

*Vol 2 No 3*  
POCATELLO REGIONAL  
GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY

ISSN 0307 - 8140

THE JOURNAL  
of the  
NORTHUMBERLAND & DURHAM  
FAMILY HISTORY  
Society

Volume Two  
Number Three

April 1977

*Apr 14 # 215*  
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Correspondence connected with the Journal should be addressed to the Editor, Mr G. Nicholson, 57 Manor Park, Concord 11, Washington, Tyne and Wear, NE37 2BU. All other correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary, Mr J.A. Readdie, 38 Archery Rise, Neville's Cross, Durham, DH1 4LA. PLEASE always include stamps for return postage when writing (two International Reply Coupons from overseas members).

## EDITORIAL

Among the short addresses given at the January meeting there was originally to have been one on the Journal entitled "How you can help the Editor". Unfortunately another engagement that night meant that members were spared this, but it may be worthwhile mentioning a couple of points here. First, do fill in and return your "Members' Interests" forms promptly if you are a new member, and if you are an established member who has yet to send in his interests, then do so as soon as possible. The publication of the first edition of our Directory of Members' Interests does not mean that there will not be other editions in the future. Indeed, we look forward to the day when our membership will be large enough to warrant a second edition, with comprehensive details from everyone. Remember that these forms and any accompanying letter are used to compile the "Members' Interests" paragraphs published in the Journal and we can hardly publish anything about which we have not been told, so do keep in touch.

The second point is one I am probably destined to continue to labour in Journal after Journal. That is that without contributors there would be no Journal at all. Many people have been most helpful in sending "filler" articles which will run to a few lines and fill up the bottom of a page. We are grateful for these, which are always interesting and useful, but there is still a shortage of real "meaty" articles. The ideal item would be three or four pages of real genealogical value. I may be an optimist, but I still feel that each member, if he were to draw on his own experience, could compile such an article. Have you started to write yours yet?

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### THE NATIONAL PEDIGREE INDEX

A National Pedigree Index has been established under the guidance of an advisory committee comprising Miss S. Colwell and Messrs J.P. Brooke-Little, A.J. Camp, F.L. Leeson and M.A. Pinhorn. The Index, which is made up of information supplied voluntarily by compilers of pedigrees (both amateur and professional), is kept at the Society of Genealogists in London and enquiries should be made, by correspondence only, to the National Pedigree Index, c/o the Society of Genealogists, 37 Harrington Gardens, London, SW7. No reply will be sent unless a SAE or International Reply Coupon is enclosed, and the Index is not open to public search.

The idea is to form a central index of pedigrees researched of which three or more generations, in the male line and resident in the British Isles, have been established. It is hoped that it will help to avoid duplication and put researchers in touch with others working on the same families. Details of surname, period covered, places of residence, publication, if any, and special features such as continuity of occupation, religious denomination and unusual Christian names are included, plus the name and address of the compiler. A specimen card and a limited number of slips will be supplied, postage paid, on request, to those willing to help build up the Index, but postage must be paid by the compiler in returning the slips.

For enquirers, a fee of £1 per surname per county is payable in advance and this is refunded if the result of the search is negative. If no SAE has been sent only 80p. is refundable and if no pre-payment has been made the enquiry is ignored. Enquirers receive a copy of the details on the slip (i.e. not the actual pedigree). The Index is not a register of "authentic" pedigrees and it is up to the discretion of the compiler what information is exchanged and what fee, if any, is charged.

Obviously, the more who participate in this scheme the more useful it will be, so if you have compiled a pedigree which meets the requirements of the Index, why not register it?

## SECRETARY'S JOTTINGS

You may have read that the Public Record Office in London is re-arranging its storage and search room facilities and new premises are being opened at Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey. The move is beginning in May and all search rooms will be closed for about a month later this year, possibly, according to the latest information (late February), in September. On reopening, some material of genealogical importance will remain at Chancery Lane - most of the records described in Volume 1 of the "Guide to the P.R.O.", including PCC wills, Subsidy Rolls, Hearth Tax, Recusancy Rolls and Estate Duty Records. The Census Returns and Non-Parochial Registers (RG4), now in Portugal Street, will be transferred to Chancery Lane. Admiralty, Air Ministry and War Office records will be at Kew. In the meantime, if you are planning a visit to the P.R.O. this summer, up-to-date information can be obtained by phoning 01-405 0741, ext. 277.

North of the Border, there have been major changes in the arrangements for access to Scottish census returns and pre-1855 Parish Registers held at New Register House, Edinburgh. Microfilm is being introduced over a period of six or seven years in place of the original registers and 500-600 Old Parish Registers will be withdrawn each year for microfilming. In the first year (1976/77) the volumes to be withdrawn are those for parishes nos. 1-177 inclusive, and during the interim period until the new films are available, old films prepared in the 1950s, many of them of variable quality, will be the only means of consulting the records. The filming is to be carried out by the Mormon Genealogical Society, who intend to compile a computer-based index to the twenty million baptismal and marriage entries, but this is in the future and at the present time searchers in New Register House will undoubtedly find life more difficult than previously.

Intending postal borrowers of journals or books from the Society's small but growing library (see the lists on p. 54 of the January 1977 Journal and p. 76 of this Journal) should note that the address of the Librarian, Dr Margaret E. Wilson, has now changed to 33 Archery Rise, Durham City. It would help Dr Wilson if material borrowed was returned promptly - remember there may be a waiting list! Incidentally, donations of books or other material would be welcomed.

The Society's second AGM is in May. Any nominations for officers, or for the Committee, should be made to me in writing by 16 May, with a proposer and seconder. Please try to come to the AGM so that the Committee can hear your views on the shape of the Society in the future. Suggestions for topics for meetings, or for projects, etc. - or criticism - would be welcomed.

Newer members might like to note that back numbers of the Journal (Oct. 1975, Jan., April and July 1976) are still available from me at 50p. each.

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### SOME WHO DIED ABROAD

When Mr C.R. Hudleston was in Funchal, Madeira, in 1969, he seized the opportunity to collect some local references from the British Cemetery there.

1. Frances BIGGE died 8 March 1856 aged 31. Dorothy, wife of the late Edmund Lyde BUTCHER, Rector of Wolviston, Durham, died October 28 1904 aged 78.
2. Isabella ROBINSON, widow of T.W.U. ROBINSON Esq, of Houghton le Spring, Co Durham, died Madeira March 10 1924 aged 86. Erected by her children.
3. Margaret Isabella, wife of Thomas SPENCER of the Grove, Ryton, Co Durham, died 20 December 1865 aged 22.

The Cemetery Register records the burials on 23 & 24 August 1856 of Ann Elizabeth (9) and Annie Maria (33), daughter and wife of John WILLIAMSON, Chemist, Darlington.

## ROBERT SURTEES AND THE SURTEES SOCIETY

G. Nicholson

One of the earliest County Historians of our region was Robert Surtees (1779-1834), of Mainsforth House, in the parish of Bishop Middleham. The Surtees family, of which the Mainsforth branch was but one of many, is one of the oldest and most widespread of local "County" families. It originated with the twelfth century Barons of Gosforth who claimed descent from a certain Eilsi de Tees whose ancestry in the female line is said to have included the Saxon kings of Northumbria. Although the main line of this family died out in the sixteenth century, a junior branch which had sunk to yeoman status in the Derwent Valley began to prosper at about the same time and, by a combination of judicious marriages and sound business sense, soon spread into many branches, nearly all of which achieved notability as land-owners or as merchants. The best modern account of the family is that which takes up much of Volume 1 of the late W. Percy Hedley's "Northumbrian Families" (Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne, 1968), but for a much more detailed, though slightly less accurate, treatment see Lt.Gen. H.C. Surtees, "Records of the family of Surtees" (Surtees Society, 1924).

The Mainsforth Surtees were one of the most prosperous branches of the family and Robert, who was the son of Robert Surtees (1737-1802) by Dorothea, daughter of William Steele of Lamb Abbey, Kent, was provided with a good education at Christ College, Oxford, where he became a noted Greek scholar. Originally intended for the Bar, he was a student at the Middle Temple when his father died in 1802. Robert was recalled to Mainsforth where, in premature retirement as far as his legal career was concerned, he had the leisure to pursue the researches necessary for his great work, the "History and Antiquities of the County Palatine of Durham, compiled from original records preserved in Public Repositories and Private Collections". Surtees was not the first in the field (William Hutchinson had published an earlier County History) but he set a standard of factual accuracy and literary quality which has never been exceeded by his successors. The four volumes of this work were published in 1816, 1820, 1823 and (posthumously) 1840.

