be most helpful to learn of your own ideas.

While my postman regularly delivers 3 or 4 orders every day to the editorial mansion for these fiche and for other published material, I have to say that I get very little in the way of contributions to the Journal - YOUR Journal. Perhaps one letter every 10 days or so. A bit of a contrast, isn't it? It would be nice to be able to tell you that I have a sizeable reserve of material for future Journals, but I haven't! *'Members Interests and Queries'* come in steadily but there must be many of you out there itching to put pen to paper and send me an article, a news item, an odd or unusual snippet you have come across during your own researches, hints on an unusual source, or whatever! I cannot promise to publish everything, as I do try to achieve a reasonable balance between different types of articles, but I rely on contributions from you to fill it ... enough said!

On a different note -- subscriptions. This is the last Journal you will get for your 1992/93 subscription. We hope you will renew your membership, so if you haven't already done so, send your cheque along to Jenny Ashburner NOW. Thanks.

Finally, news of a new Society a bit different from the many 'County' societies. The Quaker Family History Society - UK subscription £8 - enquiries to Margaret Bennett, 486 Lea Bridge Road, Leyton, London E10 7DU.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

This time, we have three new Census volumes, available in both book form and as microfiche, plus the second (and final) instalment of *'Family Notices from the Newcastle Courant'*.

Volumes 13, 14 and 15 in our series of Indexes to the 1851 Census of Northumberland cover areas on the north bank of the Tyne - Volume 13 Wallsend, Willington and Howdon, Volume 14 Chirton, Preston & Murton and Volume 15 North Shields. Please note that Volume 13 is a repeat, in book form, of a microfiche we have had available for some time so please ensure you do not have it already before ordering. There is an earlier book, Volume 6, covering North Shields but Volume 15 covers a different area. Our thanks to Mr. Neil Morton for compiling these indexes.

The *'Courant'* microfiche is a continuation of the set advertised and mentioned in the last journal. A full article on these *'Family Notices'* appeared in the Summer 1991 Journal. The new set of 25 fiche covers the period from 1801 to 1820 and is complete with index.

The County Durham 1851 Census Index Volume 1 covering South Shields etc has been out of print for some time but is now available again in book form. Volume 1 of the Northumberland 1851 series, covering Hartburn etc is now out of print in book form but has been reproduced as a microfiche. There are also some new Monumental Inscriptions microfiche for sale.

Application forms for these and all other publications should be enclosed with this Journal. Please note that we have rationalised and reorganised our Sales and Ordering systems which have tended to confuse many people in the past. All book sales are now handled by Mrs. C. Davison, Monumental Inscriptions by Mrs. K. Willans and all other fiche by Mr. K. Dalkin.

Please use the new order forms and not any previous ones, as there have been some price revisions.

We are aware of the problems many overseas members have in ordering sterling cheques to purchase low priced items such as some microfiche. Look at it from our viewpoint. If you want to buy a fiche costing, say £1.50, you could send a dollar cheque for the equivalent but this would cost us about £3 to convert and we would lose on the deal. So we don't do it! Overseas members might, however, wish to consider the methods outlined on page 144 of this issue (the final page of the green 'Index' section in the middle of the Journal).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mrs. L. Raine, 32 Tintagel, Great Lumley, Chester-le-Street DH3 4NF, writes:

I was interested in the article on the Towneley Main Explosion of 1826 which appeared in the Autumn Journal. When I first started to research my family tree and came across deaths of young men, I could not help feeling sorrow, not only for the waste of a young life but also for the children he would not now produce, and the generations which would be lost. That is, until I researched John Errington, who died in the explosion aged 24.

You see, John married my great great great grandmother Catherine Forster in 1824 and was buried, after the explosion, on 1st June 1826, not quite two years after they married. Catherine gave birth to John's son not long after this and he was baptised in January 1827. Catherine then gave birth to another son, Thomas, baptised in 1830, as the illegitimate son of Catherine Errington, widow. Thomas was my maternal grandmother's grandfather and I can account for at least 34 descendants of his, all of whom owe their existence to the explosion which killed John Errington.

Mrs. J. Walker, 1 Garden Place, Church Hill, Crook, County Durham DL15 9DR, writes about the article entitled *'The Duke's School, Alnwick 1811-1911'* which appeared in the Spring Journal:

I have had an excellent response -- over seventy letters! One man was delighted to discover his great-grandfather's brother was molecatcher to the Duke of Northumberland and rang to say that this was the nearest his family had got to blue blood! And there was an excited call from a lady whose 87 year old mother was living with her. The mother's three brothers, more than twenty years older than herself, were listed but had died years ago leaving, as she thought, no children. One had moved south and had died young, but unknown to her, had married and his wife's name etc. was given in the book. I was able to put them in touch with another enquirer -- it was an unusual name -- so there were phone calls all round hoping to find previously unknown nieces or nephews. Makes life interesting, doesn't it?

Mr. M.W. McMullen, 281 Friendship Avenue, S.E., Salem, Oregon 97302-5717, U.S.A. writes:

Last year a lady in the Darlington area offered to do research on the Bowman family for me. Unfortunately, I was in the coronary unit of our local hospital at that time and lost her letter. Could she contact me again, please?

COLLEGE LISTS

Miss M.E. Legg, 116 Albert Road, Jarrow NE32 5AG has a list of 68 names and addresses, in the students own handwriting, of Senior Students 1915-16 at St. Hilds College, Durham, which her mother attended. Her father went to St. John's College, Battersea and she has a list of 73 names and addresses, with nicknames in some cases, of Senior College Students there 1913-14, together with a large number of photographs. If anyone is interested, Miss Legg will gladly supply copies of lists or photographs. Don't forget the stamped addressed envelope!

News from Durham Record Office

As Society members will be aware, Durham Record Office is the only county record office in the region which is open on Saturday mornings. This additional opening period was introduced in February and its continuation will be reviewed at the end of the year in the light of the numbers of people using the searchroom on a Saturday.

The first stages in reviewing the Record Office's accommodation needs for users, documents and staff have been taken, with a request to the County's Land and Property Department to undertake a feasibility study to see how existing space can be used more efficiently.

ANIMAL ANTICS

A correspondent of undoubted veracity has favoured us with the following, which is well known to all the gentlemen in that neighbourhood. Marmaduke Cradock Esq., of Gainford near Darlington in the bishopric of Durham has a sorrel or male deer 3 years old which runs in company with his hounds when they hunt either hare or fox and will be foremost when he pleases, skipping and shewing apish tricks, and is become so familiar and well known to the dogs that they never attempt to seize or molest him.

(From Cambridge Chronicle 20 February 1768).

FAMILY BIBLES

Mrs. M. Ward of 4 Linton Road, Nether Poppleton, York YO2 6LT has a bible which gives details of a Parkinson family (names 1829-1871), starting with Richard who was born at Middleton Tyas. His wife was a daughter of George Bowes. The family lived at Wackerfield.

Mr. A. Railton, "Moor Lea", Barningham, Richmond, North Yorks DL11 7DU gives details of Thompson bibles he has. The first dates from 1576 and is in Greek with Latin titles. 'John Thompson his book 1655' is noted. The second book mentions John Mills Thompson who was born in 1808 and died in 1874 and John and Mary (Steel) Thompson who married 'at Saint John's Church' in February 1832 and later members of the family. Also David Watson who married Elizabeth Thompson -- he was born Newcastle 1820 and was a marine engineer.

Mrs. D. Lomas, 17 The Rise, Darlington DL3 8HD has a Brown/Greenhalgh Bible. It shows Ralph Brown, born "Backwith" 1816 and his wife Mary Ann (Robinson) born Bishop Auckland 1825 and their children John, Ralph, Eleanor, George William, Hannah, the curiously named Ryhope Jacob, Cornelius and Mary Elizabeth, born between 1851 and 1866 at either Earsdon or Ryhope. Ralph was Colliery Manager at Ryhope and lived at Leechmere Hall in Sunderland. Eleanor Brown married John Greenhalgh, headmaster at Silksworth and there are details of their children. Mrs. Lomas says that she and her siblings are the only descendants of this couple but she feels sure there must be Brown descendants somewhere!

Mrs. N.M. McKinna, P.O. Box 336, Cooktown, Far North Queensland, 4871, Australia has "two huge Family Bibles" of her father's family. Christopher Graham (born 12th April 1807) and Ann Sadler (born 2nd November 1811) are listed in one of them with their children Elizabeth, Christopher, Isaac Sadler, Ann, Rebekah, Ann (again!), Margaret, Jane and Isaac Green born between 1832 and 1848. There is also a Green Bible listing Oliver Green born July 23rd 1840 and Margaret Green born January 13th 1844 and children Ann Margaret, Lewis, Christopher, Mary Jane, John and Elizabeth born between 1863 and 1876. Some dates of death are also given. Oliver and Margaret (nee Graham) were from Bedlington.

Members are invited to send to the Editor details of any Family Bibles they own.

THE 'LORD DELAVAL'

In the Autumn Journal, we mentioned the emigrant ship 'Lord Delaval' which sailed from Berwick in September 1852 for London and on to Port Philip. Mrs. Alison Menzies of 38 Valley Road, Mount Eden, Auckland 3, New Zealand has written to say that an ancestor, William Butement, described as "aged 18 -- farmer -- English" was one of the passengers. He was the eldest son of Thomas Thompson Butement and his wife Elizabeth Trotter and was baptised in Berwick in 1833. "In his case, as often with elder sons, he came rather as a scout to consider colonial prospects for his parents, brothers and sisters who in the following twelve years settled in Australia thence in New Zealand. On a visit to England in 1868, he was made a Freeman of Berwick. His youngest sister, who was Mrs. Menzies' grandmother, had an unusual first name -- Johann -- after her maternal grandparents."

The news item opposite (from *Newcastle Courant* of 16th March 1855) appears to indicate that *Lord Delaval* had quite a short life on the Australian run!

FOR SALE BY PRIVATE CONTRACT,

THE fine, first-class British-built barque **LORD DELAVAL**, 451 tons register N.M., has a full poop and topgallant fore-castle, classed 9 years A.I. at Lloyd's. Sheathed with yellow metal, sails fast, and carries a large cargo.

This handsome vessel was built at Berwick, under special inspection, in 1852, of the best materials, well found in stores, and every way adapted for carrying troops or passengers, having good height between decks, and fitted with air ports. Now lying near the New Quay, North Shields, where she may be inspected on application to Capt. Gladston, on board.

For particulars and inventory of stores, apply to
CARR BROTHERS and Co.,
 Trinity Chambers, Newcastle.

ANCESTORS BORN BEFORE 1800

Robert Back

The portrait here shows Robert Back and was sent to us by his great-great-great grandson Mr. J.E. Back, 59 Derwent Close, Cambridge CB1 4OY in response to the suggestion in the last Journal that members should send any photographs of ancestors born before 1800. This fine old gentleman was born in Berwick-on-Tweed as long ago as 1786. Imagine, here we have a picture of a man who was born before the First Fleet sailed for Australia, before the French Revolution of 1789, and several years before Bonaparte created such mayhem in Europe! Robert Back was the son of George Back, a weaver and his wife Elizabeth Gibson. He married a Tweedmouth schoolmasters daughter, Margaret Elliott and was a shoemaker and a fisherman before he emigrated with his family to Canada between 1825 and 1830. He became a successful ship's chandler and baker in Quebec City and after Margaret died in 1843, he moved to St. Catherines, Ontario, where he again ran a bakery. His tombstone, in the Victoria Lawn Cemetery, St. Catherines, records that he was born in "Berwick-upon-Tweed, Scotland" (sic) and died on 25th October 1875 aged 87 years and 9 months.

Thank you, Mr. Back, for sending this.



Robert Back

Richard and Nicholas Lillico

Another Northumbrian couple who moved to Canada were Richard Lillico and his wife Nicholas Morton - yes, her name was Nicholas! Richard was born in Coldstream, just across the border, in 1783, the son of James Archibald Lillico, who lived at Heatherslaw Mill in Ford parish, and Mary Wilson. Nicholas was the daughter of Robert Morton and Margaret Thompson and she was born in 1781 in Norham.

Richard and Nicholas were married in 1807 and moved to the United States about 1815 and then to Canada where they obtained land in Peterborough County, Ontario. They both died there in 1863.

The portraits of this fine old couple were sent by their great great grand daughter Mrs. Ruth Erhardt of Box 266, Bassano, Alberta, Canada TOJOBO.

*Left:
Richard Lillico*



*Above:
Nicholas Lillico*



COPYING PHOTOGRAPHS

by Maurice A. Lincoln

The easiest way to copy a photograph is to take it to a reputable photographic retailer and let him do it, or send it off to someone who specialises in this field and advertises their services in (say) *Family Tree Magazine*. However, there are times when this isn't possible, such as when a relative is perhaps (understandably) reluctant to be parted from a precious photograph - even to someone as trustworthy as you. My system is portable, so Mohammed can go to the mountain with the minimum of fuss, and the maximum reassurance.

I have a large collection of copied photographs, and have no trouble in producing acceptable copies with a minimum of bother. Notice the operative word is *acceptable*, because the way I go about it might shock some of our keen amateur photographers. Copying stands are quite expensive, but do have the advantage that because artificial light is used, they can be used at night, and of course give a really reliable, even illumination. I copy by daylight, and propose to describe how I do it, and then discuss possible variations or modifications which might be made to achieve *acceptable* results.

Place the picture to be copied on a music stand, lying slightly back from the vertical, as would a piece of music, so that it does not fall off. The stand itself should be angled at about 45° to a well lit window, avoiding direct sunlight which might cause flare, and/or transfer the shadow of any marks on the pane onto the surface to be photographed. If the plane of the photo were parallel to the window the camera would probably get in the way of the light; with the stand at right angles, the illumination would be uneven. Fix the camera, which is fitted with a close-up lens, on a tripod at a slightly higher level than the stand, because it will have to tilt down slightly so that the axis of the lens is at right angles to the photograph. Focus so that the photo fills the view-finder frame, adjusting the height of the stand or the tripod as required. Make the exposure, using a cable release to avoid camera shake. Send the film away to your usual processor, and get acceptable prints by return. Trim off any part of the print not required. You can now return the photo(s) to the owner, and you have your own copy, and a negative from which you can make further copies if required - or (as I have done) even have made into transparencies to illustrate a talk. Family trees and documents can be copied the same way, but it is perhaps better to have a sufficient number to warrant buying a transparency film to do the job.

You haven't got a music stand? Prop up the photo against the back of a chair, piling some magazines or books on the seat if it isn't high enough. You haven't got a tripod? Use a bean bag on a nearby table; the angle of the camera is easily adjusted, and if a cable release is used, camera shake should not be a problem. I generally use whatever colour print film is in my camera; black and white photos cause no problems, and the colours of other photos (including sepia) are acceptably preserved.

The camera I use is of the Single Lens Reflex type, so that it is focussed through the lens, and what-you-see-is-what-you-get. With the viewfinder type of camera, parallax could be a problem, since there is a difference between what the viewfinder sees and what the taking lens sees. Correcting for this needs a bit of calculating or trial and error, but don't let that discourage you. Close-up or macro lenses, although very useful, can be expensive, but you could consider using supplementary lenses, which are available in various "strengths" at about £5 to £7 each, although image quality may suffer. Take your camera along to a good dealer and discuss what you need. Other options are extension rings, or a bellows extension unit. Some cameras are now available with a built-in macro option, and should you be in the market for a new camera, this is well worth considering.

Try this system out by using up the last two frames of the film in your camera at the moment (borrowing a suitable lens system if need be). Even if the outcome is a disaster, the original photograph is unharmed, and all you have done is waste a couple of frames.

THE BOTTLE OF NEWCASTLE SAILORS

The following item appears in the *Newcastle Courant* of 22nd April 1853:

"The British Consul at Bayonne has transmitted a paper found in a bottle on the 14th inst, about three miles off the mouth of the Adour at Bayonne, as follows:- 'On board ship *Fidelia*, off the Banks of Newfoundland, becalmed. - J.H. Wait and William Barwick, of Newcastle on Tyne, March 13, 1852'."

