

THE JOURNAL OF THE NORTHUMBERLAND & DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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OR ITS CONTRIBUTORS

ADDRESSES

Chairman -

Mr. G. Nicholson, 57 Manor Park, Concord, WASHINGTON, Tyne and Wear NE37 2BU.

General Correspondence and Enquiries -

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

Accounts and other financial matters -

Mr. D. Mason, 21 Priestpopple, HEXHAM, Northumberland NE46 1PF.

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

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

Members Interests and Queries -

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

New Members, Applications for Membership -

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

Changes of Address and Missing Journals -

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

Computer Co-ordinator -

Mr. G. Bell, 113 East View, Wideopen, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE13 6EF.

Requests for Items from the Society Library -

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

Projects Co-ordinator -

Mrs P. Bruce, 44 Cheadle Avenue, Hadrian Park, WALLSEND, NE28 9QS.

Monumental Inscriptions Co-ordinator -

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

Strays Co-ordinator -

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

Book Sales and Journal Back Numbers -

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

Microfiche Sales -

Mr. K. Dalkin, 12 St. Aidans Crescent, Crossgate Moor, DURHAM DH1 4AP.

Exchange Journals (other Societies) -

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

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(TWO INTERNATIONAL REPLY COUPONS FROM OVERSEAS MEMBERS) AND QUOTE YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER.

EDITORIAL

There is news of the 'Big R' --- the British Isles Genealogical Register. Many members completed the form, issued with one of last year's Journals, inviting them to list the families which interested them, for inclusion in a county-by-county directory being compiled under the auspices of the Federation of Family History Societies. The finished product is almost completed and we intend to issue the Durham and Northumberland sections, in microfiche format, free to NDFHS members. It will probably arrive just a little too late for inclusion with this Journal but should be sent with the Autumn edition.

As usual, there are some new publications of our own, details of which are given elsewhere and we hope you will find something of interest --- perhaps the Northumberland Marriage Index 1813-37? Available on microfiche only, this is a most noteworthy effort, the first complete index for this quarter century period which causes so many problems. County Durham fans should not despair, as a similar index for that county is in course of preparation, but please be patient! A lot of work is involved.

We often get comments on the "book or microfiche" question for our publications and it is a difficult issue. We would all prefer book versions, but take the Northumberland Marriage Index as an example. It contains some 75,000 entries and extends over 1300 pages. I am sure members will understand that microfiche format is really the only practical way to publish such a massive reference work at an affordable cost. A book would work out many times more costly than the very reasonable £8.50 we are charging for the 22 fiche set, and there are of course space and postage costs to be taken into account. Size and cost are really our main considerations. We will continue to publish in book form, as well as on fiche, wherever it is practical to do so, but larger works containing more than 150 to 175 pages will have to be on fiche only. Incidentally, we are sometimes asked where, locally, to buy a microfiche reader. I can advise readers that Microfilm Bureau (NE) Ltd., 23 Murton Street, Sunderland SR1 2QY, have a few new Bell & Howell machines for sale. They cost from £190 plus V.A.T. Telephone: 091-567 3719.

NOTES AND NEWS

Important news affecting local genealogists is that family history records at the Melton Park search rooms of Northumberland Record Office are to be moved to the premises already open at The Kylins, Morpeth. Further details appear elsewhere in this Journal (page 65).

Edward Oliver Bowman, 2nd Lieutenant, 9th Battalion, Royal Northumberland Fusiliers was killed in action in World War I. His family lived in Jesmond. His sister, Elsa, married the uncle of a Devon lady who held some photographs and papers belonging to the family. If anyone is interested please contact the NDFHS Secretary, John Ashburner.

Are you interested in the Orton family? If so, you may be interested in the Orton Family History Society, launched 1993 --- contact Mr. D. Beck, 25A Longwood Avenue, Bingley, West Yorks BD16 2RX.

Captain A. J. Coulthard, Colecote, Piddlentrethide, Dorchester DT2 7QP mentions an updated edition of "*A. Coulthard!, 700 years in the History of a Border family*". Contact him direct for more details.

The University of Newcastle upon Tyne has a Certificate in Family History course being held on Wednesday evenings from 5th October. There are three taught terms and in the fourth term students will research their own project. The tutor is Mrs. S. Wood of Northumberland Record Office. No entry qualifications are necessary. Further details from Centre for Continuing Education, University of Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU.

Would some members in the Melbourne area of Australia be willing to extract details of Emigrants Shipping Lists to assist a Society project? If so, please write to George Bell, 113 East View, Wideopen, Newcastle NE13 6EF.

"*The Beginning of Spennymoor - Census 1851*" is a brief history of the town, incorporating the census details and is available price £3.50 plus £1 postage from Mr A. J. Coia, 23 St. Charles Road, Spennymoor, Co. Durham DL16 6JY.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mrs. Lynda M. Jones, 1E Albert Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham B14 7HH writes: I am currently following a course in family history and community history as part of an OU honours degree and am working under a strict time limit to complete a research project on a life-cycle study, which involves tracing an individual through each census (1841-1891) to examine their position in the household, occupation, family etc. I need at least 20 individuals altogether. I have one or two of my own --- can any NDFHS members help?

Mr. P. Hull writes:

Thank you for the fiches containing the Trafalgar Square records. These are first class in the usefulness of the information contained in them, and the indexing has proved faultless so far. I have been able to get four entries relating to ancestors and I haven't finished looking! I don't suppose I am the first to remark on the 'missing' two pages (pages 96 and 97) from the 1903 'History'. Is there any way of getting these, please?

Editor's Note: Sorry about the omission on the fiche. If any other member would like a copy of the missing 2 pages, please write to Mr. K. Dalkin.

Mr. Stanley Edwards writes:

Family History Societies up and down the country seem to devote a lot of time and energy to collecting 'strays' --- those people who marry or die away from their usual area. Can anyone point to a problem solved by using a list of strays? I may be being uncharitable to those valiant folk who compile these lists, but I wonder whether all their efforts are worthwhile, especially in view of the existence of that marvellous (although less than perfect) tool, the I.G.I.?

Editor's Note: Does our member have a valid point? Your views welcomed!

Mr. I.D. Mather, 7 Abbots Close, Stakeford, Choppington, Northumberland NE62 5BE writes:

I read with interest the article about the North Eastern ancestry of Hillary Clinton, especially as I discovered some of my own ancestors mentioned. Other members may be interested to learn about the Charlton and Scurfield ancestry of Mrs. Clinton and may discover an unsuspected link --- as I did.

Editor's Note: The details given are too detailed to print in full here but in brief one Fenwick Charlton born 1750 Great Whittington baptised Halton, the son of Nicholas Charlton, married in 1785 Alice Fenwick a widow of Tanfield (formerly Stoddart born 1759 at Whickham). Their fourth daughter Margaret married Thomas Scurfield, pitman, at Tanfield in 1813 and produced a large family including Elizabeth born 1816. In 1841, Margaret was living with this daughter, who by now had married Joseph Roddam, the 'mighty hewer' mentioned on page 18 of the Spring Journal. This couple were Hillary Clinton's 4 x great grandparents.

NEW N.D.F.H.S PUBLICATIONS

A leaflet and order form for the Society's latest publications should be enclosed with this issue of the journal but, for microfiche, please do not order from Mr K. Dalkin until after 6th June, because of production problems.

INDEX TO 1871 CENSUS OF NEWCASTLE -- ELSWICK.

Following the publication earlier this year of a microfiche index of Westgate township 1871 Census, we now have a similar index for the adjoining area of Elswick, covering P.R.O piece numbers RG 10/5076 to RG 10/5082 inclusive. Includes names, addresses, occupations, ages, places of birth and relationship to head of house. Thanks to John Nieurzyla for his work on this. Available on microfiche only (8 fiche) from Mr K Dalkin, 12 St Aidans Crescent, Crossgate Moor, Durham DH1 4AP at a cost of £3.50 post free (£4.00 overseas).

PERSONAL NAMES IN DURHAM WILLS 1787-1791.

Described on page 48.

NORTHUMBERLAND MARRIAGE INDEX 1813-1837.

This is the daddy of all Northumberland marriage indexes for this period prior to the start of civil registration. There have been indexes before but they have all covered only certain areas of the county. This one amalgamates all these earlier indexes and also covers the "gaps" so that the whole county is covered with the single exception of marriages in Elsdon in 1818, the register and Bishop's Transcript for that year being "missing." It is an alphabetical index of both brides and grooms, giving names of both parties, date and place of marriage but ancillary information such as names of witnesses, status (married, single etc) and parish of origin are NOT included. There are over 75,000 entries on over 1300 pages and we are most grateful to George Bell and his band of helpers for their very considerable labours. During this period, (apart from Jews and Quakers), all marriages had to take place in an Anglican church, and the index covers all such marriages in the county, but remember that, especially in the north, a very large number of folk took advantage of more liberal Scottish marriage laws with an 'irregular' marriage (recognised by the state but not by the church) and such marriages are not included here. The set of 22 microfiche is available from Mr K Dalkin for £8.50 including postage (£9.25 abroad).

KIRKNEWTON, NORTHUMBERLAND

The registers of this large parish in northern Northumberland were substantially destroyed by fire in 1789. The Bishops Transcripts survive, with gaps, from 1762 and some years ago this Society published a small booklet listing the baptisms, burials and marriages shown in the Bishops Transcripts from 1762 to 1788. This has now been reproduced on microfiche with the addition of a 7 page listing of the Monumental Inscriptions in the church and churchyard which was published in the 1920's by the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne in Vol 21 of the 3rd Series of Archaeologia Aeliana. This listing, stated to include "all the epitaphs within the church and most of those set up in the churchyard before 1850", is reproduced by permission of the Society of Antiquaries. The microfiche, available from Keith Dalkin, costs £1.50 post free in UK and £1.70 abroad.

INDEX TO 1851 CENSUS OF BISHOPWEARMOUTH (2 VOLUMES)

These long-awaited volumes cover the thickly populated Bishopwearmouth area of Sunderland.. The PRO reference is HO 107/2395 and Part 1 (Volume 5 of the NDFHS Durham 1851 Census index series) covers folios 62 to 338-- whilst Part 2 (volume 6) covers folios 339 to 542. Parts 1 and 2 have 165 and 123 pages respectively and are in alphabetical order, giving names, ages, relationship to head of house, marital status, occupation and birthplace for every individual. Produced in both book form and microfiche. The books are available from Mrs C Davison at a cost, post free in UK, of £4.50 and £3.75 respectively (£5.50 and £5.00 abroad). The fiche cost £1.50 in UK (£1.70 abroad) for each volume, and are available from Mr K Dalkin.

Please note that Ford township, which is on folios 1 to 61 of piece HO 107/2395, is not included in the indexes and that there are other parts of Bishopwearmouth appearing on other PRO pieces, which also are not included.

SOUTH TYNESIDE 1851 CENSUS INDEXES

Volumes 1, 2 and 3 of the Society's County Durham 1851 Census Index series have been produced on microfiche to supplement the book editions, which will not be reprinted when they are sold out. Volume 1 covers South Shields, Boldon, Westoe etc., Volume 2 covers Jarrow, South Shields, St Hilda etc., and Volume 3 covers Chester-le-Street and adjacent parishes including Birtley, Lamesley, Tanfield, Walldridge, Ouston, Pelton, Witton Gilbert, and parts of Washington. Each set costs £1.50 post free (£1.70 overseas) from Keith Dalkin.

FAMILY NOTICES FROM NEWCASTLE COURANT 1723-1800

A number of pages were missing in the filming process and these have now been included on a separate fiche. Purchasers of the set of fiche can get the new one by writing to Mr. K. Dalkin, including S.A.E.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

by Doreen Tait

The Library continues to expand and here is a list of the latest additions. I hope the postal service is of help especially to those members who live out of the area. May I draw your attention to one or two suggestions which would be of great help in administering the service. Please do not send me lists of requests. Two or three at a time only - it is so much easier to cope with. I would also greatly appreciate an early return of borrowed items, say within 2-3 weeks, as other members may be waiting for the borrowed item. And finally as explained in our catalogue (price £1) when returning the items please include the postage cost plus 20p, all in stamps if possible.

- 1.210 A History of Craghead. J. Hall.
- 1.211 History, Memories and Legends of Iveston. Mary Kipling.
- 1.212 Childhood Memories of Stanhope. Doris Phelan.
- 1.213 Alnwick Castle.
- 1.214 Burradon and Camperdown. A.G. Fryer.
- 1.215 Postal History of Darlington. J. Courtney.
- 1.216 Parish Map of Yorks. (West Riding, North Riding).
- 1.217 Subscribers to Vol. 1 of County of Northumberland, 1811.

- 2.372 Brown Family of South Shields. V. Mackin.
- 2.373 Baron Robson of Jesmond. J.W. Robson.
- 2.374 Ritson, Fairs Family Trees. R. Ryden.
- 2.375 Master Mariners of Sunderland, Lloyds Register 1851. P. Hull. (See Spring 1994 Journal).
- 2.376 Snaith Family, Sunderland and Wharrier Family of Warkworth. A. and S. Snaith.
- 2.377 Davison Family of Ryton and Swalwell. A. Elder.
- 2.378 Sloan Family, Cockermouth and Consett. B. Sloan.
- 2.379 Fomear and Hopper Families. M. Howes.
- 2.380 Grieveson Family of Durham City. M. Johnson.

- 3.220 Transdex Baptisms St. Andrews, Lamesley 1603-1730. C. Jewitt (700 gr.).
- 3.224 Index of 1881 & 1891 Census of Felton District. P.R. Cook.
- 3.225 Passenger List of 'The Lord Delaval'. (See Spring 1994 Journal, page 3).
- 3.228 Indexes for Northumberland and Durham Family Historians. A.H. Chicken and S. Bourne.
- 3.229 Catholic Baptisms, Burials and Marriages in Crook, Tow Law and Willington. T. Arthur.
- 3.230 Burial Index St. Margarets, Durham, January 1813- July 1835. M. Johnson.
- 3.231 Burial Index St. Marys, Shincliffe, 1827-1884. M. Johnson.
- 3.232 Baptism Index St. Thomas, Stockton, 1637-1777. J.W. Todd.
- 3.233 Marriage Index, Parish of Stockton on Tees, 1753-1837. J. Todd.
- 3.234 Naval Quota for Northumberland 1795-1796. M. Howes.
- 3.235 Baptism, Marriage and Burial Strays from Tynemouth (850 gr.). M. Furness.
- 3.236 Baptism Strays (Vol. 2) Alnwick St. Michael and Durham St. Oswald (670 gr.). M. Furness.

- 4.061 History of St. Georges Church, Morpeth. E. Ross.
- 4.062 Story of St. Albans Church, Windy Nook, Gateshead. J.M. Hewitt.
- 4.063 History of St. Augustine, Alston. W.B. Hicks.
- 4.064 Story of St. Michaels Church, Ingram.

- 5.122 Family History Booklet No. 13, Institute of Heraldic & Gen. Studies.
- 5.123 West Yorks. Records Office, Leaflets.
- 5.124 Yorkshire Parish Maps.
- 5.125 British National Archives, H.M. Stationery Office.
- 5.126 Durham Diocesan Records, Durham University Library.
- 5.127 District Register Offices in England and Wales.

- 6.142 Sailing Ships of Aln and Coquet. Richard E. Keys.
- 6.143 Photocopy of Petition to Prince Regent re Sunderland Prisoners in France. (See Spring 1994 Journal).
- 6.145 Durham Light Infantry in Europe, D. Jarvis.
- 6.146 When the Leaf was Green (Autobiography) Sunderland 1913 - 1939, A. Appleton.
- 6.147 Lindisfarne Castle, National Trust.

NEWS ABOUT SOME OF THE BLACK SHEEP IN DURHAM GAOL IN 1851

by Patricia J. Storey

Mr. Bell's article in the Summer 1992 edition of the *Journal* about emigrants to Australia reminded me of the list of prisoners in Durham Gaol on the night of the 1851 Census, "The Black Sheep", published in the *Journal* in April 1979 (Vol. 4, No. 3) and the article which I wrote for the following issue (July 1979) on my attempts to use easily accessible local sources to trace how some of those prisoners had come to be in gaol on census night. Several of them, it turned out, had been sentenced to be transported.

Mr. Bell referred to a three volume *Dictionary of Western Australians*, also mentioned by Mr. Hindmarsh in his article, "Transported to Australia" (*Journal* Vol. 14, No. 1, Spring 1989). Intrigued to discover if any of the "Black Sheep" had ended up in Western Australia, I walked down the road to the National Library of Scotland and was delighted to discover that members of the Society living in Scotland or the north of England do not need to follow Mr. Hindmarsh's example and go to Australia in order to see at least three volumes of what is now a five volume *Dictionary*! The National Library already had volumes 1 and 2 and has since bought volume 5 as well. More recently, I have been able to visit the Society of Genealogists Library in London and found that it now has all five volumes.

The aim of the *Dictionary* was to record all persons resident in Western Australia prior to 1915 and was part of a project to celebrate Western Australia's 150th anniversary. Volume 1 lists *Early Settlers*, 1829-1850; Volume 2, *Bond* (i.e. convicts) arriving 1850-1868; Volume 3, *Free Settlers* (including ex-convicts) arriving 1850-68; Volume 4, *The Challenging Years*, in two volumes (A-K and L-Z), covers 1868-88 - a period which saw the population increase from c.25,000 to nearly 44,000; and Volume 5, *The Golden Years*, covers the period 1889-1914. Due to the population explosion at the end of the century when gold was discovered this last volume defeated the project's original intention and consists of a representative sample of settlers only, instead of being a comprehensive listing of all settlers arriving during that period. Despite this reduction, it includes a very large number of names.

The information given for "free" arrivals includes such details as date/period of arrival, place/date of birth and death, and name and dates of birth/death of wife and children. How much detail is given for any individual varies considerably but it can include interesting snippets. Thomas Storey, for example, a shepherd, born 1816, arrived March 1841 on the *Parkfield*, with his wife, Eliza (1822-), and daughter, also Eliza (1840-). George Pike (1796-), a carpenter from Yorkshire, arrived on the *Lotus*, 6th October 1829, and was ill and destitute in June 1831 (there is no mention of him dying however). The entry for William Storey, who arrived in the early 1840's with his wife, yet another Eliza, and settled in the Vasse District where he was employed as a labourer, includes details of his children born in the colony. William illustrates one point to bear in mind - he appears in both Volume I and Volume III as some of his children were born after 1850 and both entries need to be checked as they each include different details. In general, the later the date of arrival, the greater the likelihood of more family information being included.

The introduction to Volume 2 is particularly valuable if you are interested in the convict years as it describes the sources and information available and explains such terms as Ticket of Leave and Conditional Pardon. It also details the very ambitious list of information which the compilers aimed to include where they could: the convict's name, year of birth, date, place and cause of death, marital status on arrival in the colony, occupation at the time of conviction, literacy (illiterate, semi-literate or literate), religion, place and date of conviction, nature of offence, previous conviction (if any), length of sentence, name of the ship in which transported, date of arrival in Swan River, individual convict number, date when ticket of leave/conditional pardon/full pardon (or expiry) granted, colonial reconvictions when a new convict number was allotted (in which case the date, offence and new number are given), the districts where he was known to have worked, occupation after arrival, date of departure for the Eastern colonies or England, and permission to marry in the colony and date (this list is less useful than it might have been as the introduction points out that many men did not marry until they could do so without permission, or were unable to marry as they already had a wife back home so could only live with their new partners).

The sources used to compile the *Dictionary* were the Convict Registers, compiled by officials in Western Australia, which are more detailed for the later period than the early years and some of which no longer exist; Shipping Lists for the 43 ships which brought both convicts and free settlers to Western Australia in the period 1850-68 and which are lists of passengers compiled on the voyage out and include those who died on the voyage; Home Office and Colonial Office material; and various other sources available in Western Australia. (See Mr. Bell's article for further information about the official material available in the Public Record Office in London.)

As regards the "Black Sheep", I now know that two of those I traced back in 1979 were sent to Western Australia, together with two more prisoners whose cases I did not find then. John Harrison and Robert Clark were found guilty at Durham Spring Assizes in 1851 of the rape of Mary Schorer and were sentenced to 10 and 15 years respectively, although it was not clear whether this was to be imprisonment or transportation. Harrison, unlike Clark, was recommended to mercy by the jury. Volume 2 of the *Dictionary* reveals that Harrison, an unmarried labourer, born in 1829, was transported to Western Australia where he arrived on 4th August 1852 on board the *William Jardine*, he was granted a Ticket of Leave (enabling him to seek his own work if he wished although he had to report each month to the local Resident Magistrate and could not leave the district without permission) on 5th January 1854 and a Conditional Pardon (which freed him of this restriction, although he could not return to England until the full term of his sentence had expired) four years later on 16th January 1858. He worked in the districts of York, Toodyay and Northam but the entry does not give his date of death. There is no mention of Robert Clark so his fate remains unknown. John Harrison illustrates one important point to remember when using this *Dictionary*: the subsequent history of some expiries can appear in a later volume and there are no cross-references between the two. Thus Volume 3 (*Free Settlers*) reveals that Harrison married Jane Hume (born 1843, arrived on board the *Hastings* 17th December 1864) at Newcastle, W.A., on 13th March 1865, and that he worked in Toodyay as a Market Gardener.

The other convict who I already knew something about was Thomas Kennedy, convicted of feloniously wounding Thomas Cameron at Elvet Township in December 1850 and sentenced to ten years transportation at the same Durham Spring Assizes as Harrison. He too was sent to Western Australia but on board the *Dudbrook*, which did not arrive until 10th February 1853. The *Dictionary* reveals that he was born in 1830, married with one child, and was granted a Ticket of Leave on 16th February 1854 and received his full pardon on 23rd December 1863.

The other two convicts from the 1851 Census list who appear in the *Dictionary* are Thomas Matthews and Thomas Oates. The Census described Matthews as 27, born in Newcastle, married and a watchmaker. The *Dictionary* confirms these details, giving his date of birth as 1824, and adding that he had one child, and goes on to reveal that he was sentenced to 10 years transportation at Durham on 7th April 1851 for larceny and that he had a previous conviction. Like Harrison, he was transported on board the *William Jardine*. He was given his Ticket of Leave on 11th November 1853 but less than two years later, on 8th October 1855, was killed by a falling tree.

Thomas Oates, described in the Census as 44 years old, born in Sunderland, a widower, and a shipwright, is also listed in the *Dictionary* as having one child and is described as semi-literate and a Protestant. He had been convicted at Durham in 1852 of stealing a cask of herring and had been sentenced to 10 years transportation. He did not arrive in Western Australia until 1st June 1858 on board the *Lord Raglan*, and was granted his Ticket of Leave six months later. The fact that Oates was in gaol for the 1851 Census but was apparently not tried and sentenced until the following year means that it is obviously sometimes necessary to go forwards, and sometimes a surprisingly long way forwards, rather than backwards, when looking for the trial of a prisoner held in gaol on Census night - a point I did not appreciate back in 1979.