If one had to make criticism of Surtees it would have to be that his work is limited to what has come to be regarded as the usual "County Historian" type of material. The Squire and his family, descent of the major estates and a description and brief history of the parish church do, indeed, make up the bulk of his history of most parishes, but at least Surtees had the excuses - not available to his successors, some of whom have been content with rephrasing and repeating much the same material - that not only was he a pioneer in his field but in the period in which he was writing anything more than a passing mention of trade or industry, and any mention at all of the "common man" would have been anathema to his readers who, in the first instance at least, would be largely drawn from the same class as the author. Certainly one cannot criticise the literary style of Surtees' histories. Much of the writing is of necessity a recitation of straightforward facts but whenever the subject allows of a more stylish treatment Surtees, as behoves a friend of Sir Walter Scott, rises to the occasion. Consider, for instance, this description of the Rectory garden at Ryton:

... the house retains that sober yet cheerful aspect, which at once marks its proper use and designation; and if on the sheltered plot in front "blushes the flower of various die", the old garden on the West retains its sheltering hedges of clipped yew, and its due prolixity of espalier and gravel walk. The church flanks the Rectory most amicably on the North, and the "condition of the agreement is such" that neither of them puts the other out of countenance.



The Rectory House and gardens are (not unpleasantly) sequestered and deprived of any distant view but the prospect from the adjoining church-yard is extremely beautiful; the eye runs over a soft foreground of wood and pasture falling to the river and embraces a long reach of the broad, gallant Tyne, washing the deep haughs and meadow-grounds on the Durham side. The Northern bank rises swiftly, inclosed and cultivated to its summit and scattered over with various objects. The town and church of Newburn ... almost overhang the Tyne ....

Being a pioneer in the days before his subject had achieved popularity, collecting facts for his history was for Surtees no simple matter of sitting in a comfortable library, reading a few printed books. The detailed descriptions of all the places mentioned in the history make it plain that Surtees travelled all over County Durham personally to verify his facts, and the more prosaic detail of the ownership of estates, etc, had to be carefully and laboriously extracted from original records. Here Surtees' standing in the County was the key which unlocked many doors which would have been closed to anyone not of the same social group as those in whose custody were the records which the historian required.

The pedigrees in Surtees' History are noted for their high standard, which is all the more remarkable in that their author did not have the work of others to fall back on. Surtees is reputed to have had something of a "photographic" memory and this no doubt would be a great help in his researches. A story is told that one day, when calling on the Bishop of Durham, Shute Barrington, the Bishop asked Surtees if he would make out for him the pedigree of a certain individual in whom the Bishop was interested. "If you will give me pen and ink I will draw it for you now" replied Surtees, and then proceeded to do just that with complete detail and accuracy.

Robert Surtees was never a robust man and his health was continually poor after 1830. He finally passed away in 1834, leaving the fourth volume of his work to be published by a friend, George Taylor of Witton-le-Wear, in 1840. Surtees probably had intended at least one more volume as the four published did not in themselves completely cover the whole County of Durham.

Shortly after Surtees' death a group of his friends decided that a suitable memorial to him would be to establish a Society, to be called the Surtees Society and having as its objects "the publication of such inedited manuscripts as illustrate the intellectual, the moral, the religious and the social condition of those parts of England and Scotland included on the East between the Humber and the Firth of Forth and on the West between the Mersey and the Clyde, from the earliest period till the time of the Restoration". This Society has been functioning ever since and its publications now total almost 190 volumes. Most volumes are in fact more relevant to the Counties of Durham and (perhaps to a lesser extent) Northumberland than to the rest of the North, though there are a few which deal with Cumberland, Yorkshire, etc. With the passing of time the original limitation to the period before the Restoration has also been somewhat relaxed but most Surtees Society publications do nevertheless keep to this period.

It is inevitable that anyone doing serious genealogical research in North-East England will sooner or later make use of these books, so we are now beginning a series of reviews of selected volumes, most of which should be found in the better equipped local reference libraries.

## THE DURHAM PROTESTATION OF 1642

(SURTEES SOCIETY PUBLICATION 135 (1922).)

A.G.S. Bunting

The history of the Protestation started with a Commons Committee which composed the following preamble: 'I doe promise to maintaine and defend the true reformed protestant religion ... against all popery and popish innovations.' It was agreed that every male inhabitant of every parish, aged 18 and upwards, should sign the Protestation, and once the Bill had been read for a third time on 19th July 1641, and printed on 20th January 1642, it was 'sent down to the country' together with instructions as to how the oath was to be taken. A letter from the Speaker of the House instructed the Sheriffs of the counties to call together the Minister, Constable, Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor and all the male inhabitants of the parish aged 18 and over, and to take the names of all those that took the oath, and those who refused. The Durham Protestation is therefore a census of all adult males living in the county, excepting perhaps the elderly and infirm, the mentally ill, and the traveller. Unfortunately, the returns for Morpeth and Berwick are the only two Northumberland lists surviving, (they are printed after the Durham parishes), but all of Durham has survived except for the parish of Staindrop, and the lists of parish officials for Easington and Stockton.

The parish officials are listed at the head of their parish, then follows a long - or short - list of names, totalled at the end. These range from places such as Whitworth (37 names), Kelloe (110 took the oath, 36 refused), to South Shields (425) and Gateshead (740). Absentees are usually mentioned, and there are many useful footnotes by the editor, cross-referencing names to family histories, pedigrees in county histories, entries in parish registers, and so on.

In short, Surtees Society Vol. 135 is an excellent guide to the researcher who has traced a family back to the Civil War period and has lost it somewhere between 1640 and 1660.

The index leads straight to the parish of origin and can therefore be a great time-saver. For instance, I am researching the name "Richardson", which is extremely common in County Durham. On a tracing of a map of the county, I marked, with a small cross, every place where Richardsons signed the protestation, one cross per man - in all, 124 crosses. This gave me a rough-and-ready distribution map for Richardsons in the mid-seventeenth century, and showed that although the name was so common, it was by no means uniformly distributed throughout the county. I can thoroughly recommend a glance at the index for anyone interested in Durham families - you are bound to find your ancestors here, even if the parish registers you are following were not kept up during 'The Great Rebellion'.

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### A MARRIAGE FESTIVAL

From the Scots Magazine, 1750, as repeated in the Border Magazine, 1863: "June 17, at Rothbury, Northumberland, Mr William Donkin, farmer at Tossin to Miss Eleanor Shotton. 550 Gentlemen & Ladies attended at the nuptials & were diverted with the music of 25 fiddlers & pipers. The entertainment is said to have been very grand, there having been provided for eating 44 quarters of veal & 20 of mutton, a great quantity of beef, 12 hams, besides chickens etc; & for drink eight half ankers of brandy made into punch, 12 dozen of cyder, a great many gallons of wine & 90 bushels of malt brewed into beer. 'Tis said the whole was conducted with the greatest order & unanimity."

MATERIAL OF INTEREST TO GENEALOGISTS IN

TYNE AND WEAR COUNTY RECORD OFFICE

W.A.L. Seaman, County Archivist

The following are the principal holdings of interest to genealogists, although other collections may well contain some useful material. The Search Room, which is at present located at 109 Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 6QF, is open to the public from 8.45 a.m. to 5.15 p.m., Monday to Friday, with an extension to 8.30 p.m. on Tuesdays.

1. PARISH REGISTERS

A list of those available on microfilm at January 1977 is given in Appendix 1. Eventually it is hoped to microfilm all the registers of parishes within the boundaries of the metropolitan county.

2. NONCONFORMIST REGISTERS

Methodist: A list of registers held is given in Appendix 2.