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Mrs. D. Tait

Another list of items to be included in our Library list which I hope will help Members in their family research. Could I request please an early return of borrowed items, say 2 weeks. This would cut down waiting time and the consequent extra administration work involved. Thank you.

New members may like to buy a Library Catalogue from me - only £1.00.

- 1.194 Allendale Town - *Nora Handcock.*
- 1.195 Going Shopping (Old Newcastle) - *Les Turnbull.*
- 1.196 Home Sweet Home (NE Housing) - *Les Turnbull & S. Womak.*
- 1.197 Addison (Pit Village 1864-1963) - *Nan Smith*
- 1.198 "Constable" History of Northumbria Police - *T.C. Moffatt.*
- 1.199 Cholera in Newcastle 1831/2. List of Deaths.
- 1.200 Wreck Register 1758-1901 Vessels off the Tyne.
- 1.201 List of Vessels and Mariners mentioned on Gravestones in Westoe Cemetery, South Shields - *J. Ashburner.*
- 1.202 Blanchland - *G.W.O. Addleshaw.*

- 2.348 Heroes of the Collieries and the Lifeboat - *G.A. Binnie.*
- 2.349 CHICKEN Ancestors - *B. Chicken.*
- 2.350 Record of Ancestors, CLAYTON of Bradford - *M. Twentyman.*
- 2.351 METCALF Family Notes (South Shields) - *W. Metcalf.*
- 2.352 Pedigree Chart WADDELL Family - *B. Waddell.*
- 2.353 YOUNG Family Tree - *R.D. Young.*
- 2.354 Generations of the Hodgson Family - *W.S. Griffith.*
- 2.355 SNOWDON, HALL, SOFTLEY and LIDDLE Families - *N.C. Kelley (650 gr.)*
- 2.356 TODD Family and Associated Families - *J.W. Todd.*
- 2.357 SMITH Family Index 19th Century - *A. Pridgeon.*
- 2.358 TODD Family Index 19th Century - *A. Pridgeon.*
- 2.359 JOLLY Family Pedigree - *A.J. Snelling.*
- 2.360 HARDING Family of Lanercost - *D. Harding.*
- 2.360 RUTHERFORD Family of Chatton - *D. Harding.*
- 2.360 LAURIE Family, Chirnside - *D. Harding.*
- 2.360 CLARK Family of Ryton - *D. Harding.*
- 2.360 WALLACE Family of Ryton - *D. Harding.*
- 2.360 BOLAM, Family of Alnwick.
- 2.361 BAKER, BENNETT & BEST Families - *A. Chapman.*
- 2.362 MACKNIGHT Family Tree - *L. Raine.*
- 2.363 TODD Burials in County Durham - *J.W. Todd.*
- 2.364 TODD Baptisms in County Durham - *J.W. Todd.*
- 2.365 HODGSON Association Newsletter - *B.G. Hodgson.*
- 2.366 ROBSON Family Newsletter (American) Issue 1, 2 and 3.

- 3.191 Australian Land Musters, Stock Returns - *I. Sachaffer.*
- 3.192 The Durham COOK Book (1881 Census) - *S. & D. Cook.*
- 3.193 Index of Census Returns (1841-1851) Felton District. Volume 1 - *P.R. Cook & A.W. Jay.*
- 3.194 Index of Census Returns (1861-1871) Felton District. Volume 2 - *P.R. Cook & A.W. Jay.*
- 3.196 I.G.I. Print Outs, CHAMBERS. - *W. Coutts.*
- 3.197 Burial Index, St. Thomas, Stockton 1833-1857 - *M. Johnson.*
- 3.202 Marriage Index, Bishopton, 1653-1861 - *J.W. Todd.*
- 3.203 I.G.I. Print Outs, CLARKE. - *P. May.*
- 3.205 Marriage Index, Grindon, 1565-1837 - *J.W. Todd.*
- 3.206 Marriage Index, Embleton (County Durham) 1650-1760 - *J.W. Todd.*

- 4.058 Parish Churches of Appleby - *Martin Holmes.*
- 4.059 Staindrop Quaker Meeting House - *J.C. Mann.*
- 4.060 Catholic Ancestor, Volume 1, Number 1.

- 6.138 Yorkshire Archaeological Journals, Numbers 49, 52 and 55.
- 6.139 Northumbria Heritage, Volume Two, Numbers 4, 5, 6 and 7.
- 6.140 A Convict's Life - *Janet Reakes.*
- 6.141 Photocopies from a Bible re GREENHALGH and BROWN Families - *D. Lomas.*
- 6.142 Photograph of Prudhoe National School Football Team 1897-88 - *G. Ellingham.*

THE GREAT FLOOD OF 1771

by William Garret

"Not since the Deluge had such a Flood been seen." An exaggeration perhaps, but understandable, for the Great Flood which devastated parts of Northumberland and Durham in November 1771 was certainly an extraordinary one. Writing in 1992, David Archer concludes that the flow on the river Tyne was probably "at least twice the highest measured in recent decades and more than 50% higher than the next biggest flood over several centuries". (*Land of Singing Waters : Rivers and Great Floods of Northumbria*, David Archer, Spredden Press, 1992.)

The waters ripped down every bridge on the Tyne except that at Corbridge. The bridge at Hexham was destroyed only four months after its completion. Some of the arches on the 500 year old structure joining Gateshead and Newcastle collapsed and a 'new' bridge had to be built. The raging torrent cost several lives, and caused much misery among the inhabitants along its banks.

A Relief Fund was quickly set up. Its papers survive (Northumberland Record Office, Tyne Flood Papers -- ZAN M13/D16) and from them we can discover who suffered and what they lost. But first, let William Garret, writing in the early 19th century, tell the tale. He names many of the sufferers but, as it is not a complete list, the names of further victims and other genealogically relevant details included in the 'Flood Papers' are shown in brackets in italics.

Newcastle

On Sunday morning, the 17th of November, about two o'clock, with the wind at East, the inhabitants of Newcastle upon Tyne were alarmed with the most dreadful inundation that ever befel that part of the country; the water in the Tyne rising six feet higher than a remarkable fresh in the year 1763; occasioned, as may be presumed, by an incessant fall of rain from Saturday morning to Sunday, which was particularly violent in the western parts of that county, and the county of Durham. The first dawn of day discovered a scene of horror and devastation, too dreadful for words to express, or humanity to behold, without shuddering: all the cellars, warehouses, shops, and lower apartments of the dwelling-houses, from the West end of the Close to near Ouseburn, were totally under water. The flood was so rapid and sudden, that it was with the greatest difficulty the inhabitants, who slept in the lower parts of their houses, escaped with their lives. But what completed the public calamity, was, the fall of Tyne Bridge, which, having stood the brunt of time for upwards of five hundred years, yielded to the force and impetuosity of this flood. The middle arch of Tyne Bridge, and two other arches near to the South side of the water, were carried away, and seven houses, with shops standing thereon, together with some of the inhabitants, with their whole stocks, overwhelmed in immediate destruction. Among the melancholy circumstances, at Newcastle, on the Sunday, was the following: Mr. Fiddas, who lived on the North end of the bridge, with his wife and maid servant, having made their escape to Gateshead, the girl, recollecting a bundle which she had left behind, begged her master she might go back for it, and that he would be so kind as to accompany her; which offer, after some reluctance, he complied with, and the wife stood watching for their return; but in a moment after their separation, the arch under them gave way, when they vanished from her view, and she never saw them more. Mr. Fiddas and his maid, Ann Tinkler⁽¹⁾, Mr. Chr. Byerley⁽²⁾ and his son, together with an apprentice to Mr. James, are the persons that perished by the falling of these arches; and the houses and shops which fell into the river that morning were occupied by Mr. Patten, mercer; Mr. W. Hills, shoemaker; Mr. Byerley, hardwareman; Mrs. Haswell, milliner; Ann Tinkler, dealer in stuffs and checks; Mr. Edward Wilson, shoemaker; and Mr. John James, cheesemonger. The goods in the other shops were got out at the manifest hazard of the lives of the kind assistants. Four other houses with shops likewise fell from the bridge the next day into the river; and, in a little time after, the whole range of buildings, from near the Blue Stone on the bridge unto Gateshead, met with the same fate. Mr. Patten's house was carried wholly as far as Jarrow Slake, seven or eight miles down the river, where it was stopped, but upon examining the inside, nothing was left in it but a cat and a dog, both alive. The water was supposed to be at its height about seven o'clock in the morning, and to have risen upwards of twelve feet above high water mark in spring tides. The Sandhill was a capacious flood; and boats plied thereon some hours. In some parts it was six feet deep. All the timber, merchant's goods, &c. lying upon the Quay, and on the several shores in the neighbourhood, were entirely swept away in the current; as were most of the ships lying at the Quay and a number of keels, boats, and other small craft both below and above bridge, carried down the rapid current, and scattered and stranded on each side of the river to Shields, or otherwise born onward to the sea, and there sunk or wrecked along the coast, which formed the most terrible scene of horror, havock, and devastation imaginable. Three sloops and a brig were driven upon the Quayside, and left there, when the flood abated: they furrowed up the pavement, and broke down a great part of the Quay.

The utility of Jarrow Slake appeared in this disaster, as it took in so immense a body of water, that at Shields the flood was little higher than a spring tide; great damage, however, was done in that place to the shipping, by the violence of the flood driving them from their moorings upon the Herd, &c. A woman, with a child in her arms, were found drowned on Jarrow Slake; and a vessel took up at sea, near Shields, a wooden cradle, with a child in it, which was alive and well⁽⁹⁾.

At Hebburn Quay, the flood was not so high by two feet four inches, as in a common spring tide, with the wind easterly.

The bed of the river Tyne being entirely altered by the flood, the Master and Brethren of the Trinity House ordered the pilots to make a survey of the new channel, in order to qualify themselves to lay the buoys in the proper places, that ships might be conducted up and down with the usual safety.

But Newcastle did not alone suffer by the violence of this flood: Hardly a village or cottage-house from Tyne-head, in Alston-Moor, to Shields, escaped its destructive fury. It was impossible to ascertain the prodigious number of horses, black cattle, sheep and other animals that perished, and of corn and hay-stacks, hedges, fences, implements of husbandry, and whole acres of ground, which were swept away by the impetuosity of the torrent, whereby families who had lived in affluence and plenty were now reduced to the most abject misery and want. Those from whose racked heart every comfort is torn, humanity may soften, though she cannot remove their grief. - Mary Graham, of Low Elswick, a poor widow, and Thomas Cooper, of the Skinner-burn, weaver, both suffered very much by the flood.

At Shields

On the Sunday morning, the *John and Elizabeth*, Cock, of Shields; the *Britannia*, Jackson, of Lynn; and a Swedish vessel, were driven from their moorings, and forced upon the Herd Sand, and were lost. The *Eagle*, Airey; *Free Love*, Kitchen; *Patience Success*, Lilly; and the *Saville*, Hall, were also driven from their moorings and forced upon the same sand, but all were got off with little damage. The *Ridley*, Major, was sunk upon the Muscle Scarp, but was got off with the loss of her lading coals. They came very favourably off there, considering the great destruction made in other places. The wrecks of upwards of thirty keels were lying on the South Shore.

Team

At Team, near Swalwell, people were taken out of the tops of their houses; a boat was driven against a house almost under water, of which the people immediately laid hold, and thereby saved the whole family, and some others who would have certainly perished; and in another, an old man and his wife were found hanging by the spars of the roof, the water being so high.

Scotswood

Joseph Thompson, of Scotswood boat, by the rapidity of the flood had part of his cellars driven down, and thereby lost six half barrels of ale, together with a large quantity of house-hold furniture, provisions, and wearing apparel. (*Wm. Robinson, John Huggup, Jonathan Hall and John Blackett, all of Scotswood listed their losses.*)

Newburn

The loss on Heddon-haugh to Gerard Handyside, of Heddon-on-the-Wall, was estimated at £76. ; Robert Edington, of Lemington, staithman, £26. ; John Weatherley, of Lemington, staithman, £21.; Robert Chambers, of Lemington, waggonwright, £22. ; together with many more smaller sums. (*Including Mary Trotter, widow, Ann Blakeburn, widow, Thomas Close and John Hall, all of Lemington.*)

Wylam Colliery

The damage done to Wylam Colliery by the inundation was very great, the whole of the workings been entirely filled with water, amounting to 300 acres, containing 1,728,000 hogsheads of water in the several seams of coal. The expenses attending the drawing of the said water, and the damages done in the several pits and workings underground, were estimated at upwards of £800.

Ovingham

A portrait of the tragical misfortune that attended John Johnson, of the boat-house, which was carried away, and eight persons perished. When the water entered the house, there were ten people in it, the boatman, his wife, and two children, his mother and his brother, his man and maid-servants, with a young man from Prudhoe, and one George Simpson a labouring man; on their perceiving the danger they were in, they all went up stairs, and as the water advanced, they ascended nearer the roof of the house, till at last they were obliged to break through the wall into the stable, that was built at the east end of the dwelling-house, thinking it a place of greater safety, both by its strength and situation, and made themselves a temporary place to sit on, by putting a deal and a ladder betwixt the binding barks, and there remained till one in the morning. At which time, perceiving the dwelling-house gone, and the stable beginning to yield to the impetuosity of the flood, they got upon the top of the stable, when three of them climbed up to the chimney top, viz. George Simpson, the young man from Prudhoe, and the boatman's brother; and the boatman, his wife, mother, and two children, and the man and maid-servants, remained as before: when in an instant, the building fell, and they were all swept away by the torrent, and carried down along with the thatch, &c. for the space of two hundred and fifty-two yards into a wood, where the boatman, his brother, and maid-servant, got upon trees, and

continued in that situation for ten hours before they could be relieved, and the maid died soon after she was got to land. The unhappy husband, when he seized the tree with one hand, caught his wife with the other, and, after holding her for two or three minutes, she was wrested from him in fifteen feet depth of water, and in the midst of a rapid current. The wretched husband and his brother, were the only survivors, left without bread to eat, or necessary apparel to put on, without a bed to lie upon, or even an house to put their heads in; and what was most affecting of all, to be bereft of an indulgent mother, an affectionate wife, and two tender babes, and to see them all laid together in the common bed of dust. His loss of goods, &c. were estimated at £118.1s.4d. The following sums were given to him; viz. Lady Broughton, £7.7s.; Lord Strathmore, £10.10s.; John Simpson, Esq. £2.2s.; John Ord, Esq. £2.2s.; and £37.13s.1d. in smaller sums; together with a sum paid by the committee.

The other losses in this parish were very great, particularly to William Pruddoe, of the Hagg, farmer, whose damage was estimated at £154.

(The Ovingham burial register records the dead as Alexander Hall [servant to Cuthbert Lawes of Pruddoe Castle]; George Simpson of Masters Close, labourer; Isable Johnson of Ovingham, boat builders widow; Margaret, Dorothy and Ralph Johnson, wife, daughter and son of John Johnson of Ovingham Boat House and Isable Hepple his servant; Matthew son of Arthur Johnson of Ovingham. The "Flood Papers" show William Atkinson of Wylam Boat Houses; Thomas Fletcher [pitman], Richard Brown [wood monger] and Edward Hunter, labourer, all of Wylam; George Blaky, John Greener, John Outterside, and William Surtees, all pitmen of Wylam; Wm. Pruddoe, of the Hagg, farmer; Kennet Carr of the Hagg, woodman; Susannah Simpson of Masters Close, the widow of the drowned George Simpson who was 'left with 2 small children'; John and Matthew Johnson of Ovingham Boathouses, boatmen [Matthew lived with his mother who was drowned]; John Johnson of Ovingham, woodman; John Gilchrist of Ovingham, gardener, Margaret Simpson of Darnmills, widow; Edward Hills of Merryshields.)