One other entry I noticed of local interest was John Thompson. This cannot be the John Thompson in Durham Gaol on Census night, who was 27, married, a labourer, born in Ireland, and was convicted at Durham Spring Assizes in 1851, together with William Thompson and Ann Jaag, for felonious assault and robbery at Hartlepool, and was sentenced to seven years transportation. Looking for that John and William Thompson (but not Ann Jaag as no female convicts were sent to Western Australia), I came across another John Thompson, alias James Little, born 1822, unmarried, a grocer, semi-literate, who had been convicted at Durham on 1st January 1849 of larceny and had been sentenced to seven years transportation, arriving in Western Australia on board the *Pyrenees* on 28th June 1851. Apparently granted his Ticket of Leave the day he arrived, and a conditional pardon on 23rd April 1853, he worked in the Perth District. On 8th April 1871 he was reconvicted, again for larceny, at Perth, W.A., and sentenced to three years; by then he was married with 5 children, and was described as a clerk, literate and Roman Catholic. He died in Fremantle Prison Hospital on 17th October 1871 of bronchitis. This case indicates one of the limitations of the *Dictionary* - reconvictions of prisoners in Australia are only detailed when they were allocated a new convict number (all convicts were given a number on arrival and this makes identification possible in different sources even where, as with John Thompson, there was more than one convict of the same name).

These entries show both the variety and the limitations of the information one can expect to find in this volume of the *Dictionary*. The limitations are largely imposed by the nature of the sources the compilers have used - there are gaps in the records, the same information from different sources can be contradictory, and there are obvious problems of identification both where there were men of the same name (e.g. John Thompson) or where there were problems with the spelling of a particular surname or inaccuracies in ages.

Clearly, if, like Mr. Hindmarsh, you are able to visit Perth (Western Australia), you may well find additional information not included in the *Dictionary*, but for those of us unable to go that far, the *Dictionary* provides an invaluable starting point.

Editor's Note: Miss Storey's address is 29 Macdowell Road, Edinburgh EH9 3EQ.

"LET'S TALK OF WILLS ..."

Have you tried Wills? If not, then maybe you should - a fascinating source of information, and if you are lucky, an immensely informative one.

Of course, not everyone took the trouble to make a Will for you to find. Many had nothing to leave! Even today, a majority of people die without having put down in writing what is to happen to their possessions when they are dead. And in times past, an even larger majority failed to do so. But if your ancestor was one of them, don't despair. You might find the clues you are seeking, or a mention of your man or woman, in the Will of a brother, a sister, a parent, a child, a grand parent, uncle or aunt or even a friend or neighbour.

But firstly, what exactly is a Will? You know, of course, but do you know the meaning of all the somewhat technical terms you might find?

TERMS USED

A *Will* is the documentary instrument by which an individual regulates the rights and obligations of others over his possessions or family after his death. You must distinguish, in theory at least, between a Will and a Testament. A *Will* deals with *real* property - land and buildings - while a *Testament* deals with the *personalty*, or personal property such as money, clothes, furniture, equipment, trading stock, bank accounts and debts owing. The two types are commonly combined in a "last Will and Testament".

The man or woman making the Will is the *testator* or *testatrix* and he or she will *devise* real property and *bequeath* personalty. Again, the two are commonly combined in a stated intention to "give, devise and bequeath".

A Will is usually, but not necessarily, in writing. Until 1838 it was possible to make a *nuncupative* Will, an oral statement before witnesses. Such Wills were usually made when the testator was very ill and they are not uncommon, especially in earlier periods. They were committed to writing after declarations by witnesses. It is still possible, if a man is about to go into battle, to make a nuncupative Will.

For hundreds of years, the Church administered testamentary matters through Courts of various types, in which the appropriate official would annex his *Probate* to the documents, confirming their validity. The wording of the *Probate Act* --- in Latin until 1733 and in English thereafter --- was endorsed on the Will which was kept by the Court, and the wording was also entered in an *Act Book*. A Probate copy of the Will, carrying the endorsement of the Court, was given to the representatives of the dead person and a copy was transcribed by a Court official in a register to provide a *Register Copy*.

An *executor* (fem: *executrix*) will be nominated, usually by the testator. He or she is the person who legally acts after the death to see to the payment of debts, to gather in all the assets and to ensure that the testator's wishes are carried out. There may be more than one executor and nowadays it is quite common to name a bank or other similar body to act in this capacity, avoiding any possible problems caused by human mortality.

Not everyone could validly make a Will. Not everyone who could would choose to do so. If a person died without making a Will i.e. *intestate*, or if he made a Will without naming an executor, the disposal of any assets would be controlled by means of an Administration, a term usually abbreviated to *Admon*. Again, the Church would oversee this. *Admons* form a second series of records the family historian may need to consult, but the information provided is likely to be much less informative than that in a Will.

If a testator wished to change any of the terms of a Will, he could do so by means of one or more *Codicils*, usually found annexed to the Will itself. If certain legacies were conditional on some future event, such as a child attaining the age of 21, the task of an executor might continue for many years and he will normally be named as a *Trustee*.

WHO COULD MAKE A WILL?

The precise position is complex and has varied at different times, but broadly a Will could be made by any adult except slaves, traitors, prisoners, heretics --- and married women. A single woman could make a Will but it would be nullified by marriage. Widows could and did make Wills. It was possible for a married woman to make a Will --- with her husband's consent, which could be withdrawn at any time, and a Will made by a woman during her marriage had to be expressly confirmed by her if her husband predeceased her.

Restrictions on married women were substantially amended by the Married Woman's Property Act 1882 and females now have exactly the same testamentary rights as men.

WHERE WILL YOU FIND A WILL?

How can you find if your man, or, less commonly, your woman, left a Will or whether there is an Admon? Where will the documents be kept and how can you gain access to them?

There are two quite different scenarios. Prior to 1858, jurisdiction over testamentary matters was exercised by the Church. The Probate Act of 1857, which came into force on 12th January 1858, transferred this jurisdiction to the state and provided for the establishment of District Probate Registries and of a Court of Probate which later became the Probate Division of the High Court. So there are two different sets of records and different ways of consulting them, depending on the date of Probate. Obviously, the Will of a person dying after 12th January 1858 would be administered under the new rules, but remember that there will be a period of time between the death and the granting of Probate. This period may be quite short but can extend to several years. Clearly, the post January 1858 rules can apply to the Estate of a person who died before January 1858. The newly opened Durham Probate Registry proved its first Will on 22nd January 1858 and it is hardly surprising that 40 of the first 50 Wills proved there related to people who died in 1857. In April 1858, the Will of Robert Rain Young of Bishopwearmouth, who had died as far back as 1854, was proved at Durham and doubtless there are cases of even longer gaps between death and the grant of Probate.

POST 1858 POSITION

40 District Probate Registries and a Principal Probate Registry were established under the 1857 Act. There are now rather fewer. The Principal Probate Registry is at Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 1LA. The local registries which will chiefly concern local searchers are those at Durham and Newcastle. The Newcastle Registry's jurisdiction extended over the whole of Northumberland and also, from 1926, to some areas on the south bank of the Tyne. The Durham Registry covered the whole of County Durham, with the post-1926 exception mentioned. Durham Registry closed in 1969 and its records were then transferred to York. It should be noted that jurisdiction in a local registry is no longer confined to a particular geographical area.

There are national indexes of all Wills proved and Letters of Administration granted, for the whole of England and Wales, for each year from 1858, known as the Index of Grants. These indexes themselves provide a great deal of useful information such as names of testators in alphabetical order, dates of death, addresses, occupations, names of executors etc. They are in annual volumes according to the date the Probates or Letters of Administration were granted. The Admons are indexed in the same volumes as the Wills --- before 1870 following the "Wills" section after that date, mixed in with them.

Until 1929, each District Registry was supplied with a complete set of the indexes and, of course, there was a complete set at Somerset House. Sadly for local searchers, the set from 1858 to 1929 previously held at Newcastle Registry was moved elsewhere some years ago and there is now no complete set held in the region.

Initially, each District Registry held the Wills it had proved and copies were sent to Somerset House. It is, of course, also possible that copies may be held by solicitors or among family papers.

The current position is that Newcastle Registry has national indexes from 1929 and holds the original Wills proved at Newcastle since then. These indexes can be searched free of charge at the Registry. Pre-1929 indexes are held by the York Probate Registry but there is no facility for the public to inspect them. Requests for postal searches (cost £2 per person) and requests for copies of pre-1929 Wills should be made to York, as should queries concerning the former Durham Registry. Alternatively, the indexes at Somerset House can be searched in person without charge, or by post for a small fee, or by using one of the numerous searchers who advertise in publications such as *Family Tree Magazine*. Copies of any Will can be obtained for quite a small fee, the precise amount being dependent on the number of pages.

The address of Newcastle Probate Registry is Plummer House, Croft Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 6ND and that of the York Registry is Duncombe Place, York YO1 2EA.

An alternative to consulting the indexes at 'official' Probate Registries and obtaining copy Wills from them is available to local researchers in respect of Wills proved between 1858 and 1940. Register copies of Wills --- copies made in manuscript by Court Clerks --- are bound in large volumes, with an index in each such volume. Those compiled at Newcastle Probate Registry are at Northumberland County Record Office. Those compiled at the former Durham Registry are held by Durham University Library Archives and Special Collections, 5 The College, Durham. These volumes can be consulted free and provided you have some idea of the likely date of proving a Will they provide a convenient method of avoiding even the small charges imposed by an official registry. Because of the size of the volumes, photo copies of pages of these volumes are not feasible.

For Wills proved after 1940, the only facilities available, other than via family papers and similar sources, are those at District Registries or at Somerset House. It is of course possible for non-local searchers to use the Probate Registry nearest their home, which should hold post-1929 indexes and may still hold those for earlier years.

PRE 1858 POSITION

Ecclesiastical jurisdiction applied. One of three Courts, Durham, York and Canterbury, will have been involved with Durham and Northumberland Wills.

All Wills proved in the Diocese of Durham were proved in a single Court, the Consistory Court of the Bishop of Durham. It is however, not true to say that all Northumberland and Durham Wills were proved in Durham. Prior to 1837, the Diocese of Durham covered the whole of the two pre-1974 counties of Durham and Northumberland, with the important exception of Hexham and Hexhamshire, which was a detached part of the Diocese of York, and the lesser exception of the Northumberland parish of Thockrington which was an "ecclesiastical peculiar" of a York prebend. The parishes included in Hexham and Hexhamshire, and thus not within the Durham Court's jurisdiction, were Allendale, Allenheads or Allendale St. Peter, Bingfield St. Mary, Carrshields or High West Allen, Hexham, Ninebanks or Low West Allen, St. John Lee, St. Oswald in Lee and Whitley Chapel.

Pre-1837 Hexhamshire and Thockrington Wills are held with the York Diocesan Archives. Probate Records for 1837 to 1857 for these areas are in the main series of Durham Probate records.

There are also complications caused by the location of Durham Diocese, along with the Dioceses of Carlisle, Chester, Sodor and Man and York within the Province of York with the Archbishop of York at its head. The Will of a testator dying with *bona notabilia* i.e. goods and debts worth over £5, solely in Durham Diocese would be proved in Durham. However, if he also held such goods elsewhere in York Province, his Will would be proved at York. This is likely to be particularly important if a testator lived in the south of County Durham bordering on Yorkshire, or near the Hexhamshire area.

The southern part of England, with Wales and the Channel Islands, formed the Province of Canterbury. If a testator held goods etc., both in Durham Diocese and in Canterbury Province, or in Durham and in both York and Canterbury provinces, or if he died at sea or abroad, the Prerogative Court of Canterbury claimed jurisdiction. It seems also to have been possible for Wills of men of wealth and position to be proved at Canterbury.

To summarise, the position for Northumberland and Durham was:-

Proved at Durham:-

- PRIOR TO 1837** - The whole of Northumberland and Durham
 Except (a) Hexham and Hexhamshire, and Thockrington Wills
 (b) testators with *bona notabilia* outside as well as within Durham Diocese.

- FROM 1837** - The whole of Durham and Northumberland, except for testators with *bona notabilia* outside as well as within Durham Diocese.

Proved at York

Testators with *bona notabilia* in York Diocese as well as in Durham, plus pre 1837 Hexham and Hexhamshire, and Thockrington Wills.

Proved at Canterbury

Testators with *bona notabilia* in Canterbury province as well as in Durham diocese, with *bona notabilia* in both provinces, or testators dying abroad or at sea.

PRE-1858 DURHAM WILLS

All the surviving pre-1858 Wills proved at Durham are held by Durham University Library Archives and Special Collections, 5 The College, Durham where they can be examined free of charge by anyone.

Until 1822, the whole of the records of the Consistory Court of Durham were kept in Durham Cathedral. They were then moved to Durham Diocesan Registry, subsequently to Durham Probate Registry and finally to their present home at Durham University. At certain periods, the records were badly neglected and there have been considerable losses of Probate material, particularly in earlier periods.

The records cover the period from about 1540 to 1857. As previously mentioned, Hexham and Hexhamshire Wills are included with the Durham records from 1837 only.

There are five stoutly bound volumes of manuscript indexes to the Durham Probate Records. These indexes, which are not modern, are arranged chronologically within each letter of the alphabet i.e. testators with a surname beginning with the letter 'A' in 1741 are followed by those for 1742, and then those for 1743 and so on. The names are not in strict alphabetical order within each letter. The volumes, which include both Wills and Admons, cover the respective periods 1540 to 1599, 1600 to 1660, 1661 to 1786, 1787 to 1831, and 1832 to 1857. The indexes are arranged by the year in which Probate etc., was granted and not by the year the Will was made in or in which the testator died. Most Wills were proved in the year of death, or in the immediately following years but it is possible, particularly if a Will was contested, or there were complications, for Probate to be granted many years after a death.

There are microfilm copies of these indexes in a number of places, including Newcastle Central Library and the Society of Genealogists in London and in local County Record Offices. Note however, that these are indexes only - the repositories mentioned do not hold copies of the Wills themselves, or microfilms of them. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints also has microfilm copies of the indexes and has over 250 reels of microfilm of Durham Probate Records from the 16th century, which can be obtained via Family History Centres of the Church.

The indexes unfortunately list many wills etc. which no longer survive. If the original Will is no longer in existence, it may be possible to see a transcribed version of it in the Registers of Wills at Durham, which are available from about 1534 but with gaps in the series. There are modern card indexes in the search room in Durham for the periods 1540 to 1660 and 1832 to 1857, which are alphabetical in arrangement and include all surviving Wills and Admons and much other Probate material, and are therefore more accurate than the bound index volumes.

Inventories - lists of the possessions left by the deceased --- can be found in many instances up to the 1720's. There are however, cases where a Will survives without an Inventory, or vice versa. If one is traced, an Inventory can go into considerable detail about the testators' worldly goods, often listing the contents of every room or of a farm and giving names of individuals to whom money was owed or who had debts owing to the deceased. Thus a tradesman could list all his customers who had outstanding bills and these often lengthy lists of names are themselves of considerable genealogical value. Unfortunately there is no form of index to the names mentioned in them.

All of the Probate documents - Wills, Inventories, Act Books etc. - can be freely consulted by anyone at the Search Room at 5 The College, Durham during normal opening hours. The staff do NOT undertake postal searches.

Copies of Wills etc., can be obtained at a cost of 25p per sheet plus a handling charge of £2 plus VAT (and postage if appropriate). You should not send any money in advance. You will be sent an invoice with the copies. Larger wills will carry a larger handling charge.

PUBLISHED VOLUMES & TRANSCRIPTS OF WILLS PROVED AT DURHAM

Over the years a number of different individuals and organisations have extracted details of certain Wills. The extent and nature of this work varies quite considerably and the details below are intended to give only an approximate idea of the contents of each book. The list does not pretend to be exhaustive and the NDFHS Editor would be glad to know of any material omissions relating specifically to Durham and Northumberland.

Index to Durham Wills - by J.W. Robinson 1915, described as an "attempt to make a list of all Wills in the Durham Probate Registry". It is an index only and is known to be incomplete. Typescript, it covers the period 1540 to about 1812. Copies in Newcastle Central Library and Gateshead Library.

Testamenta Dunelmensis - by H.M. Raine (14 volumes). In the early part of this century, H.M. Wood made a transcript in 2 volumes with a separate index. The order is chronological in each volume. Sometimes the full Will is given but usually there are extracts only. Only selected Wills are included. Copy in Newcastle Library.

Durham Wills 1576-1735 - by J.W. Howe (6 volumes, each indexed.) Compiled late 19th century. Extracts from selected Wills and other Probate and related material. Many of the extracts are stated to relate to Wills not now in existence or not in the indexes at Durham. At Newcastle Central Library.

Northumberland Wills - by J.C. Hodgson. A very large volume, at Newcastle Central Library (reference L 929.3), though not on open shelves. Copies of 122 Wills mainly late 18th or early 19th century. Full copies of the Wills. Alphabetically arranged with an index - see page 52.

Kirkhaugh Wills - by J.V. Harrison. In *Archaeologia Aeliana* 4th Series Volumes XL, XLI and XLIII, published by Newcastle Society of Antiquaries in the 1960's and also in a separate offprint volume. Abstracts of Wills of people living in or closely connected with the Northumberland parish of Kirkhaugh. In most cases, all the personal names given in the Wills are stated. Covers 1663 to 1818 but 'there are some from outside these limits'. The Kirkhaugh parish registers were destroyed by fire in the late 19th century and these volumes help to lessen the loss.

Wills of Some Walton Families of Alston from the Probate Registry at Durham. 1908. Full copies of such Wills 1569-1739. At Newcastle Central Library L929.31.

Newcastle Records Committee Volume VIII (1928). An index of some Wills etc., in Durham Probate Registry and from other sources 1540-1598. This includes those Wills, for the stated period, which appeared in 3 Volumes of Surtees Society publications, Volumes 2, 38 and 112, in *Raines Testamenta Dunelmensis* and in Sir Cuthbert Sharpe Wills in the Dean and Chapter Library at Durham Volumes XXXI, XXXII, XXXIII and XXXV.

Surtees Society Publications. This Durham publishing Society has a number of volumes devoted to Wills.

Volume 2 - *Wills and Inventories Part I.* 1835 and reprinted 1967. Copies of Wills and Inventories for periods to 1580. Includes Wills (in Latin) of a number of early Bishops of Durham and of selected Wills from the Durham Probate records. The Wills are quoted in full, with genealogical and other notes from various sources 438 pages plus an index of testators. Unfortunately, there is no index of the very numerous individuals mentioned in the Wills etc., but this is rectified in Volume 38 (see below).

Volume 38. - *Wills and Inventories Part II.* 1860 and reprinted 1967. Includes selected Wills and Inventories for the period 1580 to 1599, with 'a few Wills of an earlier date ... which had been overlooked in the first Volume, but which seemed to the Editor of too much value to be left out of the Series'. 345 pages with an index of all names, and an additional index to all names in the earlier Volume 2 (see above).

Volume 112 - *Wills and Inventories Part III.* 1906 and reprinted 1967. 185 pages plus a complete index of all names mentioned in the selected Wills included, which cover the period 1543 to 1602.

Volume 142 - *Wills and Inventories Part IV.* 1929 and reprinted 1968. Follows the pattern of the three earlier volumes. Selected Wills from the period 1603 to 1649, with complete index of all names mentioned. 318 pages.

Volumes 116 and 121. Extracts of Wills for Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Northumberland, Cumberland and Westmorland 14th-17th centuries.

Volume 201. *Darlington Wills 1600-1625.* 1993, newly published and described on page 51.

Wills of Robinsons, Robsons and Rippons 1545-1831, Durham Probate Registry. This is a typescript at Gateshead Central Library.

Durham Wills - George Neasham. 4 Volumes of extracts plus an index. At Gateshead Central Library.

Transactions of Newcastle Antiquarian Society, Archaeologia Aeliana, 3rd Series Volume XII - has some extracts from Miscellaneous Northumberland and Durham Wills. See page 47.

Personal Names in Wills Proved at Durham 1787-1791 - This is a new publication by this Society, and is a complete list of all the names --- testators, beneficiaries, witnesses etc., --- mentioned in all the Wills proved at Durham in this 5 year period. Indexed. See page 48.

Published Volumes and Transcripts of Wills Proved at York or Canterbury - There are a number of works listing Wills etc., proved at York and Canterbury and these will be examined in more detail in the next issue of the Journal. This will include details of Hexham/Hexhamshire Wills. We will also look at Wills proved during the Commonwealth Period 1650-1660, during which time all Wills were proved at Canterbury only.

WILLS IN "ARCHAEOLOGIA AELIANA" 3RD SERIES VOL. XII

This Newcastle Antiquarian Society volume has extracts from the following Northumberland and Durham Wills, some proved at Durham and some at York.

1826 Thomas **Bell**, Brampton, innkeeper, proved Carlisle 16/6/1827; Henry **CARR**, cordwainer, Hexham proved York 18/5/1775; 1786 Samuel **CARR** of London; 1728 Jane **CAWARD** of Hexham proved York 11/11/1729; Thomas **CHARLTON** of Stokoe proved Durham 15/7/1662; 1827 Wm **CUMMINS**, farmer, Bywell St. P., proved Durham 23/6/1828; 1824 John **DAGG**, gamekeeper, Kielder Castle proved Durham 15/5/1824; 1756 Gabriel **FOSTER** senr of Broomhill, proved Durham 7/6/1756; 1826 Rev. Mattison **HARRISON**, Vicar of Corsenside proved York 20/7/1827; 1759 Francis **HEATH** of Newcastle, ruff merchant, proved Durham 1763; 1774 Thomas **LAMBTON** of Ellingham proved Durham 17/7/1774; 1811 Arnold **LEADBITTER**, gent, Hexham proved York 31/3/1813; 1739 John **LIDDELL**, joiner, Hexham proved York 28/9/1739; 1690 Lancelot **LIDDLE**, joiner, Hexham proved York 4/10/1690; 1746/7 John **MASON** senr, weaver, Hexham; 1750 Wm **MASON** of Fenwick, Stamfordham, yeoman, proved York 17/4/1754; 1814 Cuthbert **NICHOLSON** of Barrasford Esq., proved York; 1753 Mary **ROBINSON** of Hexham, widow, proved Durham 22/10/1754; 1824 Wm **ROBSON** of Charlton near Bellingham, proved York 9/4/1825; 1729 John **SALMON**, Hexham, proved York 22/9/1733; 1828 Wm **SHEEL** of Lee Moor, Hexham, proved York 20/1/1829; 1818 Cuthbert **TEASDALE**, gent, Newcastle; 1778 Admon of Henry **WASTELL**; 1844 John **WILKINSON**, teacher of Horsley, proved Durham 22/7/1844 and at York 31/7/1861; 1826 Geo **WILSON**, innkeeper, Hexham, proved 28/9/1827; 1774 Margaret wife of Robert **YOUNG** formerly of Hexham.