Society of Friends (Quaker), on microfilm:

Allendale, Birth notes, 1838-1878; burial notes, 1838-1908  
Benfieldside, Birth notes, 1846-1890; register of burials, 1869-1947  
Newcastle & Register of births, 1619-1840  
Gateshead, Register of burials, 1657-1840  
Register of marriages, 1653-1839  
Births, marriages and burials, 1837-1908  
Burial notes and register, 1660-1830  
Burial notes, 1823-1921; 1935-1944  
Register of members, 1741-1885  
Birth notes, 1910-1940

North Shields, Birth and burial notes, 1839-1909

South Shields, Birth and burial notes, 1901-1909

Sunderland, Birth and burial notes, 1814-1909

Presbyterian: Baptisms at Malings Rigg, Sunderland, 1777-1879 (original)

Congregational: St. James, Newcastle, registers 1917-1945

Unitarian: Hanover Square, Newcastle, register of births, 1779-1859;  
burials, 1836-1963

Registers surrendered in 1837, microfilm - originals in Public Record Office:

Close Chapel (Hanover Square), Presbyterian, Newcastle, baptisms, 1752-1837

United Secession Church (Scotch), Clavering Place, Newcastle, births, 1802-1837

New Jerusalem Chapel, Percy Street, Newcastle, (Swedenborgian), Adult and Infant baptisms, 1808-1838

Presbyterian Church, North Shields, baptisms, 1756-1812

Willington Chapel, Howdon, baptisms, 1835-1837

Morpeth Independent Chapel, baptisms, 1829-1837

Postern Chapel, Newcastle, (Congregational), registers, 1788-1837

Baptism registers:

Tuthill Stairs Baptist Chapel, Newcastle, 1784-1837

Westgate Street Baptist Chapel, 1815-1837

St. James, Congregational, Newcastle, 1746-1837

Hanover Square (Scotch), Newcastle, 1752-1836

Zion Chapel, Westgate Road, Newcastle, 1821-1828

Zion Postern Chapel, Newcastle, 1759-1785

Union Secessionist, Carliol Street Chapel, Newcastle, 1834-1837

Sallyport Meeting House, Newcastle, 1786-1837



### 3. CENSUS RETURNS

Available on microfilm for 1841, 1851, 1861 and 1871 with a street index for each film for the whole county, including Sunderland, Gateshead, North and South Tyneside and Newcastle together with parts of south-east Northumberland.

### 4. CEMETERY RECORDS

Register of Burials: Newcastle General Cemetery Company, 1834-1968  
Newcastle St. Andrew's, All Saints, St. John's, St. Nicholas', Byker, Heaton and Ballast Hills monumental inscriptions (microfilm)

### 5. GUILD RECORDS & APPRENTICESHIPS

Apprenticeship Indentures (indexed) for the following companies:

Anchor smiths, 1709-1823	Mercers, 1697-1818
Armourers, 1696-1823	Merchant adventurers, 1692-1823
Bakers, 1711-1803	Millers, 1742-1819
Barber surgeons, 1697-1782	Millwrights, 1704-1824
Blacksmiths, 1709-1823	Painters, 1711-1827
Boilermakers, 1837	Paviors, 1747-1807
Boothmen, 1708-1822	Perukemakers, 1697-1782
Brewers, 1711-1803	Pewterers, 1711-1827
Bricklayers, 1710-1823	Plasterers, 1696-1800
Butchers, 1704	Plumbers, 1711-1827
Cabinet Makers, 1693-1824	Ropemakers, 1710-1821
Carriagemen, 1747-1807	Saddlers, 1741-1823
Coopers, 1711-1823	Sailmakers, 1726-1821
Cordwainers, 1708-1829	Scriveners, 1744-1829
Curriers, 1696-1941	Shipwrights, 1694-1823
Drapers, 1692-1823	Skinner, 1710-1783
Dyers, 1712-1749	Slaters, 1710-1783
Feltmakers, 1696-1823	Smiths, 1709-1823
Fullers, 1712-1749	Stationers, 1702-1823
Glaziers, 1711-1827	Tailors, 1698-1823
Glovers, 1710-1783	Tallow Chandlers, 1697-1782
Goldsmiths, 1728-1822	Tanners, 1708-1821
Heelmakers, 1728	Tilers, 1710-1823
Hostmen, 1709-1822	Tinplate workers, 1702-1823
Housecarpenters, 1704-1824	Trunkmakers, 1704-1824
Joiners, 1693-1824	Upholsterers, 1702-1823
Masons, 1710-1822	Waller, 1696-1800
Master mariners, 1694-1830	Weavers, 1707-1823

Other records of some of the companies have been deposited; the most useful to the genealogist are the admission books, membership rolls and apprenticeship books, which date from the early seventeenth century. There are also available on microfilm Guild admission books, 1645-1818, and the Freeman's alphabet, 1409-1738, and roll book, 1740-1874.

The records of the Keelmen, although this is not a Freeman's Company, include lists of Keelmen employed by various skippers, mainly 18th century.

### 6. TRADE DIRECTORIES

For Newcastle, Gateshead, North and South Shields, Durham, Northumberland, etc., from 1778 to 1965. This is not a very extensive collection, but includes some of the most important directories for the area.

## 7. POLL BOOKS, ETC.

Newcastle poll books, 1741-1837

Ward lists of burgesses, 1835-1877

Roll of citizens, 1882-1915

Parliamentary registers of electors, 1863-1878, 1918-1966

## 8. POOR LAW RECORDS

Poor Law Guardians records for Newcastle and Sunderland from 1836, including removal certificates, workhouse admission, bastardy bonds, etc.

## APPENDIX 1

### Parish Registers available on Microfilm

Byker, St. Michael	C. 1862-1954; M. 1862-1965
Elswick, St. Paul	C. 1855-1925; M. 1859-1958
Lamesley, St. Andrew	C. 1603-1966; M. 1603-1970 (incomplete); B. 1603-1913
Longbenton, St. Bartholomew	C. 1670-1915; M. 1667-1910; B. 1669-1926
Newcastle, All Saints	C. 1600-1963; M. 1600-1955; B. 1600-1853
" St. Andrew	C. 1597-1934; M. 1597-1937; B. 1628-1853
" St. Ann	C. 1833-1949; M. 1843-1929; B. 1828-1855
" St. Barnabas	C. 1900-1961; M. 1909-1963; B. 1909-1962
" Castle Garth - see St. Nicholas	
" Christ Church (Shieldfield)	C. 1861-1934; M. 1862-1958
Newcastle, St. Cuthbert	C. 1879-1957; M. 1881-1960
" St. John	C. 1587-1914; M. 1587-1958; B. 1587-1853
" St. Jude	C. 1884-1972; M. 1892-1975
" St. Mark - see St. Stephen	
" St. Mary the Virgin	C. 1893-1960; M. 1895-1961
Newcastle, St. Matthew (see also St. Wilfred)	C. 1870-1951; M. 1880-1941
Newcastle, St. Nicholas	C. 1558-1927 (incomplete); M. 1574-1837 (incomplete); B. 1574-1853 (incomplete)
" Castle Garth	Births/Baptisms 1708-1827; M. 1814-1836
" St. Stephen	C. 1868-1924; M. 1868-1941
" St. Mark	C. 1884-1895
" St. Wilfred	C. 1885-1940
(Mission within parish of St. Matthew)	
Sunderland, Holy Trinity	C. 1719-1952; M. 1719-1973; B. 1719-1909
" St. Barnabas (Middle Hendon)	C. 1876-1967; M. 1876-1967
Sunderland, St. Ignatius	C. 1889-1952; M. 1889-1949
" St. John	C. 1875-1962; M. 1875-1967
" St. Oswald	C. 1897-1916
" St. Paul (Hendon)	C. 1852-1962; M. 1854-1969
Sunderland, St. Thomas (Bishopwearmouth)	C. 1846-1943; M. 1848-1943
Walker, Christ Church	C. 1848-1949; M. 1848-1955; B. 1848-1902
" St. Christopher's Mission	C. 1888-1937
Wallsend, St. Luke	C. 1887-1970; M. 1887-1972
" St. Peter	C. 1669-1958; M. 1669-1970; B. 1672-1921