Styford

The loss in this township was very considerable to several of the farmers, viz. George Angus, whose loss was estimated at £130. ; George Angus, jun. £69. ; George Green, £39. ; and George Burdis, £36.

Bywell

The inhabitants of Bywell were among the most unhappy sufferers in this melancholy catastrophe. The whole village was under water; and in the dining-room and other rooms on the first floor of Mr. Fenwick's house it was eight feet deep, seven feet higher than it was ever known in the memory of man. Mr. F.'s corn, hay, carts, carriages, harness, cows, sheep, hounds, &c. in general were lost, drowned, or carried away. All the garden walls were broken down, and the gardens entirely destroyed. His bridges and buildings, for several uses, all thrown down, and a delay of five minutes would have effected destruction to his whole stud, together with four servants. Most of the valuable stud of horses were got into the inside of the Black Church, and saved themselves by holding by the tops of the pews, which were allowed to continue in their gnawed state for several years after the flood; and a mare belonging to Mr. Elliott, father-in-law of Mr. T. Bewick, who was on a visit at Bywell at the time, was saved in the same church by getting upon the altar table. About ten houses were swept away, and six persons perished, viz. the wife and daughter of Thompson the sexton, the wife and daughter of Lowes the miller, and Mary Morpeth and daughter.

Several lives were saved miraculously by twigs, ropes, trees, &c. and many people were taken out of their houses through the roofs, &c. The shrieks of women and of children, frantic with all the agonies of despair, will better be conceived than described. The White Church yard wall was entirely destroyed, and a great part of the church yard carried away. The Black Church walls were likewise very much ruined, and the parish accounts destroyed. - Dead bodies and coffins were torn out of the church yards, and the living and the dead promiscuously clashed in the torrent. Mr. Fenwick's humanity on this occasion, by sending the unhappy sufferers a most seasonable relief, merited the highest encomium. The following persons were the principal sufferers in this place:- Messrs. Lowes and Smith, £175.; Dorothy Lawson, £172.; George Jewett, £37.; Joseph Peal, £55.; Catharine Morpeth and family, £48.; and John Hargrave, £39.

(The Flood Papers list Catherine, Lancelot, Anthony and John Morpeth; Mary Brown of Bywell, tenant and cottager; Thomas Begg, Jane Thompson, John Richardson, Wm. Leighton, Fenwick Hall Jnr., Jeremiah Brown, Wm. Hall, Gabriel Heslop, Joseph and Ann Neal, and Wm. Giles, all cottagers; Mary Lawson, widow; Lowes and Smith, farmers; Dorothy Lawson, widow and son, farmers; George Jewitt, farmer; Messrs. Mallaburn and Richardson; John Hall; Fenwick Hall; Wm. Thompson; John Sisterson; Henry Ridley; Dorothy Green; Edward Lawson; John Richardson; James Byers; Jeremiah Milburn; Robt. Henderson; Mr. Simons, John Hargrave, mason, wife and daughters.)

Hexham

The vast deluge they had there by the inundation of the river Tyne was almost beyond expression, though it did very little damage to Hexham town, as they were pretty far out of water-mark; but the low fields and haughs near Hexham, belonging to the inhabitants, suffered greatly; most of them were gardens, which were all left only beds of sand and wreck. Besides part of the land adjoining the river being taken away, a great quantity of corn and hay-stacks were destroyed, and much land, which was sown with hard corn. One farmer had nine stacks taken out of his yard, and five others came down the river, and landed within ten yards of the stack-yard in which his own had been. In part of Spital, belonging to Mr. Westall, a large square stone was discovered, seemingly the base of a pedestal or cross.

Mr. John Kirsop, of the Thorns, suffered very much from the flood, having all his stacks of corn, hay, &c. and husbandry utensils entirely swept away, estimated at £125., exclusive of the seed sown and the damage done to the farm.

Mr. William Harbottle of Anick Grange, lost two hundred and thirty sheep, valued at nearly £150. and six carts of hay. John Gamster, of Ainwick, lost two asses and one foal.

Robert Bell, of Broomhaugh, lost twenty-two sheep, two swine, one cow, and six stacks of corn, valued at upwards of £70.

The estates of Mr. Dunn, with his corn stacks, suffered greatly; as also some other grounds belonging to Sir Walter Blackett.

Edward Forster, of Tyne Green, in this parish, a poor man seventy years of age, and able to do very little for himself, saved his wife and two children by getting out at a back door just in time, the water having broke into the house in different parts, and being then about a yard deep; and, in an hour's time after, side-wall height, so that they had no time or opportunity to save any thing belonging to them but the cloaths on their backs, and their children naked. Their distressed condition must have been greatly increased if their then landlord, Mr. John Tate, had not, in his own house, given them immediate relief, and continued it till they got themselves provided for.

John Bewick, of Tyne Green, wheelwright, together with his wife and three children, saved themselves after a very near escape, by getting into a loft in their own house; and there remaining the whole night, expecting every moment that the house would be swept away by the fury of the current.

The family of James Pyle, of Tyne Green, woodman (who was from home at the time the flood happened), a wife and infant child, were in the utmost danger of losing their lives by the flood, saved themselves by getting into an upper room of the house of John Bewick, their neighbour, and there remaining with his family the whole night, with the water side-wall high.

Hugh Wharton, of Temple Sowerby, in Westmoreland, who, at the time the flood happened, and for some time before, resided at Hexham, where, in the neighbourhood thereof, he had for some years bought ash and plain trees, for the carrying on of his business of a dish-maker, had a considerable number of trees swept away out of a close adjoining the river by the flood.

John Mitford, of Tyne Mills, miller, lost hay worth upwards of £40: ten bolls of barley, two cows, seventeen swine, and eight load of potatoes. The water-course to the mills was entirely diverted.

William White, gardener, a very poor old man, suffered considerably, by the flood carrying away the trenches of his garden, and leaving the ground covered with wreck, roots, and sand, about a yard deep.

John Hutchinson, gardener, a poor man with a small family, lost fifteen loads of potatoes, together with a large quantity of cabbages, onions, &c.

James Lawson, a very poor man, had an ass (in foal) drowned.

Adam Porteus, (Hexham, Tyne Green) gardener, had much damage done to the soil of his garden, besides losing several loads of potatoes, hay, &c.

Two families near Hexham, being surrounded with the flood, had no other way to escape than by standing upon one another's shoulders, and pushing open the roofs of their houses, and by the help of one another, and standing upon the household furniture, got to the outside, and there sat, some of them half naked, upon the tops of the houses, nine or ten hours in this dismal situation, before any help could get to them; but happily the houses did not fall, and they were all saved, though almost perished, as it rained the greatest part of the night.

(The Flood Papers, in addition to the above, mention Thomas Corbet the Elder of Hexham Bridge End; Robert Bowery, coal carrier of Tyne Green; John Charlton, Hermitage Mill; Messrs. Kipling & Addison; Richard Tweedle of Kinshaw Green. There seems to be some confusion in Garret's account of Edward Forster. The Flood Papers list two of this name - one, Edward Forster the Elder of Tyne Green is a 'poor old man 70 years old and able to do very little for himself who saved his life by getting out at a Back Door of the house. He claimed losses of £4.' Another Edward Forster appears 'late of Tyne Green but now of Hexham labourer' with a wife and two infant children, whose landlord was Mr. John Tate. Under St. John Lee we find John Kirsop, Robert Bell, and John Gamster, mentioned in Garret's account, and also Matthew Bell of Anick, Jno. Elliot of 'Hexham Bridge End who lives at Haydon Bridge', and John Dagleas of Acomb who 'has a small family'.)

Warden

In this parish, Mr. John Walton, joiner, of Warden Boatside, was the principal sufferer. - Jane Scott, of West Boat Houses; Jane Hudspeth, of Warden Boatside (widow); and John Mains, of the Bleacher House, all suffered considerably. (*In the Flood Papers, Jane Scott of Westboathouse is noted as a widow. Her son Robert Scott is a tailor. John Walton Senior of Warden Boat Side and John Walton Junior are joiners.*)

Haydon Bridge

At Haydon Bridge it overflowed the whole town, which obliged the men, with women and children on their backs, to wade almost to their necks to the church, where they found sanctuary; when the Rev. Mr. Harrison behaved with the greatest humanity, by getting them fire, with food and raiment from his house.

Michael Topping, of Millhills, lost eleven sheep and twelve hogs.

The following persons, inhabitants in and about Haydon Bridge, sustained much damage: - John Armstrong, weaver; Edward Bell, innkeeper; Richard Forster, blacksmith; Edward Coats, butcher; Thomas Walton, maltster; Henry Boyd, publican; and John Atkinson, joiner. (*In addition, the Flood Papers mention John Wear of Haydon Bridge, blacksmith; John Elliot, potter; John Elliot, woodman; William Corbett, innkeeper; John and Thomas Fairlamb, weavers; John Coulson joiner; John Oliver, joiner; Thomas Carns, labourer; John Hetherington, maltster; John Hetherington, gardener; Jane Walker, spinster; George Coats, tailor; John Walker, weaver; Adam Atkinson of Newbrough, a poor industrious man with several small children; Edward Walker of Attonside; Jonathin Blackburn of the Batticks, Jane Scott, widow of Warden boat side and John Lash of Warden.*)

Haltwhistle

The greatest sufferer in this parish was George Jackson, farmer, whose house was swept away by the flood, containing all his furniture, cheese, husbandry utensils, hay, corn, &c., estimated at upwards of £120. ; and the lives of his family were saved, with great difficulty, by the courage of John Leathert, his neighbour.

John Smith, labourer, of the Toehouse, had a galloway drowned, which was the principal support of a large family.

Isaac Waugh, farmer, received considerable damage amongst his winter corn, and by the breaking in of the banks of the burn upon his meadow ground, &c.

William Dodgshon, miller, of Bellister Mill, had a great quantity of corn, together with his household furniture, entirely swept away.

William Somerbell, of Mill-house; John Lee, of Widon-cals; and Thomas Hetherington, of Bellister, also suffered considerably.

Allandale

The wooden bridge at Allandale was swept away entire, and discovered the next day lying across a lane near Newbrough, as exactly as if fixed there by human means.

Ann Bell, of Harper Town, a poor widow with a numerous and small family, suffered much damage to corn, &c. valued at £18.

Nicholas Maugham, of Allandale, had two horses swept away and drowned by the flood in West Allandale Water, which were the support of himself and family, in the carriage way between the said town and Alstone.

Simonburn

George Richardson, of Chollerford Farm, together with his wife and three infant children, saved their lives by getting into the loft of the dwelling-house. His loss was estimated at £19.

William Robley, of Smalesmouth, had the corn, &c. of three farms entirely swept away, value at £109.

Chollerton

Thomas Brown, of Chipchase Boat-house, weaver, with a wife and five small children, suffered considerably.

(*Under Heddon-on-the-Wall, the Flood Papers mention Ann Moor, Wm. Thompson. Mich Maddison, and Thomas Corbitt, cartman of 'the Holy Island in Hexham'.*)

The Relief Fund was set up at a meeting of the 'Gentlemen and Clergy' at Hexham on 19th December 1771. It was resolved to accept claims for 'the Loss and Damage . . . sustained by the late dreadful and destructive Inundation and for the procuring speedy Relief to the unhappy sufferers'. The estimates of the losses were to be 'certified by the Minister and Churchwardens or instead of the Churchwardens two or more substantial inhabitants of the parishes where the losses happened'. In many cases, the claims go into considerable detail - Ann Bell of Harpertown, widowed with six children, claimed for '60 thrave of oats, 20 thrave of barley, a hay stack of 8 fathoms and all her husbandry tackle of every kind, entirely swept away'. It is clear that most, if not all, of the details of damage which Garret records in the tale above have been obtained from the 'Flood Papers'.

A total of over £1964 was collected, but not without some bitterness - 'N.B. Dilstone Quarter tho' rich and some of them suffered little have contributed nothing to this collection' - whilst an attempt to have some of the funds allocated to sufferers in Newcastle was met with the response that the persons who made such resolutions were not competent and had no power to direct distributions.

The Committee divided the claimants into three types - some were paid in full, others received 16s.8d. in the pound and others received one half of the sums they had estimated. Susannah Simpson of Masters Close in Ovingham, left with two young children, was given £10. Dorothy Hepple, a widow of Corbridge, whose daughter was drowned, received two guineas. James Staward, a maltster of Haydon Bridge, who had been 'deprived of getting his bread and supporting himself in the business of maltster' received £5.

The Flood Papers provide a fascinating insight into these troubled times along the banks of the Tyne and are well worth examination if you have an ancestor, as listed, among the unfortunate sufferers.

- NOTES (1) Ann Tinkler's body was not found until July 1772.
 (2) Byerley's body was taken out of the ruins of the bridge on May 5th 1772 and interred next day in Gateshead church.
 (3) The child is stated to be Mary Leighton, recently baptised at Bywell St. Peter.

SERENDIPITY

by R.G. Burn

My mother's paternal grandmother, Margaret Jane King, was the daughter of William King whose occupation was given as "Shoemaker" on his daughter's marriage certificate. Family tradition has it that Grandda King had lost a leg when serving in the army. How or where this occurred is not known and nothing more had been found to confirm it until recently.

Reading though a republished edition of *"Tyneside Songs and Drolleries, Readings and Temperance Songs"* by Joe Wilson (1841-1875) I chanced upon a remarkable piece of evidence to support the family tradition. Joe Wilson wrote songs etc in Tyneside dialect about everyday situations and local events. In a song entitled "Wor Geordy's Album", in which he is essentially recalling local characters, there is the following quatrain:

"The first it's wor Geordy wi' Peggy beside him,
 They had them byeth teun when they got on the spree;
 Then here's Bill King the Cobbler, that once was a sowljor,
 He's had his reet leg teun clean off be the knee."

Bill King was obviously of sufficient note as a local character to warrant inclusion in the album and was presumably known to Wilson's audiences. Whether there was ever an actual album in the photographic sense, or whether the song was merely meant to be a verbal record, have been unable to determine.

Our Bill King, and they surely must be one and the same, was born in 1824, the son of a shoemaker. When he married in 1848 at the age of twenty-three his occupation was also that of a shoemaker and at the birth of his daughter in 1856 he was a "Shoe Maker Journeyman". Quite when he lost his leg is still unsure but it seems most probable that he was a "sowljor" prior to his marriage in 1848.

I would be most interested to hear from anyone who can throw light onto the origins of the song, the album or the "sowljor".

Editor's Note: Mr. Burn's address is 36 Birling Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5LY.

HOW AN IDLE MUSCLE MAN DIED

From the burial register of the parish of Kyloe, Northumberland:

"April 16 1783, Thomas Idle commonly called Thomas the Cockle Man or the Muscle (sic) Man who was murdered on Mount Hooly Bank on the 10th day of April preceding the date hereof, supposed to be between the hours of 8 and 9 o'clock at night."

HOUSE OPEN TO VIEW - 1771

by Doug Smith

Amongst the papers recording the subscriptions raised after the Great Flood of 1771 was a claim made by Joseph Neal and his wife Ann, living at Bywell. They had drawn up with painstaking care an inventory of all their losses which came to a grand total of £55.4.11d. Since even the Corporation of Newcastle donated only £50 and most subscriptions were small amounts of two or five guineas, the Neal's claim appears somewhat sanguine. However, to support it they had obviously scoured the house and garden in an effort to itemise every possible thing either lost for ever or ruined by the floodwater beyond recall.

The result is a fascinating glimpse into a mid-eighteenth century Northumbrian household. Inventories of goods and chattels are, of course, common with their accompanying Wills for earlier periods. With Joseph Neal's document, however, we have a rare view of his establishment after the practice of drawing up inventories had largely ceased in probate administration.