HOW MANY MADE WILLS?

In years gone by, what proportion of the population made a Will? What are your chances of finding a Will made by the man or woman you are researching?

AJ Camp⁽¹⁾ rightly says that "it is no easy matter to say how many persons left wills, why certain people did so rather than others more prosperous and how often, when there was no Will, letters of administration were applied for." He tells us that research in a Nottinghamshire parish over the periods 1572 to 1600 and 1600 to 1725 suggests that a quarter and a fifth respectively of all the people show in the parish burial register had made a Will.

Are there similar proportions in Durham and Northumberland? What is the situation in our two counties? Two recent publications shed some light on this for a couple of periods. First, there is Surtees Society Volume CCI, *Darlington Wills and Inventories 1600-1625*, published in 1993. It shows that 67 Wills were made by Darlington residents in the 25 year period covered, during which 522 "potential testators" were buried in the town i.e. excluding "wives, wanderers and non-residents and all the males and females referred to as somebody's child, despite the likelihood that some were young adults." This suggests that about 1 in 8 of the so called "potential testators" made Wills. In a further 77 cases, administrations were granted, giving a total of over 27% in which testamentary jurisdiction was exercised. The authors conclude that the normal percentage might be between 20% and 25%, but as we might expect, there were marked differences between the sexes. 304 adult males were buried, of whom 121, or 2 in every 5, produced either a Will or an administration. The figures for widows and single women (who for practical purposes are the only women we need to consider, because of the severe restrictions on married women in the area of Probate) were 7% and 18 respectively.

A second source of statistics is *Personal Names in Durham Wills 1787-1791*, just published by this Society. In the five year period covered, there were 440 testators from County Durham and 366 in Northumberland with the division between the sexes being roughly 3 to 1 -- 602 males and 204 females. A statistical report of the period⁽²⁾ gives us the actual burials recorded in the parish registers of Durham and Northumberland in the same 5 year spell, and after making adjustments for non-parochial burial grounds such as Newcastle's Ballast Hills, and for the Hexham area, whose testators Wills would be proved at York, we arrive at total deaths of about 32000, some 15500 males and 16500 females.

So, we have 806 Wills from some 32000 people buried but of course many of the dead would be minors who could not and would not make a Will. Given the high infant mortality of the time, it might not be too outrageous to assume that about half of the 15500 male burials would be of minors, leaving say 7800 'potential testators.' 440 of these 7800 males left a Will, a mere 1 in 20.

The figure for females seems almost impossible to compute accurately because only spinsters and widows could effectively make Wills and much more research would be needed to determine the number of 'potential testatrixes' included in the burial total. If 50% of the females dying were minors, then we are left with about 8300 adult women of whom only 204 left a Will, or about 1 in 40.

The two samples show markedly differing results. In the first quarter of the 17th century in Darlington 40% of the adult males left either a Will or an Administration and yet, over the whole of the two counties, a century and a half later, the proportion is very much lower. As Camp⁽¹⁾ points out, "there was a lasting and strong belief that to die intestate was a shame and a disgrace and therefore many who had little to bequeath did in fact make Wills." Possibly this factor was of more importance in the early 17th century than in the later period. It is also reasonable to expect the number of testators in a relatively prosperous market town like Darlington to be greater than over the two counties as a whole. And, of course, both samples are quite small and may not be entirely representative.

Even if your ancestor was thoughtful enough to leave a Will for you to seek, a further problem you may face in Durham Diocese is caused by the extent of loss or damage of Probate material. The figure of 67 Darlington Wills was taken from the Probate Act Book, but only 45 Wills -- some 68% -- still actually survive.

The archives of Durham in general were subject to a lot of abuse and neglect. A Government Report of 1854⁽²⁾ records that "within living memory, valuable records have been used to stop up holes, to keep rats and mice out of the Muniment Rooms, to light fires or even to make bonfires on public rejoicings", and during the last 20 years or so, to use the words of my informant, "barrow fulls were seen kicking about on the palace green, some of which were converted into kites by the boys of the town and some used by the citizens of Durham for their more domestic purposes". This Report was referring to the Palatinate Records in general but there seems no reason to think that Probate Records were treated any better. Indeed, in the 1830's, the Surtees Society records⁽⁴⁾ that "A Registrar of the Consistory Court of Durham, during the first half of the last century, was in the habit of lighting his pipe with one of the wills under his charge, and of glorying in his deed. 'Here goes the testator' was his usual exclamation when he was so employed".

NOTES

- (1) A.J. Camp: Wills and Their Whereabouts.
- (2) Abstracts of the Answers and Returns to the Population Act 41 Geo III 1800.
- (3) Appendix to 16th Report of Deputy Keeper of Public Records. No 4 Durham records.
- (4) Wills and Inventories, Part I, page viii: Surtees Society vol I, 1835.

PERSONAL NAMES IN WILLS PROVED AT DURHAM 1787-1791

This is the title of a new publication by this Society. In the five years from 1787 to 1791, there were 834 Wills proved at the Consistory Court in Durham and this 170 page book lists them all, and then lists all the individuals who are named in each of them, giving occupations, addresses and relationships to the testator when known. - "my sister Margaret, wife to John Todd, glazier, South Shields."

Over 6000 names of men, women and children are listed - those who were to benefit under the Will, all persons named as executors or trustees, the witnesses to the deceased's signature, perhaps a debtor or a creditor, a friend or a business partner and maybe a servant receiving a reward for long and faithful service. Sometimes, a quite unrelated person might be mentioned, simply as a means of identifying a particular property --- "the house in Bishop Auckland which I purchased from William Smith" or "a house in Gateshead now in the occupation of James Wilson."

As an example, Edward Brown, a carpenter of Barnard Castle made a will on 8th October 1790, proved at Durham in the same year. Mentioned in it are "wife Margaret Brown, friends Swainston Harrison, grocer, Barnard Castle, James Benning, surgeon, Barnard Castle, John Wilkinson, blacksmith, Barnard Castle, Richard Appleby, common carrier, Barnard Castle and Lancelot Bowser, woolcomber, Barnard Castle; William Gibson and John Streaker, occupiers of house in the Market Place, Barnard Castle; niece Mary Robinson and her brother John Robinson; friend William Wilkinson, Barnard Castle; Witnesses Anthony Glover, Thomas Appleby, John Clarkson".

In addition to the 834 Wills and the names in them, there is an alphabetical index, enabling you to find quickly which Wills mention a particular person --- and many people feature in several different Wills. The book covers Wills only and Admons are not included. Dates of death are not normally given as they do not appear in the Probate documents, and there are not usually details of the form or amount of bequests to individuals.

The genealogical value of this work should be readily apparent. It has been published both in book form and as a set of three microfiche. The book is available from Mrs. C. Davison, 22 Ferndale Avenue, East Boldon NE36 0TQ for £6 including postage in the UK and £7 abroad. The fiche can be obtained from Mr. K. Dalkin, 12 St. Aidans Crescent, Crossgate Moor, Durham DH1 4AP for £1.50 in the UK or £1.70 abroad.

IN MANNER AND FORM FOLLOWING . . .

A LIGHT-HEARTED LOOK

AT WILLS

by Geoff Nicholson

To anyone seriously researching a family the question of tracking down any Wills which may exist and then using the information they contain is a very important part of their investigations and one which is dealt with fully in every "How to do it" book available. After many years of using Wills in research projects, however, I have come to realise that they can be rich sources of information about much more than just the genealogical relationships between members of a family.

Imagine, if you can, that you are an old hill-farmer in one of the Northumbrian dales some two or three hundred years ago. You are probably half-literate at best and any records of your life which are to survive to the present day will be straight forward statements of fact, written perhaps in the parish registers by the Parish Clerk, in his rental rolls by your Landlord or his Agent or perhaps in the local Court records, by the Clerk to the Court. None of these people will have felt any personal involvement in what they were writing about you, and so fairly basic, cold, clinical records will have resulted.

What a difference when you come to make your Will! For what may well be the first time, you can write, either personally or through your representative - more likely to be the Curate than a Solicitor if you are an ordinary farmer - exactly what you want to, and about the things which really matter to you. The Curate may well try to pressurise you to be conventional in what you say but some would be less keen on convention than others and anyway, it is *your* Will and in the end no-one can prevent you putting into it whatever you want. No doubt the Curate will take you gently through the usual preamble - the statement of religious belief, the leaving of your possessions in the order the Church would consider most important - Soul first, to God, then body to be decently buried in the local churchyard and finally, almost as a throwaway, your "worldly goods", some perhaps to the Church or to the poor on the day of your funeral, before reaching what every reader would be waiting for - who gets what of the goodies!

We have all heard, and perhaps even used, the saying "Oh, I've got nothing to leave but my debts and anyone's welcome to them!" It is much more likely, however, that a Testator would leave the debts other people owed him, so that they could not get away without paying just because their creditor had died. The Will of Alexander Nicholson, Minister of the Gospel on Holy Island, written in 1711, is strong on this. With very little preamble he comes straight to the point "*The Duke of Douglas owes me 550 Scots marks for serving the Cure of Buncle and Preston from 1685 to 1690. The heirs of Dr. Nicolson late Parson of Errol owe me 200 marks Scots. The heirs of Mr. Rob Bowmaker minister of St. Botham's owe me 300 marks*". After a few brief lines to dispose of his goods and provide for his wife and children the Will finishes, but the list of debts had apparently caused some stirring among Rev. Alexander's debtors, as there is a memorandum stating "*Mem. that 1 August 1701 My Lady Marchioness of Douglass paid the said Mr. Nicolson 100 Scots marks for 1684 at her lodging in Edinbr. - Her La.shps brother Lord Charles and the Laird of Thirlestane being present*". The beginnings of a dispute about how much really was owed, perhaps? Alexander, incidentally, does not mention that he had been ejected from his Scottish positions in 1690. He was also very well connected, his daughter Elizabeth having married Robert Nicholson of Loan End near Horncliffe, a considerable farmer and landowner in that area and possibly a relative, so money would not be quite as short for his family as his Will indicates.

One wonders what the family's reaction was to the Will of John Story of "East Doden", dated 1566. Having asked to be buried in Stannington Church, he mentions his "*base begotten son*" and even "*brother William's bastard son*" before any legitimate family members. If any of this was news to the family there must have been some red faces around - especially brother William's if he was still alive!

James Charlton of Carter Moor near Ponteland comes across as a rather distrusting old farmer. He had four sons, of whom Edward was too young to reasonably expect to be allowed a say in running the farm. Instead of leaving Edward's portion to trustees, the usual procedure, he was simply cut out of the Will. Not that the other three sons got equal shares - sons Aaron and John did well enough but "*James I disallow to have any right at all to the farm*". What had James done? Probably we shall never know. Not only that but two friends were appointed to keep their eyes on the sons who had inherited, to "*Look to Aaron and John and see that they behave themselves as they ought*". The friends were authorised to turn Aaron and/or John off the farm in case of "*bad behaviour, neglect of business or the like*".

Poorer farmers and those from earlier times often left their farm stock, rather than money, to their heirs. John Smailes of Westwick in the parish of Gainford, County Durham, making his Will in 1570 left to four nieces "*a yowe (ewe) and a lamb each*", three other people got "*gimmer hoggs*", and his two daughters each received an ox "*one called Peart and another Steward*". One wonders whether some humour was intended in the naming of the oxen, as Peart is one of those surnames very rarely met with elsewhere but quite common in Weardale and the Steward would, of course, be the landlord's representative.

Probate Inventories, where they exist, are also rich sources of background information. If one is lucky it is possible to follow the inventory takers around the deceased's house room by room, noting whatever was of value in each. In the case of Stephen Coulson of Ryton Woodside they even included a "*little room adjoyning to the house*". Although my first reaction was that this must be what the Scots would call the "*Wee hoosie*" I must mention that it contained two beds, a little table and some iron bars. This brings me to what to me is one of the major mysteries of such inventories - why did the seventeenth century inventory takers set so much store on iron bars? They are mentioned frequently, sometimes in almost every room, and must surely have been things of greater importance than just door bars. Usually no greater detail is given - just "*iron bars*". Could it be that any long iron object could be so described?

Another useful point about Probate Inventories, which is often neglected, is that the inventory takers were supposed to be people of the same sort of standing as the deceased, so that they would the better understand his circumstances. It is often rewarding to compare their description of the person whose inventory they are taking with the testator's own description. Many a "*Gentlemen*", according to his Will, has been demoted by his neighbours to "*yeoman*" and many a "*yeoman*" has become "*husbandman*" in their eyes.

Sometimes the humour is definitely not intended. It is common enough to see property referred to as "*In the occupation of...*" but is this really what Thomas Vipond of Garrigill Gate, near Alston meant in 1761 when he left his wife a "*close bed now in the occupation of my son, John Vipond?*" That son was given the duty of providing John's widow with 20 cartloads of peat per year - not only something which would get him out of bed but a reminder to us of the sort of living conditions these remote farmers would have. Peats may look very picturesque when seen drying outside a cottage in the Highlands, but they are dirty, messy things to cut and give off a very pervasive smell when burnt. The smell of a peat fire clings to those who have them. I remember a Highland friend telling me that in her younger days it was always possible to tell who had a peat fire just by smelling their clothes! It is easy to get over-romantic about life in days gone by but we should never forget how poorly, by modern standards, even the better-off people lived.

The Northumbrian farmer has always been very proud and very independent, and undoubtedly still is today. William Nicholson of the East Nook, in Elsdon Parish left it rather late to make his Will in 1655 and so was forced to make a nuncupative one, that is, a Will spoken to witnesses, who would write it down later, rather than one which the testator could see written down and put his signature, or mark, to. Having left all his land and goods to his wife he added "*In case my said wife shall fall into want she may sell or dispose of my land for I bought it and I may dispose of it as I see fitt*". Here we see the stubborn old farmer anticipating, and preparing to defy, all manner of objection from his heirs. This Will ends with the straight forward declaration "*Wee whose names are hereunder written doe testifie that when the aforesaid William Nickelson was lying on his death bed hee spake all these words*".

For John Vipond of Craggshield one of the numerous farmers of that surname in the Alston area, in 1777, the main consideration was to keep his family from becoming chargeable to the parish. This, it seems, was the ultimate shame and to be avoided at all costs. His three brothers and his married sister were left just £1 each, but if they were "*likely to become chargeable to the parish*" then they were to have £3 per annum. Nothing is mentioned of who was to decide on that likelihood, or on what criteria, so there was plenty of scope for "creative accounting" if they wanted to claim their £3!

It is sometimes possible to get a glimpse of the character of a man by the legacies he leaves. Francis Bunny, Rector of Ryton in the early 17th century and a noted preacher in the days when that certainly could not be said about all clergy, left to Ryton parish "*the two livery cans which I bought and used only to bring wine to the communion table*". A later Rector, John Lloyd, whose Will was written in 1761, mentions that he had some three hundred books and then devotes almost all his long Will to disposing of them. Life was not always books and wine cans, however; in the same parish (Ryton), in 1567, John Haxlaye (Hauxley) found his best sword a suitable heirloom to leave to his friend Robert Wild, probably of a yeoman family from Low Spen. The rising of the Northern Earls was only two years away, however, in which John Swinburn of Chopwell, a fellow parishioner and indeed one of Wild's near neighbours, was to play a prominent part so perhaps that was a prudent legacy to leave.

Anyone wishing to pursue further the subject of interesting Wills, without having to look up each of the thousands kept in Durham University should refer to the four volumes "*Durham Wills*" published by the Surtees Society (of which the two latter will be the most useful to most people, the former two being largely in Latin). None of these contain Wills later than the middle of the seventeenth century, however. The Surtees Society have also published one volume of York Wills, dealing with those of people from Durham Diocese, and J.V. Harrison's "*Kirkhaugh Wills*" published in three volumes of the fourth series of "*Archaeologia Aeliana*" show how a deficiency in the parish registers can be ameliorated by collecting all the known Wills from one small parish. This latter collection is available in Newcastle Central Reference Library as a bound set of three offprints, which makes it much easier to use. Some may wish to refer to H.M. Wood's transcripts of Raine's "*Testamenta Dunelmensis*" and "*Testamenta Eboracensis*" (known as R.T.D. and R.T.E., respectively), also in Newcastle Central Library. These summaries are biased very much towards Wills of the Gentry and so lack a lot of the earthy interest of the yeoman and the farmer, but are absorbing nevertheless.

DARLINGTON WILLS AND INVENTORIES 1600-1625

Darlington Wills and Inventories 1600-1625 (hardback, 234 pages), edited by J.A. Atkinson, B. Flynn, V. Portass, K. Singlehurst and H.J. Smith, is the latest publication (Vol 201) from the Surtees Society and is the fruit of several years work by what began as a Durham University Adult Education Group studying Palaeography at Darlington under, first, Margaret McCollum and, later, Dr John Smith.

The book begins with a detailed introduction to the subject of Wills, followed by analysis of what those included can tell us about the parish of Darlington in the early seventeenth century. There follow word-for-word transcripts of 58 Wills, and 57 Probate Inventories. The book is fully indexed so it will be a simple matter to see whether any of your family are represented by a Will or even just mentioned in one. There is a useful Glossary of archaic words and phrases used in the Wills and a list of over 70 books of a local bibliophile, Isaac Lowden. If one picture is worth a thousand words, then each of these contemporary documents must be worth a whole chapter on social history, and by putting them all side by side in one volume the Surtees Society has done a great service to historians of all kinds.

It is also pleasing that the book begins with an "In Memoriam" to C. Roy Hudleston (1905-1992), Editor of the Surtees Society 1966-1979, for many years in charge of Durham University Department of Palaeography and Diplomatic and, from its foundation in 1976 to his death, President of Cumbria Family History Society.

The book costs £13 plus postage from Mr. A.J. Piper, 5 The College, Durham DH1 3EQ - cheques made payable to 'Surtees Society'.
G.N.

DON'T BELIEVE IT!

So you thought Roger Bannister was the first man to run a mile in under four minutes? WRONG.

So you thought our own Steve Cram, from Jarrow, held the world mile record recently for a number of years? WRONG.

The truth appears to be that George Topping has held the record for over 200 years, for the *Newcastle Advertiser* of 18th January 1806 reports the death of this "famous racer". "Sunday sen'night at Cockermouth, Mr. George Topping aged 61 years, 51 of which he had been in the occupation of huntsman and greatly celebrated in that capacity. He was also a famous racer in his time, in which, among other exploits, he once ran a mile in THREE MINUTES AND A HALF. His diet was in general simple and he uniformly breakfasted upon what is called, in the North, water porridge, which he called the finest food."

J.C. HODGSON'S 'NORTHUMBERLAND WILLS'

The following is a list of the Wills included in the manuscript volume of Northumberland Wills by J.C. Hodgson in Newcastle Central Library (L929.3). The dates given are the dates the Wills were made.

ANDERSON, John	North Sunderland, 22 June 1808	MARR Mary,	Morpeth, 5 October 1795
ARCHER, Elizabeth	Ovington Lodge, 1795	MARSHALL Jane	Newcastle, 1777
ATKINSON, Adam	Whittingham, 1797	MEGGISON John	Whalton, 19 February 1790
BARKER John Sadler	Shawdon Hill, 23 Mar 1836	MIDFORD Robert	Morpeth, 11 October 1827
BATES John Moore	Heddon, 11 May 1837	MILBURN George	Morpeth, 4 February 1790
BELL Thomas	Ellington, 17 Mar 1842	MILBURN Robert	Morpeth, 3 May 1808
BLAIR Thomas	Morpeth, 12 November 1829	OGLE Henry	Causey Park, 16 December 1760
BLAKE Robert Dudley	London, 24 February 1831	OGLE Sarah Agatha	15 March 1830
BOAG Margaret	Belford, 24 August 1841	OGLE Elizabeth	Morpeth, 1 May 1830
BOLAM William	Rothbury, 5 September 1829	ORDE John	Morpeth, 3 July 1773
BREWIS John Thompson	Morpeth, 16 August 1848	ORDE Ann	Morpeth, September 1784
BRIGGS William	Blyth, 19 January 1818	ORDE William	Morpeth
CARLISLE, George	Earl of, 14 August 1840	ORDE William	Morpeth
CARNABY John	Shawdon Woodhouse, 13 December 1842	POTTS George	Netherton
CHARLTON James	Hexham, October 1818	POTTS George	Netherton
CHARLTON Elizabeth	Hexham, October 1820	POTTS Mathew	Morpeth, 12 December 1831
CLARK Robert	Bishopwearmouth, 13 August 1810	PYE Wardhaugh	Morpeth, 25 March 1760
CLARK William	Morpeth, 30 March 1821	PYE Thomas	Morpeth, 1753
CLEUGH William	Morpeth, 14 November 1837	RAILSTON James	Morpeth, 10 February 1848
CODLING John	Morpeth, 8 March 1836	READHEAD William	Boghall, Rothbury, 2 October 1722
COLLINGWOOD George	Morpeth, 22 December 1795	READHEAD Robert	Colincrook, 1 July 1724
COLLINGWOOD Ann	Morpeth, April 1799	READHEAD Robert	Moleshaugh, 1834
COOK Elizabeth	Blakemoor, 18 February 1848	REYNOLDS Thomas	Morpeth, 15 November 1789
CORNFOOT John	Morpeth, 18 December 1773	ROBSON Thomas	Bullers Green, 24 July 1802
COWARD Mary-Ann	Bothel-Barns, 23 July 1836	RUTHERFORD Andrew	Harbottle, 4 May 1782
CRASTER Daniel	Craster, 21 July 1784	SADLER Mary	Tritlington, 14 February 1827
CROFTON Richard	Frankland, 1 April 1805	SADLER John	Tritlington, 28 January 1831
DAND James	Hauxley, 13 April 1842	SADLER John	Causey Park, 12 October 1831
DAVISON John	Featherwood, 6 April 1816	SADLER Frances	Tritlington, 18 February 1837
DAVISON, Thomas	Morpeth, 10 July 1792	SADLER Isabella	Tritlington, 7 December 1841
DICKSON Archibald	Morpeth, 5 October 1833	SADLER Isabella	Tritlington, 28 September 1835
DICKSON Jane	Morpeth, 14 August 1856	SHARP John	Pegswood, 8 September 1835
DIXON Ephraim	Morpeth, 8 July 1809	SHARP Joseph	Paxton Dean, 11 August 1836
DOBSON William	Healey Wood, 30 April 1825	SHUTE Rev Thomas	Morpeth, 12 March 1840
DOBSON William	Healey Wood, 2 July 1828	SMITH Robert	Shotton, 29 May 1803
DODDS Henry	Thropton, 9 August 1887	SMITH Richard	Shotton, 6 September 1809
DONKIN Samuel	Great Tosson, 5 December 1791	STORER Edward	Morpeth, 8 June 1849
DUNN Gabriel	Morpeth, 2 February 1787	STORER William	Brinckheugh, 17 August 1858
ENGLISH Thomas	Causey Park, 2 September 1811	STORY Henry	Monel Hirl, 1 December 1820
FENWICK John	Morpeth, 12 March 1746	STORY Edward	Snitter, 14 December 1821
FENWICK William	Grangehouse, Morpeth, 26 Dec. 1787	STROTHER Francis Thomas	Newton 3 December 1811
FENWICK William	Grangehouse, Morpeth, 16 May 1794	SWAN John	Bullers Green, 9 October 1818
FENWICK Major	Morpeth, 12 December 1804	SWAN Joseph	Thornton East Moor, 26 October 1834
FENWICK Thomas	Grangehouse, Morpeth, 29 Nov. 1835	SWAN John	Earsdon Moon, 23 September 1837
FENWICK Diane Duncombe	Morpeth, 29 November 1838	TAYLOR John	Rothbury, 28 November 1821
FENWICK Isabella	Morpeth, 19 February 1844	TAYLOR Harry	Doxford, 18 September 1837
FENWICK John	Brenkhaugh, 26 November 1835	THEW Edward	Stannington Moor, 14 December 1832
FARGUSON John	Thropton, 2 March 1710/11	THOMPSON Andrew	Wark Worth, 15 August 1822
FORSTER Charles Frances	Low Buston, 6 July 1801	THOMPSON Benjamin	Morpeth, 20 January 1808
FORSTER Joseph	Warkworth, 7 January 1814	THOMPSON Joseph	Coatyard, 21 September 1836
FRENCH William	Newbiggin, 10 October 1821	TURTON George	Morpeth, 1 May 1778
GREY John	Morpeth, 2 April 1818	TURTON Isabella	Morpeth, 31 August 1786
HARLE Thomas	Morpeth, 1780	TROTTER J. E. H. R.	London, 26 September 1826
HEDLEY Roger	Morpeth, 28 October 1774	WIDDRINGTON Robert	Bullers Green, 10 February 1731
HINDHAUGH Robert	Woodhorn, 5 February 1842	WIDDRINGTON Michael	Bullers Green, 16 July 1741
HUDSON Jacob	Morpeth, 26 January 1813	WILSON Edward	Ulgham
JAMES William	Morpeth, 26 February 1794	WOODMAN Ralph	Heron's Close, 6 January 1840
LAIDMAN Francis	Morpeth, 25 April 1793		
LISLE Rober	Morpeth, 21 July 1756		
LAWSON John	Longhirst, 21 February 1815		
LAWSON John	Old Moor, February 1831		
LAWSON Wilfred	Warkworth, 1776		

PASTIMES OF FAMILY HISTORY

by Alan Cochrane

I have other photographs of my grandfather William Cochrane but the two shown here are the only ones which tell me anything about his life. My regrets are that I can not date them, or say precisely where they were taken and I do not know who the other two men are.