## APPENDIX 2

### Methodist Baptismal Registers

#### Abbreviations

W = Wesleyan  
MNC = Methodist New Connexion  
PM = Primitive Methodist

UMFC = United Methodist Free Church  
UM = United Methodist

#### 1. Deposited Registers

##### (a) Newcastle-upon-Tyne Brunswick Central Circuit

Benton (ex - W)	1939-1955
Brunswick Village (formerly Dinnington Colliery)	1952-1972
Copland Place (ex - UMF)	1870-1898
Coxlodge (ex - UM)	1907-1949
Coxlodge	1949-1960
Derby Street (ex - PM)	1862-1886, 1937-1964
Hood Street (ex - MNC)	1866-1876
Salter's Road, Gosforth (ex - W)	1877-1951
West Avenue, Gosforth (ex - UM)	1927-1935
West Avenue and Salter's Road, Gosforth	1952-1962
Woodbine Road, Gosforth (ex - PM)	1918-1964
Killingworth (ex - W)	1874-1927
North Kenton	1961-1972
Salem (ex - MNC)	1878-1958
Seaton Burn	1867-1908
West Moor (ex - W)	1840-1959
West Moor	1935-1964

##### (b) Newcastle-upon-Tyne West Circuit

Circuit baptisms	1837-1937
Beaumont Street	1881-1905
Bell's Close	1839-1892
Blenheim Street (ex - W)	1838-1916
Bond Memorial, Benwell (ex - W)	1874-1893
Dunn Street	1887-1926
Elswick Road (ex - W)	1871-1958
Gloucester Street	1866-1926, 1933-1970
Lemington, Union Hall Road	1918-1971
Paradise, Atkinson Road (ex - W)	1841-1970
Park Road (ex - W)	1866-1921
Scotswood, North (ex - W)	1898-1932
Scotswood (ex - MNC)	1860-1862, 1877-1882
"	1884-1894, 1887-1918
Scotswood (UMC)	1918-1932

##### (c) Newcastle-upon-Tyne Mission Circuit

New Road Mission	1838-1954
People's Hall, Rye Hill	1916-1968
St. Lawrence Mission	1844-1886
Westgate Hall	1889-1973

#### 2. Additional

691/1 Willington High Row (UM)	1885-1960
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### 3. Registers on Microfilm

#### Newcastle-upon-Tyne

MF286	Brunswick Place Wesleyan Chapel	1787-1837
	New Road Wesleyan	1833-1837
	Salem (MNC)	1798-1837
	Silver Street (PM)	1824-1837

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#### SOME NOTES ON WILLS

D.G. Mason

Those whose ancestors have left Wills can count themselves fortunate indeed, for these documents can prove of immense value, not only from the purely genealogical point of view but also as windows into the day-to-day world of the testator, into his personal circumstances and into his business affairs. This is even more true when a Will is accompanied by an inventory of the testator's goods, made shortly after his decease and listing all which the compilers (usually four men, neighbours and "indifferently chosen") considered of value. Nevertheless, it would appear that many members are somewhat vague about many points connected with Wills. In this article, therefore, I intend to cover what a Will is, how it is of use to the genealogist, who could make a Will and where the Wills for County Durham and Northumberland are to be found.

A Will is a set of instructions of how a person wishes his or her estate to be disposed of after his or her death, and as such does not become a legal document until after that event. Because it is of an instructional nature the terms of a Will must be specific and allow no room for confusion as to the items being bequeathed or the person receiving it, otherwise the bequest will fail. If, for instance, the testator leaves a bequest to "his son" and he has two sons, then unless it is clear to which he is referring neither will benefit directly from that bequest. Usually, therefore, when persons are referred to in a Will they are described specifically - "my son John", "my friend John Smith of Hexham", etc. The terms "nephew" and "niece" tend not to be used, but such a relationship is described, e.g., "John, the son of my brother John". Grandchildren likewise are often described as "the children of my child", thus giving an invaluable catalogue of relationships within a family. In the past, nuncupative (oral) Wills were often allowed by Probate Courts, and many other Wills take the form of letters to friends or relations, in which the testator expresses his wishes. Such Wills are now no longer regarded as valid.

When one considers who can make a valid Will nowadays, it is virtually anyone with any property to dispose of. Before the Probate Act of 1857, however, it was basically anyone except:

1. Children - that is, persons under the age of 21, though before the Wills Act of 1837, boys over the age of 14 and girls over the age of 12 could leave a Will to dispose of purely personal property.
2. Persons of unsound mind - if a person was of unsound mind they were deemed to be incapable of making a valid Will, unless it was executed during a period of lucidity ("of unsound mind" includes incapacity through idiocy, senility, insanity and excessive drunkenness).



3. Persons who lacked their freedom - slaves and convicted prisoners - although those imprisoned for debt and those charged with, but not convicted of, a crime were excluded.
4. Married women - before the passing of the Married Women's Property Act of 1882 married women could not make a valid Will without their husband's consent, although a spinster or a widow could do so. (A Will made in spinsterhood would be made invalid by a subsequent marriage.)
5. Traitors and Suicides - these could not make valid Wills, as their property would be confiscate.
6. Heretics and Apostates - before the 1857 Probate Act, Wills were proved in the church courts and in their eyes the Will of any "damned person" was not valid (a "damned person" was someone such as an Anabaptist or a "manifest Usurer").

Roman Catholics were disqualified from making valid Wills by an Act of Parliament of 1700, but in further Acts this was gradually relaxed and finally repealed.

The location of Wills is directly linked to the place at which they were proved. Since the Probate Act of 1857 Wills have been proved at District Registries and copies are to be found at the Principal Probate Registry at Somerset House. Before 1857, Wills were proved in the church courts and are usually found in the records of the Bishop within whose Diocese the person held property. The whole of Northumberland and County Durham fell within the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Durham, with the exception of the area around Hexham ("Hexhamshire"), which was under the jurisdiction of York. Specifically, Hexhamshire covers the parishes and chapelries of Allendale, Allenheads, West Allen, Bingfield, Hexham, Ninebanks, St. John Lee, St. Oswalds chapel, Whitley Chapel and Thockrington. If a Will covered property lying both within the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Durham and the Archbishop of York, then it was proved at the senior court, i.e. that of the Archbishop, and when the property lay within both the Province of York and that of Canterbury the same principal applied and it was proved within the Prerogative Court of Canterbury. The Wills proved at Durham are at Durham University, Department of Palaeography and Diplomatic, South Road, Durham (see p. 84 of this Journal - Ed.) and those proved at York are at the Borthwick Institute of Historical Research, St. Anthony's Hall, York.

Perhaps it would be useful to close by listing some definitions of terms used with respect to Wills.

- Executor The person named in the Will to administer the affairs of the deceased. His function was to bury the deceased, to prove his Will and to administer his affairs. Unless an executor was named in a Will, probate could not be obtained.
- Testator The person making the Will. An "intestate" is someone who dies without making a Will.
- Realty Real Estate, land, buildings, etc.
- Probate The process of proving a Will.
- Administrator A person appointed by the court to administer the estate of an intestate or of a testator who has not appointed an executor.



## SECOND TIME AROUND

Unfortunately, shortage of space has made it necessary to hold over certain items in this section until the next issue. Included here and on p. 83 are all "Second Time Around" items received by the Editor up to 16th February from members 1 to 250.