How typical is it then, for the socio-economic class of rural Northumberland? Neal was presumably a man of moderate means, not a farmer, but with a secure job for by his death in 1816 he had completed forty-six years as gardener to Mr. Fenwick of Bywell Hall. (One notices the vegetables he claims were lost by him though obviously coming from the kitchen garden of the 'big house'!) The value he places upon each item therefore, probably represents his life savings to date. It must surely have been hard to start again at his then age of forty-one, doubtless wondering if he could ever regain his possessions in the years left to him. In fact he was to live to the grand age of 86. His wife died aged 83 four years later in 1820.

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An Inventory of Goods Belonging to Joseph and Ann Neal Lost in the Late Flood

One Feather Bed	£3.	0s.	0d.	Brought Forward	14.	14.	6.
Six -do- pillows	0.	15.	0.	One tin Callender & Dridging Box	0.	1.	4.
3 Bolsters All very good	0.	12.	0.	One Funnel and Hair seive	0.	0.	7.
2 Oak Bed Steads with headresse	1.	0.	0.	5 White Stone dishes	0.	4.	0.
1 Long Fir Table and form	0.	5.	0.	16 -do- plates	0.	2.	8.
A square Wainscot Table	0.	8.	0.	6 red and white China cups & saucers	0.	12.	0.
2 Arm Chairs	0.	10.	0.	6 Blue and White -do- all Best China	0.	6.	0.
4 Common -do-	0.	8.	0.	4 Common -do-	0.	0.	6.
A Large Oak Cupboard	0.	15.	0.	6 Tea spoons silver	0.	14.	0.
2 Dressers with shelves	1.	5.	0.	3 Tea Pots	0.	1.	6.
A Closet	0.	11.	0.	3 Blue and White Basons	0.	1.	8.
A Spinning Wheels	0.	19.	0.	1 Small punch Bowl	0.	1.	0.
One Nack reel	0.	5.	0.	A Tea chest with 3 Cannisters	0.	7.	6.
Three 9 gallon casks, one full of				1 white Decanter, one pint	0.	0.	9.
Ale Newly Brew'd	0.	15.	0.	One Middle Size looking glass	0.	3.	0.
2 Washing Tubs	0.	5.	0.	One Large English Bible	0.	12.	0.
2 Large Basketts for Linen	0.	2.	0.	Dr. Tillotsons Sermons Bound	0.	2.	0.
2 small -do-	0.	0.	10.	Nelsons Devotions	0.	1.	0.
1 Horse to Dry Linen upon	0.	5.	0.	3 Common prayer Books	0.	4.	6.
A Gridiron	0.	1.	0.	2 New Weeks preparations	0.	2.	6.
An Iron Shovel	0.	1.	6.	and several other Books which cannot			
One pair of fire Bars & grate	0.	4.	0.	at once be recollected.			
A Girdle	0.	2.	6.	Eleven Sheets Most of which were			
1 Hanging Spit	0.	1.	0.	made of good Tow Cloth	2.	10.	0.
Beef forks	0.	0.	8.	5 pair of Pillowslips	0.	9.	0.
3 flat irons	0.	4.	0.	9 Blanketts 4 of which were old	1.	3.	0.
One pott one getling	0.	8.	6.	2 good Bed quilts, one green, one blue	1.	1.	0.
One Meal Seive	0.	1.	0.	2 old bed ticks, not good ones	0.	4.	0.
Seven Dishes and 12 plates of the	1.	9.	6.	3 old happings	0.	4.	6.
Best pewter				2 Bed Curtains, one green, one Blue	0.	14.	0.
	14.	14.	6	12 pound of hard soap	0.	6.	0.

4 lb of jersey ready combed	0.	6.	0.	One Black Silk Cloak	0.	12.	0.
1/4 stone of good wool	0.	2.	0.	3 Double White Neckerchiefs	0.	10.	0.
3lb of stocking yarn ready for knitting	0.	6.	0.	3 Single -do-	0.	3.	0.
2 pecks of Wheat in a new poak	0.	7.	3.	3 Silk -do-	0.	12.	0.
4 small Table Cloths	0.	18.	0.	7 check'd and spotted pockett -do-	0.	5.	0.
4 Napkins, Hugeback	0.	4.	0.	One flannel Petticoat New	0.	2.	4.
7 Towels of Russia Tow	0.	2.	0.	One quilted -do- old	0.	2.	6.
31 1/2 yds of linen Cloth White	3.	3.	0.	2 pair of shoes both good	0.	5.	6.
bleached and made of Lint at				2 pr of stockings	0.	3.	0.
10d. and 12d. per yard				One Black Silk Bonnet	0.	3.	6.
22 yds of coarse Tow Cloth Bleached	1.	2.	0.	13 Caps besides ribbons etc	0.	15.	0.
9 yds of fine Tow cut into 3 shirts not	0.	12.	0.	4 Stone Field Turnip seed	2.	16.	0.
made, one shirt body found				2 gallons garden pease	0.	2.	0.
One stone of Tow at 7sh. in a jack				3 gallons of Beans in the garden	0.	3.	0.
cost 2sh. the jack	0.	9.	0.	1000 Cauliflower plants	1.	5.	0.
In Cash £2. 7sh.	2.	7.	0.	2500 Early Cabbage -do-	1.	5.	0.
A water skeel and dish	0.	1.	0.	2000 Late -do-	0.	6.	8.
5 Fudder of coals	0.	11.	8.		55.	4.	11.
3 Dozen bottles	0.	6.	0.				

WEARING APPAREL

One Black Cloth Waistcoat	0.	10.	6.
A pair of Buckskin Breeches	0.	15.	0.
A pair of Brown Cloth -do-	0.	6.	0.
5 good Shirts	1.	5.	0.
One Long Neckcloth	0.	1.	6.
4 pair White stockings	0.	10.	0.
6 pair Wollen -do-	0.	12.	0.
One pair Boots	0.	12.	0.
One pair of shoes, new	0.	5.	6.
5 Gowns 3 of which have been found,			
but are dash'd to pieces	3.	0.	0.
3 white cloth aprons	0.	9.	0.
5 checked	0.	10.	0.
2 Coarse Tow -do-	0.	16.	6.
3 shifts, 8pr of sleeves	0.	14.	0.

Not belong to us, but in our House there was 7 ruffled shirts cut out but not made which cost £3.1s. beside Buttons and thred.

And two yds of Muslin at 4 shillings and six pence per yd not made nor cut.

All the articles here mentioned are to us, entirely lost and many more usefull and necessary things which 'tis impossible to give an exact account of. We have found several things thrown out at different places, but in so shattered a condition that many of them are almost useless, but as they are found we have not set them down among the Lost.

Jos Neal.

... AND WHY THE KYLOE REGISTER IS INCOMPLETE

A note at the front of a reconstructed register of Kylloe parish for 1674-1745 reads:

A Copy of the Old Register of Parish of Kylloe.

Early in the Century, several years before I was appointed to the Living, a Burglary was committed at the Church. The strong chest was found open and the Registers were thrown around the Churchyard. All the Registers were gathered up except one (the oldest and most valuable of all) which was overlooked and left in the long grass of the Churchyard for 6 weeks and when found was in its present delapidated condition. At the Vestry Meeting (1855) the Schoolmaster was employed to copy as much as he could decipher into this Book which would preserve what was left and would be more convenient for purposes of Reference.

John Kennedy, Vicar of Kylloe.

MAJOR NATIONAL BIOGRAPHICAL DATABASE LAUNCHED IN NORTH-EAST

by Geoff Nicholson

"There is properly no history, only biography" - Emerson

In the summer of 1993 a project called "The English Speaking Peoples 1680-1830" (ESP) was launched in Newcastle. This is a joint venture between locally-based publishing house Romulus Press Ltd., Research Publications International and the University of Newcastle. The intention is to publish a biographical database on CD-ROM and the whole programme should take 15 years, with one CD-ROM, containing 1 to 1½ million records, being published each year. The first was due to have been issued to subscribers in November.

The aim is to bring together a wide variety of primary historical and genealogical source material in a standardised format and easily searchable form which has been specially designed to help with the analytical study of people - individually, corporately and socially. ESP will allow the historical, biographical and genealogical examination of the people of the UK and its former colonies, including North America, in every aspect of their lives and should make possible investigations of our forebears to a depth comparable with that of social studies of the 20th century, revealing the day-to-day changes in the lives of ordinary men and women as never before.

Among the first materials now being captured are:

- (1) all surviving national and town directories for the UK and the USA, to 1830,
- (2) all traced book subscription lists for the same period,
- (3) all biographical and obituary records in the main annuals of the period, such as the *"Gentleman's Magazine"*, and
- (4) all traced Society membership lists for the period.

A beginning is also being made to include the many thousands of biographical snippets hidden in the mass of local histories, especially common in the United States. Later, it is intended that the database will extend to Militia Lists, Transportation and Assize Records and Parish Registers. With this project, although world-wide, being based in Newcastle, local records will be amongst the first to be included; all Newcastle (and Gateshead) directories to 1830, for instance, have already been covered. The H.M. Wood Parish Register Transcripts in Newcastle Central Library (baptisms, marriages AND burials!) are also to be included, insofar as they fall into the relevant period. Once again, as in so many fields, the North-East of England leads the world!

The original intention is that this project will provide a facility for post-graduate researchers. However, the structure of the database is such that it will enable undergraduates and even secondary school pupils in the classroom to conduct searches and analyses which are at present possible only for academics with considerable experience and large budgets. ESP will also greatly enhance research into family history; it is the relative lack of long-distance mobility during the period concerned which makes town directories such a useful source for family historians; to unify all directories nationally will greatly enhance their value. Investigations which ESP will enable to be made much more easily than at present are such as:

- (1) tracing the wanderings of an individual, a family or a firm,
- (2) finding how the prominence of any individual trade changed in any one place over the eighteenth century,
- (3) creating a directory of a particular trade or profession, then following up the individuals on the list, possibly adding to "inclusive" listings already in existence.

By now readers will be wondering how they can get copies of these CD-ROMs. Sales so far have mainly been to Universities, most of the older-established British ones being subscribers, but unless you have access to a University Library's computer, which not many of us do, you are likely to have problems for some time. Anyone can become a subscriber of course, but be warned - the CD-ROMs will cost about £2000 each (and remember there will be 15 of them). However, in a special deal, the Mormon Church has agreed to take 2000 of them for eventual distribution to their Family History Centres world-wide, and that is probably where most of us will see them first.

A DURHAM COLLIERY VILLAGE

This description of the County Durham village of Coxhoe appeared in the *Newcastle Weekly Chronicle* of the 5th October 1872.

There are, it is said, some houses that have grown too bad for colliers, and being no longer leased by the colliery owners, are now inhabited by brickmakers and the odds and ends people that find work in a coal district. We thread our way through close packed rows of tumbledown shanties that are dropping languidly into pieces. Most are uninhabited; but there is one with an open door, and ragged children at it. We enter the hovel. The walls inside are like those outside, fissured, honeycombed, rotting. The sky is visible through the bare sloping roof; there is not a cupboard in the place, or the vestige of a scrap of furniture. In one corner, resting on four stones is the door between the front and back room, which has been taken off its hinges, and, with the dirty bundle of rags upon it, is made to serve as bed for the family. There are six children, and a haggard, wretched mother; not one of the family is so clad as to comply with the rudimentary requirements of decency, nor is there a morsel of food in the place. The father is a brickmaker; he earns 10s a day and drinks it. But this misery is not of the little collier world. I merely introduced a reference to it that it might be open to me to state that the hovels in which the major portion of the inhabitants of Coxhoe are lodged are not a whit better than the one I have described. We pass on up and down more close packed rows, back to back, of squalid, broken roofed hovels, whose walls are rotten and mouldering, whose floors are damp, and the wretchedness of whose interiors, in spite of good furniture in many cases, is only exceeded by the abject misery and foul horrors of the exterior surroundings. The haggard women beset my companion as we pass, and pray to be removed into better houses. Have we come to see about repairs? "We canna live in oor hoose, measter!" God knows, I do not wonder at it; who but pigs could! Home, love, sobriety, domestic comfort, modesty, godliness -- is it not a bitter mockery to imagine the possibility of such things in holes and amid surroundings at which a savage would shudder? The privies in Coxhoe one may reckon easily on his fingers. The night soil is cast upon the ground around the houses, first to saturate it with sewage, then to percolate into the adjoining beck, and finally to be drunk by the people of Durham.

The solid garbage accumulates on the ash heaps; filth, fish bones, cabbage blades and ashes make up the mounds which in some cases lean against the walls, never are many steps distant from the doors. I ask as to the water supply. Save for rain water, it is wholly derived from a single pump well and from the gutter alleys, which flood down on either side of the main street. As for the latter, the reader may have seen and smelt the gutter which occupies the centre of the street in old Continental towns. If so, he may realise a fair conception of the Coxhoe gutters, the water of which, however, the caution is given me, is not generally used for drinking or cooking purposes. For my own part, I prefer not to wash in liquid sewage. We pay a visit to the pump well, which stands on the margins of a plot of waste land in the rear of some houses near the upper end of the village. The peculiarity of this plot of ground is that pigsties are exceptionally dense upon it -- as also ash middens, of which I count thirteen in close vicinity. Close to the pump are six pigsties, the nearest of which is just three paces distant from it, and there is a well-defined channel for the soakage of the same down to the lip of the covered tank which acts as reservoir to the pump. Fifteen paces on the other side is one of the few privies of which Coxhoe can boast. It cannot be but that every foot of ground round the pump is saturated to its utmost power of absorption by sewage matter. "I likes pork", says a woman, grimly, who is drawing water; "I likes pork well enough, but it hain't melted down in the water I drinks as I likes it." And in very truth, on a wet day, I was solemnly assured the water from the pump stinks of pigsties.

THE NORTHUMBRIAN PITMEN

The writer of the above article follows it in the same edition of the newspaper with the following:-

The Northumbrian pitman is a man by himself. He marries early and is a continent man, while unchastity is rare in the females of his race. The husband is the 'home god'. He never does a turn of household work; it would be a disgrace to the wife if her 'master' were to hew wood or draw water. He earns the bread, stalking off to his shift of work in his grimy flannels, with his lamp hanging at his belt, and returns when it is over to strip, wash, eat, unbend then from his grim taciturnity, and smokes the pipe of well-earned ease. His store of energy is inexhaustible; whatever he sets his hand to, he does it with all his might. If he is 'religious', he is a glowing coal of Primitive Methodist fervour, he preaches at the street corner with as much vehemence as he wields the pick in the pit; he is a staunch teetotaller. When he drinks, it is not in sips, nor is he ever a soaking sot. He cares for no sedentary amusement. The sport he enjoys must be of an active kind; the more active it is, the better he likes it. The game of 'bowling', of which the pitmen are so fond, is more arduous than a shift in the pit. When he gambles, he does not punt for coppers, but flings himself neck and crop into the arena of chance. A 'school', as it is called, is formed.

Men make a ring and play at pitch and toss, with scouts on the outlook for the police. Pounds are staked on every toss and gold changes hands freely. I have seen a man who won £70 at pitch and toss in one afternoon lose the whole next day in betting on the bowling on Newcastle Town Moor, and went to work the day after guiltless of the ownership of a sixpence. The pitman is fond of wrestling, and occasionally can handle his fists, although his fighting, as a rule, is of the rough and tumble order. He is generally more or less a dog fancier, his choice being an animal that can make a respectable appearance at rabbit coursing; some breed greyhounds. In the old days he was not happy without a dog for company.

The pitman's energy finds vent by many channels other than those alluded to. Many cultivate their minds with great success. Geology and botany are favourite subjects, and some men throw themselves into mathematics with as much zest as others stake their money on the toss of a coin. The Northumbrian miner swears by the *Newcastle Chronicle* and in nine houses out of ten you will find a copy of the weekly impression of that journal.