The dating of the bicycles gave me a rough time scale to work in. Added to this, I deduced from Grandfather's appearance that the photograph with the high-wheeler, nicknamed the penny-farthing because of the different wheel sizes, must be from the early 1880's. The other picture, with a now clean shaven Grandfather in the centre, must be late 1880's or even early 1890's. Knowing that he was born in 1858 at Leamside, West Rainton in County Durham and that he lived there for, I believe, the first 32 years of his life, are the only clues on where the picture was taken. The earlier penny-farthing picture is an obvious studio photograph, possibly in Newcastle or Sunderland.

In the last quarter of the 19th century, the western world was in the grip of cycle mania. Every social class took to this new means of transport. Manufacture of the machines increased at a remarkable rate and the successful makers found themselves unable to keep up with the demand in the late 1880's. Bicycles were used for exercise and sport and as an accepted conveyance for getting from place to place and also had great social usage. Circulating the parks to see and be seen was one of the great social pleasures for many. For the more hardy and adventurous, touring was the major use. Before the invention of the cycle, most people in that unmechanised age travelled very little and thought nothing of walking many miles to an appointment or to transact some business. The coming of the bicycle meant freedom and the ability to go great distances with much less fatigue.



The 19th century was the great age of invention and change and the cycling boom was an integral part of that change. The cycle itself was, from its inception, in a state of continuous improvement but was initially too expensive for the working class. However, increased demand by the early 1880's began to bring prices down and the speed of change in the 'new' models ensured a growing second-hand market. This was one of the reasons for the growth of clubs. Clubs gave the market impetus. Moreover the more wealthy ones were able to offer bicycles for hire to members. Clubs had much to commend them and catered for every aspect of cycling usage, with advice on dress, social behaviour and the machines themselves. And they gave protection to the members, not least being protection by numbers from the abuse of small boys and unruly adults.

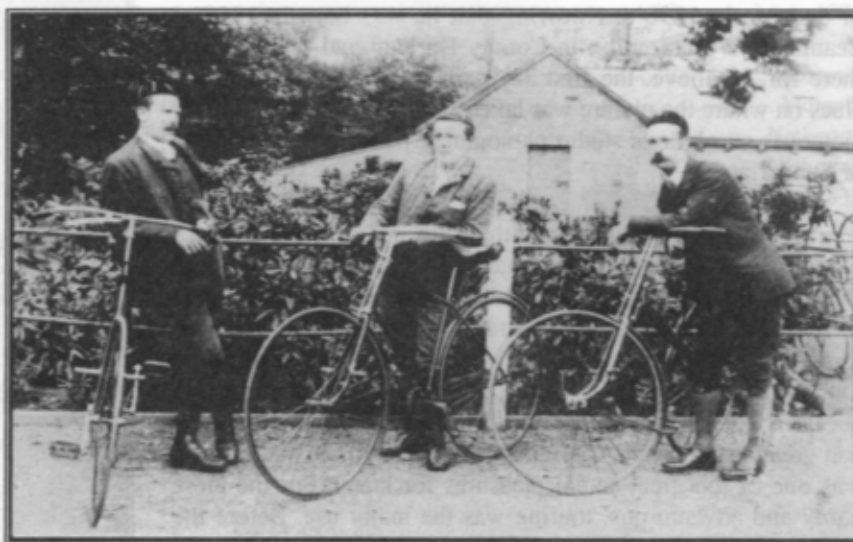
Much of the bicycle touring was organised by clubs, increasing the social use of the new machines. The Bicycle Touring Club was founded in Harrogate in 1878 and renamed the Cyclist Touring Club (C.T.C.) in 1883. Its effect on the world of the cyclist was enormous, an influence felt as far as Europe and North America and by 1886 over 20,000 'high wheeler' members had joined the club. In 1896 total membership reached 34,655. It organised tours and advised on all aspects of cycling. Thomas Cook was also planning organised cycle tours on the Continent at this time.

Such was the power and status of the C.T.C. that it was able to influence the government and effect improvements to the very neglected roads of the period. It also greatly influenced the dress of members and non-members alike. Indeed, it is remarkable how uniform the cyclist's dress became. My grandfather, with his high-wheeler, is dressed in the height of this uniform fashion. The tight knee-breeches, the high buttoned jacket in the prescribed tweed with small check pattern which was highly recommended for not showing the dust, the pill box hat with the badge of the club on the front, the high laced boots which gave strength to the ankle - all added up to a typical bicycling Victorian youth of the 1880's. Although instigated by the C.T.C., this high fashion was promoted by an ever growing number of magazines and papers, such as *Bicycle News*, *The Bicycle Journal*, *The Cycling Mercury* and *The Hub*, a magazine of the 1890's aimed specifically at women cyclists.

In Monkwearmouth Station Museum, Sunderland is a photograph of George Waller, dressed in the sports gear of the period, wearing what looks like a Lonsdale Belt. It is however the trophy of the Long Distance Championship of the World, which he won in 1879. George was a professional rider from Newcastle who specialised in endurance races. He was very successful and a highly popular figure on Tyneside, winning races on a high-wheeler all over the country, and in particular the National Championships in London. His winnings enabled him to build his own Bicycle and Recreation Ground in Newcastle. He was a hero to be worshipped by the growing number of cycling enthusiasts in the north-east.

From a family history point of view, it is of great interest to know what a tremendous role cycling played in the social history of our Victorian forebears. This social side was intimately linked to the local as well as the national cycling clubs which sprang up everywhere. In Beamish Open Air Museum archives there are many old photographs of cycling and cycling clubs in the north-east. Two come to mind. First, a photograph of The Easington Lane Bicycle Club outside the Bonnie Pit Laddie public house at Easington in about 1892. It shows a serious club with a variety of machines, from the old high-wheelers to the very latest 'safety' bicycle. The second is a photograph of the Brunswick Cycling Club of Newcastle, with bunting and fancy dress at the annual North East Cyclist's Meet at Barnard Castle.

In my photograph, my grandfather with his two friends appear to be outside a club with their new 'safeties', which did not make an appearance until around 1884. The name reflects the fact that the rider had less distance to fall than from a high-wheeler and it is interesting to note, on the right of the picture, a number of high-wheelers parked. The cyclists are dressed in the accepted fashion of the late 1880's - a small cap and much more casual than earlier fashions. But where was this photograph taken? Was it West Rainton? Does anyone know of any old cycling clubs in east Durham?



The books I found interesting and informative were *The History and Development of Cycles* by C.F. Caunter, H.M.S.O.; *The Story of the Bicycle* by John Woodford, Routledge and Kegan Paul; *On Your Bicycle* by James McGurn, John Murray and *Over to Candleford* (1941) by Flora Thomson, Faber and Faber.

Editor's Note: Mr. Cochrane's address is 60 Harford Road, Cayton, Scarborough, N. Yorks YO11 3SU.

FAMILY BIBLES

Mr. M. Corner, 101 Hartburn Village, Hartburn, Stockton-on-Tees TS18 5DR has a Bible which gives details of birth of some children in a Bunchley family in the 17th century (Edward 1636, Elizabeth 1639, Mary 1641, William 1643, Sarah 1645 and Mary 1646). Also mentioned is the marriage of Thomas Grainge the son of John Grainge and Susannah Grainge baptised 30 October 1682. No town or county is shown, but the Bible may be connected with a Grainger family, south of Bishop Auckland 19th century. Any information welcomed.

Mr. J.W. Walton, Castle Glebe, Walton, Carlisle CA5 7HG has a Bible, translated from the Greek, which was "imprinted at London by R. Barker in the reign of our most gracious sovereign Lord the King James 1st 1616" and which includes a note of the marriage of William Turner and Jane in 1742 and baptisms of children Mary (1744), Margret (1746), George (1749), and Hannah (1751) and the rest of the page containing these entries has been cut out. There are notes of the death of Jane Turner (1778 aged 63) and Edward Dodes (1780 aged 32), the marriage in 1780 of William and Hanna Colthard and the baptism of their children Richard (1781), William (1784), Hannah (1788) and Isobel (1790). It seems that Isobel had an illegitimate daughter Isabel born about 1813 who married Mr. Walton's great grandfather Thomas Wilkinson in 1830. The Bible clearly came into Thomas' possession through his wife Isabel and Mr. Walton suspects the half page cut out of the Bible may well have contained the record of the illegitimate birth.

Mr. Alan Oliver, 56 St. John's Drive, Bilton, Harrogate HG1 3AG has a Knighton bible recording Arthur William Knighton (born 1863 Hunts, died 1923) and his wife Margaret Jane nee Carr (born 1866 Bishopwearmouth, died 1930) who married in the late 1880's and their children Florence Edith (born 1888), George Edward (born 1890 died Vimy Ridge 1917), Joseph Henry (born 1896, died France 1918), John Thomas (born 1898), Emily Elizabeth (born 1901), Mary Elizabeth (1892-1893), Charles Frederick (born 1903), Louisa Underwood (born 1905) and Margaret Jane (born 1907). The marriages of Florence to Lancelot Ridley Dawson (1906) and George Edward to Margaret Green (1913), and some grandchildren, are also mentioned. The Knighton Family settled in Fencehouses.

'NO STONE UNTURNED!'

by Gillian Davies

Several years ago, while randomly looking along the shelves at the library, I came across a little book - an index by Burke of all the names having entries in their directories. To my surprise I found the name Swann and a reference to an entry in Burke's *American Families with English Ancestry*. I eventually received a photocopy from the British Library of the appropriate entry for William Francis Gray Swann born 1884 from which I knew I had found an



American branch of 'my' Swanns. When telling my mother about this on my next visit she immediately said "Oh, that must be brilliant Cousin Frank - there's a photo of him up in the loft!" We found the photo and I thought that was the end of the story. However in the Spring of 1992 on re-reading the Burke's entry I realised it was possible that one or more of "brilliant Cousin Frank's" children could well be alive. (He was very 'bright' and became a physicist but that's another story.) I had a lead as the entry said that one of the sons, William Francis Swann b.1914 (son of William Francis Gray Swann), had been to Harvard. He must have been there in the 1930's so I wrote to Harvard University asking if they had an 'Old Boys' Association' along the same lines as our schools/universities, as I was trying to trace William Francis Swann.

Only ten days later I received a reply, not from Harvard, but from William Francis Swann himself - assuring me he was indeed still alive! A lengthy and fascinating correspondence ensued with a vast exchange of information as his father had done a lot of research into the Swann family history in the 1960's. In May last year Bill Swann and his wife Carolyn booked a 'spur of the moment' trip to London and arranged to spend a weekend with me, bringing with them "as they thought it should come home" a drawing book, with sketches and maps done by my great grandfather, Thomas Swann, in 1861. They have also sent me a large photo of a sampler worked by Mary Swann in 1845 (Mary being the sister of Thomas b.1884 and William Francis b.1834). Thomas and William were born in Bedlington to William Swann (a Shoemaker) and Catherine (nee Gray), William the shoemaker being a cousin of the Robert Swanns of Bedlington who were farmers and butchers.



My great grandfather Thomas became a Pupil Teacher at Bedlington School and in January 1864 went to the Durham Diocesan Training School for Masters, which later became part of the University. When he left in December 1865 he became a teacher at Whitley, North Shields and earned the princely sum of £70 a year plus a house. In the Spring of 1867 he left North Shields and came south to become Headmaster of Bexleyheath National School, Kent.

Obviously I was delighted to receive this drawing book but would be most interested to know if the places depicted in the sketches still exist and where they are?

The houses may have long gone or now be changed out of recognition but the castle ruins probably still stand and possibly even the bridge over the stream with the ancient tower in the background. Can anyone tell me where they are? I would guess they are all within walking or riding distance of Bedlington as Thomas was still living there in 1861 according to the Census.

How I wish I had followed up this lead when I first came across it though the odds of discovering anything seemed pretty remote even when I did finally get round to it. Thus the title of the article!

Editor's Note: Mrs. Davies' address is Old Shelve, Lenham, Maidstone, Kent ME17 2DT.

WHEN BRITANNIA RULED THE WAVES, AIDED BY LEMONADE & BOTTLED BEER

The Royal Navy in the 1881 Census

The Census of 1881, taken on 3rd April in that year, covered not only every town and village but also ships at sea - fishermen, merchant vessels and the warships of the Royal Navy. The large team of volunteers which has been transcribing and indexing this Census on behalf of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, has also transcribed and indexed the 'Royal Navy' sections (Public Record Office piece numbers RG11/5633 to RG11/5642). These cover over 100 ships at sea worldwide and also naval shore establishments abroad. Shore establishments abroad, however, are listed under the appropriate town or county.

The Royal Navy census, along with transcriptions for some counties where the volunteers have completed their work, has now been published on microfiche. This cannot be purchased by individuals but the Society has a copy. Details of those men who showed a birthplace in County Durham or Northumberland have been extracted and some of them are reproduced below. Further extracts from the Royal Navy census will appear in future Journals.

The format of this census follows that for 'land based censuses', with which members will be familiar, except of course that the men (and some women and children) are grouped under ships instead of towns or villages. In the lists below, the name of the ship, the type of vessel and the area in which it was serving are shown, and the Durham and Northumberland born men in the crew are then shown, with surname, forename, age, marital condition (U - Unmarried, M - Married, W - Widower), the rank or rating of the individual, the county of birth (DUR - Durham, NTM - Northumberland, BEW - Berwickshire) and place of birth. The place names, and indeed the counties, are as shown on the fiche.

There are some geographical 'howlers', such as that which places Newcastle on Tyne in County Durham, and some strange spellings ('Wing Leighton' for what is presumably Winlaton), not to mention gems like 'Stockport on Tees', and 'Stockton Sunderland'. Remember that the census enumerator on board one of Her Majesty's ships would probably be quite unfamiliar with some of the places and, given the hurly burly of shipboard life, may not have cared very much for precision! The present day indexer too might have had difficulty in reading the handwriting, as well as perhaps not knowing the area as well as you or I might do! Remember, also, that a seaman born in some small village might have decided to state the nearest large town, so all those 'Newcastles' and 'Sunderlands' might hide a true birthplace in some nearby village. Take the places with the proverbial pinch of salt!

Some troop ships were included on the census, bearing Army personnel to or from some outpost of Empire, along with some wives and children. In particular, some men of the 68th Regiment, the predecessor of the Durham Light Infantry, were in the Indian Ocean on board the troopship *Jumna* on 3rd April 1881.

What about the Lemonade and Bottled Beer which appears in the title to this article? No - not liquid refreshments. These were the reported names of two African born "Seedies", whatever they were, on board the Gun vessel H.M.S. *Philomel* on the East India Station, along with others rejoicing in the names of 'Soda Water', and 'Sea Breeze'!

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CROCODILE - INDIAN TROOP SHIP

KEEN, Stephen	20 U	O.S.	NTM	North Shields
GRANT John	21 U	Stoker	DUR	Leamside
MATURIN, Percy	6 U	Boy	-	Tynemouth
KINSMAN, Willie	3 U	Boy	ENG	Berwick on Tweed
KINSMAN, Gerald	5 U	Boy	ENG	Berwick on Tweed
DAVIDSON, George	24 U	T Sergt Major	NTM	Comhill
GREY, John	31 U	Private 2/9 Regt	NTM	Newcastle on Tyne
PORTER, Thomas	38 U	Private 85th	-	Newcastle on Tyne
FISHER, Edward	31 U	Private 85th	DUR	Stanford Sunderland
FLETCHER, James	27 U	Private 85th	DUR	Sunderland
McLEAN, Daniel	39 W	Private 85th	-	Newcastle upon Tyne
WILSON, William	27 U	Private 72nd	DUR	Sunderland
HOGG, John	25 U	Private 78th Regt.	NTM	Newcastle
SCOTT, Edward	24 U	Private 72nd	DUR	-

ALBATROSS - COMPOSITE STEAM SLOOP, CHINA

HANLON, James	18 U	O.S.	-	Berwick on Tweed
HALL, John W.	18 U	O.S.	DUR	St. Giles

FIREBRAND - GUN VESSEL, CAPE & WEST COAST OF AFRICA

ROLAND, Daniel	25 U	Private	DUR	Blythe SS
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TAMAR - SECOND CLASS TROOP SHIP

ARCHBOLD, William C.	43 M	Engineer	NTM	Newcastle
COOK, John Angus	31 M	Engineer	NTM	New Castle on Tyne
NEIL, James	28 U	Stoker	NTM	Newcastle

DRYAD - SLOOP, EAST INDIA

REUTON, William	44 U	Caulier	NTM	Berwick on Tweed
ELLIOTT, Tom D.	35 U	Gunner RMA	DUR	Fonce House

DWARF - COMPOSITE GUN VESSEL, SOUTH EAST COAST OF AMERICA, MONTE VICTOR, HARBOUR

VERE, Robert	25 U	Signalman 2nd Class	NTM	Newcastle on Tyne
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DRUID - RATED SHIP OF THE 4TH CLASS, NORTH AMERICAN & WEST INDIAN

McGUIRE, Thomas	21 U	A.B.	DUR	-
DUDGEON, George	22 U	Stoker 2nd Class	-	Stockton Sunderland
COOPER, William	22 U	Stoker	NTM	Newcastle

ECLIPSE - WOODEN SCREW CORVETTE, EAST INDIES

RONEY, John	30 U	Stoker	NTM	St. Peters
SCARTH, William	28 U	O.S.	DUR	-
GILCHRIST, Charles H.	21 U	Landmasters C+	-	Sunderland
MONE, John W.	20 U	O.S.	NTM	Shields

SERAPIS - TROOPSHIP, HOME

KING, William	47 M	Caulker	DUR	New
BEVAN, Joseph	36 U	Private RML	DUR	Sunderland
WHITFIELD, William	29 U	Private 2nd/4+	DUR	Stockton
DEWEY, James	24 U	Private 2nd/4+	DUR	Hartlepool
JOHNSON, John Thomas	21 U	Private 2nd+	DUR	Blaydon on Tyne
REYNOLDS, James	21 U	Private 2nd/4+	DUR	Durham
SMITH, George	21 U	Private 2nd/4+	DUR	Willington
SMITH, Peter	21 U	Private 2nd/4+	DUR	Durham

TERROR - DEPOT SHIP, BERMUDA

BURTON, Michael	18 U	O.S.	DUR	Sunderland
BULGER, Thomas	19 U	O.S.	NTM	Jarrow
WORBRIDGE, Frederick C.	24 U	Stoker	NTM	Tinmow
THOMPSON, Thomas	29 U	Private	DUR	Sunderland
RUTTER, Henry G.	28 U	Private	DUR	Firtree
NUGENT, Robert	21 U	Private	DUR	Newcastle on Tyne

URGENT - 1ST DEPOT SHIP, WEST INDIES

ROBSON, John G.	37 U	Stoker	-	Sunderland
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TENEDOL - 46TH CLASS CORVETTE, AMERICA & WEST INDIES

SHERRIFF, George F.	17 U	Boy 1st Class	DUR	Monkwearmouth
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FLAMINGO - SCREW COMPOSITE GUN VESSEL, AMERICA & WEST INDIES

WILKINSON, Amos	18 U	O.S.	DUR	Hunwick
MOODY, George W.	20 U	O.S.	DUR	Sunderland

PHOENIX - SCREW COMPOSITE SLOOP, NORTH AMERICA & WEST INDIES

McKINLAY, William	22 U	Stoker	DUR	Sunderland
HOLDGATE, William	17 U	Boy 1st Class	DUR	Sunderland
JOBSON, Michael	19 U	Ordinary 2nd Class	DUR	Hetton le Hole
MURPHY, James	19 U	Ordinary	DUR	St. Joseph

BLANCHE - 4TH CLASS CORVETTE, NORTH AMERICA & WEST INDIES

LINDSAY, James	19 U	A.B.	-	Gateshead
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JUMNA - 3RD RATE INDIAN TROOP SHIP, AT SEA 17° 4' N 64° 20' E

GREEN, George	20 U	A.B.	-	Newcastle
GRANT, Charles G.	46 U	Lieut Colonel	DUR	Bishops Wearmouth
BURKE, William	25 U	Gunner R.A.	DUR	-
FITZGERALD, Emma	1 U	-	DUR	-

The following men on board *Jumna* were all Privates in the 68th. All were unmarried. Names, ages and county and place of birth are as stated. Many 'places' were not stated. ALDERSON, Thomas, 23, North Shields; APPLEBY, Charles, 21, DUR; ARMSTRONG, John, 25, DUR; ATKINSON, William, 29, Newcastle; BEVLEY, Harry, 20, Leamington; BROWN, George, 22, DUR; BURN, George, 22, DUR; CARR, John, 20, Newcastle; CARR, John, 20, DUR; CALLOW, Michael, 24, DUR; CONNOR, John, 20, DUR; CONNOR, Matthew, 25, Hartpool; CRAWFORD, Andrew, 21, DUR; GRAHAM, Thomas, 19, DUR; KEENAN, Edward, 25, DUR; KELLY, Hugh, 21, DUR; LINDSAY, James, 19, DUR; KARR, William, 21, DUR; McNAMARA, Patrick, 22, DUR; McTAGGART, James, 22, NTM; MARSH, John, 20, DUR SWIFT, McGRUTT, John, 20, DUR; MOWREY, Robert, 19, DUR, McGOOKEN, Patrick, 20, DUR; RAIT, William, 23, NTM; SHIELDS, Thomas, 22, DUR SWIFT, Arthur, 21, DUR; TALBOT, William, 20, DUR; WARABY, John, 20, DUR; TILLY, Charles, 20, DUR; WARD, John, 23, DUR; WILSON, Robert, 20, DUR.