- 14 Mr D.G. HARRIS, 25 Wear Lodge, Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham.  
Seeking (1) birth, c1818, of Mercy Harris (?Bishops Stortford, Essex) and the father of her son Eleazer Harris, born 1846 in Union House, Bishops Stortford - the 1851 census gives mother and child as born in Brent Pelham; (2) expatriate Gilhespys in Shoreditch c1800; (3) death, c1820, of John Cornelius Buxton, master blind maker; (4) birth, c1840, of Patrick Collis Quinlan; (5) birth of John Greenwell (?c1811 in Tottenham Court Rd, London); (6) birth of Ann Elizabeth Imeson c1812 in Shoreditch, London; (7) birth of Margaret Moor c1827 in "Berwick, Yorks"; (8) birth of Margaret Doherty in Manchester c1820 and her marriage pre-1837 to Fenwick Gibbon; (9) birth c1775 in Brough, Westmorland of Elizabeth Atkinson and her marriage to Richard Hodgson; and (10) birth c1766 of Ann Thompson (?at Ovington).
- 47 Dr J.A. HEDLEY, 12 Raven Way, Hadleigh, Suffolk, IP7 5AX.  
Now interested in all Hedleys originating from the Acomb and Anick areas (par St. John Lee) in the 18th century. In the course of his search, Dr Hedley has obtained pedigrees of many other Hedley families, particularly from Redesdale, and can make these available when he is next in Northumberland. A Mr De Bonsall Hedley, who was last heard of in correspondence dated 1939 at 5409 Germanton Av, Philadelphia, USA, had collected Hedley pedigrees from all over the world. Dr Hedley is anxious to trace him or his descendants. Can any American member help?
- 56 Mr L. HARLE, 9 Heathdale Gdns, Newcastle, NE7 7QR.  
Interested in the baptism of George Harle who married Philadelphia Fenwick at Bolam in 1671 and in the baptisms and marriages of his sons Robert and John in the same area. Also seeks the marriage of William Harle (born Hartburn 1719) and of Robert Harle and Elizabeth c1758 (?possibly at St. Paul's, Shadwell, Middx). Information is also required on David and Henry Short (born Wooler c1804) and James William and Thomas Robert Short (born Newcastle 1859 and 1861).
- 60 Mr T. WHITTAKER, 22 Thornhill Terrace, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear.  
Mr Whittaker's list of interests now reads as follows: Bevan (Henley on Thames, moved to Sunderland c1830); Nichol (Chester-le-Street, moved to Sunderland c1810); Legendre (Mistley and Manningtree, Essex - Wm Legendre, shipowner and master mariner, moved to Sunderland c1813); Jacobs (Mistley, Essex); Wilton, Pearson, Beck, Milburn (all Monkwearmouth); Boggon (Seaham); Hodgson (Seaton, near Seaham); Finch (Boldon); Bell (Felton); Hudson, Wood, Smith (all Warkworth); Atkinson, Gowling, Robinson (all Kirkby Thore, Westmorland); Parte (Newbiggin, Westmorland); Bellas, Parker, Atkinson (all Long Marton, Westmorland); Sewell (Rev Jonathan of Temple Sowerby, d 1803, and Rev Thomas of Whitehaven); Whittaker, Buckley, Butterworth (Middleton near Oldham, Lancs); Hyde (Barnsley, Yorks); Jacques (Winteringham, Lincs); Dale (Appleby, Lincs); Fretwell (Doncaster). The Robinsons of Kirkby Thore are the same family as Jack Robinson, MP for Westmorland, alluded to in the saying "before you can say Jack Robinson". The Bellas family is a branch of the Norman Durham family of Bellasis which moved to Westmorland in 1429.
- 91 Mr G. BLAYLOCK, 10 Quatre Bras, Hexham, Northumberland, NE46 3JY.  
Families of interest are Allison (Whitburn), Blaylock (Carlisle and Brampton, Cumberland) and Smith (Earsdon).

Continued on p. 83

# THE CATHOLICS OF HEXHAM IN 1687

F.J. Vaughan

The Society of Genealogists possesses a manuscript covering part of the Confirmation tour of Bishop John Leyburn, which was mentioned by Father W. Vincent Smith in his article "Tracing our Catholic Forefathers" (Journal Vol. 1, p. 29). This manuscript includes the names of those confirmed in the Hexham area of Northumberland, and this list forms an interesting introduction to the Hexham Catholic Registers, printed by the Catholic Record Society (Vol. 26), which commence in 1715.

Bishop Leyburn spent three days at Dilston Castle - August 18, 19 and 20, 1687 - in which time he confirmed 481 people. Their names were recorded in no particular order. In fact, two people of the same surname are seldom listed together and several names occur more than once. It is likely that each person handed in his name on a piece of paper and the pile of names was entered in the book later.

For convenience these names are now presented in the form of an alphabetical index.

## Catholics Confirmed at Dilston, August 1687

ADDISON	Eliz, Francis, John, Mabell	CORBITT	Wm
ARCHBALL	John, Mgt	CORTNEY	John
ARMSTRONG	Ann, Dominick, Dorothy, Geo, Isab, Jane, John, Mgt, Mary, Matt	COTTON	Simond
AYDON	Geo	COWORD	Wm
BALDRICH	Isab, John	DARLING	Ann
BALEY	Edw	DARNALL	Geo
BARRON	Isab	DAWSON	John, Robt, Wm
BARTRAM	Ann, John	DEW	Geo
BATE	Ann	DICKINSON	Chris, Dorothy, Eliz, Jane, Jas, Mgt
BATESON	Mary	DIXSON	Geo, Jane
BELL	Barbara, David, John, Ros	DODD	Mgt, Thos
BENETT	Mary	DRYDEN	Ann
BEWICK	Cath, Mich	DUCKETT	Jas
BLENKINSOPP	Ann	DUNN	Eliz
BOUTON	Jane	ELLIOTT	John
BRIGGS	Mary	EMMERSON	Cath
BROWNE	Dorothy, Geo, Jas, Mary	ERRINGTON	Ann, Debera, Dorothy, Edw, Francis, Jane, John, Mgt, Mark, Mary, Robt, Thos, Wm
BUNTIN	Jane	FARLAM	Ann, Elenor, John, Mgt
BURDETT	Arnold, Benedick, Peter	FAWDEN	Matt
CARNABY	Jane, Mary, Richard	FENWICKE	Cath Dorothy, Britchett, Eliz, Jas, Jerrard, John, Luke, "Ro", Robt, Roger, Thos, Wm
CARR	Cath, Dorothy, Frances, Grace, Jane, John, Mary, Nich, Rich, Thos, Wm	FERRON	Eliz
CHARLTON	Matt	FEWSTER	Eliz, Rich
CHATT	Ann	FORM	Dorothy
CHATTOE	Alice	FORSTER	Ann, Cath, Isab, Jane, John, Thos
CHESTER	Rich	GAIRE	Mary
CHICKIN	Matt	GIBSON	Britchett, Geo, Isab, Jane, John, Thos
CLOSE	Ann	GRAY	Grace, Jane, Rich
COMING	Mich	GREENWELL	Mgt
COOKE	Benj, Eliz, Jane, Joseph, "Nicho"		

HALES	Mary	PARKER	Cath, Eliz, Wm
HALL	Ann, Elone, Lorange, Mary, Sam	PATTERSON	Isab
HALLSALL	Mary	PEARSON	Jas, John, Joseph, Mary, Wm
HAND	Barbara	PHEATANBY	Mary
HARRIS	Jane	PICKERING	Francis
HARRISON	Eliz	POTTS	Dorothy, Jane
HAYLES	Alice	RADCLIFFE	Mary, Thos
HAYLEY	Alice, Ann, Rich, Cath	RESHALL	Jane
HERD	Eliz	RIDLEY	Alex, Ann, Cath, Geo, Jane, Mgt, Mary, Rich, Simond, Thos Wm
HERON	Ann Britchett, Eliz, Isab, John, Mgt, Mary, Rich, Thos	ROBINSON	Ann, Cath, Wm
HILL	Jane	ROBSON	Hy, Robt, Wm
HOGARTH	Eliz	RODELL	Geo
HOPPER	John	ROWELL	Geo, John, Nich
HORSMAN	Barbara, Mary, Wm	RUTHERFORD	Mgt, Thos
HUDSPETH	Dorothy, Eliz	SALKELD	Rosa
HUNTER	Isab, John, Rich, Thos	SAMSON	Mary
HUTCHINSON	Ann, Eliz, Geo, Jane, Mgt, Matt, Robt, Wm	SANDERSON	Barbara, Grace Mary, Rich, Wm
HUTTON	Eliz, John	SELLEY	Barbara
IRONSIDES	Wm	SHARPE	Barbara, Mary
JACKSON	Ann	SHAW	Chas, Elene
JEFFERSON	Barbara, Dorothy, Eliz, Isab, John, Philip, Robt, Thos	SIMSON	Dorothy
KIPLING	Ann, Eliz	SKINER	Alice
KIRKLEY	Thos	SMITH	Eliz, Isab, Jane, Mary, Thos, Wm
KIRSOPE	Edw, Eliz, John, Mgt, Thos	SPURR	Isab
LAMBERT	Dorothy, John, Rich	STOKOE	Alex, Barbara, Britchett, Dorothy, Hy, John, Mark, Roger, Wm
LAWES	Cecila, Thos	STUDDAM	Isab, Joseph, Mgt
LEADBITTER	Ann, Dorothy, Frances, John, Mary, Matt, Nich, Winifred	SWINBORNE	Alex, Allan, Ann, Bartho, Cath, Eliz, Frances, Francis, Geo, Hellin, Isab, John, Martin, Thos, Wm
LITTLE	Mary, Nich	TAYLOR	Ann, Edw, Jane, Mgt, Thos
LOMAS	Rich	THIRLSALL	Madolin
LORRAINE	John	THIRLWALL	John, Mary, Ursula, Wm
LOWRY	Ann	THORLTON	Eliz
MADDISON	Eliz, "Ra"	THORNBROUGH	Ann, Rich
MAGIN	Jane, Mary, Rich	TODD	John
MANGHEN	Thos	TOMSON	Jas
MASON	Thos	TURNER	Martin
MAUGHAM	Ann, Mary, Rich	USHER	Alice, Thos
MEBURNE	Rich	WALTON	Sara
MIDFORD	Jas	WAUGH	Margery
MILBORNE	Isab, John, Mgt, Wm	WELDON	Eliz, Francis, Isab, Mary, Nich, Thos, Wm
MINIKIN	Ann, John, Thos	WELTON	Ann
MOFFET	Mgt, Mary	WHITE	Eliz, John, Mgt, Mary
MORRABY	Eliz, Francis, John, Mgt, Thos	WIDDRINGTON	Mary
NESTLETON	Edw	WILKINSON	Ann, Cath, Elin, Jas, Jane, Margery, Peter
NEW	Barbara, Cath	WILSON	David, George, Jane, Thos
NEWTON	Lance, Mary, Thos, Wm	WINTER	Cath, Eliz, Frances, John
NICHOLSON	Hellen, John, Matt	WITTON	Alice
NIXSON	Eliz, John		
NORMAN	John		
ORDE	Ann, Cath, Dorothy, Jane, John, Robt		
OXLEY	Dorothy, Jane, John, Joseph		