He has struggled, not unsuccessfully, against much of the degradation that as experience too surely shows all but invariably goes hand in hand with bad house accommodation. Coxhoe and its neighbouring Durham villages were bad enough, but I have seen pit villages in Northumberland compared with which the house accommodation at Coxhoe is respectable and indeed luxurious. I should like immensely to take one of the 'back houses' at Killingworth Colliery and drop it on the platform of a Social Science Congress. Better still, I would like to see a Social Science Congress convened in Killingworth Colliery pit village. The place has a population of about a thousand, and consists of one long row of hovels by the road side, with other rows arranged irregularly behind. The Killingworth 'front house' consists of a fair-sized single room downstairs, with an attic above, reached by an almost perpendicular ladder stuck through a hole in the ceiling. In the centre of this attic it is possible to stand upright, and in most there is a small window, although that is a matter of secondary importance, since daylight finds its way in along with rain and snow through holes in the roof. The Killingworth 'back house' is a lean-to built on to the rear of the Killingworth 'front house'. It consists of a single room, whose dimensions are 18 feet long by 10 broad, with a height of 7 1/2 feet after the slope ends. The flooring is of brick laid endways, by no means closely; the damp comes up and lies in clammy beads on the surface. The plaster of the roof is broken into holes, the walls are of rough bare brick, the door makes no pretensions to fit and is full of seams; of cupboard accommodation there is a total lack. Washing the foundations runs a deep black gutter, astraddle of which stands the rain water butt and which is crossed by a wooden bridge. To this bower of bliss the Killingworth pitman brings home his bride. Here children are born to the couple, and it is the number of these pledges of love which alone constitutes a solid basis for a claim to a 'front house', with the roomier joys of its single room below, and its leaky garret at the top of the break neck ladder. No closet accommodation exists.

In spite of their wretched dwellings, the pit people of Killingworth have warded off deterioration, and are exceptionally fine specimens of the breed. Amid the squalor of their habitations - I will not use the word home - they bear themselves with a courage and self respect which is very touching. They are an exceptionally sober and provident folk; there is but one public house in the place, and the majority belong to the local branch of a cooperative association which has 18000 members and an accumulated fund of £11,000.

From Killingworth it is a short drive to Dinnington Colliery, a pit opened up within the last five years. Dinnington pit village is sheltered by a grove of fine old elm trees. We pass from their shade and stand before a row of well-built two storied houses. The doors are newly painted, the large well-glassed windows are hung with pretty curtains. In this window are fuschias and gladioli, in that a vase of goldfish, in the next a statuette under a glass shade. Virginia creeper and clematis are trained up the walls and their sprays cluster around the windows. Their front doors open into pretty flower gardens, parted and bounded by privet hedges. Those pitman's houses! Fresh from Killingworth, and not yet quite of the memories of Coxhoe, I find it hard to accept the assurance that such they are but am convinced by the sight of 'Geordies' returning from their shift and entering the neat habitations with an incontrovertible aspect of occupancy. 'Geordie' courteously returns our greeting and makes us heartily welcome to an inspection of the interior of his dwelling. We visit many, to find them all comfortable and commodious.

Black bearded, honest eyed Mr. White and his family are at tea in the kitchen when we knock at the back door. The kitchen is a ceiled, papered and carpeted room, 11 feet by 7. There is a range with boiler and oven. Off the kitchen is a capital, well lighted pantry with three rows of shelves. We pass into the parlour - a parlour in a pit village? - to find ourselves in a handsome room 18 feet by 15. On the centre table are nicely bound books; on the sofa and the handsome horse hair chairs are anti-maccassars; above the mantle piece is a good sized mirror; and chiffonier, carpet, pictures and window hangings are good. We ascend a carpeted staircase to a well-lit landing, off which open two bedrooms, one 15 feet by 9, with register stove, wardrobe, cupboards and large window, the other 9 feet by 7 with the bed in a recess - a well built, well glazed, well ventilated, well sewered and well furnished house, with a flower and vegetable garden in front, 30 yards long by 19 feet wide. The houses in another row are still better, with three good sized bedrooms upstairs and 50 feet gardens in front. The row first mentioned has the gardens behind the houses.

Every house in the village has its closed in ashpit and coal bunk, its covered water butt, sink and privy. And besides the oven in each kitchen, there are several ovens out of doors for bread baking. Everywhere the drainage is good and when the building and laying out are wholly finished, Dinnington will be a perfect Paradise of a pit village. The nearest public house is a mile distant; and, as yet, so are the nearest schools and the nearest mechanics institute. The colliery is the property of Messrs Bowes and Partners, and the managing partner is Mr. C.M. Palmer of Jarrow, a gentleman who has, in that town, as well as in Dinnington, earned the title of a public spirited philanthropist. Mr. Crone is the principal viewer, and all agree in describing him as untiring in his efforts to make life pleasant for the pit people of Dinnington. In conjunction with Seaton Burn, an adjacent colliery in the same ownership, it has its Horticultural Association, with a large number of members and an annual income of upwards of £150, derived from subscriptions and the profits of the annual ball. At Seaton Burn, there is a Mechanics Institute, with 120 members.

FROM NEWCASTLE TO THE GOLD FIELDS

Letters from a Pioneer

On 2nd August 1857 Robert Grieves, 41, from Newcastle, accompanied by his Cumbrian born wife Mary and their 15 year old son John, sailed from Liverpool on the emigrant ship *David G. Fleming*. They arrived at Melbourne on 27th November 1857 to begin a new life in the colony of Victoria, where they opened a store at Mount Moliagul, in a gold mining area some 140 miles north of Melbourne.

Between 1857 and 1876, the Grieves' corresponded with Robert's sister Mary Ann, the wife of William Steel, a joiner who was living in Harrison Street, Sunderland at the time. Later in the period, the letters were sent to the Steel's son Thomas, a saddler. They are now held by a great grand-daughter of William and Mary Steel -- Mrs. Eva Thompson, a lady now in her eighties. She has kindly allowed one of our members, Mrs. Doreen Morris, to send extracts from them to the Society for publication. Mrs. Morris has corresponded with a number of relations in Australia and has had considerable help from the Victoria Pioneers Index (see notes at end of article). Mrs. Morris is very willing to correspond with anyone interested in the families mentioned. Her address is 32 Stockport Road, Gee Cross, Hyde, Cheshire SK14 5QG.

Dear Brother, Sister and Nephew. You have no idea how we have toiled since we left our comfortable home. We have travelled two years from place to place searching for gold, and we found no better part than the Old Mount Moliagul where we are now comfortable. I have seen us in the Bush and the water running through under the dray where we were to stop until daylight in the morning and then proceed, and the rain coming down in torrents. Then travel all day and sit in the dray all night again, all wet and cold. There is no house to take you, and you do not speak to strange people who are in the Bush, they might be Highwaymen!! It will be a long time before a working man can have the comforts he had in Old England. If you saw the old tents and huts that poor men are living in out here, you would think they could not exist at all . . .

We are 140 miles from Melbourne and I think we may never see Melbourne again. The townships in this Colony have all got large commons allotted to them. Castlemain is a large place about 40 miles from us. They have a railway as far as there from Melbourne. They have a foundry and likewise a pottery. The railway will reach Maryborough and that will be only 22 miles from us. The trains have a strange look running through the Bush. We have a Methodist Chapel half a mile away and a Presbyterian Minister doing all he can, at this time, to collect and build a Chapel. There is a Church of England Minister comes here and preaches every other Sabbath in a large room belonging to a hotel . . . You would be surprised to see people riding and driving, you would think they were 'wild' people, you do not see such riding at home . . .

7 May 1862. The hut we are living in is built in slabs and bark top. The stable is colony timber and canvas top. The ducks and fowls house are built the same. I am now building a small room for Mary to sit during the cold season as our other buildings are too far in the back. I now wish I had you for a few days to help us, but doors and windows are sent out here very cheap. As for us, when we are travelling in the country the same as many hundreds, we never had anything but the calico tent to live in. It is never very cold here but sometimes very hot. But this last 6 months there has been no rain and it is much wanted for man and animals . . . Look at us sitting in the Bush here and you perhaps sitting over your Comfortable fireside at Home. Steel, you speak about our firing. John and I can go into the Bush and cut wood and bring it home in cart. We collect enough in one half day to last us a month or more.

Early 1860's. We have a good business and plenty of labour. With our butchering and store keeping, pudling machines and cows, you may think what time do we have to write. We are now more engaged in this world than ever you saw us. But I think Mary is more happy in this sort of life than in Old England and I was never born to be tied under any man upon earth, so I am free in this country as long as I live. But dear friends, do not think lightly of leaving your home to come to this country, I can assure you that people at home are not aware of the troubles that we have here. You speak about our dogs. One is for the store, another for the butcher's shop, one for the kitchen and the other one in our back premises. We have the best. I have to put one in the butcher's shop every night to watch the beef. I would not take £10 for him. He will not allow Mary or John to move him. I have to take all the trouble with him myself. I very nearly shot him one night, he bit Mary upon the face and ear and I was that much put about that I would have put a ball through him. But Mary has got better and we are keeping him as yet. We had him from being a small puppy. My dear Mary has the mark upon her face and will have it as long as she lives. But we could not live in the Bush without dogs. You do not know the moment you might be stuck up and have all taken from you. My dogs protect all . . . John sends his love. He is 6 feet in his boots. He is a great tee-totaller and I hope he will always keep so, for drink is the worst thing in the world to take to excess, as you have seen me do. Dear friends, I hope I shall never drink any more.

March 22, 1863. The goods we deal in are groceries i.e. flour, butter, cheese, eggs, ham, potatoes, fruit of all kind. Horse feeds, shovels and picks, nails and tacks, spirits and wines of all sorts. Porter, bottle and in casks, we have Burton Ale always on hand, ginger beer, soda water, lemonade and many cool drinks. We have boots and shoes and likewise all sorts of drapery goods. You have to have a little of everything so that when people are dealing with you, they look for the store to supply them with every article that they want.

September 1863. We have had a great deal of rain this year . . . You see, one hour's rain here in this season makes all the gullies and creeks run like your rivers at home. The Mount is only a quarter of a mile from our store and the water is coming down off the Mount and through the Bush passing our place as it was roaring like a high sea . . . I should like to have a look at Newcastle again and the people about that quarter but I don't think I should like to live there any great length of time, as I have got much used to the life in the Bush that I could not do with public streets at all.

Mary writes, in 1863. You would laugh to see me with a round hat, we are all obliged to wear one for the heat and sun. You would think it a great change to see me skin a sheep instead of making a dress . . . Robert now needs specs, his eyes are getting very bad but he is afraid they will make him look old . . . There was a man who mistook my son John as being my husband, she thought the little butcher woman had a fine tall young husband! There are many straying married people, living with other men's wives and so on. It is a very wicked country. We have plenty of meat and drink and all at wholesale price but we sometimes think of home. But the voyage puts me off. We have now got used to the heat and could not live in the cold at home . . . Robert is losing his teeth fast and has to suck everything he eats.

October 22, 1864. Mary and I have now returned from Chapel. Our Chapels and Churches are few in number up the Bush . . . Sorry to say many people never think to go to Chapel or Church as long, as they can get a little gold they do not look for any Hereafter, it matters not what people you mention.

February 1865. There is a great want of employment in this Colony. The government do not push. There is a great want of roads and bridges here. A New Country like this would be delightful if it were properly opened. Mary and I will not see it in our day but the young people may. They think the Gold Fields will never end, but upon the whole, they are very poor. Two miles from our store, there was a boy shepherding some cows, as he was shading himself under a large tree, from the hot sun, he saw Gold shine. When he took it up, it was a fine Nugget weighing 25 ozs. Father and son is turning the ground over now and they have got 80ozs so far. Many people are going out in the morning upon the diggings, perhaps without a shilling or a loaf of bread in his hut, they may come home in a few hours with the value of some hundreds of pounds. Only last week there were two men who sunk a hole 18', they had only a few shillings in their pocket and they returned with a nugget value of £1400 sterling. That is the Whipstick diggings in Bendigo. That is the way it goes here, some are fortunate and thousands are hard up.

September 23, 1865. John has this day finished a large paddock of dirt which brought him and his horses £163 sterling in. High price is the horse feed, we are paying for oats 7/- per bushel, Chaff is 7/- per cwt but we pay nothing for grass living in the Bush . . .

December 1865. Work is hard to find here. I saw an enginewright the other day and gave him his dinner. He told me he came from Gateshead formerly and working in the Hawkes factory there. But he cannot get work here at present. It is very hard times.

April 20, 1866. I hope Mary will continue to keep well or I do not know what will become of me, for she is all my company and all my care in this life. As for John, he is a happy young man with no fear of anything in this Bush life. If ever John came to England he would never stay long there after living here so long. Look at the privilage. He can take a day to hunt, a day to fish, a day to shoot, and a night to shoot opossones, a good horse to ride upon, attend all the Temperance meetings and tea meetings or picnic parties for miles around this part. Then comes home and commence with the machines and get a little more gold. There is no one to find fault or no time keepers here; Work when you like or play when you like. There is one thing quite clear which you know, if we do not work, there will be no gold but you are free from any masters. But we have plenty of work to do with our horses, cattle, pigs and fowls and store and Butcher's shop all take looking after. Business is only dull at this time. Only when there is a gold rush in the area is the store busy.

June 23, 1866. We have had a great day all through this colony holding the Queen's Birthday Picnics. All sorts of amusements were kept up in the Oddfellows lodge that John is in. John walked through the Streets of Dunolly and after going to the Town Hall to hear the ministers, they went to the pleasure ground for the remainder of the day. There was all sorts of sport and all sorts of refreshment upon the ground. This reminded me of Newcastle Races, do you go now, Steel? I see you are having the St. Nicholas steeple rebuilt.

September 1866. Mary writes: We many a time talk about old times. We had a few friends on my birthday 31 August and it did for our wedding Day 2 August 26 year ago. Also John's birthday on the 12th August. He is 24 years old. John has no thought of marriage. I many a time look at our album at you and Thomas and we would like a photo of you, Steel, and Thomas and his intended . . . I would love to come home but the long voyage on sea puts me off. I have a fear of the sea and 3 months is a long time. The times have been hard these last two years, the diggins very poor and we have had to give a grate deal on tick. We will have about £800 out and very little hope of getting any of it at present.

January 1868. I am sorry to say Mary's heart is very weak. And I do think it will never be the same . . . the wages are coming downwards a little, living is very reasonable, now harvest is on men have 5/- to 8/- per day. Good men are forever wanted. Now railways and water works are opening up in all parts so I think there will be plenty of employment for everyone if they want it . . . The Gold Fields are looking a bit more alive at present, I will drop you a word if I find a piece about the size of a man's head. I would never need to dig again. I am getting an old man now.

10 August, 1869. My dear old woman had her brother James Wilson and two nieces arrived safe and John has been down to Melbourne and brought them here safe. They are her sister, Eleonora's children, Sarah Norman and Ellenor Norman, Longtown. So will you tell Joseph Norman, Inspector of Police, Sunderland that they are safe and they send their love to Uncle Joseph. We have a very large rush close to our new store in Smugglers Glen. They are today taking out of their hole from 6oz up to 500ozs of Gold. But many hundreds not making on sixpence.

8 August, 1870. We are all very happy. We are free people in the land we live on and in this colony that is more than many hundreds can say here, with their old Tasmanian marks. You must let Thomas know that our son John has married, a young woman 25 years of age from Fifeshire, Scotland. She has been living with her uncle as a housekeeper for these last 6 years. They have a farm nearly a mile from ours with cows, sheep, cattle and horses any amount. So John and his Mrs. will follow the farming, she is a splendid dairy woman and they are very bad to find in the Bush. They make more money near town. Their wage is from one pound to 25/- per week. We hope they will be happy. My old woman have now seen out 30th year on the 2nd of this month and we are still happy. We never thought then we would be planted in this dense forest to end our days. We are more settled now we have fenced in more land and the ten acres and the Store at Moliagul we will sell or let as soon as possible.