EURYALUS - IRON CORVETTE CASED WITH WOOD, EAST INDIES

HUTCHINGS, William	21 U	Ordinary	DUR	Stockport on Tees
McWILLIAMS, Francis	22 U	S.T.O.	-	Newcastle on Tyne
CARN, Thos R.	23 U	Stoker	DUR	Sunderland

MALABAR - 3RD CLASS INDIAN TROOP SHIP

CALLAN, Michael	25 U	Stoker	DUR	Sunderland
FORSYTH, Alexander	25 U	Engine Room Artificer	NTM	Berwick on Tweed
PEPPER, Matthew	23 U	Stoker	DUR	Sunderland

PHILOMEL - GUN VESSEL, EAST INDIA

BINNING, John	24 U	Engine Room Artificer	BEW	Berwick
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NORTHUMBERLAND - IRON CLAD, CHANNEL FLEET

HAY, Percy M.	15 U	Naval Cadet	DUR	Sunderland
CHILVERS, James W.	24 U	A.B.	DUR	South Shields
MITCHINSON, Robert P.	17 U	Boy 1st Class	DUR	Bishopwearmouth
MILLEY, James	18 U	A.B.	DUR	Sunderland
McCABE, Thomas	17 U	Boy 1st Class	DUR	Monkswearmouth
LINDSAY, Joseph	22 U	Private RML	DUR	Durham
GAFFNEY, Thomas	21 U	Private RML	NTM	Newcastle

ACHILLES - 1ST CLASS IRON CLAD, CHANNEL FLEET

ELLIOTT, Charles	19 U	Ordinary	DUR	Galishead
GALLAGHER, William	41 M	Bands	NTM	Newcastle
HUTCHINSON, William	24 U	Private	DUR	Hutton
CRAWFOOT, William	21 U	Private	DUR	Felling

AGINCOURT - 1ST CLASS IRON CLAD, CHANNEL FLEET

RIARDON, Daniel F.	23 U	A.B.	DUR	Hartlepool
HARBOTTLE, Joseph G.	19 U	Ord	NTM	Marpeth
MULLEN, Patrick	18 U	Ord	DUR	Stockton
WATSON, Thomas	23 U	Private	DUR	Wing Leighton
RYAN, William	27 U	Private	DUR	Wellington
HIGGINS, James	22 U	Gunner	NTM	Newcastle on Tyne

SEAGULL - GUN VESSEL, EAST INDIES

VOGWELL, Charles A.	41 M	Chief Engineer	NTM	North Sunderland
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ALEXANDRA - 1ST CLASS IRON CLAD, MEDITERRANEAN

CHARLTON, Edward F.B.	16 U	Midshipman	NTM	Newcastle on Tyne
THOMPSON, John	20 U	Ordinary	NTM	Newcastle on Tyne
HARRISON, John G.	20 U	Able Seaman	DUR	Houghton le Spring
BULMAN, Robert	20 U	Ordinary	NTM	Newcastle
FAWELL, William L.	20 U	Ordinary	DUR	Durham
SMITH, Hugh	20 U	Ordinary	DUR	Sunderland
STEPHENSON, Thomas	20 U	Ordinary	NTM	Newcastle
ROSS, James	35 M	Leading Stoker	NTM	Newcastle
MITCHELL, Alfred	19 U	Ordinary	NTM	Newcastle
COLLINS, William	32 M	Stoker	DUR	Hartlepool
TURNER, Arthur	23 U	Private	DUR	Darlington

MONARCH - 2ND CLASS ARMOUR PLATED TURRET SHIP, MEDITERRANEAN

HALL, John	21 U	Ordinary	DUR	Heaton Banns
TURNBULL, William Henry	21 U	Able Seaman	DUR	-

CRUISER - SAILING SLOOP, MEDITERRANEAN

ROBINSON, Thomas	19 U	Ordinary	DUR	Sunderland
MEADER, George T.	17 U	Ships Steward	DUR	St. Bishop Wearmouth

TOURMALINE - 4TH RATE COMPOSITE SCREW CORVETTE, DETACHED SQUADRON

BURNHAM, William	19 U	Ordinary	DUR	Bishop Wearmouth
NEWTON, John	17 U	Boy 1st Class	NTM	Newcastle

UNWANTED CERTIFICATES

Here is a further list of "unwanted" certificates held by the Society. Please note that these certificates are no longer available for loan from the NDFHS Library. Members interested in obtaining further information about particular certificates should apply to Mrs K. Willans, 9 The Ridge Way, Kenton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 4LP. Full details will be supplied in return for one 19p stamp per certificate and a stamped addressed envelope (overseas enquirers please enclose 2 IRC's or two 41p stamps plus one 19p stamp per certificate.) A complete list of over 300 certificates can be obtained upon receipt of a 19p stamp plus an SAE (3 IRC's or three 41p stamps overseas) from Mrs Willans. Please send your unwanted certificates (those obtained in error) to Mrs Willans at the above address and not to Mrs Tait.

BIRTH CERTIFICATES

113	REED Robert William	6 November 1906	Morpeth
114	GRAY Robert	20 May 1882	Morpeth
115	ROBINSON Jane Ann	16 October 1844	Durham & Lanchester
116	FAIRLAMB Jane	28 August 1843	South Shields
117	GRAY William	8 September 1844	Tynemouth
118	IRWIN John Whitfield	19 March 1870	Hexham
119	IRWIN John William	25 February 1873	Gateshead
120	LINDSAY William	13 October 1862	Newcastle
121	LINDSAY Margaret Ann	2 February 1857	Newcastle
122	HUSS John	11 October 1886	Tynemouth
123	ROBSON Alice	24 December 1862	Gateshead
124	MARSHALL Jane Tindle	21 December 1847	Tynemouth
125	WHEATLEY Thomas Robson	22 August 1865	Tynemouth
126	HALL John Thomas	8 March 1856	Newcastle
127	EMMERSON John	15 July 1838	Sunderland
128	EMMERSON John	25 September 1837	Weardale
129	GRAHAM Joseph	26 May 1875	Newcastle
130	CUMMINGS John	2 December 1853	Easington
131	BUTTERLY Elizabeth	23 December 1854	Tynemouth
132	EMMERSON Thomas	5 April 1838	Heworth, Gateshead
133	EMMERSON John	2 December 1839	Heworth, Gateshead
134	EMMERSON George	12 March 1866	Westoe, South Shields
135	EMMERSON Jane	17 January 1868	Westoe, South Shields
136	EMMERSON Kezia	22 May 1872	Westoe, South Shields
137	EMMERSON Henry Richard	17 May 1880	Westoe, South Shields
138	HOWARD Isabella	27 November 1841	Sunderland
139	MACKIE Robert	June 1860	Sunderland
140	MACKIE Christopher Preston	14 October 1889	Sunderland
141	MACKIE John	22 August 1941	South Shields
142	PERKINS Martha	21 October 1883	Newcastle
143	YORK Mary	4 May 1895	Westoe, South Shields

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES

83	PORTEOUS James T	MORALEE Hannah R	14 October 1907	Hexham
84	YOUNG James A	PORTEOUS Mary J	16 September 1911	Scremerston
85	WHEATLEY William	PICKERING Elizabeth	6 September 1845	Easington
86	WHEATLEY William	GALLON Susannah	23 September 1871	South Shields
87	LENNON William	WHEATLEY Charlotte	25 December 1897	Pelton
88	EMMERSON Henry R	PERKINS Martha	2 January 1904	Harton Colliery, South Shields
89	MACKEY James	HOWARD Isabel L	21 February 1859	Bishopwearmouth
90	MACKIE Robert	CRAWFORD Margaret	21 March 1886	Sunderland
91	MACKIE Christopher	YORK Mary	1 January 1916	South Shields
92	MACKIE John	EMMERSON Lillian	15 June 1940	South Westoe
93	SHEPHERD John	LUPTON Sarah Jane	29 March 1891	Jarrow
94	PERKINS Joseph	WILSON Isabella	2 May 1907	South Shields

DEATH CERTIFICATES

63	SPROAT Edward Marshall	22 August 1955	Newcastle
64	BARNFATHER Ann	18 February 1858	Newcastle
65	ROBSON Mary Ann	19 March 1861	Northumberland West
66	URWIN Eleanor	2 October 1871	Gateshead
67	JACKSON Thomas	28 May 1855	Easington
68	HUTCHINSON Charles	21 July 1845	Auckland
69	ATKINSON Robert	5 March 1867	Sunderland
70	ATKINSON Robert	9 May 1856	Newcastle
71	SOULSBY William	16 January 1911	Tynemouth
72	BRUNTON Charles	21 October 1924	Newcastle
73	CRAWFORD Catherine	19 August 1873	Monkwearmouth
74	EMMERSON Kezia (?)	24 August 1872	Westoe, South Shields
75	EMMERSON Henry Richard	27 September 1915	France
76	EMMERSON John	7 November 1921	South Shields
77	EMMERSON Kezia	24 October 1923	South Shields
78	MACKIE Robert	December 1899	South Bishopwearmouth
79	MACKIE Mary	10 January 1939	South Shields
80	MACKIE John	22 August 1941	South Shields
81	MACKIE Christopher Preston	28 July 1947	South Shields

THE SAILING SHIPS OF ALN AND COQUET

by Richard E Keys

The Sailing Ships of Aln and Coquet, (card covers, 126 pages), is a fascinating book for anyone interested in nineteenth century shipping history or in the small ports of the Northumberland coast. After an absorbing 30-page introduction to the subject and to the history of the ports there follows a "Fleet List" with articles on all 172 ships known to have been registered at either Amble or Alnmouth. These include a description of each ship, list of her owners at various times and notes on her career including, usually, her ultimate fate. Most of the information in this section has been taken from the Custom House records now in Northumberland or Tyne and Wear Archives. There follow chapters on the owners, masters and shipbuilders and Appendices on the arrivals and departures of local ships at Amble, on the Hugh Andrews fleet of steamships and on sailing ship rigs. Many owners had no other connection with the sea and were tradesmen from all over SE Northumberland who had invested their savings in buying a share in a sailing ship and no doubt waited anxiously for their "ship to come home".

The book is packed with names and is well illustrated with photographs, line drawings and maps. The book has ISBN 0 9521275 0 4 and is available from Richard E Keys, 99 St John's Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 7TJ at £7.50 plus 80p postage etc. When ordering, please indicate you are a member of NDFHS - this is a reduced price.

G.N.

SHIPPING REGISTER GENEALOGY

by Harold Mennie

In his article *Lloyd's Marine Records and Genealogy* in the Spring 1994 issue of the *Journal*, Dr. P. Hull queries the dimensions of a wooden sailing ship. The answer to this question lies in the Registers of Shipping held in the Public Record Office at Kew. When a ship was registered a copy of the Certificate of Registry was sent to the Custom House in London and these are filed in Class BT107 at Kew.

I first became interested in these records when researching my great great grandfather, Charles Doling, a native of Dorset who settled in South Shields in the 1830s. After finding his details in the register of seamen and in ship's crew lists I turned my attention to the ships themselves and looked up two of the vessels in which he sailed, the *Friendship* and the *Harmony*.

The *Friendship* of South Shields was "of the Burthen of two hundred and thirty four 51/94 tons" and was "built at Scarborough in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety three as appears by certificate of registry granted as this port the 11th day of June 1822 no 76 now delivered up and cancelled the vessel being registered de novo in pursuance of the Act 4 George 4 Chapt 41." George Henderson Tide Surveyor at Newcastle certified that the ship had "two decks and two masts and a try sail mast," that her length "from the fore part of the main stem to the after part of the post aloft" was 85ft and that her breadth "at the broadest part taken above the Main Wales" was 25ft 11in. Her height between decks was 6ft 3in. She was square rigged with a standing bowsprit, was square sterned, carvel built and had no galleries and no figure head. (BT107/146 Certificate no 422 dated 1st November 1825).

My ancestor's other ship may have had a more chequered past. The *Harmony* of Newcastle which was "of the Burthen of One hundred and eighty three 10/94 tons was formerly called *Mercury*", taken at surrender of Tobago by part of His Majesty's Land Forces under of Major General Greenfield and squadron of His Majesty's Ship under the command of Commodore Samuel Hood Esquire, brought to the River Thames and on motion of King's Advocate by interlocutory decree was pronounced to have belonged at the time of capture to enemies of the Crown of Great Britain and condemned as good and lawful prize in His Majesty's High Court of Admiralty 19th July 1804 and made free as per Certificate granted at London 27th September 1804." (BT107/212 Certificate no 111 dated 6th June 1832).

Alas Charles Doling may well have sailed in another *Harmony* also registered at Newcastle which, less excitingly, was built at Whitehaven in 1812. (BT107/212 Certificate no 65 dated 30th March 1832). I have no way of telling as the crew list showing him on the ship in 1835 does not give the tonnage of the vessel. The two ships were 183 10/94 tons 76ft 3in x 23ft 11in and 241 20/94 tons 84ft 3in x 26ft respectively, so Dr Hull's guess that a 200 ton ship would be 100ft x 25ft was not too far out.

More information about a ship can be gained from *Lloyd's Register of Shipping* if the vessel was registered with them. For example in the Register for 1840 I learned that the *Friendship* was a Snow - a two masted vessel similar to a Brig but with slightly different sails-built of oak and pine with 34 iron bolts. It was a second class ship, i.e. "unfit for carrying dry cargoes, but perfectly fit for the conveyance on any voyage of cargoes not in their nature subject to sea damage", though its stores were class 1, "well and sufficiently found". I do not know whether the term stores included food for the crew, but later crew lists of the 1850s mention 1½ lbs of beef per man per day, bread-sufficient without waste-and flour and peas occasionally at the option of the captain. Curiously the crew (eight men and two apprentices) had "no small stores nor anything in lieu thereof." The crew lists show too that the ship was engaged mainly in the coasting trade "from Shields to London and back or to a Coal Loading port on the East Coast of England or Scotland," though there are occasional voyages to ports on the south coast, to Hamburg and to Havre. The

second class classification fits well with the inference from the crew lists that the ship was a collier. According to the *Register* the ship was surveyed for Lloyds in 1837 and it is possible that this survey may be at the National Maritime Museum but I have not followed up this line of enquiry.

All this information is interesting in that it gives us an idea of the size of the ship in which an ancestor sailed. However some of the Certificates of Registry hold still more genealogical information. Turning back to *Friendship* we learn that the registered owners when the certificate was issued on 1st November 1825 were "Robert Trotter ship owner and George Townshend Fox Esquire both of South Shields in the Country of Durham." Robert Trotter owned 56 shares in the vessel and George Townshend Fox owned 8. Following the Act for the Registering of Vessels of 1825 ownership of vessels had to be held in sixty-fourth shares. Any changes were recorded on the transcript of the certificate until the systems changed in 1855 and these changes may give details of the deaths of owners or the names of their relatives.

In the case of the *Friendship* we find that on 14th May 1827 "Robert Trotter passed by Bill of Sale dated 30th April 1827 16/64 to Thomas Addison of South Shields, C of Durham, Master Mariner." Thomas Addison was Master of the vessel in 1825 and by buying shares in the vessel would have been able to take some of the profits of voyages rather than just be paid a wage per voyage. In the 1820s a ship might change hands for between £5 and £7 per ton, so a quarter share of a 234 ton ship would cost £300-£400. A master might be paid around £9 per voyage and, in the coasting trade, undertake 8 or 9 voyages from Shields to London and back per year. On this basis a quarter share in the *Friendship* might represent four or five years earnings. At the same period an ordinary seaman might be paid £4 or £5 per voyage.

Nine years later Robert Trotter died and on 14th March 1836 "Sarah Trotter, widow, and Robert Dawson of South Shields, Rope maker, executrix and executor of Robert Trotter deceased, have transferred by bill of sale dated 27th February 1836 40/64 shares to Wm Trotter Cooper of London, gentleman" William Trotter Cooper didn't hold his shares for long. One year later on 4th March 1837 he "transferred by bill of sale dated 3rd Instant 16/64 shares to George Coxon, Joiner and Cabinet Maker, 8/64 to Joseph Crisp, Master Mariner, and 16/64 to Thomas Addison, also Master Mariner, all of South Shields." At this point we can again add more information from *Lloyd's Register of Shipping* for 1840. This tells us that the *Friendship* had new top sides and large repairs in 1837. Perhaps William Trotter Cooper was unable or unwilling to afford the cost of repairs and sold his share to avoid additional expense.

Finally, on 19th December 1840 we discover that "The executors of George Coxon decd have transferred by bill of sale "dated 16th Inst 16/64 to Thomas Addison of South Shields, shipowner." No further transactions are recorded and the copy certificate is marked "Cand and Regd De Novo 17th Octr 1849 no 224."

It seemed from this that Thomas Addison was steadily buying shares in the vessel in order to become sole owner. However I knew from the crew lists filed at Kew that he ceased to captain the *Friendship* in 1845. Charles Doling, who had joined the ship in 1838 as a seaman, became master and remained with the ship until the end of 1859 when he became master of another ship named *Harmony* which, at 241 tons, may well have been the one described above.

But what happened to the *Friendship*? The new certificate of 1849 (BT 107/325 certificate no 224) shows Joseph Crisp as the sole owner. This certificate too is cross referenced to a later one of 1859 (BT 108/62 no 123 16th March 1859) with Crisp still as sole owner. However there were notes indicating that further transfers of ownership took place in February and March 1860. From 1855 such transfers are listed in a separate volume to the certificates but I did not follow them up. My interest in the *Friendship* ended here as the back of the certificate listed the transfer of the mastery of the ship from Charles Doling to a Wm Wilks on 17th January 1860.

I have not used them but I understand that the locally retained copies of Certificates of Registry are on microfilm at Tyne and Wear Archives: MF1476-1490 covers Newcastle from 1786 (includes Shields vessels up to 1848), MF1490-1507 Sunderland from 1786, MF1508-1522 North and South Shields from 1848. London copies of certificates covering the years 1786 to 1813/14 were destroyed by a fire in 1814 so the local copies are the only source for this period. The copies at the Public Record Office are in classes BT107 (covering 1814-1854), BT108 (covering 1855-1889) and BT110 (covering 1891-1955). The transactions to certificates for 1855-92 showing changes of ownership are in BT109. There is an index in BT111.

Anyone interested in Certificates of Registry should read the indispensable *My Ancestor was a Merchant Seaman* by Christopher T. & Michael J. Watts (Society of Genealogists, 1991) where the systems is explained in full. It lists too the details of ships surveys held at the National Maritime Museum and describes how to tackle the crew lists filed at Kew. Information on colliers is given in Roger Finch's *Coals from Newcastle* (Terence Dalton, 1973) out of print but available from libraries. Information on ship ownership, masters and seamen's wages and the cost per ton of purchasing a ship is given in Simon P. Ville's *English Shipowning During the Industrial Revolution - Michael Henley and Son, London Shipowners, 1770-1830* (Manchester University Press, 1987.) The Henleys owned Newcastle registered ships and the book contains several references to James Kirkton, their agent in Shields.

Editor's Note: Mr. Mennie's address is 28 Knaves Hill, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 7UD.

KNOW YOUR PARISH - XXXVI

Longbenton

by George Bell

The ecclesiastical parish of Longbenton lies in the south-eastern corner of Northumberland.

The civil parish of Longbenton covered an area of 9,040 acres, and embraced the townships of (from north to south) Weetslade, Killingworth, Long Benton, and Walker. It formed a sub-district of the Superintendent Registrar's District of Tynemouth, and had a population of 3,335 in 1801; 9,205 in 1851; and 22,162 in 1891. The Union workhouse was located in Tynemouth.

THE CHURCH

The parish church of Longbenton is dedicated to St Bartholemew; but it is curious to note that the Old Edition Ordnance Survey map of the early 1860s shows the Vicarage to be dedicated to St Andrew. It is not known when the original church was built, though it was probably erected in the 13th century by the Merlays, barons of Morpeth and lords of the manor of Longbenton. The old church was almost entirely rebuilt in 1790 and has undergone considerable improvements since then, mainly due to subsidence caused by the collapse of the Heaton colliery workings in 1839.

Very few early monumental inscriptions survive at Longbenton; there are only 40 of them before 1851, and there almost as many surnames as there are tombstones. They were transcribed by members of this Society in 1975. Their rarity is attributed to rebuilding, when those of some old local families were built into the structure of the church; any more which may have survived after 1790 are presumed to have been lost, or destroyed in later building work. Those which survive in the chancel mention the Killingworth's Anderson's, and Hindmarshes. The oldest, to the memory of John Fenneck and his wife Isabell, is dated 9 July 1581.

AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY

Early 19th century trade directories show the parish of Longbenton to have been largely rural in aspect. Although almost every village and hamlet had its colliery, the general picture is of mixed agriculture and grazing against the inevitable backdrop of a pit head. Verdant if not arcadian in the sense of a painting by Pousin, in Wincomblee (Low Walker) it boasted one of the prettiest villages in the country. The industrial revolution changed all this, however; and as the river bank at Walker attracted all kinds of manufacturing and industrial concerns the area soon lost what little beauty it possessed.

The pits had always been there. The staiths at Walker stood cheek by jowl with the ballast wharfs; ship yards and factories were erected on the land formed by the dumping of ballast. J.H. Coutts of Aberdeen began shipbuilding at Low Walker in 1840, and the first iron clad ship to be built on the Tyne was launched at Walker in 1842. This company failed and was taken over by Miller, Ravenhill & Co., of London, but they also failed, and the yard was bought in 1860 by John Wigham Richardson. Other shipbuilders were Charles Mitchell & Co., and William Dobson & Co., established in 1852 and 1883 respectively.