## OUR LIBRARY

M.E. Wilson

In the last Journal, which included a list of our holdings of other Societies' publications, etc., a detailed list was promised of the material so kindly donated by Mrs Neat. These items have now been classified and each has been allotted a number, which members should quote when requesting loans. Items in Box II with numbers over 100 are mostly guides, and only a few pages long, but some are bound books. Note that for these items I have used the standard abbreviations of Du (Co. Durham) and Nb (Northumberland), as recommended by the Federation of Family History Societies. To allow for possible future acquisitions (and donations!), certain numbers have not been used. Box I, No 11, for instance, has now been ordered with the aid of a generous donation from a member, together with some money raised at the January meeting by auctioning certain Journals of which we had duplicates.

Members wishing to borrow books should remember that as long as they keep any item it is unavailable to others, so please return all borrowed items as quickly as convenient. Please note my new address - 33 Archery Rise, Neville's Cross, Durham.

### DONATIONS FROM MRS NEAT

#### BOX I - Reference Books

1. Phillimore, "A Simple Guide to Ancestry Tracing", c1970
2. Inst. of Heraldic & Geneal. Studies, "Ancestry Tracing & Genealogists", 1967
3. Birmingham & Midland Soc. for Geneal. & Heraldry, "This Ancestry Business", 1975
4. Soc. of Genealogists, "Genealogists' Handbook", 1961
5. Hamilton-Edwards, G. "In Search of Ancestry", 1969
6. Hamilton-Edwards, G. "In Search of Scottish Ancestry", 1972
7. Smith, F. & Gardner, D.E. "Genealogical Research in England & Wales", vol. I (useful for beginners), 1964
8. Smith, F. & Gardner, D.E. "Genealogical Research in England & Wales", vol. II (probate, naval & military, historical events, maps), 1963
9. Smith, F. & Gardner, D.E. "Genealogical Research in England & Wales", vol. III (writing, Latin, research standards and procedures), 1964
10. Steel, D.J., ed., "National Index of Parish Registers", vol. I, Sources of Births, Marriages & Deaths before 1837, pt. I, 1968
11. vol. II, Sources of Births, Marriages & Deaths before 1837, pt. II, (on order)
12. vol. III, Sources for R.C. & Jewish Genealogy & Family History, 1974
14. vol. V, South Midlands & Welsh Border, 1966
21. vol. XII, Sources for Scottish Genealogy & Family History, 1970
23. Grieve, E.E.P. "Examples of English Handwriting, 1150-1750", 1959
24. Emmison, F.G. "Archives & Local History", 1966
25. West, J. "Village Records", 1961
26. Soc. of Geneal., "Parish Register Copies Pt. i, Soc. of Geneal. Collection", 1970
27. Soc. of Geneal., "Parish Register Copies Pt. i, Soc. of Geneal. Collection", 1972.
28. Soc. of Geneal., "Parish Register Copies Pt. ii, Other than in pt. i.", 1974
29. Local Population Studies, "Original Parish Registers in Record Offices & Libraries", 1974.
30. Soc. of Geneal., "List of Parishes in Boyd's Marriage Index", 1974
31. Merrell, B. "A Guide to Merrell's Marriage Index of Cheshire", vol. I, n.d.
32. LDS, "English Probate Jurisdictions - Northumberland", 1968
33. LDS, "English Probate Jurisdictions - Durham"



34. Newcastle upon Tyne Records Committee, vol. IX, 1929 (P.R. transcripts, Hodgson, printed pedigrees, Delaval papers, Ballast Hills Cemy. regs.)
35. Durham Diocesan Calendar, 1966
36. Newcastle Diocesan Year Book, 1966
37. The Northern Catholic Calendar, 1966

#### BOX II - Local Records

1. Darlington Ref. Liby. - Local History Study Room & material, 1974
2. Darlington Pub. Liby. Local History Dept. no. 2, Directories, 1973
3. " " " " " " 5, P.R.s, 1972
4. Gateshead Archives, 1968
5. Yates, N., "Anglican Parish Records of N. Tyneside", N. Tyneside Libraries Occ. Papers, No. 1, 1975
6. Taylor, H.A. "Northumberland History", 1963
7. Purvis, Rev. J.S. "Archives of the York Diocesan Registry", 1952
8. Yorkshire Record Offices, 1968
9. Harrington, D.W. "Canterbury Cathedral Archives & City R.O.", 1975
10. Bowden, R.A. "Hertfordshire R.O. - Genealogical Sources", 1972
11. Scottish R.O. leaflet no. 5, Guides & Record Publications, n.d.
12. " " " " 7, Short Guide to the Records, n.d.
50. International Genealogical Directory, 1972-3
51. Steel, D.J., ed., Soc. of Geneal. Register & Directory, 1966
52. Soc. of Geneal. Catalogue of Members' Interests, 1968-71
53. " " " " of Directories & Poll Books, 1964
- 60 - 64. Sunderland Antiquarian Soc., vols. XXI - XXV, 1954-1970/73
65. Yorks. P.R. - All Saints, Easingwold, Yorks. (CMB, 1599-1812)
66. " " - Oswaldkirk, vols. I - X (CMB, 1538-1837)
67. " " - Richmondshire Civil Marriages, 1653-1660 and Richmondshire Transcripts Index
100. Wadsworth, K.W. "Yorkshire United Independent College", 1954
101. Bear Park, Du, 1956 (leaflet)
102. St. Michael's Church, Bishop Middleham, Du, n.d. (leaflet)
103. Chatt, Turner, Wilkinson, "The Story of Bishop Middleham", 1960, (leaflet)
104. St. Michael & All Angels, Bishopwearmouth, Du, 1214-1964, 1964
- 105a. Old Byland Church (Yorks., N. Riding)
- 105b. Bywell St. Andrew (Nb)
106. St. Mary & St. Cuthbert, Chester-le-Street, Du.
107. " " " " " " " - pictorial book, 1966
108. Chipchase Castle, Nb.
109. Crook & Billy Row - analysis of Census Returns of 1851, 1974
110. St. Giles Church, Du.
111. St. Oswald's Church, Du.
112. Egglecliffe Parish Church, Du.
113. Blessed Mary, Heworth, Du.
114. St. Hilda's, Hartlepool, Du.
115. St. Paul's, Jarrow, Du.
116. St. Gregory the Great, Kirknewton, Nb.
117. Moorsom, N. "The Birth & Growth of Modern Middlesbrough" (Yorks. North Riding), 1967
118. Middleton in Teesdale, Du., - analysis of the 1861 census, 1974
119. St. Peter's, Monkwearmouth, Du.
120. " " " " " "
121. Pitlington Village, Du., 1960
122. Romaldkirk Parish Church (Yorks., N. Riding)
123. St. Mary the Virgin, Seaham, Du.
124. Christ's Hospital in Sherburn, Du.
125. St. Thomas the Apostle, Stanhope, Du.
126. The History of Stanhope, Du., by local Women's Institute
127. Washington, Du.
128. St. Mary Magdalene, Whalton, Nb.
129. Whitburn parish church, Du.
130. Whitworth & St. Paul's, Spennymoor, Du.
131. County Borough of Teesside, 1968
132. Moorsom, N. "The Anglican Church in Teesside", 1970
133. Corfe, T. "History of Sunderland", 1973