February 1872. We have now given up the store at Glen diggings and my dear old woman and I are back at our own homestead upon Mount Moliagul, so we have no one to annoy us now . . . There is one person from Sunderland, about 12 miles from us, did very well last week. He had employed 4 men on a reef and he crushed the stone which brought him in the hansom sum of one thousand and 50 pounds, 12 shilling, 3 pence. You may have heard the name in Sunderland as he married one Mrs. Potts, ship builder, his name is Thos Scorer.

4 July, 1873. This pain in my side continues to be very severe upon me, my time may not be very long here. We shall have the railway to Melbourne in a short time as the works are now commenced a few miles from Moliagul with good wages, 7/6d-8/- labourers, mechanics 11/- for 8 hours. This is our winter now, we were speaking about bygone days when, in good health, we would walk in Jesmond Gardens in this month. We never thought we should be in this far off land and have the cold and winter blast in the same month. You have a more regular life in England. Here there are so many changes. We may go to our beds at night and in the morning when you look round our neighbours will be gone but you no not where, you may see men all at work and engines blowing and whistling and in a few days they are all gone. And the rubble left.

7 October, 1873. John and his wife join with their kind love to you. They have two fine girls now, Margaret and Mary. Business is very dull all around here and very little gold getting. It is all reef gold. Shallow sinking is almost done all over the colony, sometimes a nugget turns up that has been missed in the old grounds. Butter 6d a pound, Eggs 6d a dozed, flour 26/- per 200 bag, butcher meat 4d and 5d per pound retail.

28 August, 1876. We have a toiling time of it, John and I has a large area of land and it keeps us very busy. And Mary in the store and you see we are all getting old people now, we ought to be resting now, but Thanks to God, we all carry on. John has 4 children now and is kept very busy. We had a large rush 2 miles from our store, their was 4000 people on the ground and some very rich ground. As much as 20oz and 30oz of gold to the cart load. John and I have tried but we have had no luck at this time, better luck next time. Mary has a great desire to hear from you, we many a time sit down and talk about when we were all happy together. May the Lord land us all on that happy shore where their is pleasures for evermore.



John & Janet Grieves

In the last letter, Mary writes: We must for a better place in our old age, to look back 36 years this month since we got married. I am 55 years old this day, 31st August so you can see what an old woman I am. God Bless you all is the wish of your true friend M. Grieves.

NOTES: Robert Grieves was born 21st January 1816, the son of William Grieves of Newcastle. On 2nd August 1840, he married Mary Wilson, born 31st August 1822 at Longton. Cumberland, the daughter of John Wilson and Betsy Laidlaw. Robert and Mary's son John was born on 21st August 1842 and, as mentioned in the letters, he married a Fifeshire girl Janet Kennedy (born 1843 the daughter of Hugh Kennedy and Margaret Robertson) in Australia in 1870. John and Janet had ten children.

Robert Grieves lived on until 2nd October 1896, when he died aged 81. Mary survived him, dying 10th May 1898 aged 76. Both are buried in Rheola cemetery, as are John and his wife Janet, who died in 1924 and 1928 respectively.

The recipient of the letters, William Steel, was born in Norham, Northumberland on 4th March 1808, the third of four sons of Thomas Steel, a farmer (1773-1857) and Elizabeth Johnson. On 15th December at Gosforth he married Robert Grieves' sister, Mary Ann. William died in Sunderland in 1889 and Mary Ann died in 1872, also in Sunderland.

The Victorian Pioneers Index is a consolidated index of Births, Marriages and deaths 1837 to 1888 which is available on microfiche price \$A225 from Registry, Births, Deaths and Marriages, G.P.O. Box 4332, Melbourne 3001, Victoria, Australia.

Victorian birth certificates are more comprehensive than those in England and give full name, date and place of birth; full name, age, occupation and place of birth of father, full name, maiden surname, age and place of birth of mother, date and place of marriage and the names and ages of any previously born children. Marriage certificates give full names of each party and their ages, occupations and places of residence, together with the birthplaces and the names of their parents, including mother's maiden name and father's occupation. Death certificates give name, date cause and place of death together with age and occupation and also the place of birth and length of residence in Victoria. They also show details of place of marriage, age at marriage and name of spouse and the names of children and their ages. Finally, they give the date and place of burial.

ANOTHER LETTER FROM ANOTHER EMIGRANT

From the *Durham Advertiser* 16 February 1859.

'Mr. Wm. Hutchinson, formerly a mason of this city who is now located at Murchison, Victoria, has sent a letter to friends in this city, from which we give extracts.

I am very glad that I came to this country -- because we can live comfortably and do well --- work when we like and get up when we like, and have everything that is necessary to eat and drink, thank God for it. We like the place very well. Every one that will be steady can live, and soon do well. It is a very unsteady place. They make money easy and spend it the same way. The Goulburn diggings are twelve miles from us, and we live beside a river. I have built a boat, the first that has been on the river 'Murchison' and have named it the *Lady Londonderry*. Get this put into the *Durham Advertiser*. Thomas and John are now at home. They have been at the diggings and have been doing very well. They have ten horses and cows, and everything with them is going on well. I am thankful I left your unhappy country (this is not very complimentary) where I had to work for 3s a day; whereas, masons here have a pound a day, and everything is as cheap as it is at home. I have had good health and so have all my family. It is a very healthy place. I have been at the Adilong diggings -- they are 350 miles from Melbourne, on the Sydney road, and the country is very cultivated. There are nothing but cattle stations, and the distance between the stations is sometimes from 20 to 30 miles. In travelling, you must carry your own blankets on your back; and a pot in which to boil your tea, and when night comes on you must roll your blanket round you, and lay down to sleep as well as you can. I travelled from Adilong diggings to this place myself -- you may travel for days and never see a living creature, except cattle, which are very quiet. The summer has just come in, October 31st and at Christmas it will be very hot, but I never feel uncomfortable now.'

WEST DURHAM DATABASE

Mr. Ron Nubley, 66 Alderside Crescent, Lanchester, Durham DH7 0PZ (tel. 0207 520596) has a computer database comprising the following:-

a) **CHURCH REGISTRATIONS.** All baptisms, marriages and burials from the earliest dates to 31st December 1851 for the following Churches or Chapels:- Benfieldside (CE), Dipton/Collierley (CE), Ebchester (CE), Edmundbyers (CE), Esh (CE), Esh Laude (RC - baptisms only), Heatherly Cleugh (CE), Hunstanworth (CE), Ireshopeburn (WM), Ireshopeburn (Presb.), Lanchester (CE), Medomsley (CE), Muggleswick (CE), Pontop (RC - to 1802), Slatley (CE), Shotley Bridge (PM - baptisms only), Shotley Bridge (WM - baptisms only), St. Johns Chapel (CE), Stanhope (CE), Stanhope (PM-Circ), Tanfield (CE), Thornley-by-Wolsingham (CE), Weardale (Meth-circ.), Weardale and Wolsingham (Cong.), Westgate (PM), Wolsingham (CE), Wolsingham (WM-circ.), Rowley (Bap -- births only to 1836).

b) **CENSUS RETURNS.** 1851 including the following localities: Collierley & Pontop; Billingside; Ebchester; Benfieldshire & Blackhill; Berry Edge; Leadgate and Crookhall; Greencroft & South Tanfield; Lanchester; Esh & Ushaw; Slatley; Hedleyhope; High Stoop, Helm Park & Thornley; Tow Law; Hunstanworth; Tanfield Lea & Tanfield; Causey & Beamish; Annfield Plain & Kyo; Medomsley; Shotley Bridge; Healeyfield; Consett & Knitsley; Iveston; Burnhope; South Moor & Craghead; Langley; Butsfield; Cornsay; Muggleswick; Dans Castle; Edbundbyers; Whiteley Head & Tantobie; Hobson & Burnopfield; Shield Row & Stanley. Also Weardale which includes two large townships, a large village and many farms and hamlets.

c) **MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS.** A considerable number of headstones within the area.

d) **NOTES.** Items of information on individuals and families collected from various sources, which can provide valuable links with the subject under search.

e) **OTHER RECORDS.** A large file of registrations, tombstone inscriptions and census entries from outside the Database Area containing names of people who were noted as natives from within the Area.

Mr. Nubley has recently had operations on both eyes and is unable to continue to offer the full service which he has previously advertised. He has, however, kindly offered to provide a limited service to NDFHS members, free of charge. As there are expenses, a donation towards costs would be appreciated and all enquiries MUST be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope (or 3 International Reply Coupons from overseas enquirers. Each inquiry should relate to one individual only and must be restricted to a 'simple' search i.e. baptism, marriage or burial, or whereabouts in 1851 and there must be enough information given to identify the subject. It should be noted that banns are not included, nor are names of witnesses to marriages. The easiest way to describe the large area covered by this Database is perhaps to say that it consists of the modern County Districts of Derwentside and of Weardale (down to Wolsingham). This is a generous offer by Mr. Nubley and the Society is grateful to him for affording this facility free of charge to our members.

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR VETERANS

On 20th September 1930, the American Consul in Newcastle unveiled headstones in Elswick Cemetery, Newcastle which had been sent by the American Government to honour two men buried there who had fought in the American Civil war. They were Capt. George Bell, United States Navy, who died on 30th September 1917 and who had been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honour, and Private Philip Legers of the 32nd Massachusetts Infantry.

The *Newcastle Journal* reported that there were four other such graves in the area:- Private Michael Quigley, a Civil War soldier, at All Saints Cemetery, Newcastle, Sgt. W.H. Hall, a Civil War soldier, at Harton Cemetery, South Shields, Pte. John Prendergast, a Civil War soldier, at Preston Cemetery, North Shields and Pte. John Sloan, who fought in the Mexican War 1845-48, at Saltwell Cemetery, Gateshead.

Following these reports, a couple of letters to the *Journal* mentioned other men. One reported that a former American Vice-Consul in Newcastle, Thomas P. Orwin, a native of Newcastle, fought under General Grant and was wounded at the taking of Fort Donaldson. In the other letter, Mr. Peter Ditchburn recounted that he was born at Boston on 23 May 1853 and remembers as a boy 'seeing the soldiers going away'. His father, the late Thomas Ditchburn, 'a well known and much respected man' was for many years a foreman at Elswick Ordnance Works. He went to America in 1851 and commenced business there but 'was compelled to return on account of the war in about November 1861'.

Can any member add to the details given about any of these men?

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.

5140 Mr. A. STOKOE, 16 Broomfield Avenue, Battle Hill Estate, Wallsend, Tyne and Wear NE28 9AD. **5141 Mrs. M. HOWES**, 1 The Kylins, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 2DJ. **5143 Mr. R. RIDDLE**, 15 Granville Road, Walmer, Deal, Kent CT14 7LS. **5144 Miss. A.J. KIRBY**, 32 Grisedale Road, Peterlee, County Durham SR8 5PG. **5150 Mrs. E.E. BLAIKLOCK**, 7 Osprey Close, Hoveton St. John, Norwich, Norfolk NR12 8DR. **5151 & 5152 Mrs. S.P. & Mrs. E. CHRISPIN**, 5 Lilac Gardens, Whickham, Newcastle upon Tyne NE16 4LS. **5153 Mr. J.A.H. BRAIDWOOD**, 44 Plessey Crescent, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear NE25 8QL. **5156 Mrs. J. WALKER**, 3 Triangle Drive, North Ferriby, North Humberside HU14 3AU. **5157 Mr. S.J. TANNER**, The Roost, 3 Rose Hill, Lovedean, Hampshire PO8 9QU. **5158 Mr. T. JAMIESON**, 69 Merthyr Road, Northampton NN5 7BT. **5160 Mr. L. HAVIS**, 39 Dorrington Road, Fawdon, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 2QJ. **5161 Ms. S. LLOYD**, 14 Arles Avenue, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire PE13 2SS. **5162 Dr. T.A. MORELAND**, 369 Blackness Road, Dundee DD2 1ST. **5163 Mr. I. GRAHAM**, Holly Cottage, 1 Malkiln Road, Cawthorne, Near Barnsley, South Yorkshire SY5 4HH. **5164 Mr. J.G. LANGLEY**, 19 Daylesford Drive, Castle Dene, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 1TW. **5166 Mrs. V. WANN**, 49 Medina Road, Holloway, London N7 7LA. **5167 Mrs. W.A. SYMINGTON**, 18 Aspin Drive, Knaresborough, North Yorkshire HG5 8HH. **5168 Mrs. A.P. ANDREWS**, 18 Winford Drive, Broxbourne, Hertfordshire EN10 6PP. **5169 & 5170 Mr. G.S. & Mrs. D.E. MITCHELL**, 5 Elmfield, Great Bookham, Leatherhead, Surrey KT23 3LQ. **5172 Mrs. K. BLOOM**, 10 Coopers Close, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 1BU. **5173 Mr. C.R.A. WILSON**, 6 Cranley Place, London SW7 3AB. **5174 & 5175 Mr. A. & Mr. J. WATT**, 4 Redlands, Penshaw, Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne and Wear DH4 7LE. **5177 Mr. J.D. DICKSON**, 34 Scott Lane, Blackrod, Bolton, Lancashire BL6 5SA. **5179 Mrs. E.C. ARMITAGE**, Tamarind, 52 Robinson Lane, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817, U.S.A. **5181 Miss. J.B.E. HOPPER**, 4 High Street, Naseby, Northampton NN6 6DD. **5182 Mr. J.M. PEARSON**, 30 Greystoke Avenue, Whickham, Newcastle upon Tyne NE16 5HR. **5183 Mr. G. WATMOUGH**, 109 Queens Road, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear NE26 3AT. **5184 & 5185 Mr. R. & Mrs. S. MARSHALL**, 119 Tweed Street, Dunfermline, Fife KY11 4NB. **5186 Mr. K. LEARY**, 2 Sun View Terrace, Cleadon Village, Sunderland SR6 7SB. **5187 Mr. H.T. CRAGGS**, 4 Dane John Mews, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2RW. **5188 Miss. L.J. PADGET**, 11 Norwich Way, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 3SP. **5189 Mrs. E.E. RAWLINSON**, 40 Birchwood Drive, Rushmere St. Andrew, Ipswich, Suffolk IP5 7EB. **5191 Mrs. E. NEAT**, Lyndewood, Elvet Moor, Durham City DH1 3PR. **5192 Mr. W.G. BARTHORPE**, 37 Ashwood Close, Plympton, Plymouth, Devon PL7 3FU. **5193 & 5194 Mr. P.W. & Mrs. L.A. KENDREW**, 3 Newhouse Croft, Balsall Common, Coventry, West Midlands CV7 7PX. **5195 Mr. J. BLAKELY**, 10 Allendale Avenue, Kings Estate, Wallsend, Tyne and Wear NE28 9NA. **5196**

Mr. D.C. CATHERINE, Baydon Post Office & Stores, Ermin Street, Baydon, Wiltshire SN8 2JP. **5198 & 5199 Mr. R.L. & Mrs. G. ROCHESTER**, 35 Woodpecker Road, Larkfield, Aylesford, Maidstone, Kent ME20 6JQ. **5200 Mrs. B.J.M. O'SULLIVAN**, 2 Birch Way, Birch, Colchester, Essex CO2 0NQ. **5201 Ms. D.V. GERMSCHIED**, 1402-7 Evergreen Place, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3L 2T3 Canada. **5202 Mr. G. J. MASON**, 714-5 Parkway Forest Drive, Sunnyside, Ontario M2J 1L2, Canada. **5203 & 5204 Mrs. J.M. & Mr. J. WATSON**, 20 Malton Way, Blackhurst Lane, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 4QE. **5205 Mrs. J.L. ZSCHORN**, 130 Marton Road, Bridlington, East Yorkshire YO16 5PU. **5206 Mr. A.W. FURNESS**, 4 Eaton Close, Hartford, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE18 7SR. **5207 Mr. J.L. McNALLY**, Ilorin, Praa Sands, Penzance, Cornwall TR20 9SW. **5208 Mr. R.D. HUDSON**, 229 Station Road, Bagworth, Coalville, Leicestershire LE67 1BL. **5209 Miss. V.L. OWEN**, 16 Lon Brynawel, Llansamlet, Swansea, West Glamorgan SA7 9SY. **5210 Mr. F.P. BURNS**, 5 Henry Street, North Shields, Tyne and Wear NE29 6SH. **5211 Mr. J.L. SUMMERSON**, 4 Bridge Court, Arthurs Bridge Road, Woking, Surrey GU21 4NS. **5212 Mr. J. HOGG**, 24 Evenlode Drive, Long Hanborough, Witney, Oxford, Oxfordshire OX8 8DB. **5216 Mrs. H. BULMER**, 17 Rosaville Crescent, Allesley, Coventry, Warwickshire CV5 9BP. **5218 Ms. R. WASHINGTON**, R.R.2., Washington Road, Dawson Creek, British Columbia V1G 4E8, Canada. **5219 Mr. R. MARSDEN**, 25 St. Michaels Drive, Cupar, Fife, KY15 5BP. **5220 Mr. R.T. STEPHENSON**, 14 The Birches, Sunnyside, Tyne and Wear NE16 5EU.