The Walker Alkali Works, established in 1795 by Lords Dundas and Dundonnald, Messrs Aubany and John Surtees, and John and William Losh, pioneered the manufacture of alkali, soda crystals, bicarbonate of soda, and caustic soda on the Tyne. The success of this venture led to the establishment on land adjacent to the alkali works of the Walker Iron Works by William Losh, Thomas Wilson and Thomas Bell in 1809. It was William Losh who helped finance and assist George Stephenson in the development of the locomotive during his time as enginewright at Killingworth colliery. The rolling stock and rails of the first railways were manufactured at the ironworks of Losh, Wilson & Bell. The chemical works continued to prosper, but by the end of the 19th century the iron industry had migrated to Middlesbrough.

The ordnance depot at Wincomblee, established in 1774, was for the storage of gunpowder used in blasting operations which would otherwise have been stored in Newcastle warehouses. Nearby there was a saw-mill, a linseed oil mill, a turpentine distillery, brick and tile, cement, and copperas manufacturies. It was a volatile environment. Inland at Wideopen was the stone quarry of the builder Robert Robson, who successfully tendered for the contract to build the new Town Hall at Newcastle in 1858.

RELIGION AND EDUCATION

Industry requires labourers, and it was at Walker that the majority of them were settled. In the first half of the century, between a quarter and a third of the population of Longbenton lived at Walker. In the second half of the century, Walker accounted for half of the population of Longbenton. Street names such as Forge Row tell of the industry; but they also tell of the population - Caledonia Road, Welsh Road. In the 1850s Walker boasted two Wesleyan Methodist Chapels, and there was another at West Moor, whilst the Bigge's Main and Seaton Burn schools

were used for worship. There was also a Primitive Methodist Chapel at West Moor. The Presbyterian church at Walker was founded in 1842. The largely Irish Catholic population did not build their church, dedicated to St Anthony of Padua, until 1859.

Walker was gazetted as a separate parish in 1846, and the church, built in the early English style with neither town nor spire, was completed in 1848. The northern townships of Longbenton were separated from the mother parish in 1865 when the parishes of Killingworth and North Gosforth were created.

The first school in Longbenton was established in 1814 in the village of Longbenton itself. Several more were established after this date, at Seaton Burn, West Moor, Burradon, and Bigge's Main. Walker was noted for possessing several private schools which were said to be "respectably conducted, and numerous attended." These were in addition to the schools established in 1852 and 1857 by the proprietors of Walker Iron Works and the lessees of Walker Colliery. The colliery school was financed by a fortnightly levy of six pence on every householder on the colliery, and three pence on every young man above 18 years of age.

LEISURE AND SOCIAL

The social life of the various communities of Longbenton seems to have revolved around the public house; there was certainly no shortage of them! However, many of the schools offered night classes for both the skilled and unskilled labourer. The next step on the ladder to self improvement was the Mechanics' Institute. These were established at Wideopen, Killingworth, Walker and Low Walker and were especially popular. The Walker Institute boasted over 220 members in 1860. Its Annual Balls were grand affairs; all bunting and flags, evergreens and artificial flowers, with dancing till a late hour. This was in contrast to the annual afternoon Tea Party, with dancing and other amusements, staged by the teetotal organisers of the Wideopen Mechanics' Institute.

There were parks and sports grounds, of course, including the race course at Killingworth Moor (now Forest Hall) which held the Newcastle races for many years before they were removed to the Town Moor. A pleasant way to pass a Sabbath afternoon would have been a visit to the 31 acre Botanical Garden opened at Benton White House in 1854. Thus inspired, there was the possibility of joining the Walker Horticultural & Agricultural Society, established in 1856. The natural world provided it's own outlets. Youngsters out of school always found something to explore on the banks of the river, sometimes with fatal consequences; inland there were birds eggs to collect, rabbits to chase, and soldierly games to play in emulation of the volunteer rifle brigades.

RECORDS

The registers of Longbenton commence in 1670, but they include several entries dating back to 1653 which were copied from an earlier register. Baptisms of dissenters and Roman Catholics are noted in the early registers. All the registers before 1813 were transcribed and indexed by H.M.Wood, and copies of these transcripts can be seen at Newcastle Central Library and Northumberland CRO. Marriages before 1813 will be found in Boyd's Marriage Index. Marriages from 1813 to 1837 will be found in the author's index of Northumberland Marriages 1813-1837, copies of which have been deposited at Northumberland CRO, Newcastle Central Library, and the Society of Genealogists.

The Local Government Act of 1974 has resulted in the division of records relating to Longbenton between Northumberland CRO, where they were originally housed, and Tyne & Wear Archives. The general rule to follow in looking for a particular class of record is simple: those relating to the ecclesiastical parish will be found at Northumberland CRO; whilst those relating to the civil parish ought to be found at Tyne & Wear Archives.

The 1851 census of Longbenton was indexed by A.S.Angus and C.Wanless, and published by the Society in 1992. Hodgson's pedigrees include the families of Brown (e) and Potts (Benton); Ogle (Burradon); Colpitts, Harrison, Partis, Punshon, Reay, Searle, Williams and Wood (Killingworth); Hindmarsh and Jopling (Little Benton); Clark (Longbenton); Snowball (Seaton Burn); Surtees (Walker); and Alder and Barker (Weetslade).

RETROSPECTIVE

The Walker pits closed many years ago, whilst the last pit in the ancient parish was shut down just three years ago. The last shipyard on the Tyne, Swan Hunter, is now dead on its feet, and nothing remains of the saw-mills, brick-yards, or anything else. To all intents and purposes, the villages and hamlets of old Longbenton are now just suburbs of Newcastle. There are still a few farms left; however, the green belt is shrinking. A Findus factory, a new housing development, small light industrial estates - this is the order of things today. The largest single employer is the Department of Health & Social Security, which houses its national operations centre here.

ALLOTMENT HOUSE, FROSTERLY

by Jenny Wears

In January 1982 I put a request in the *Journal* asking for, among other things, information about Allotment House, Frosterly. I received one or two useful replies. Now, some years later I know a little of its history and past inhabitants. I hope that the family names mentioned, beside Wears, will be of interest and use to some other members.

Allotment House stands in an exposed position on the north side of Bollihope Common overlooking Weardale. It was one of the highest farms in the area, at almost twelve hundred feet.

In 1767, an Enclosure Award, dated November 21st, awarded one John Mair Esq., land in Weardale. His allotment included part of Bollihope Common and it was here that Allotment House was built.

By 1806, according to a report of a tragic accident, it was the home of a Mr. and Mrs. Turnbull. It would seem that their two daughters were drowned whilst crossing the flooded River Wear on horseback, at Unthank Bridge. Both were in service in the Dale, one at Horsley Hall the other for Mr. Jos. Walton of Cross Hill, Stanhope. The girls, Elleanor aged 16 years, and Francis 14 years, were making their Sunday visit home.

The account of the accident was found in a local history book, written by W.M. Egglestone in 1872, *The Weardale Nick-stick*.

The burial register of 1826, for Stanhope, showed that a family called Wears had taken up residence in Allotment House.

William, head of the household, had died aged 82 years, leaving his widow Elizabeth, youngest daughter Sarah, and possibly the youngest son William. Elizabeth was also buried from here, in 1835, aged 80.

A search of the Tithe Apportionment and Plan of 1839 revealed nothing of Allotment House, but at the time of the 1841 census Sarah was still living there. She was listed with two children, William aged 15 years and Elizabeth 7 years, and classed as an 'Ag. lab'.

I discovered some years later that William and Elizabeth were Sarah's children. She was entered as a 'single woman of Allotment House' when both were baptised in 1835. The ceremony took place, according to the Stanhope register entries, on the same day that Sarah's mother was buried, 25th December 1835.

It had been the reading of the 1841 census, and finding the name Wears, that first led me to Allotment House quite early in my research. Some years later, when I knew for certain that this was 'my' William Wears, then aged 15, I decided to check the 1851 return.

No entry for the house or the Wears family could be found. Did the enumerator, quite likely a local man, save himself a trek up the hillside because he knew the place was empty?

Quite recently, I came across another Allotment House. This was in the neighbouring district of Hamsterley, and the family in residence was called Jolly.

It is twenty-five years before Allotment House, Frosterly comes to light again. The place is mentioned, or rather the gates are, as a boundary marker for the Ecclesiastical District of St. Michaels, Frosterly. The full details of the marking out of this new parish in 1866, are given in *'The History of Frosterly and District, in the Palatine of Durham'*, by Conyer-Surtees in 1923.

Durham University Library Archives and Special Collections hold a conveyance record for Allotment House. It is dated 1924, but I have yet to read it. I have, so far, come across no other records concerning this house, despite further searches.

Allotment House is now a welcome shelter for sheep, having been converted into a sound weatherproof barn; a barn conversion in reverse.

Editor's Note: Mrs. Wears' address is 2 Highfield Villas, East Mill, Halstead, Essex CO9 2EH.

HOW A GRAVE DIGGER DIED

Death: At Bellingham on 17th instant age 64 Mr. John Baty, parish clerk and sexton. He went out in perfect health to dig a grave, in which, before he finished it, he died. His wife, thinking him long away, went and found him dead in the tomb which he had made for another.

Berwick Advertiser 26 April 1823

LOOKING FOR WILLIAM PATTISON?

Are you looking for the death of William Pattison, who married Ann Braithwaite at Newcastle All Saints on 24th January 1803? If so, note the *Newcastle Advertiser* of 11th January 1806, which "was sorry to relate the death of one of our gallant townsmen who was at the glorious battle of Trafalgar. William Pattison, son-in-law of Mr. Braithwaite, publican on the Sand-hill, whilst at work on unrigging the *Victory* on New Years Day, accidentally fell from the foremast into an empty cask which was on deck. He was taken out lifeless. A wife and one child are left to mourn his unfortunate decease".

THE MORPETH RECORDS CENTRE:

The Centre

For Family History in Northumberland

From 6 June 1994 the Morpeth Records Centre will become the main centre for family history resources in Northumberland. Two purpose built search rooms will accommodate microfilm and fiche readers for family historians. Family history sources at present in the Northumberland Record Office, Melton Park and in Morpeth Library will be transferred to the centre.

The following resources will be available for consultation by family historians:

1. The St. Catherine's House Index of Births, Marriages and Deaths 1837 - 1980.
2. Microfilm copies of parish registers for the Diocese of Newcastle (which includes Northumberland).
3. Microfilm copies of non-conformist registers.
4. Census returns in microform for Northumberland 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891.
5. The International Genealogical Index for Great Britain 1992 edition (microfiche).
6. Microfilmed sources for family history including pedigrees and electoral registers.
7. Non-conformist records
8. Wills 1858 - 1941.

The Centre will open to the public on Monday 6 June 1994 at 10am. An open day will be held on the preceding Saturday 4 June 1994 from 9.30am to 12 noon to allow searchers to see the new facilities. Until 6 June 1994 anyone wishing to book a microfilm reader should telephone (091) 236 2680 the Northumberland Record Office to make a reservation. From 6 June 1994 onwards telephone bookings should be made direct to the Centre, telephone (0670) 504084. All written enquiries and requests for information should be addressed to the Northumberland Record Office, Melton Park, North Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 5QX.

At present the Morpeth Records Centre is open only one day per week. From June the hours will be greatly extended with an evening opening on Tuesdays. In order to provide for these changes the Northumberland Record Office at Melton Park will be closed to the public on Wednesdays. The revised opening hours, telephone numbers and addresses are given below.

Records will no longer be routinely transferred between the two offices. Some sources for family history are available in local libraries throughout the County and in the Berwick Record Office and a detailed list of these will be published in the next *Journal*.

By centralising family history resources at the Morpeth Records Centre, researchers will be able to consult most of the records they need in one place, thus providing an efficient professional service.

**Northumberland Record Office,
Melton Park,
North Gosforth,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 5QX.
Telephone: (091) 236 2680.**

MONDAY	9am - 9pm
TUESDAY	9am - 5pm
WEDNESDAY	CLOSED
THURSDAY	9am - 5pm
FRIDAY	9am - 4.30pm

**Morpeth Records Centre,
The Kylins,
Morpeth,
Northumberland NE61 2EQ.
Telephone: (0670) 504084**

MONDAY	10am - 1pm	2pm - 5pm
TUESDAY	10am - 1pm	2pm - 9pm
WEDNESDAY	10am - 1pm	2pm - 5pm
THURSDAY	CLOSED	
FRIDAY	10am - 1pm	2pm - 5pm

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 30th June. 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.

- 0272 Mr P. D. THOMSON**, Glendor Farm, 26 Lee Lane, Royston, Barnsley, S.Yorks S71 4RT
The Ramage family of Aberdeen were in India, the north in particular, for four generations, some dying in the Quetta earthquake of 1935, before they left at Partition in 1947. Where did they go? Australia? Three brothers – David Ernest (who would now be 74). Edwin and Norman Walter, and possibly a sister Winifred. Some of the brothers served in Burma in World War II. Could Australian members contact any Ramages they may know, or who are in telephone directories, and ask them to contact Mr Thomson if their family has an India link.
- 0471 Mrs. R. HUNTER**, Flat 3, 34 Edward Avenue, St Albans, Christchurch, New Zealand.
Seeks information about Mary Ann Allison, born Alnwick in 1853, daughter of Edward and Jane Allison, thought to have been awarded a degree and was at some time a lecturer at Durham University, although the University has no record of her. Any advice on how to go about finding out where she studied? She may have lived at Ford Terrace, Houghton-le-Spring in the late 1920's.
- 1402 PHIL THIRKELL**, 100 Stuart Court, Kingston Park, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 2SG
Has anyone come across a marriage of James Dodds and Agnes Brown, probably about 1820? The 1851 census for Morpeth shows Agnes to have been born in Scotland, so the marriage possibly took place across the border. Also looking for the death/burial of Deborah Thirkell. In 1891 she was aged 65 and living at Witton Gilbert.
- 1768 ROY S. PRUDDAH**, Hazel Cottage, Burley Lane, Overton, Hants RG25 3AG
Researching the Pruddah family of Hexham back to 1677. Connecting female lines include Aydon (1767), Corbet (1808), Lee (1831), Iverson, Bradbury, Bell (1824), Kell and Errington (1747). Running a one name study, and would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in Pruddah, or any variants such as Prudo, Prudow, Prudhoe, and even Pugley! Produces a newsletter giving news up to date, with no fee as yet!
- 2518 KEN COLEMAN**, 75 Sycamore Drive, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 3UL
Would welcome any information on the following: 1) Sarah Cane/Kane, native of Alnwick, who married Onesiphorus Parslow c.1800. 2) Date/place of marriage between Mary Ann Twedde of Richmond, born c. 1826, and James Coleman from Kirkby Ravensworth. 3) Ann Robson, born Birtley c. 1813, married William Parslow in 1840.
- 2520 Mrs MOLLY HURFORD - JONES**, 47 The Parade, Cold Knap, Barry, South Glamorgan CF62 6SF
Looking for the marriage c. 1835-38 of George Watson Purdy, bapt. 1813 North Sunderland, and Elizabeth Crack, bapt. 1815 Kenninghall, Norfolk. Also the death of G.W. Purdy between 1861 and 1871 Census - possible truth in family story of a paddle steamer accident. Also the marriage of G.W. P's parents, Robert Purdy of Swarland, bapt. 1788, and Mary Watson decribed on baptismal record of son James in 1811 as 'a native of Halfway House in the parish of Kyoel'. Was this the name of a place or house? The Purdy family were well known in Seahouses/North Sunderland/Tynemouth in late 19th and early 20th centuries as steam trawler owners.
- 2588 Mr R. MADDOX**, 33 Glebe Road, West Moor, Newcastle upon Tyne NE12 0NA
Searching for birthplace/parentage of James Foot, c. 1810 in the London area, a coachman who married Mary Taylor c. 1830/5. and details of their son James Frederick, born c. 1835 London area. He married Isabella Gordon and they had two sons James F. (1862) and Henry Wm. (1867) born in London and a daughter Agnes born 1863 at Scone in Scotland where James worked on the estate of the Earl of Mansfield. Also interested in William Small born c. 1820 Hertford. He married Grace Connel of Dumbarton and a daughter Grace eventually married Henry Igl (Eagle?) later to develop and manufacture the antiseptic Iglodine. Still searching for the birthplace c. 1766 of Thomas Maddox in the Boston/Fort George area of New England.
- 2841 BERYL CHAPMAN**, 'Tremawgan', 19 Bredward Close, Burnham, Bucks SL1 7DL
Does anyone know of other publications by Sir Walter Runciman? 'Collier Brigs and Their Sailors' mentions amongst others: 'Windjammers and Sea Tramps', 'Looking Seaward Again', 'Before the Mast and After' and 'Character Sketches'. I have been unable to locate them through the Inter-Library Loan Scheme. Were they ever published?
- 3015 CAROLE E. ATKINSON**, Auckland House, Low Flatts Road, Chester-le-Street, Co Durham DH3 4AW
Looking for information about the descendants of the children of John and Mary Atkinson of Wooler: John b. 1793, George b. 1795, Robert b. 1796, Dorothy b. 1798, William b. 1800 married Jane Mather at Wooler 1824, Luke b. 1802 married Elizabeth Pringle 1827, Henry b. 1805 and Andrew Thompson b. 1806. Particularly interested in Robert. There was a marriage at Houghton-le-Spring in 1820 between a Robert Atkinson and Jane Blakey. Could it be the same Robert? Robert and Jane were at Elswick Colliery on the 1841 Census. They died in 1853 but haven't yet found them on the 1851 Census which could provide the link with Wooler.
- 3217 JOSEPH W. HODGSON**, Flat 4, 155 Southfield Road, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS1 3HE
Help required with locating three marriages: 1) John Hodgson of Hamsterley and Lucy Thompson of Castle Eden. Their first child was probably William, baptised 1747 at Monk Hesleden, 2) Ralph Hodgson of Stanley Burn Farm, Stanley and Jane, possibly Jackson, born at Haughton-le-Skerne c. 1867. 3) William Hodgson of Eden Hill Farm, West Pelton and Jane Hodgson of Stanley Burn Farm, c. 1869.
- 3228 Mr S. FUTERS**, 7 Andermans, Windsor, Berks SL4 5RN
Trying to locate the family of John Futers who married Elizabeth Mason at Ovingham in 1766. They were both 'Of this parish', she the daughter of Thomas Mason, son of William of Wylam, but there appears to be no record of the family of John Futers locally.

- 3486 Mrs MOIRA RUDDICK**, 14 Moor Place, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4AL
Researching the life, work and family connections of the 19th century portrait painter **Margaret Carpenter** (1793-1872), whose step/mother-in-law was born **Elizabeth Dixon** in Monkwearmouth 1782 and married **James Carpenter** in London 1803. When **Elizabeth** died in 1862, she bequeathed various items to her 'cousin **Maria Palmer**, wife of **George Palmer** of Newcastle upon Tyne'. **George Palmer** (1759-1825), master mariner of Monkwearmouth, married in 1777 **Eleanor Street** (1756-1844) and had a number of children, one of whom was **George** (1789-1866), master mariner of Newcastle, married 1813 **Maria Taylor**, daughter of **Thomas Taylor** by **Jane Brough**. **George** and **Maria** had eight children including **Sir Charles Mark Palmer** (1822-1907). **Elizabeth Carpenter** also mentions in her will 'her cousin **John Taylor**', a civil engineer of Pimlico, London, and presumably **Maria's** brother or nephew. She also lists a portrait of her grandfather **Captain Thomas Foster**. Help needed in connecting the **Foster**, **Dixon** and **Taylor** elements, and also anything further about **Elizabeth's** parents and grandparents, especially **Captain Thomas Foster**.
- 3598 Wm. C. DAWSON**, The Anchorage, Cauldwell Close, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear NE25 8LP
Researching **Candlish** family. **John Candlish** of Bameshill married in 1785 at Thorneyburn to **Elizabeth Turnbull**, widowed and remarried **Eleanor Telford** in 1820. He had a son **Robert** by the first marriage baptised **Bellingham** 1786, and he married 1807 **Penelope McAulay** at Dumbarton in Scotland. They had four sons and a daughter: **John** born 1808 **Renfrew**, **Jane** b. 1807 at Seaton Sluice and **Joseph John** b. 1816 at Tarsset Hall, who eventually became an M.P. for Sunderland, was the owner of the Londonderry Bottle Works, Sunderland and died at Cannes in 1874. **John Candlish**, born Tarsset in 1855 married a **Jane Pearson Watson** of Bothwell; and **William**, b. Tarsset 1857 emigrated to New South Wales, Australia. Any assistance in building up this tree would be greatly appreciated.
- 3721 SHEILA HUMPHREYS**, 59 George Lane, Hayes, Bromley, Kent BR2 7LG
Has a photograph of her great great grandparents outside their home in Clavering Avenue, Dunston taken before their wedding in April 1903 at Dunston Parish Church. The bride is **Elizabeth Miller**, born Dunston 1884, daughter of **James** and **Barbara Miller**; the groom is **Frank Herbert Smith**, born 1878, son of **Daniel** and **Ellen Smith**. Does anyone know where **Frank** was born, or anything about the family? Also seen on the photograph is **Elizabeth's** grandmother **Ann Davison**, nee **Raisbeck**, born in North Shields c. 1819.
- 3949 Mrs M. DUNN**, 16 Amanda Crescent, Sandy Bay, Tasmania 7005, Australia
Any descendants of the following: **Avery Forrester John Fletcher**, born 1861 Bendigo, Australia, last known living at Keverstone Farm, Staindrop, Co. Durham in 1871. Also his sister **Alice Fletcher**, also at Keverstone in 1871 and 1881. The farm was owned by their maternal great uncle **John Stanwix** (1794-1880). A young sister **Jane Sophia Diana Aston Fletcher** was last known in 1876 living at Chesterfield, Derbyshire, the home county of their father **George Avery Fletcher**, town clerk of Bendigo. Any information concerning any of the above would be welcome.
- 4014 Mrs MARGARET OATES**, 25 Windermere, Vigo, Birtley, Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham DH3 2JX
Information sought concerning the **Reed** family of Knitsley, Consett, farmers, especially post 1860: including **Thomas Reed** (veterinary surgeon), son of **Thomas** (farmer) and his brothers, **Richard** (mining engineer) and **William** (farmer). Also the **Walker** family of Low Coniscliffe who left that place between the 1881 and 1891 Censuses. Any descendants of **Martin Pinkney** who married **Ann Batmanson** at Ryton in 1594; already has a pedigree for some descendants of his son **Thomas** and others of **Ushaw**. Lastly, anything known about **Robert Lawson** of Crawcrook in the 18th C., especially to do with his son **John** born 1751?
- 4110 GEOFFREY WALTON**, 17 Shaftesbury Road, Epping, Essex CM16 5BH
Research into my great grandfather **Isaac Walton** (b. 1863 Nenthead, Cumberland) has developed into a **Walton** one-name study. I would appreciate any information on any **Walton** in the **Alston/Nenthead** area (1700-1900). Also any information on **Walton** of North Shields after 1860. I will gladly try to answer any questions on your **Walton (Alston)** ancestors. (Editors Note: see page 46 for a volume of **Walton Wills**).
- 4158 Mrs AUDREY BATEMAN**, 17 Queensthorpe Close, Bramley, Leeds LS13 4JT
Seeking information about the birth of **George Hunter** c. 1811, son of **Henry**, Census returns gives his place of birth as **Bondgate**, **Westmorland**, but 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 the **Robert** wasn't with **John** and **Jane**. Any help would be appreciated.
- 4228 Mrs GWYNETH ELLINGHAM**, 3 Cavendish Avenue, Cambridge CB1 4US
Help please in finding the parents of **Elizabeth Henderson**, born **Tynemouth** 1805, married to **John Fryer**, **St Nicholas**, **Newcastle** 1828, and sister of **Ann Henderson** who married **John's** brother **James**. The **Fryers** were pit sinkers, the **Hendersons** farmers of **Chirton**. Also information re **Joseph Rowell** of **Blue Bell Farm**, **Seaton Delaval** pre-1800. Information about **Lucy Swinscoe**, born **Wednesbury**, **Staffordshire** 1827, married **George Mitford**, miner of **Walker** in 1850. Any trace of her father **Benjamin Swinscoe**, brass founder sought.
- 4269 Mrs SALLY RITCHIE**, 39 Grosvenor Road, Caversham, Reading, Berkshire RG4 0EN
Have you traced your **Scorer** line back to 1812? If so, please send a copy of your tree; I may be able to take you back to the 1600's and bring your line up to date.
- 4278 Mrs CYNTHIA WILSON**, 17 Hunsley Crescent, Grimsby, South Humberside DN32 8PU
Anxious to trace the whereabouts of **William** and **Jessie Finch** (nee **Hamilton**) married 1837 **Boldon**, Co. Durham. **William** was a platelayer on the railroad and they had a daughter **Margaret** born 1838 at **Boldon**.
- 4448 ROBERT JOHNSON**, 9 Throstle Nest Drive, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 9PB
Seeking descendants of **George Taylor**, a blacksmiths striker, who married **Georgina Dawson** 1913 at **Hendon**, **Sunderland**. Also requiring information on **Robert Johnson**, born c. 1860 **Pittington**, son of **Ralph Johnson**.
- 4537 Mrs K. ANGELL**, 6 Hallfields Lane, Rothley, Leicester
Any information about: 1) **William Armstrong**, born **Morpeth** c. 1770, married **Newcastle** 1809 to **Jane Grant**, born **Edinburgh** 1780. 2) **William Armstrong**, baker, born **Morpeth** 1805, married **Dorothy Holmes**, born 1810. 3) **Dorothy Armstrong** who married **William Bolam**, **Morpeth** 1804. 4) **James Armstrong**, baker, born **Morpeth** 1809, married at **Newcastle** to **Jane Brabant**, born **Newcastle** 1813, and their children **Robert** (1836), **William** (1839), **John** (1841), **Mary** (1844), **Daniel** (1849) and **Edwin** (1850), all born in **Newcastle**.
- 4581 SHIRLEY MAY**, P.O.Box 1210, Geraldton, Western Australia 6530, Australia
Would appreciate any information regarding **Bentfinck School**, **Newcastle**, in particular whether any records are still in existence for the period 1893-98. Also interested in knowing if there are any records, etc., of bootmakers apprentices for the 1800's in **Northumberland**, and if so, where are they held?
- 4621 COLIN DIXON**, Rowan Lea, Edlingham, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 2BJ
Researching the **Dixon** family of blacksmiths in **Wooler** in 18/19th centuries. Particularly interested in trying to discover the date and location of the marriage of **John Dixon**, born 1807, and **Mary Thompson** in the late 1820's.