## MEMBERS AND THEIR INTERESTS

- 99 Mrs P.R. WAGNER, 17536 Pennington, Detroit, Michigan 48221, USA.  
Families of interest, all from Middleton in Teesdale, are Beadle, Coatsworth and Lowden. Mrs Wagner's great grandfather, William Beadle, went to America in 1834 with his mother Abigail (26) and brother John (6). William had an aunt who was a Lowden and he himself married a Lowden in 1856. Abigail is believed to have been a Coatsworth.
- 189 Mr W.P. LIVELY, 314 North St, Portsmouth, Virginia 23704, USA.  
Several members of the Lively/Liveley/Lyvelie family are mentioned in Alumni Cantabrigiensis, Vol. 3, part 1, pp. 92-93. More than one are of the clergy, including Edward Lively (1654), one of the translators of the Authorised Version of the Bible. Lively Wills at Durham include those of William of Barnard Castle (1645) and Samuel, Gent, of Pilgrim St, Newcastle (1649). Mr Lively is seeking evidence of Livelys having emigrated to Virginia between 1680 and 1780.
- 305 Mr J. HALL, School Bungalow, Darlington Rd, Richmond, N. Yorks, DL10 7BH.  
Surnames of interest are Hall (Westmoor, Northumberland and Hetton le Hole, Durham), Wales (Byker, Northumberland) and Stobie and Gray (Scremerston, Northumberland). Is also interested in coal mining in the Hetton le Hole and Westmoor areas in the 18th and 19th centuries.
- 325 Mrs J.R. MOAT, 38 Heatherslaw Rd, Fenham, Newcastle, NE5 2QL.  
Interests are Hall (Newcastle); Rollo (Scotland, possibly Perthshire); Shenfield (Norwich and Cambridge); all 18th cent. In particular is interested in Margaret, dau. of Thomas Hall, colliery owner (1786-1859). Margaret was unwed in 1859. Another particular interest is in Isabella Moat who lived in Percy St, Newcastle, in 1813. Isabella was the mother of the above Thomas Hall's son Thomas.
- 337 Mrs A.M. STOREY, 820 Burnhamthorpe Rd, Apt 1007, Etobicoke, Ontario, Canada, M9C 4W2.  
An ancestor, John Headley, left Chollerton, Northumberland, to go to Ryton to be married to Frances Laws in 1798, after which they emigrated to Canada. Little is known of John's family, but Laws of Ryton are related to James and Greenoe. Mrs Storey can provide details of John's Canadian descendants. Also seeking information on Tyneside glass works c1900 and any Johnsons or Freemans connected with this industry.
- 338 Capt A.J. COULTHARD, Colescote, Piddletrenthide, Dorchester, Dorset, DT27QP.  
Capt Coulthard is mainly interested in Coulthard/Coulter, throughout Northumberland and Durham, but especially the following: (1) Coulthards of Willington, Ballast Hills and Newburn (1750-1800), the presumed antecedents of the Gateshead Coulthards, locomotive manufacturers. (2) Coulthards/Coulters of Newcastle (freemen), Ponteland and Stamfordham. (3) John Coulthard, born in Stanhope, 1813. (4) Mary Coulthard, born in Wylam, 1785. (5) Ralph Coulthard (1759-1830), Gentleman (or Yeoman) Usher to King George III, and Jon. Coulthard, mariner, of N. Shields (d1795), for whom Ralph, "a creditor", was given administration. Also interested in Border History and religious influences and consequent migrations and in Coulthards connected with the early days of steam power. Capt Coulthard also seeks information on Kipling/Coulthard and Panton/Coulthard marriages. There is a M.I. in Sunderland (c1900) to Ann Coulthard Manco Panton, Isabella Frances Morley Panton and Elizabeth Graham Panton.

- 339 Mr A.A. BRACK, 17 Lockharton Gdns, Edinburgh, EH14 1AU.  
Would be interested to hear of any descendants of Andrew Brack and Alice Hepple. In 1851 they lived at Hebburn Colliery where Andrew was a coal miner. Their family was: Andrew (22), John (16), William (13) and Thomas (10), all coal miners, and George (7) and James (5), scholars. William, Mr Brack's grandfather, married Sarah Looney from Harrington, Cumberland, and moved to Liverpool after being a wherryman on the Tyne.
- 341 Miss L. POULTON, 159 Kenilworth Walk, Sulgrave, Washington, Tyne & Wear.  
Surnames of interest (all 19th century) are: Poulton (all areas, esp. Sunderland); Hunnam (all areas, esp. Co. Durham); Ritson and Thompson (Darlington); Lynn (Catterick, Yorks); Bonnage and Ackehurst (Dover, Kent); Copeland, Shaw and Potts (Sunderland). Seeking the birth of Fenwick Clementson Hunnam, a gamekeeper at Lambton Park, whose children by his wife Ann were baptised at Chester-le-Street. According to the 1851 census he was born 1807-1811 but his baptism has not been found. He later moved to Sunderland but his marriage remains elusive.
- 342 Mrs J.B. SMITH, 17 Staward Ave, Seaton Delaval, Tyne & Wear, NE25 0JG.  
Interested in Tench (Blaydon/Winlaton); Hoad (Whitley Bay); Graham (Cotehill, near Carlisle) and Maughan (Bardon Mill), all in the 19th and 20th centuries.
- 343 Mr C. GRAY, Richmond House, Coppoquin, Co. Waterford, Eire.  
Interested in all Grey/Gray families, wherever located, and in Selby of Langley Park, par. Lanchester. Another interest is in the parentage of the wives of a family of brewers and mining engineers living at Tanfield since the early 18th century and possibly natives of Hayton, Cumberland. Specific queries are for the parentage of: John Gray, Tanfield (born cl700); Margaret Jamson, Whickham/Newcastle (born cl701); Ann Bowmer, Lanchester (born cl773); John Nixon, Barlow, par. Ryton (before 1820). Mr Gray's family possess a number of interesting items, formerly the property of the Radcliffes of Dilston. It is said that the family chaplain at the time of the 1745 rebellion was a Selby and that he, and other family friends, removed these items for safe keeping.
- 345 Mrs V. CORNO, 11 Fleetway, Thorpe, Egham, Surrey.  
Seeking birth, marriage or any other information regarding John Bell (1829-1886), who retired as Police Superintendant in Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 1884, or his wife Mary Armstrong.
- 346 Mr N.C. BEATTIE, 112 Cecil Rd, Hale, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA15 9NU.  
Major family interest is in Watson and Robson, both of which have been traced to the Hexham/Chollerton area in the 1790-1810 period. Also interested in Hall, farmers around Tynemouth and Woodhorn. A specific search is for Rebecca Greaves (nee Jameson) or her family. She opened "Whickham Dairy" in High West Street, Gateshead, in 1913. A 1918 Directory shows her as Rebecca Greaves and Mr Beattie has a letter of hers to a Canadian uncle, written in 1914 and signed "Rebecca Jameson".
- 351 Mrs W.B. AMERY, "Mt Pleasant", East Wangaratta, Victoria, Australia, 3678.  
Mrs Amery would be interested to hear of anyone who had one of the wooden buildings on the North Shields river front in the 19th century as that is where her ancestors, shoemakers, had their business. John Hill (died at Tynemouth, 1849, aged 50), married Mary Ann, dau. of Edward Campbell and Jane Petrie. Their sons, John and James, were shoemakers. James (b1825, Tynemouth), married in 1843 at St. John's, Newcastle, Hannah or Barbara, dau. of Joseph Nicholson and Hannah Stewart. Any information on these people would be welcome.