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 by the 31st December 1993. 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.

- 0028 Mr. P.R.D. DAVISON**, 27 Fryup Crescent, Kemplah Park, Guisborough, Cleveland TS14 8LG.
Any information on the following would be appreciated: 1) William **Dixon** (1811 Spittal - 1865 New Shildon), coastguard, helped 10th August 1847 to rescue William **Jones**, tutor to the **Pease** family, from drowning at Marske. Other rescuer one of: **J. Payne**, **Brouncker**, **J. Barton**, **T. Jones**, **G. Bennet**, **L. Frazer**, **D. McCormack**, **J. Meachin**. Descendants sought. 2) **J. George Smith** ("Sunshine") (1890 - 1943, Spennymoor), runner managed by **Jack Egglestone**; pupil at Bishop's Close Methodist School; footballer for Spennymoor Wednesday and Spennymoor Ironopolis; organised trips to Blackpool. Photo sought.
- 1234 Mrs. E. HARTMAN**, 106 High Street, Hinderwell, North Yorkshire TS13 5ES.
William **Vest** (baptised 1825, Wallsend) married 1885 at All Saints, Newcastle to Elizabeth **Parkinson**, daughter of Robert. William was the illegitimate child of Mary **Vest** and John (surname unknown). Who were Mary's parents and who was the John **Vest** born c.1808 mentioned in a previous register entry? Information also wanted about Peter **Lock** and his son Thomas Peter **Lock**, born c.1861. Thomas married widow Hannah **Robinson**, nee **Young** 1891 at Methodist Free Church, South Shields. It is believed that Thomas was living in Whitburn at the time of his death late 1930's/early 1940's. Also interested in George **Potts**, engine driver, his wife **Jessie** and son George. George married Elizabeth **Stephenson** at St. Mary's, Gateshead 1858 or 1868.
- 1305 Mrs. P. PINKNEY**, 2 The Old Common, Furneux Pelham, Buntingford, Hertfordshire SG9 0LQ.
Can anyone help with the whereabouts of Thomas and Hannah **Johnson** on the 1871 Census? In 1867 they were living at Thornley in County Durham.
- 1642 Mrs. AILEEN PIKE**, 26 Delungra Road, Launceston, Tasmania 7250, Australia.
Researching **Poolton**, **McPhail**, **Farrell** and **Harrison** of Tyneside. Archibald **McPhail** married Elizabeth **Armstrong** at Wallsend 1847. They had two daughters: Isabella, born 1847 and Elizabeth, born 1849. At the time of her marriage, Elizabeth senior was described as 'of full age' and daughter of Thomas **Armstrong**, master mariner; but which Thomas **Armstrong**? Archibald's wife died in 1850, he remarried and had more children. Also interested in finding any descendants of Alexander **Farrell**, born Ireland c.1833. In 1861 he was unmarried, a foundry mechanic living at Mt. Pleasant, Tynemouth in the household of his brother John. Not found in the 1871 Census for Tynemouth; what happened to him?
- 2946 Mrs. ANNE BELL**, 19 The Avenue, Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS7 0AA.
Researching the name **Mowbray** in the Northumberland and Durham areas in particular, but has general interest and would like to hear of instances from elsewhere.
- 2964 Mrs. D.C. WHITAKER**, 2 Chesterton Avenue, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 3RL.
Hugh Clark, millwright, born 1817 at North Shields, son of George **Clark**, pitman, married Thomasina **Clark Robson** in 1838 at Wallsend. Their children were: Thomas R. (born 1840), George (born 1841), Isabella (born 1845), Hugh (born 1848) and John W.H. (born 1850) Would like to hear from anyone researching this family. Also trying to find the parents of Thomas **Johnston**, blacksmith, born c.1813 in North Shields and married Ann **Harrison** c.1835. Their children were: Walter (born 1836), Jane Carter (born 1843), John (born 1846), Priscilla (born 1848), Isabella (born 1851) and Thomas (born 1857).

- 3100 Mrs. L. MADSEN**, 7 Cedar Close, Gilesgate Moor, Durham DH1 1EF.
Looking for information on the families of Robert **Richardson**, yeoman farmer, and Hannah **Hopper**. They were married by licence at Medomsley 1733. Jonathan **Wood**, a dryer of Durham, was named as guarantor on the licence. If anyone has a Blackett Richardson on their tree, would be pleased to exchange information. Also looking for information on Francis **Barras**, born c.1810, married as a widower to Elizabeth **Daglish** at Shield Row in 1849.
- 3426 Mrs. ELEANOR B. CONARY**, P.O. Box 896, Bethel, Maine 04217, U.S.A.
Searching for the birth/parents of great grandmother Mary **Martin** born December 1833/4 in Earl (Yeard Hill), parish of Doddington, Northumberland. Mother possibly born in Scotland. Supposed adoptive father was James Martin believed to be son of Robert Martin and Isabel **Bell**. James married 1) Eleanor **Hutchinson**, 2) Ann **Brown**, daughter of James Brown and Mary Atkinson, both marriages in Newcastle. Two sons were born to James and Ann - James born c.1844 in Earl, and Robert born c.1849 at Walker. Mary married Matthew Brown in 1852 at Southwick, Sunderland and died in 1905 in Anderson, Indiana, U.S.A. Article 'Who Was My Mary Martin' in Autumn 1990 Journal did not bring forth any more information. Perhaps this time!!
- 3461 K. WARDLE**, 18 Woodbury Court, Cranford Avenue, Exmouth, Devon EX8 2JA.
Would appreciate any information regarding the **Brotherick** family known to have resided in and around the Seaton Sluice and Seaton Delaval area from at least 1750, maybe even to the present day. Especially interested in the family and descendants of Edward Brotherwick and Margaret, nee **Lane**, married 1841 at Earsdon.
- 3601 ARLENE J. LEWIS**, 2024 Tejas Trail, Irving, Texas 75060 U.S.A.
Needs information on the following: 1) Thomas **Hope**, born 1860 County Durham, died 1921 Texas. 2) William Hope born 1847 County Durham died 1915 Kansas, wife Elizabeth born England 1847. 3) John Hope born 1857 England, wife Sarah Ann born 1855 Bristol, daughter of John **Francombe**. Thomas, William and John were all miners in England. Also interested in other families who travelled to the U.S.A. on the ship 'Spain': Elizabeth **Terrace** nee **Stone** of Seaham Harbour; James **Halliday**, 52 year old farmer, wife Margaret and their three children; George **Lowther**, 39, wife Sarah, 35, and children. The Halliday and Lowther families settled in San Antonio, Texas, near Thomas Hope. Did they know each other in England?
- 4085 Mrs. H. MILLER**, 4 Southfields Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 1BU.
Seeking information about Alexander **Scott**, shipowner of Waterville Terrace, North Shields who died 1878. Also Alexander Scott, fish merchant of West Percy Street, North Shields, died 1920's and Dorothy A. Dickinson **Stansfield**, died 1939 Monkseaton.
- 4158 Mrs. AUDREY BATEMAN**, 17 Queensthorpe Close, Bramley, Leeds LS13 4JT.
Seeking information about the birth of George **Huter** c.1811, son of Henry. Census returns gives his place of birth as Bondgate, Westmorland, but a baptism hasn't been found in any of the local records. Also seeking John and Jane **Iveson** and their son Robert after 1866, from the Newcastle/Gateshead area. It is possible that Robert wasn't with John and Jane. Any information or help would be appreciated.
- 4292 Mrs. E.M. HUGHES**, Meadowfield, Chilton Moor, Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne and Wear DH4 6LU.
Looking for information on the following: 1) Parents, baptism, burial of Robert **Turner**, cordwainer of Chester-le-Street, born c.1760. He married Mary **Cooper/Cowper** of Lumley at Chester-le-Street in 1781, and they had nine children. 2) Baptism of John **Harper** of Pitlington c.1832 and his marriage to Jane **Hall** of Headlam c.1868. 3) William **Clarkson**, miner, born Bradford c.1807 and came to Belmont with his family 1848/9. 4) Matthew **Adams**, born Blantyre, Scotland and came to Durham with his brothers Walter, James and Robert in the mid 19th century. Other interests include **Sanderson** (Shincliffe), **Ward** (Auckland St. Andrew) and **March** (Shiremoor).
- 4642 VAL CHAMBERS (nee Pickard)**, 199 Rushgreen Road, Lymm, Cheshire WA13 9QY.
Would like to hear from anyone researching **Surtees** in the Tyneside area. Edward born c.1776, supposedly at Ebchester, married his first wife Ann **Durham**, born Eighton Banks 1776, at Gateshead in 1802. Their first child John born High Chirton 1803 married Margaret **Stewart** at All Saints, Newcastle 1826. They had John (born 1827 Newcastle), Margaret and Ann (twins born 1828 Bells Close), Edward (born Scotswood 1831), Margaret (1833), Robert (1835), Eleanor (1837) and Anthony (1839/40 Jarrow). John was living in South Shields in 1841 and descendants were still in the area until the 1930's at least. Robert Surtees married Sarah **Kier** in 1854; children - William, Jane, Robert, Amy, Louisa, Margaret, Edward, Sarah and John. Ann Surtees married Richard **Daglish** in 1847; children - Richard, Eleanor, John, Elizabeth, Robert, Edward, James, Jane and William. Sarah Surtees married twice, firstly to Joseph Pearson **Heslop**, then to Robert **Scott**. The Scott children were Sarah, Robert, Henry, Margaret and Walter, all born between 1896 and 1912.
- 4657 MARGARET ANDERTON**, Daws Hill Lodge, 31 Knights Templar Way, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire HP11 1PX.
Help is needed in tracing the marriage of John **Kerr** and Agnes in Scotland. Children: John born 1844/5, Elizabeth born 1851/2, Alice born 1856/7, James born 1863/4, (all in Scotland), and Alexander born 1866/7 (Durham). They arrived Newcastle 1867-1881. Also, has anyone, during their research, came across Lucille la **Pervee** (Parvee) who was with a travelling circus until she married either a **Rogerson** or a **Dodd(s)**, possibly an ag. lab., late 18th century.
- 4687 Mr. B.I. BAGNALL**, 18 Haddricks Mill Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 1QL.
John **Blakey** is described in the baptism entry of his first son as 'native of Thursay in Caithness, Scotland' (Gateshead, St. Mary 1794). There are no entries for Blakey in Caithness but plenty for **Baikie**, apparently a 16th century Orkney name; his mother was probably Janet **Oman**, another common Caithness name, and there is a Gateshead marriage between James Blakey and Margery Oman in 1755 - both 'of this parish'. Can anyone researching Blakey locally offer any thoughts? Also seeking any photographs of pupils and teachers at Barmoor (Ryton) Mixed National School between 1890 and 1903, showing the headmaster George **Laidler**. Any information on his burial place in Ryton churchyard?

- 4691 Mrs. ANN CHAPMAN**, 2 Wordsworth Avenue, Pilton, Barnstable, Devon EX31 1QQ.
Seeking information on the **Dickman** family of Alnwick and Great Lumley, butchers by trade. Also James **Young** of Bamburgh (?Juggle), born c.1805, and his wife Jane (possibly **Cossar** or **Cosier**), born c.1806 Lucker. James was a land agent at Great Lumley in 1851.
- 4716 ROY SINCLAIR**, 12 Regent Road, Ryhope, Sunderland SR2 0PP.
Urgently seeking relatives of: 1) John **Sinclair** (yeoman Catcheside, Northumberland 1814 and innkeeper Elsdon 1828-42) married Frances **Hall** at Hartburn 1813. Some children baptised at Great Bavington Presbyterian church. 2) Ralph **Simpson** (husbandman of Copley near Hamsterley) married Mary **Butterfield** at Barnard Castle 1821. Their son John, a blacksmith married firstly Elizabeth **Beck** at Crook 1852 and later Frances Hall, when, where? 2) Watchmaker John **Tate** and wife Jane at Liverpool 1841, Allendale 1851, Wolsingham 1861 and Leadgate 1871 with children Margaret, Annie Teresa, William Frederick, John Henry and Robert Thompson who married Matilda **Peart** at Leadgate 1876. 4) William and Mary **Sproats** of Shildon Hill Grange when Robert (1829) and Francis (1831) were baptised at Auckland, St. Andrew's. 5) Robert **Dodds**, son of William and Jane, who married Mary Simpson at Lanchester 1872. 6) Farmer Thomas **Pattison** and Ann had son John baptised at Witton-le-Wear 1815. Is this Thomas who married Ann **Oysten** at Wolsingham in 1810? 7) John Raine Sinclair, born Sacriston 1937, went to Johnston Grammar School 1949.
- 4769 Mrs. B. TWEDDLE**, 36 Main Avenue, Shaws Trailer Park, Knaresborough Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 7NL.
Seeking descendants of Henry **Thompson**, coalminer, born 1854 at Carlisle, who moved with his family from Aspatria, Cumberland to Wingate and/or Consett c.1895. His son John William, coalminer born 1880 and daughters Mary Elizabeth born 1876 (moved away to London) and Jane born 1883 were all born in Aspatria.
- 4809 Mrs. MONICA DIXON**, 17 Tynedale Terrace, Benton, Newcastle upon Tyne NE12 8AY.
Seeks contact with any descendants of Arthur Wilkinson **Hodgson**, born 1822, and Christiana (Shields). Their children were Sarah Lily (1889), Albert James (1890), Margaret Thomasina (1892), Arthur Wilkinson (1894), Christiana Victoria (1897), Beatrice (1899), Harold (1899), all baptised at St. John's, Newcastle. Also descendants of Sarah Hodgson (born 1869) who married a **Sanderson** and had at least one child in 1891. More detailed information available and freely exchanged.
- 4841 RAYMOND McSORLEY**, The White House, 91 Stoughton Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 1LH.
Researching the following ancestral names: **McSorley**, **Conley**, **Skillett**, **Neagle**, **Emmerson**, **Softley**, **Thirlbeck**, **Taylor**, **Cornforth** and **Cummin** in the Durham, Sunderland and Tynemouth areas. Also **Connel**, **Russell**, **White**, **Brown**, **Blackhall** and **Johnston** in the Berwick, Ford, Duddo, Greenlawalls, Durham City and Scottish border areas.
- 4843 Miss D.J. FORSTER**, 32 Wilcott Road, Gatley, Cheadle, Stockport SK8 4DX.
Can anyone help with information about Thomas Jewett (or Davidson) **Forster**? He was an engine driver who lived at Consett in the mid 1800's and also heard of in Leamington Spa in 1884-88.
- 4879 Mrs. JOAN OLIVER**, 8 Northall Close, Eaton Bray, Dunstable LU6 2EB.
Searching for any information about John Hird **Tudberry** who married Jane Isabella **Trotter**. They lived at Reay Street, South Shields. Their four children John, Lesley, Norah and Ronald were born there between 1916 and 1926. Interested in any of their relatives.
- 4938 DENNIS TURNBULL**, 93 The Drive, Hullbridge, Hockley, Essex SS5 6LZ.
Seeking information regarding the marriage date/place of Joseph **Turnbull**, innkeeper, Alnwick 1762 to Eleanor. Also birth/baptism details of Benjamin Turnbull, possibly a brother of the above Joseph. Can anyone help with the location of Long Edlington, 1780 birth place of George Turnbull.
- 4995 Mrs. JILL OLIVER**, 2 Claydon Gardens, Hawley, Camberley, Surrey GU17 9HG.
Tracing the ancestry of William **Kelly** of Greystones, Bowburn, born 1878 at Monkwearmouth, died 1949. Father William was born c.1850's and mother Mary (nee **Garney**?). They had four children: William, James, Kate and another.
- 5004 Mrs. GLENYS GOLDSMITH**, 43 Solomon Road, Rainham, Kent ME8 8EB.
Researching the following families: **Clark** of Eldon (1812 onwards), **Willans** (Cockfield 1840's), **Pearson** (Church Lane 1860's), **Hodgson** (Spring Gardens 1870's and South Church 1890's), **Sayer** (Eldon 1860's), **Davies** (Weardale and Westerton at the turn of the century and Glamorgan, Wales in 1870's), **Lee** (Glamorgan 1870's and West Midlands 1850's), **Teasdale** (Stockton 1920's) and **Nightingale** (Stockton 1880-90's). Edwin Teasdale was killed on 9th June 1921 at the Corporation Gas Works, Stockton. Could anybody help with a newspaper account of the accident?
- 5038 Miss A.K. KENDRICK**, 3 Roughwood Road, Kimberworth Park, Rotherham, South Yorkshire S61 3RE.
Searching for the birth/baptism of William **Tweeddale** c.1759, and his marriage to Hannah before 1791. Also looking for the baptisms of Charles c.1791, John c.1793, Phillis c.1794, William c.1799 and Edward c.1803 - all supposedly in Newcastle. The family moved to Rotherham in 1805 where the next child Hugh was baptised. The family seemed to have been involved with the glass industry.
- 5072 Mrs. J. RAMSAY**, Garden Flat, 62 Fellows Road, London NW3 3LJ.
Interested in the connection of Thomas **Langhorn** (1802 - 1850) with East Mill Hills, and his daughter Mary Ann, or Ann, (born 1834) with Hayden Bridge. He also had three sons, George born 1829, Thomas Temple 1830 and William 1832, all born in Westmorland. What happened to them? His wife Ann, nee **Temple**, died in 1842 when Thomas was an innkeeper in Penrith. Any confirmation of his death in 1850?