- 4668 **Mrs ENID HARRISON**, 20 Romney Drive, Carrville, Durham DH1 1LS
Would appreciate information about the following: Thomas **Ballantine**, brass finisher, born c. 1835 Sunderland, son of Thomas Ballantine, mariner, and Margaret **Ward**. Thomas junior married 1857 St Pauls, Hendon to Mary **Wilson**, daughter of Robert Wilson, shoemaker.
- 4709 **HILLARY MURRAY**, 31 Crusader Road, Hedge End, Southampton, Hants SO3 4PD
Michael **Murray**, was a sergeant in the 2nd Battalion, Tyneside Irish, 25th Batt, Northumberland Fusiliers, and she is looking for information about this battalion in WW1. Also looking for information on Murray of Ushaw Moor and Tudhoe c. 1880. Michael, born 1820's, Roscommon, Ireland, and son John, born 1855 in Staffordshire, pitmen with strong union beliefs. Believed also to be have been involved with Irish Home Rule groups. Also researching **Ranson** pre-1848 Houghton-le-Spring. Other connected names are **Paterson**, **Wilson** and **Dawson**.
- 4711 **H. OLDFIELD KENNEDY**, 56 Park Street, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 1DH
Researching the **Oldfield** family in Sunderland. James married Mary Ann Sayers/Seers in 1880 at St Andrews, Deptford. Children: Hannah (1881), Isobella (1883), James (1884), George William (1886), Elizabeth Ellen (1889), Tom Richard (1891) and Grace Sayers (1894). Tom Richard's line known, but any details welcome.
- 4716 **Mr ROY SINCLAIR**, 12 Regent Road, Ryhope, Sunderland SR2 0PP
Robert Thompson **Tate** married Harriet Matilda **Pearl** at Leadgate in 1876. Seeking the descendants of their children's marriages (all at Leadgate): Mary Ada m. Charles **Faragher** (1906), Thomas Watson m. Margaret, William Frederick m. Lillian **Humphrey** (1913), Hilda Eva Gertrude Margaret m. William **Snaith** (1920). Also seeking descendants of Robert **Dodds** and Mary **Simpson**, married Lanchester 1871. And, any **Sinclair** from Elsdon, Hartburn, Otterburn area, and farming **Pattisons** from Whitworth, Brancepeth, Brandon and Witton-le-Wear area.
- 4717 **Mrs ANGELA BRAIDFORD SINCLAIR**, 12 Regent Road, Ryhope, Sunderland SR2 0PP
Robert Gott **Wilson** (1851-1936) was manager of Pelton Fell Colliery c. 1881-1915. Seeking the descendants of his children: to his first wife Elizabeth **Gray** - James m. Eleanor **Bowman** (1905 Pelton Fell), Frederick m. Sarah Ann **Stobbs** (1895 Chester-le-Steet), Robert Gray m. Ada **Alderton** (1900 Wingate), Hugh m. Winfred **Wynn** (1904 Pelton Fell), Elizabeth Mary m. Michael **Walker**. To his second wife Eleanor **Pace** b. (1865 Pelton Fell) - George Edward m. Elizabeth **Dodd** (1922 Ashington), Margery m. William Gladney **Cooper** (1925). Seeking also Eleanor's grandparents Joseph and Alice **Robson** from Greenhead and any **Braidford** or **Gott**.
- 4820 **ROB WILSON**, 6 Keble Close, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1UN
Seeking information on Sarah **Tagget**, married William **Wilson** at Paxton, Berwickshire in 1810. Marriage was registered at Berwick upon Tweed, Golden Square. Both Sarah and William are described as natives of Berwick but can't find any record in Northumberland or indeed Scotland. William may have come from Dumfries (father Archibald Aitchison Wilson, brother James Wilson). William served in the 60th Regt. Light Infantry, and was later a shoemaker in Berwick.
- 4913 **JOHN LITTLE**, 3 The Knoll, Oxtan, Birkenhead, Merseyside L43 5UZ
Researching James **Armstrong**, born c. 1766, married Dinah **Dickinson** at Eglington 1793, and his sons James and William. James was baptised 1804 at Wooler United Presbyterian Church and married Jane **Robson** c. 1830. William was baptised 1810 at the same church and married Mary **Smart** there in 1837. Both brothers were rope manufacturers and I would be interested in any information about their business. Also interested in Thomas **Brown**, farm steward, born 1798 at Ford, married Mary **Addison** and died Wooler 1874; and John Nesbit **Pringle**, married Mary **Armstrong** 1875 at Kirknewton.
- 4950 **Rev OSMOND AISBITT**, St Peter's Vicarage, Northgate, Horbury, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF4 6AS
Would like information about the relatives of grandmother, Mary Ann nee **Laiden**. She married at Elswick in 1894 giving her father as Michael, but the only Mary Ann in GRO was born in Sunderland to James **Laiden**. When a child, a 'Captain' **Laiden** visited the house. He was from Byker Bank and served in the Boer War; I need to know his christian name. Also visited Aunt Nance who lived south of Shields Road. Could this be Hannah **Layden** in the 1945 elector's list for Salisbury Street?
- 4964 **Mrs H. RAPLEY**, 27 Star Road, Caversham, Reading, Berkshire RG4 0BE
Seeking information regarding James **Baptist** of Norham, born c. 1760 and died before 1838. He was married to Jane and they had three sons: Alexander (1789-1838) a mason, George (1794-1847) a cutler, and James (1796-?). James is mentioned on a birth registration in 1836 as grandfather of George, son of George and Sarah (nee **Coultherd**) **Baptist**. His two elder sons worked and died in Newcastle.
- 4998 & **SUE & PETER IRVING**, 39 Warneford Road, Cowersley, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD4 5TW
- 5471 Looking for information about Henry **McCulloch** and family. He married Isabella who died 1899 at the Union Workhouse, Hylton Road, Sunderland recorded as widow of Henry, confectioner of George Street, Bishopwearmouth. No trace found of the marriage or Henry's birth or death. There were at least three children-Margaret, Alexander and Agnes - and although the census gives Sunderland as their place of birth, no records have been found.
- 5047 **Mrs M. BURTON**, 10 West Way, Heston, Middlesex TW5 0JF
Seeking information on John **Bell**, son of William **Bell**, and brother of William and Margaret, born 1874, probably in South Shields. Married from Ellesmere St. to Catherine **Mathieson** in 1896 and lived in Morton St. and Palatine St. until his death in 1916. Does anyone know of him on the 1881 or 1891 Census? Also further details required on his parents, brother and sister.
- 5096 **Mrs B. L. PRICE**, 8 Jackson Steet, Pialba, Queensland 4655, Australia
Can anyone give advice regarding police service records? William **Hall** was a police officer between 1866 and 1877, and was based at Falstone in 1874. Also, where would one find information about innkeepers 1871 to 1891? Great grandmother Margaret Phillis Elizabeth **Parker** was daughter of Thomas **Parker**, innkeeper at Haydon Bridge in 1877, and his wife Francis.
- 5164 **GERRY LANGLEY**, 19 Daylesford Drive, Castle Dene, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 1TW
Researching George Robert 'Brass Geordie' **Langley**, b. 1839 Dover. Lived at Ellison Terrace Jarrow, ferry superintendent and associated with Palmers shipyard, Hebburn. His grandfather Richard fought in the Battle of Camperdown 1797. Also researching **Heslop** and **Glenwright** of West Tyne area and **Poels** of Essex and London.
- 5179 **Mrs ELIZABETH HODGSON ARMITAGE**, 53 Robinson Lane, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817, U.S.A.
Searching for great grandfather Thomas **Hodgson** born 1820's Gateshead, migrated to Kentucky in 1850's married Helen Agnes **Eckford** of Edinburgh in 1853. Was he the son of Thomas **Hodgson** and Ann **Smith** of Newcastle? And, was he the grandson of Solomon **Hodgson** and Sarah **Slack**? Solomon **Hodgson**, who died in 1801, was editor and owner of the *Newcastle Chronicle*. Also need information on William Henry **Geddes Scott** born c. 1835-40. Family legend is that he was 'artist to the Queen' in Madras, India and was the first man to photograph the inside of the Taj Mahal. His wife was Eleanor Maria **Essex** **Minster** born in Glamorgan, Wales and the family emigrated to the U.S.A. c. 1867. Does anyone have any information about this family?

- 5188 **Miss L. J. PADGET**, 11 Norwich Way, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 3SP
Would welcome any information on the following: 1) William **Hornby**, born Stockton 1838, and his wife Elizabeth Ann **Smith**. He was a master painter in Darlington. 2) Henry **Eades** and wife Elizabeth **Charlton** who lived at Stub House Lodge, Whorlton where Henry was a gardener. Their son Christopher was born 1855 at Whorlton, later moved to Spennymoor, married Elizabeth **Kitching** in 1876 and moved to St John's Wood, Middlesex.
- 5226 **Mrs K. S. PELHAM**, 56 Coppice Road, Poynton, Stockport, Cheshire SK12 1SN
Researching **Snowdon** of the Ebchester area and William **Snowdon**, born 1784 Haltwhistle. Looking for information on Robert **Thompson**, born 1800, a coal miner, and wife Ann **Duff**, born 1803, both of Tweedmouth. Their first child James born 1824 Tweedmouth. Other interests are **Collett** of Durham and Leicester; John **Wann**, cooper, and daughter Dorothy born 1825 Blyth; Ann **Simpson** of Medomsley, born 1812; and **Sheraton** of Little Lumley.
- 5230 **Mrs L. D. LEAN**, 2 Baycliffe, Lymm, Cheshire WA13 0QF
Researching the **Iveson** family of Gateshead c. 1880, in particular the birth of George Alfred Iveson, born approx. 1861 at Sunderland. No trace of the registration of his birth has been found. George married Sarah **Douglas** in 1880 at Newcastle, St Nicholas and they were living in Gateshead by 1881.
- 5248 **MABEL RITZMAN**, 313 Foreman Avenue, Norman, Oklahoma 73069, U.S.A.
Information sought on Thomas **Freeman** who married Mary (maiden name?) and their children Thomas, born 1686 and Mary (1688/9) married Henry **Ogle**. Also anything about Robert **Charlton** who died 1746/7, married Hannah **Grey** 1726 Bedlington, and Ann **Prodhoe** who married Robert Swan **Taylor**, a yeoman. Ann died 1743, Robert in 1749.
- 5269 **MARY VOISEY**, 687 Gainborough Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, K2A 2Y9, Canada
Researching in the Newcastle area c. 1700-1800 the following names: **Tindle**, **Delap**, **Harrison** and **Clarke**. Interests in the Sunderland area in the same period: **Cowans**, **Anderson**, **Leighton** and **Haig**.
- 5271 **ALAN SUMMERBELL**, "Heather" Rushetts Road, West Kingsdown, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 6EY.
Would be interested in receiving any references to the surname **Summerbell**.
- 5287 **ROBERT W. CARR**, 9900 Northwest 115th Avenue, Ocala, Florida 34482, U.S.A.
Help wanted with any of the following: 1) Sir Thomas **Grey** of Horton, Knight (c. 1500's). His wife's birth and death dates, his parents and wife's parents. 2) John **Carr** of Woodhall, born c. 1475. His dates of birth and death, parents and their dates. Information about his wife Margaret **Errington**. 3) Sir William **Heron** of Ford, Knight (c. late 1400/early 1500's). His wife and children. 4) William **Carr** of Ford, son of Thomas, Thomas' dates, his wife and parents. 5) John **Lisle** of Acton, born c. 1650, his wife's name and parents. 6) Richard **Heron** of Bockenfield c. early 1600's. His birth and death dates, wife and parents. 7) Jane **Strother** died 1704, daughter of William. Mother's name and her parents birth and death dates.
- 5303 **Mrs R. P. GLADMAN**, Squirrels Lodge, Crossway, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey KT12 3JA
Seeking information on the marriage of William **Vipond**, watchmaker and Elizabeth **Hodgson** c. 1849-51, possibly in Yorkshire. They had a daughter Elizabeth, born 1851 Burton-in-Lonsdale, Yorks, and son Thomas, born 1855 Hawes, later moving to Shildon. Elizabeth married William **Bellwood**, shoemaker, 1883 Shildon. Also seeking details of marriages of Richard Bellwood to Elizabeth **Surtees** 1774 Heighington and Richard Bellwood to Mary **Douthwaite** 1806 South Cowton Yorks. Richard Bellwood died 1862 Heighington.
- 5304 **BARBARA FIBIGES**, 63 Mercia Drive, Willington, Derby DE65 6DA.
Would appreciate any information regarding Thomas **Peacock**, born 1897 at The Staithes, Penshaw, William **Peacock**, coalminer, and his wife Mary Frances, nee **Ramsey**, both also of Penshaw. And, anything about Joe **Freeman**, born 1876 Northampton, and his wife Mary Ann, nee **Bailey**. Thomas **Peacock** later joined the 9th Queens Royal Lancers. Does anyone know of a recruiting drive in the Penshaw area?
- 5305 **Mrs G. A. HART**, 9 Highcroft, Middlestone Moor, Spennymoor, Co. Durham DL16 7AL
Seeking any information regarding the Shoulder family believed to have come from Ireland before 1870. The family lived mainly in Bishop Auckland with cousins living in Tow Law and Esh Winning. Earliest known family members are Lawrence **Shoulder** who married Ann **Murphy**. Their family consisted of Owen, born c. 1858, James (c. 1859 in Ireland), Catherine (1870), Bridget (1871), Patrick (1875), Mary and Ann (twins, 1877) - all in Bishop Auckland. What happened between 1860 and 1870?
- 5315 **MARK ATKINSON**, Flat 7, 15 Sycamore Road, Barlby, Nr. Selby, North Yorkshire YO8 7XA
Researching: 1) James **Atkinson**, tailor b. 1867 Penrith, married Jane **Smith** in 1891. They had nine children - Mabel (1903), Percy (1905), Hilda (1908), Stanley (1898), Doris (1901), Herbert (1893), Olive (1894), Ethel May (1896), Walter James (1910) - all born at Penrith but may have moved away as there is no further trace. 2) Joseph **Atkinson**, b. 1855 Longtown, Cumberland d. 1892 Carlisle, married at Penrith 1879 to Sarah Ann **Berry**. Their children were Matthew (1879), James Foster (1880), Margaret Louise (1883), Charles Gordon (1885), James (1886), Jane Dixon (1889), Atkinson (1890) and Ann (1891). All were born at Penrith. Charles Gordon Atkinson married Blanche **Wilson** in Penrith 1909 and they had two children Joseph (1909) and Norah Wilson (1913).
- 5317 **KEVIN MURTAGH DOYLE**, 21 Red Lion Lane, Overton, Hants RG25 3HH
Particularly interested in the **Blythe** families of Northumberland, Durham and the Borders. They were brickmakers with gypsy connections and life. Any information which might be useful would be welcome.
- 5318 **Mrs M. C. DEVONSHIRE**, 10 Colin Avenue, Park Orchards, Victoria 3114, Australia.
Researching John **Stoddart**, master mariner, baptised Sunderland 1789, son of George **Stoddart** and Jane nee **Hogg**. John's first marriage was 1820 at St Peters Monkwearmouth to Margaret **Brignall** of Greatham. There were two sons, George who went to Australia and John **Brignall**. His second marriage was at Bishopwearmouth 1830 to Prudence **Johnson** and their children were Isabella Crow, Robert and Frances. Would also like any information about the **Brignall** families of Hart Warren and Greatham.
- 5323 **Mr R. W. BLACK**, 153 Woodlands Park Road, Bournville, Birmingham, B30 1SA
Researching the family name **Black** and would appreciate any information on Thomas **Black**, married (date not known) to Isabella **Bell**, and son William born 1843 Haswell and married Martha **Cowell** (Covill) born 1845 Seghill.
- 5327 **FRED BRITTON**, 26 Springfield Avenue, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland TS18 4EH
Looking for any information on the family of Thomas Maxwell **Greig** and Susannah, nee **Souter**. The family lived at Howick Square, Monkwearmouth and there were ten children. Isabella married James **Laws**, Margaret married James **Thompson** and Hilda married Longstaff **Carney**. Also any information on the family of Robert **Laws**, born Stockton 1868, died East Boldon 1958.
- 5332 **Mr K. J. McLEOD**, 1 Meadow Park, Bannerdown, Bath BA1 7PX
I am researching the **Hart**, **Cook(e)**, **Hall**, **Meredith** and **Peverley** families of Sunderland, Tynemouth, Newcastle, etc in relation to Capt. James W. Hart (1880-1959); also his grandfather Capt. James Hart (1834-1873), master of the barque **Plato**, who was murdered in the Solomon Islands. Interested in the numerous Merchant Navy links of these families as well as the families themselves. Can anyone help? I have some information already which I would be willing to share.

- 5340 GARY T. O'NEILL**, c/o The British Institute, J1 RE Maradinata, 63, Bandung, Indonesia
Researching: O'Neill (Jarrow/Newcastle 1880+), **Emmer (s) ton** (Newcastle pre-1902), **Henry and Marshall** (Newcastle pre-1912), **Ewart and Burnet** (Newcastle early 19th C. onwards), Thomas and Ann (Dodsworth) **Metcalfe** and Cuthbert Brown **Metcalfe** (White Marepool 1850+ and South Shields 1860+). Particularly interested in finding out more about James O'Neill, riveter, who is thought to have arrived in Jarrow from Ireland, possibly Cork, around 1884; family rumours suggest that there may be a connection through our Ewart to William Ewart Gladstone.
- 5341 Mrs RUTH ASTON**, 86 Chantry Heath Crescent, Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands B93 9NJ.
Seeking information regarding Francis **Armstrong**, a waterman in 1873. He had a son Thomas Slater Armstrong, born c. 1850 at Stella, Co. Durham. Who did Frances marry? Who was Thomas' mother? Also seeking information regarding Robert **Ramsay**, postmaster and stationer at Blaydon who died 1886. There was a statue to a Ramsay in Blaydon. Was it Robert? Jeannie **Auton** was the granddaughter of Francis Armstrong and Robert Ramsay and had a costumier's shop in Northumberland Street, Newcastle. Does any one have recollections of Jeannie or the shop? Also researching **Handyside** of Newcastle c. 1851 and earlier.
- 5345 Mrs IRENE ROWE**, 198 Burdon Road, Coalville, Leicester LE67 4BL.
Researching **Snowde (o) n** families in Newcastle/Northumberland area. Particularly interested in Joseph Snowden, bapt, 1766, wife Sarah **Simpson** and son Joseph bapt. 1794, migrated to Newport, Monmouth c. 1820. Have not yet found his marriage to Mary (Johns?). Also interested in any information on **Abernethy** or **Plew(e)s** families, especially in Scotland and Yorkshire.
- 5346 Mrs WENDY COSGROVE**, 7 Stonefall Place, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 7QL.
Would welcome any information about the following: 1) James **Bulmer**, born 1892 at Newcastle. William Bulmer, son of Joseph, born c. 1852/3 at Darlington. 2) Isabella **Cooper**, born 1857 at Park Gate, Winlaton; married William Bulmer 1878 at Newcastle Register Office. 3) Alexander **Cross**, engineer, born c. 1860 Newcastle, son of Henry and Margaret. Henry Cross, an engineman was born c. 1828 in Suffolk, Margaret was born Newcastle c. 1838. 4) Elizabeth (O') **Hanlon**, born c. 1864 in Newcastle, daughter of Michael and Mary, who were Roman Catholics and Elizabeth dropped the O' when she married Alexander Cross at St Mary's R. C. Church, Newcastle in 1882.
- 5351 Mrs WENDY PAYNE**, 80 Ward Avenue, Grays, Essex RM17 5RN
Can anyone help with information regarding Robert **Chicken** who at sometime moved to Liverpool, son of William Chicken, married to Alice **Hogg**?
- 5359 JUDITH PITCHFORTH**, 10 Hallam Grange Road, Sheffield, S10 4BJ.
1) George **Reed** a butcher, married Ann **Potts** at Sunderland 1827, and the family settled at Seaham Harbour. On the 1851 Census George gives Houghton-le-Spring as his place of birth; Ann was absent and so no details about her are known. Has anyone come across this family or able to help? 2) William **Harvey**, born Scotland c. 1851, worked in the Sunderland shipyards and married Mary **Robson** in 1878. His father was given as John Harvey, a labourer, dead by 1878. William always claimed his name was spelt **Harvie** and that he was the seventh son. Does anybody know of this family?
- 5360 NEVILLE COSSOR**, 7 Bell Crescent, Waterlooville, Hants PO7 7DG
Wants information about: Ann **Cossor**, born 1820, christened at Postern Chapel Newcastle, married Harrison **Smith** in 1838 at Tynemouth, George Cossor married Ann **Ord** in 1811 at Longbenton and they had a child James christened at the Postern Chapel. Also Isabel Cossor married James **Armstrong** at Eglingham, and John Cossor and Jane **Horsley** who had a son Phillip baptised at Sunderland in 1813.
- 5361 Mr BOB WALTON**, 11 Ryedale, Hadrian Lodge West, Wallsend, North Tyneside NE28 8TT
Would appreciate any information about the following: 1) Robert **Walton** was buried at Christ Church, Dunston 1917 aged 73 years by coroners order but date and cause of death unknown. He is believed to have been a noted local herbalist and served under General Roberts of Khandahar on the NW Frontier of India. His wife Jane, nee **Milbourn** (?) was born Hexham c. 1860 and baptised at Hexham Abbey. They are known to have lived at Heworth in 1899 when my father Robert was born. 2) George **Barnes**, born 1856, and wife Mary Elizabeth nee **Snaith** were both buried at Garden House, Swalwell. Their son William and his wife Mary nee **Thew** also buried at Swalwell.
- 5362 IAN I. RICHARDSON**, 34 Jalan SS3/47, 47300 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia
Grandfather Robert 'Ted' E. **Richardson** never spoke of his first wife. All that remains is his poetry of his love for this beautiful woman, their babies and then of his anguish on their early deaths. Ann Wright **Burton** (Annie or Nancy) married him at Wollaton, Notts; her banns read in Skipton, N.Yorks. She was born 1866 in Warkworth to Thomas Burton, coachman, and Isabella **Gray**. She was a lady's maid, possibly at Guyzance Hall. A brother was thought to be still living in the Warkworth area in 1918. Need to contact descendants of the Burton and Gray families to complete a biography.
- 5363 BARRY WOOD**, 77 Rothbury Road, Durham City DH1 5PF
Any information on the following would be appreciated: 1) A family called **Mustard**, involved with coal mining in Durham at the turn of the century. 2) Mary Ethel **Murray** of Front Street, Haswell in 1911, age not known. 3) The **Travis** family of Blackhall Colliery, Windlestone, believed to have come from Oldham at the turn of this century.
- 5364 Miss MARJORIE ROBSON**, Flat 2, Regent Court, 17 Lawn Avenue, Doncaster DN1 2JE
Seeks marriage of William **Doxford** and Ann **Spark** of Knaresdale. Their first child George was baptised 1834 at Bishopwearmouth. Marriage did not take place at Knaresdale. 1851 Census gives William's place of birth as Bishopwearmouth, 1861 Census gives Durham. The Census indicates a date of birth of about 1811; his baptism still has to be found.
- 5370 Mr GARRY TOWNS**, 103 The Mall, Swindon, Wiltshire SN1 4JE
George **Towns**, born c. 1819 married Hannah **Clark**, born c. 1812 Wigton Cumberland (when?), moved to South Shields c. 1840 (why?) and had 4 children including George, born 1843. He married Sarah **Posgate**, born 1843, at St Stephens in 1866. She was the daughter of Thomas Posgate, master mariner, and Elizabeth nee **West**. George and Sarah moved to Gateshead c. 1870 and had at least 8 children including my grandfather John, born 1887. Any help please?
- 5371 Mrs MARGARET WILSON**, 11 Dipton Close, Eastwood Grange, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 1UG
Seeks information on the following: 1) Andrew **Wilson**, blacksmith of Sunderland, son of Andrew Wilson and Louisa **Reed**, married 1896 to Mary **Gettling**. 2) Alexander **Thomson**, born 1875, son of John Robinson Foster Thompson, a carter born North Sunderland 1850/51. 3) James **Thirtle**, coalminer of New Hartley, son of Edward Thirtle of Norfolk. 4) Edward **Davidson**, born 1832 Flodden, married Elizabeth **Forster**, born 1838 Ellingham. Elizabeth was one of ten children born to Marmaduke Forster born 1801 Newton-on-the-Moor, and Jane **Proudlock**, born 1801 Eglingham. 5) The birth/baptism of Ann **Grey** c. 1837/8, daughter of William Grey. She married William Henry **Trotter** in 1859.
- 5372 Mrs D. SMITH**, 1 Blackgates Crescent, Tingley, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF3 1TQ
Trying to trace: 1) Daniel **Devlin**, born c. 1855 Co. Durham, possibly Shield Row; father - John, a mason. Birth not found in St Catherines indexes. 2) The marriage of James **Gilmore** and Susan **Forbes**, living at Seaton Colliery, Seaham in 1857. Not found on St Catherines indexes. 3) John **Stead** born c. 1833; lived at Pittington 1840's onwards.

- 5374 **Mr C. F. McANELLY**, 59 Wycliffe Avenue, Montague Estate, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4QT
Searching for the whereabouts of Lawrence **McAnelly** and Jane **Brotherton**. Both lived in Newcastle after 1858 but need help in discovering where they were before then. Lawrence came from County Tyrone in Ireland and Jane from Woolwich, Kent. Also researching the names **Salmon**, **Emerson**, **Zanetti** and **Gallon**. Would like to hear from any other McAnelly's.
- 5377 **HEATHER E. BOWCHER**, 15 Ashlet Way, Sawston, Cambridge CB2 4DY
Research into my mother's family has mainly been in Rutland, in a farming family - **Peach**. There are now indications that this family may have married into the **Conyers/Coniers** family of Northumberland and Durham. The earliest Peach is Coniers Peach (c.1680-1730), married Eleanor and lived in Rutland. The christian name Conyers/Coniers occurs in many generations. Any information warmly welcomed and postage refunded.
- 5378 **MARTIN J. DANIEL**, 602 Colinet Street, Coquitlam, British Columbia V3J 4W9, Canada
Seeking information for the following: 1) Robert **Lowther**, born 1882, father Benjamin, living at Dudley, married 1903 to Vinlandran **Jaques** of Tanfield, born 1884, daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth. 2) The above Benjamin, born c. 1860, married Ellen **Latty** 1882, living at North Seaton Colliery, born 1862, daughter of James and Elizabeth Jane **Todd**. 3) John George Paxton **Jack**, born 1877 Westoe, father John Paxton mother Alice **Sharp**, married Margaret **Wardroper** c. 1922 but may have previously been married to Elizabeth **Fatkin**, a child born Alice Jack 1900 Whitley.
- 5384 **Dr JANE CAVELL**, 25A Corn Street, Witney, Oxon OX8 7DB
Seeking new leads on William **Carter**, paint manufacturer, born c. 1836 in Sunderland, son of William Carter (farmer?, emigrated to Australia?) and probably a **Merriman**, believed to be of West Boldon. Looking for his marriage in Sunderland to Mary **Johnson** (first known child born 1857) and information on Mary's father, James Oliver Johnson, Sunderland master mariner who died c. 1839 in his 30's. His parents, Robert Johnson, coal trimmer of Rothbury, and Mary **Oliver** of Corsenside, were married at Heworth in 1795. Another ancestor Thomas Dixon **Brown**, baptised Sans Street Chapel, Sunderland 1831, son of Thomas Brown, bottle maker, and Elizabeth thought to be from Howden Pans. Where did they marry? Also researching two East Anglian millers James **Nerwick** and May **Butterfint**, their migration to the north east c. 1800, and their descendants; and two families relate to William Carter junior by his second marriage in 1880 - **Stone** and **Frostick**.
- 5388 **MARGARET TOYNE**, 51 Queens Road, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS5 6EF
Interests include: **Moore** of Whitton 1870's, Kelloe 1850's and Shadforth 1800's; **Lazenby** of Bishop Middleham 1800's; **Graham** of Hebburn 1870's and **Williamson** of Hebburn 1800's. In the 1900's the Moore family farmed at Framwellgate Moor near Durham.
- 5397 **DESMOND ADAMS**, 41 Sturdee Road, Manurewa, New Zealand
Would appreciate any help in tracing back the family of Thomas Stokoe **Dixon**, born Monkwearmouth 1830, and emigrated to New Zealand with his brother Matthew in 1860. His father was also Thomas Stokoe **Dixon**, shipbuilder at Southwick, born Bishopwearmouth 1802, parents probably Thomas **Dixon** and Ann nee **Classon**. Thomas Stokoe **Dixon** senior married 1829 to Grace, daughter of John **Greig** and his wife Mary **Bulmer**.
- 5403 **PETER MORTON**, 8 The Haywain, Stanway, Colchester, Essex CO3 5YG
Researching the ancestors/descendants of: 1) John **Morton**, miner, and Mary **Hallant** married R. C. Church South Tanfield/Kyo area in 1860's; possibly later moved to Burnhope/Lanchester. 2) Their son Peter married Mary Ann **Hall**, daughter of Edward, at Lanchester 1889. 3) Peter and Mary Ann Morton lived Birtley by 1906 when he died. Brother James Morton also living Birtley; anything known of his descendants? 4) Peter and Mary Ann's daughter Mary Hannah married Lanchester 1911 to George **Smailes**; children Florence, Leonard and Monica.
- 5416 **Mrs S. MARLOW**, 26 Weymouth Avenue, Gosport, Hants PO12 4NR
Currently researching the families of **Peel**, **Tullip**, **Mawson** and **Rowe**, all in the Birtley/Chester-le-Street area prior to 1900. Any information or advice would be appreciated.
- 5419 **JOHN SMURTHWAITE**, 31 Newton Garth, Leeds LS7 4HG
Looking for information regarding Christopher Arnold **Smurthwaite**, born Darlington 1905, known to be living in 1941 when he was named in a will. St Catherine's indexes have been searched. Any information regarding movements, marriage, children, death etc welcome. Also any information regarding his mother May Campbell **Smurthwaite**, nee Gill, born c. 1877/8, last known 1912.
- 5427 **Mrs SYBIL BERRECLOTH**, 6 Duff Street, Dundee DD4 7AN
Seeking the parents of, and any information on, William **Hutchinson**, grocer and tea merchant, born Allendale c. 1795, and his wife Elizabeth **Carr**, possibly also born Allendale c. 1796. They lived in Peareth Building, Gateshead in 1851 and had 9 daughters and 1 son. Also seeking Ruth **Hutchinson**, possibly William's aunt.
- 5429 **Ms CINDY HUNTER**, 4807 Finley, Austin, Texas 78731, U. S. A.
Would appreciate any information about the **Millington** family of Durham. Sarah Jane **Millington** born 1860 at Mount Pleasant, Tudhoe, daughter of William **Millington** and Mary **Sterland**.
- 5432 **ALAN OLIVER**, 56 St Johns Drive, Bilton, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG1 3AG
Margaret **Oliver** nee **Smith** was born 1847 at Little Lumley; parents given as Joseph **Smith** and Hannah **Ranson**. She later married Henry **Oliver** 1865 Chester-le-Street when her father's name was given as John. Margaret found on 1861 Census living with John and Margaret, and six other children. A gravestone in Lumley churchyard indicates a first wife for John called Susan. No marriage has been found Hannah and John or Joseph **Smith**, but a marriage in 1849 for Hannah **Ranson** and Ralph **Crow** at Chester-le-Street. Does this mean Hannah was married three times, or only once and lived with two men whose names were **Smith**? An elderly aunt says Margaret was an only child! Other names of interest are **Knighton** of Fencehouses and Anfield Plain; **Wilkinson** of Lamesley; **Guy** of Chester-le-Street and Fencehouses; **Stubbs/Stobbs** of Penshaw; **Ross** of Chester-le-Street; **Bailey** and **Wiggins** of Percy Main; **Carr** and **Gray** of Sunderland, and **Lee** of Newcastle and Fencehouses.
- 5434 **Mrs LYNDA JONES**, 1E Albert Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham B14 7HH
Researching the **Haskell** family from Bath. Elizabeth **Haskell**, b. 1872 married Matthew **Nicholson** 1891 Tanfield - information required about other **Haskells** and their reason for leaving Bath. Matthew and Elizabeth lived with another Matthew and Elizabeth **Nicholson** at White le Head. Any information on the elder couple welcome. Also interested in the **Reed** family - Joseph George and Minnie, b. 1870-75 Staffordshire; Annie and Charles, b. 1880-84 Durham; Charles and William, b. 1885-88 Tanfield. Also living in the **Nicholson** household - seeking information on their parents.
- 5435 **Mr J. KNOWLES**, 137 Wilmot Street, Long Eaton, Derbyshire NG10 3EL
Seeking information on the ex-Whitehaven family of Thomas and Ann **Knowles** who were living at Hicks Buildings, Walker at the 1891 Census with their six children: John (aged 11), Mary (10), Ann (6), James (3), Lenora? (2) and George, born 2 months earlier in Whitehaven. In 1899 at Heworth, John married Annie **Scullion**, daughter of James. Their son Thomas married Elsie **Hall** c. 1926. Elsie was the daughter of Robert **Hall** and Elizabeth **Jane**, nee **Pocock**.

- 5442 Mrs PAULINE BEATON**, 5 Park Lane, Fareham, Hants PO16 7JU
Seeking information about Thomas **Gibson** and Ann **Bell** married 1800, and had Thomas, Ann and William, all born at South Shields. Also researching **Challoner** families of Morpeth, in particular Edward Challoner who married Lucy Reed in 1801. They had children Robert, Dorothy, Edward, Lucy and Sarah, all born at Morpeth.
- 5443 MARTIN SANDERS**, Campion Cottage, Jericho Street, Thorverton, Exeter EX5 5PA
Any information requested on: 1) Frederick Henry **Meades**, born 1865 Alnwick, moved to Southall, Middlesex, a master bricklayer and builder - his father may have been John. Married in Southall to Sarah **Broadway**. 2) **Tubbs** family who moved south to the Duke of Northumberland's estate at Sion House, Isleworth about the same time.
- 5446 Ms J. M. ELLIS**, Halifax House, Halifax Place, Nottingham NG1 1QN
Interests include: **McCulley/McCully** of Scotland and Bishopwearmouth; **Stockdale** of Bishopwearmouth; **Elliott** of Kendal and Bishopwearmouth; **Tate** of Elsdon and Bishopwearmouth - all in the 19th century. Any information would be appreciated.
- 5455 Ms GWYNETH WATSON**, 4/415 Old South Head Road, North Bondi, New South Wales 2026, Australia.
Would appreciate any information on William **Hastilow**, born 1825 Tamworth, Staffordshire, married Marion Elizabeth Dodds, daughter of Matthew Stephenson **Dodds**, stationer and printer of Newcastle, at St Mary's Gateshead in 1860. A few days later they emigrated to New Zealand. William had a brother Joseph and sister Elizabeth. Joseph may have died in Newcastle in 1863. Letters still in the family mention parents/Frederic living in Newcastle and two brothers of Joseph's who were drapers. Willing to do reciprocal research in Australia.

HELP OFFERED

- 3742 Mrs ROSEMARY HATCH**, 'Maryland' Beech Drive, Down St Mary, Crediton, Devon EX17 6EJ
Would be pleased to undertake searches at the Devon Record Office and West Country Studies Library in return for help at Durham RO and Newcastle Central Library. The Devon Records are excellent, with the exception of wills which were destroyed during the last War.
- 5160 Mr LAWRENCE HAVIS**, 39 Dorrington Road, Fawdon, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 2QJ
Has been researching the **Havis** family throughout the north east and has collected a considerable amount of information. Would be pleased to hear from anyone seeking, or possessing, information on any Havis in the north of England.
- 5226 Mrs K. S. PELHAM**, 56 Coppice Road, Poynton, Stockport, Cheshire SK12 1SN
Would be happy to do research in the Manchester area in exchange for research in Northumberland, Durham or Berwick Record Office.
- 5388 MARGARET TOYNE**, 51 Queens Road, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS5 6EF
Would be pleased to help Society members researching in the Cleveland area.
- 5403 PETER MORTON**, 8 The Haywain, Stanway, Colchester, Essex CO3 5YG
Offers to work in Essex/South-East and St Catherines House in exchange for work in Durham area or Record Office.
- 5432 Mr A. OLIVER**, 56 St John's Drive, Bilton, Harrogate HG1 3AG
Has MI's for several churches in Harrogate & Knaresborough, & parish register transcripts for Christ Church, High Harrogate (1758-1811) and Hampsthwaite (1603-1807), which he will search, (SAE please).

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.

- 5333 Mr. T. HOWES**, 1 The Kylins Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 2DS. **5334 Com R. S. PURVIS**, 3415 Lakeside View Drive, Falls Church, Virginia 22041, U.S.A. **5335 & 5336 Mr. I. & Mrs. A. WILKINSON**, 22 Mendip Road, Forest Park, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 3XD. **5337 & 5338 Mr. T. H. & Mrs. S. PROUD**, 20 Gordon Close, Staines, Middlesex TW18 1AR. **5342 Mr. J. R. HALL**, 18 Hartville Road, Hartlepool, Cleveland TS24 9RG. **5343 Mrs. E. ARROWSMITH**, 79 Brancepeth View, Brandon, Durham DH7 8TU. **5344 Mr. L. McILWAIN**, 96 Salutation Road, Darlington, Co. Durham DL3 8JW. **5347 Mr. F. C. POWELL**, 18 Saltwood Grove, Walworth, London SE17 2HL. **5348 & 5349 Mr. E. G. & Mrs. O. TAYLOR**, 18 Fontburn Road, Seaton Delaval, Northumberland NE25 0BH. **5350 Mr. M. R. HUDSON**, 10 Sweetbriar Close, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 3RP. **5352 & 5353 Mr. A. & Mrs. V. A. HALL**, 41 Kielder Close, Newsham Farm Estate, Blyth, Northumberland NE24 4QH. **5354 Mr. H. J. DAVIS**, 16 New Road, Ryhall, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE7 4HL. **5355 Mr. C. TARGAR**, 5 Clifton Terrace, Forest Hall, Newcastle upon Tyne NE12 9NP. **5356 Mr. B. S. COPE**, Roake House, Lyveden Road, Brigstock, Kettering, Northampton NN14 3HE. **5357 Mr. D. GOWLAND**, 2 Relton Terrace, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear NE25 8DY. **5358 Mr. H. HINDLEY**, 1 St. Davids Way, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear NE26 1HZ. **5365 Mr. J. E. DIXON**, 126 Brooklands Grove, Menston, Ilkley, West Yorkshire LS29 6PN. **5366 Mrs. S. A. NEAVEN**, 30 Outfield, North Bretton, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire PE3 8JW. **5367 & 5368 Mrs. S. C. & Mr. P. J. T. KASZEFKO**, 14 Dene Road, Blaydon, Tyne & Wear NE21 4QB. **5369 Mrs. B. C. MORRIS**, 10 Cranbourne Grove, Marden Farm Estate, North Shields, Tyne & Wear NE30 3NB. **5373 Mr. R. S. WEIGHTMAN**, 37 Cleevemont, Evesham Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL52 3JT. **5375 Mrs. M. A. HICKMAN**, Ashtree Cottage, Coulter Lane, Burtwood, West Midlands WS7 9HN. **5376 Mrs. S. KNAPP**, Fox House, 42 Park Lane, Fareham, Hampshire PO16 7LB. **5379 & 5380 Mr. R. F. & Mrs. E. E. DANIEL**, 602 Colinet Street, Coquitlam, British Columbia V3J 4W9, Canada. **5381 Mrs. P. M. AYRES**, 49 Totnes Drive, Parkside Grange, Cramlington, Northumberland NE23 9PZ. **5382 & 5383 Mrs. J. & Mr. D. DOBBING**, 64 Sevenoaks Drive, Hastings Hill, Sunderland SR4 9NU. **5385 Mr. R. BLAMIRE**, 6 Furze Way Cowplain, Waterlooville, Hampshire PO8 9DL. **5386 Mrs. G. J. CAKEBREAD**, 6 Montagu Avenue, Roundhay, Leeds LS8 3EU. **5387 Mr. J. HOOD**, Prospect House, High Coniscliffe, Darlington, Co. Durham DL2 2LJ. **5389 Mrs. G. ROBSON**, 2 White Lea Close, Peterlee, Co. Durham SR8 5TH. **5390 Mr. F. JONES**, 7 Annetyard Drive, Skelmorlie, Ayrshire PA17 5BN. **5391 Mrs. I. R. BENNETT**, 33 Wansdyke, Lancaster Park, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 3RA. **5392 Mr. J. PINKNEY**, 34 Craven Close, Salford, Lancashire M5 3JW. **5393 Mrs. E. McGARRELL**, 35 Sherburn Way, Felling, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear NE10 8RZ. **5394 Mr. R. P. ALLAN**, 26 St. Dominic Road, St. John's, Colchester, Essex CO4 4PY. **5395 & 5396 Miss. E. MARTIN & Miss. E. MAXWELL**, 5 Leazes Lane, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 3BA. **5398 Mr. J. LESLIE**, 47 North Seaton Road, Ashington, Northumberland NE63 3LS. **5400 Mrs. J. P. HARVEY**, 3 Mariners Lane, Tynemouth, Tyne & Wear NE30 2RU. **5401 Mr. J. A. SPARK**, Box 8399, Causeway, Harare, Zimbabwe. **5402 Mrs. M. C. L. SPARK**, 8 The Haywain, Stanway, Colchester, Essex CO3 5YG. **5404 & 5405 Mr. J. & Mrs. J. RAY**, 30 Brackendale Road, Chevely Park, Belmont, Durham DH1 2AB. **5406 M. E. A. THWAITE**, 46 Lyndhurst Grove, Gateshead NE9 6AX.

And finally, apologies to member number **5246 Mr. C. G. TURNBULL** who, in the last Journal, found himself moved to Alberta in Canada! His correct address should have appeared as 6153 Crackleberry Trail, Woodbury, Minnesota 55125, U.S.A.

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