- 5092 M. ALLEN**, 3 Westminster Court, Osborne Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 8PA.
Researching the name **Coats/Coates** in the Kellah/Haltwhistle area from the mid 19th century. Also **Keen** of Haltwhistle early to mid 19th century and **Nixon** of Thirlwall/Haltwhistle/Greenhead area in the 19th century. Any information would be appreciated.
- 5116 IAN G. STEPHENSON**, 27 Polmaise Street, Blaydon, Tyne and Wear NE21 4DB.
Researching: Thomas **Burdon**, married Dorothy **Robson** 1748 Houghton-le-Street; Richard **Usha/Ushar**, married Mary **Emerson** at Horton by Blyth 1754; Thomas Burdon married Ann Usher, native of Killingworth, at Boldon in 1778; William **Robson** of Kelloe married Elizabeth **Brown** c.1800; George **Oliver**, married Ann **Hastewell**, possibly at Penshaw before 1813; Thomas Oliver, married Margaret **Robinson** at Dalton-le-Dale 1833; Thomas **Stephenson**, born Cowpen 1895; Patrick **Barry/Berry** of Ireland, miner, lived Craghead in 1896; William **Fielding**, weaver, married Elizabeth **Watson** at All Saints, Newcastle 1797; Robert **Patterson**, born 1798, 4th son of William, by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Cuthbert **Richardson**, fisherman of Gateshead; Joseph **Graham**, married Mary Graham 1817 All Saints, Newcastle; Sarah Jane **Leedham**, wife of Thomas Graham, lived Castle Garth, Newcastle 1888; Charles Joseph **Meadows**, lived Byker 1891.
- 5128 Mr. ALAN FORSTER**, 67 Waterworks Road, Oldham OL4 2JL.
Help needed in tracing the details of Gowan **Forster** of Thropton who married Peggy **Darling**. Peggy was the sister of William Darling born 1784 of lifeboat fame.
- 5145 DOROTHY EMPRINGHAM**, 24 Brodeur Crescent, Kanata, Ontario K2L 1X3, Canada.
Would appreciate any information about: 1) George **Gardiner**, born c.1690 at Stanhope, married firstly Ann **Vickers** (Vicars) in 1715, and secondly in 1725, but to whom? 2) John **Tweddle** and wife Elizabeth (?). Their children were born at Alston, Cumberland - Anthony (1769), Margaret (1771) and John (1773). There may have been more children. Anthony, who married at St. Johns Chapel, Weardale, emigrated to Canada, but what became of the others? They may have originated in the Knaresdale area.
- 5146 JUNE BOZIER**, 5 Angus Avenue, Lane Cove, New South Wales 2066, Australia.
Researching **Craig/Hodgson/Roddam** families in the St. Johns Chapel area; **Hemsley/Young/Barker** of Sedgfield, and Young in the Greatham area. Would also like to contact descendants of Robert W. Craig, living in Station House, Stanhope in 1928, and also any descendants of Thomas Edwin Craig, believed to have been living in the Hexham area c.1930.
- 5147 Mrs. M.J. TUNE**, Unit 3, 17 Laurence Street, South Plympton, South Australia 5038, Australia.
Looking for help with identifying the ancestors of Mary Spendlove **Collingwood**, born c.1808, daughter of Joseph (a mariner) and Ellen (or Helen) **Collingwood**. Mary married Thomas **Newham** 1830 at Holy Trinity, Kingston on Hull. Mary, Thomas and their family later emigrated to Australia, possibly via New Zealand. Some descendants believe that Mary was the grand daughter of John, brother of Admiral Lord Collingwood, but have not yet found any proof.
- 5149 KEN BLAIKLOCK**, 7 Oprey Close, Hoveton St. John, Norwich NR12 8DR.
Seeking information about: 1) Marriage of John and Jael **Blaiklock** whose son John was baptised at Bywell St. Andrew, 1730. Also baptism of Jael and reference to any Jael as a female forename pre-1800. 2) Marriage of George Musgrave **Blaiklock** to Caroline Cecilia **Price**, probably pre-1815, reputed to be niece of the Earl of Dalhousie. 3) **Ingoe** history in 1750's. 4) Northumberland and Durham **Blaiklocks** and variants pre-1800.
- 5154 ADRIAN STEPHENSON**, Windmill Cottage, Mackerye End, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 5DR.
Interested in learning more about his **Stephenson** family line. Great grandfather Robert Stephenson, Mayor of Middlesbrough, died in 1918 and his obituary indicated that he was related to George Stephenson (of The Rocket fame). His wife was Susanna **Stevenson** from Edinburgh and they had a son Arthur Henry Stephenson born in Middlesbrough in 1868. Robert's father was John, probably buried at Elswick Cemetery in 1869 and who was Master of the Workhouse in Ponteland at the time of the 1851 Census. Can anyone help with the relationship of the family with George Stephenson?
- 5155 DONALD L. COMBE**, Box 813, Niagara on the Lake, Ontario L0S 1J0, Canada.
Looking for any information regarding George **Garner/Gardner**, born c.1744 in Northumberland, son of John Garner/Gardner who travelled to Canada in 1779 with George and another son, John. John junior may have returned to Northumberland in 1790. The IGI gives a George Gardner baptised Corbridge in 1774.
- 5159 MIKE REED**, 22 Borrowdale, Hull, North Humberside HU7 6DR.
Can anyone put meat on my bones? John Joseph **Reed**, born 1877 was an engineer, who may have had a brother Robert. He moved to Hull with his wife Isabella, nee **Clark**, and about five children. They had married at St. Oswin's Chapel, Tynemouth 1900. Isabella was born Blaydon 1873, daughter of Isaac Clark who was dead by the time of the marriage. Her mother may have been Mary **Urwin** who was dead, and she may have been brought up by an aunt, Isabella Urwin. John Joseph Reed's father was Edward, an engineering labourer. Has anybody any clues that might help?
- 5165 Mrs. I. OLDACRE (nee WALES)**, 34 Pinefield Avenue, Barnby Dun, Doncaster DN3 1JN.
Would like help with the following: Isobel **Bygate** of Windy Nook who married George William **Jeffrey** and lived Nunns Lane or King William Street, Gateshead in 1900; Isabella (nee **Elliott**) and Joshua **Hindmarsh** who lived at Park Road, Gateshead in 1884; William and Jane **Wales** of Wylam Street, Gateshead, who had a son William Ewart Wales; and lastly, John O'Neill, born 1888 and died 1940, who lived at Oak Street, Newcastle.

- 5171 Mrs. J. FISHBURN**, 29 Northview Terrace, Chilton Moor, Fence Houses, Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne & Wear DH4 5NN.
Would like to hear of any information regarding the name **Fife/Fifey/Fifie** in the Northumberland area 1700 onwards but particularly about the following: William Fife and his wife Sarah, nee **Mudd**, married Earsdon July 1765, and their son William baptised Earsdon 1767. William senior is known to have been a labourer at Fountain Head, a farm near Seaton Delaval.
- 5176 MARGARET DICKSON**, 34 Scott Lane, Blackrod, Bolton, Lancashire BL6 5SA.
Is seeking help with the following: 1) George Henry Cornelius Cox (1864-1934), born Tipton, Staffs., son of William and Mary Ann nee **Rees**. Family lived at Gateshead 1870's to 1900, then Sunderland and East Boldon areas. Member of Sunderland, South Shields and Gateshead Harriers and sports reporter for South Shields Gazette. Sister Eliza Cox was a teacher in Gateshead. 2) George Louis **Bell** (1862-1936) married Margaret **Davison** 1883. They lived in South Hylton and later Pallion and had nine children - Sally, Ada, Margaret, Florence, Lily, Norah, George, Alfred, Jack, Arthur and Benjamin. 3) Margaret **Dickson** married Charles Sheriff **Dickson** 1884. Son named after his father in Hendon Boy's Orphanage in 1902. 4) John Richard Humphrey **Gibson** married Isabella **Reay** in 1902. Isabella was daughter of Thomas, a blacksmith, and Hannah, caretaker of Lambton Street Salvational Chapel in Bishopwearmouth.
- 5178 Mrs. B. WEBBER**, Hilltop, Chester Street, St. Asaph, Clwyd LL17 0RE.
Interests include: **Armstrong, Charlton, Collin, Coxon, Cuthbertson, Ford, Harrison, Robson, Scrowther, Short and Tulip**. any help with the following would be appreciated:- James Cuthbertson born c.1809 Ancroft, who were his parents, where was he baptised? James, a joiner, married Isabella Short (born Bamburgh c.1811) about 1830/31 but where? Ann Collin married Ralph Harrison, shoemaker, at Gateshead 1819. Who were her parents; where was she baptised? Charles Scrowther married Jane Ford c.1820 Lowick area - where, when and who were his parents? They were Catholics.
- 5180 BRYAN ROBERTS**, 8 Kenton Drive, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY2 6TH.
Northumberland interests mainly relate to the **Forsters**. The family was at Corsenside when the registers started in 1715, and still there in the early 1800's. Gabriel seems to have been a popular family name, four Gabriel Forsters having been traced - two at Corsenside, one at Newburn but born at Corsenside, and a fourth, a master mariner born at South Dissington but found at Bristol. This last Gabriel had a son Gabriel Brown Forster, also a seaman, married at Liverpool and died at Birkenhead. His son, yet another Gabriel died aged 10 years, ending that particular Forster line. Can anyone help to sort out the profusion of Forsters in the Corsenside/Woodburn area?
- 5190 ANTHONY W. HARTLEY**, 17 Meadow Close, Stratford on Avon, Warwickshire CV37 9PJ.
Any information please on the following: Michael **Oxley**, born c.1820 Newcastle or Gateshead. Thomas **Fish** c.1850 Birtley, married Isabella **Davison** c.1875 Birtley/Gateshead. William and Mary **Bowden** c.1850 Gateshead/Newcastle. Any **Thirlwall** at Ovington/Ovingham or Gateshead c.1800. Any **Ellerington** at Newcastle or Gateshead c.1900?
- 5197 ANDREW R. BARNETT**, 29 Lime Grove, Guildford, Surrey GU1 1PG.
Help required with the following: 1) William **Branson** married Margaret **Yong** or **Young**, 1699 Newcastle - origins sought. 2) Any information on the Banson family of Newcastle (later moved to Chester-le-Street), especially pre-1700. 3) **Dowson** and **Wilson** families of Wolsingham. 4) **Morley** and **Snowball** families of Weardale area. 5) Richard and Hannah **Robinson**, Richard was a tax collector and wine merchant of Fore Street, Hexham late 1700's and early 1800's.
- 5213 Mr. CHARLES IMIG**, 84 La Garza, Pismo Beach, California 93449, U.S.A.
Would welcome any information about the birth place and parents of John **Weatherby**, supposedly born in County Durham 18 February 1818. The only known location is from an inscription in a school book listing his address in 1840 as Coxhoe, Durham.
- 5214 Mrs. JOAN IMIG**, 84 La Garza, Pismo Beach, California 93449, U.S.A.
Looking for the date and place of birth, as well as the parents, of Jonathan **Hodgson** and Elizabeth **Emerson** who married 1800 at St. John's, Stanhope. Also the same information for Margaret **Pear** who married Thomas Hodgson, born 1802 Stanhope, in Canada or the U.S.A.
- 5215 Mrs. JAN THOMAS (nee ARKLESS)**, 39 Main Street, Swanland, East Yorkshire HU14 3QP.
Researching mother's family from County Durham and Newcastle. Main names are **Arkless** of Tanfield, **Whickham, Urpeth and Briggs** of Tanfield. Associated names are **Cole, Duckett, Graham, Handcock, Marshall, Moore, Scourfield** and **Wood**, all of the Tanfield area 1700's onwards. Other family names are: **Elliot** of Fenham then Murton Moor and Hawthorn, and **Smithson** of Rainton and Houghton-le-Spring. Married connections are **Bland** (Staindrop), **Gibbons/Gibson** (Whorlton), **Hazelhurst** (South Shields), **Mitford** and **Sharp** (Jarrow) and **Steel** (Bishopwearmouth). Would also be interested in finding out more about Ralph Wood, a stonemason from Tanfield, who built the Causey Arch.
- 5217 Miss S.A. BOWLES**, 36 Wakefords Way, Havant, Hants PO9 5JP.
Seeking information on William **Laverick** and Mary Ann **Lightford**. William was born c.1820 at Bedlington, son of John Laverick, forgerman. He married Mary Ann Lightford 1838 at St. John's, Newcastle. Their first son John Lightford Laverick was born 1839 at Bedlington. In 1843 the family moved to Swindon, Wiltshire where William worked as a forgerman for the Great Western Railway.

HELP OFFERED

- 5120 Mr. M.S. GIBSON**, 67 Highfield Road, Beverley HU17 9QS.
Researching the **Moxons** of Yorkshire - particularly the Hull and Thorne areas. Has detailed family trees on several groups, starting in the mid-1700's through to late 1800's. Would be pleased to hear from any Moxon/Moxons descendants in the Northumberland/Durham area seeking information.

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



CARAVAN AND CAMPING

This print of Durham miners hauling a caravan was sent to us by an Essex member, Mr. E. Rontree. He saw it on the cover of a brochure about camping and caravanning produced by North Norfolk District Council, who had apparently found it in an old book. Mr. Rontree says he was astonished to learn of Durham connections with the first pleasure caravan! If anyone can shed further light on this, please let the Editor know.