- 352 Mrs WALES, 146a West Ave, Westerhope, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 5.
- 353 Miss M.H. ABEL, 60 Woodland Gdns, Isleworth, Middx.  
Interested in Young of Newcastle and Bishopwearmouth and in Robinson of Sunderland, Bishopwearmouth and S. Shields, both 19th century.
- 354 Mrs S. LOUGH, 7 The Oval, Benton, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.  
Interested in Lough families in N. Durham and the Corbridge area from the 18th century.
- 355 Mr R.W. WINTHROP, 10 Hamilton Drive, Radcliffe-on-Trent, Notts, NG12 1AG.  
Interested in Winthrops of Hexham in the 19th century and earlier, in particular in Thomas Winthrop, a corn miller, who lived at Dilston Lodge in 1876.
- 356 Miss A.S. PERRY, Fox Cottages, Darsham, Saxmundham, Suffolk, IP17 3QE.  
Miss Perry's major interest is in Reavley and variants, throughout Northumberland and Durham, especially in the baptism of Matthew, who was born in Gateshead c1799, and whose wife, Isabella, was living in St. Giles parish, Durham, in 1851. Other interests are Judson, McCandlish, Douglas and Hyde, all possibly of the Oldham area of Lancashire.
- 357 Mr R. ARNOLD, 39 Norwood Gdns, Southwell, Notts.  
Mr Arnold's main family interest is in Arnold of West Hartlepool and Durham in the 19th century. He is also interested in 19th century maps and street plans of Hartlepool and in the ship building industry in general, but in particular the SS Empire Arnold.
- 358 Mrs N.I. HANDCOCK, "Tall Chimneys", Allendale, Hexham, Northumberland, NE47 9LG.  
Interested in Handcock of Co. Durham before the 16th century. Also in William Joicey, of Riding Farm, Lumley, in the 19th century, John Gray (Arbroath, Scotland, 18th century) and Nicholas Jayne of Llanelly, Brecks., Wales, in the 18th cent. Mrs Handcock has offered to help with Allendale families and has begun copying the M.I.s at St. Peter's, Allenheads.
- 359 Mrs P. HEALEY, 136 Greys Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon.  
Families of interest are Atkinson, Gray and Lumley, all of Gateshead in the 18th and 19th centuries. Mrs Healey's greatgrandfather, George Atkinson, was a partner in a newspaper (? in Newcastle). He married at Gateshead Registry Office in 1857 Eleanor Gray, who was reputed to have been born at sea. Special interests are therefore newspapers and shipping families.
- 360 Mr C.J. WALE, 48 Fitzgerald St, Balwyn, Victoria 3103, Australia.  
Has traced the family of Wale through the registers of Whetstone (Leics) to the marriage of James Wale and Elizabeth Shilton in 1773. Family tradition, however, has it that an ancestor was Sir William Wale, a Northumbrian who became an Alderman of London and was knighted by King Charles II in 1660. Mr Wale is seeking a link between Sir William and Whetstone and is anxious to find any mention of him in Northumbrian records. A William Wale was baptised at Whetstone in 1599 and it is possible that this is the same person.
- 361 Mr G.W. SMITHSON, 94 Leinis St, Hamilton, New Zealand.  
Tracing the Smithson family who were located in the 19th cent. in Morpeth, Stockton and Yorkshire (Kirkleatham, Yearby and Newsham).
- 362 County Librarian, Wansbeck Area Public Library, Kenilworth Road, Ashington, Northumberland, NE63 8AA.

- 363 Mr P. KENDAL, c/o Brunei Shell Petroleum Co. Ltd., EMS/2 Division, Seria, State of Brunei, Borneo.  
Families of interest are Kendal (all Northumberland and Durham, esp. Hetton-le-Hole, Co. Durham, and Westmoor, Northumberland), Leadbitter (Consett) and Gilroy/Gilderoy (Hetton-le-Hole).  
Other interests are coal mining and heraldry.
- 364 Mr H. LAMB, 26 Yoden Road, Peterlee, Co. Durham, SR8 5HN.  
Interested in Lamb (Ovington/East Matfen/Bedlington/Tynemouth), Stainsby (Ryhope/Norton) and Walker (Ryhope/West Tanfield, Yorks).
- 365 Mr W. LAMB, 20 Thorpe Road, Easington Village, Co. Durham.  
Interests as member no. 364.
- 366 Mr C.R. HUDLESTON, MA, FSA, FSA(Scot), Far Oak Bank, Ambleside, Cumbria.  
Mr Hudleston, who is President of the Cumbria Family History Society, was until 1970 in charge of the Dept. of Palaeography and Diplomatic at Durham University. He is interested in the clergy of the Northern Province from 1540 to the present day and has a massive card index covering thousands of names. Other interests are Army officers - HMS and Indian - Durham attornies, heraldry and recusants.
- 367 Mr M. McDOUGALL, 16 St. George's Rd, Cullercoats, Tyne & Wear, NE30 3LA.  
A major interest is in clan Dougall history, including McDougall, McDowall, etc, references from Northumberland and the Borders up to the 18th century. Other interests are Waller (Isel, Cumberland), Lock (W. Cumberland), Heseltine (Sunderland) and Lowes (W. Northumberland).
- 368 Mr J.W. TODD, 67 Fordwell Road, Stockton-on-Tees.  
Interested in Todd families in N. Yorks. and Co. Durham in the 17th and 18th centuries and is seeking the marriage of Michael Todd to Catherine, c1690.
- 369 Mr A. SWINBURNE, 1 Cayton Close, Redcar, Cleveland.  
Mr Swinburne, who describes himself as a novice, is interested in using sources other than parish records or census returns to obtain Swinburne references throughout Northumberland and Durham. Perhaps some member would care to assist. Families of particular interest include Swinburne (Durham and E. Northumberland), esp. the ancestors of Robert George Swinburne, reputedly born at Wingate in 1841. Also Todd (Cramlington, pre-1820), Hutchings (Liskeard, Cornwall), Job (Gunnislake, Cornwall), Smith (Bude, Cornwall), Stewart (Hamilton, Scotland) and Evans (Bilston, Staffs).
- 370 Mr K.L. BOCOCK, "Brooklands", The Heads, Grange over Sands, Cumbria, LA11 7EE.  
Mr Bocock's major interest is in the name Lackland (and variants) throughout the U.K. and he is particularly anxious to hear of any North East references, M.I.s, etc. Other local surnames of interest are Hunter and Rogers, and names from Lancashire and Yorkshire are Bocock (or Boocock), Briggs and Taylor.
- 371 Mr J.K. WILLIS, 4 Grinstead Way, Carrville, Durham, DH1 1LZ.  
Families of interest are Willis (Northumberland and Durham), Willey (Stockton and N. Yorks), Smithson and Garden/Gardner and Leslie (Scotland). A "missing" ancestor is Birbeck Willis, b1814.
- 372 Mr A.R.G. NUTTALL, 103A Ohaopo Rd, Melville, Hamilton, New Zealand.  
Mr Nuttall's grandfather, Andrew Jackson Nuttall, emigrated to Ballarat, Australia, from Blyth in 1876. Other families of interest in the Blyth/Cowpen/Cambois area are Wilkinson (David Wilkinson of 1 Store Rd, Cambois was a master sinker at Cambois Colliery in the 1870s and also of this family were Ralph, custodian of Cambois P.M. chapel, and his brother David, a P.M. preacher who was born at Cowpen c1860 and lived at South Pit Houses), Bainbridge (Mary, daughter of Ralph and Isabella, was baptised at Long Benton in 1824), Gleghorn (Isabella, daughter of William, a miner, was born 1852/3 at Cowpen and her father appears to have died or been killed around the same time - more information



is required on this point). Because of his family's connection with mining, Mr Nuttall requests information on the starting and closing dates of collieries at Cambois, Cowpen (South Pit) and West Sleekburn. Also interested in Elliott, esp. Joseph, farmer of West Sleekburn c1905.

- 373 Mrs M. STALEY, 9 Porterhouse Rd, Ripley, Derbyshire, DE5 3FE.  
Families of interest are Smith (esp. John) of Earsdon and Grey of the same area.
- 374 Mrs P. JOHNSON, 12 Treelands, Hummershnoth, Darlington.
- 375 Mr W. HIND, PO Box N1143, Nassau, New Providence, Bahamas.  
A descendant of William Hind, a blacksmith who lived at Low Heworth in the early 19th century and who appears to have been born either c1778 (M.I. Heworth) or in the period 1782-86 (1841 census). Because of the occurrence of the unusual Christian name "Blakiston" in the family, Mr Hind thinks that William was probably the son of Oswald Hind and Ann Blakiston, both of Tanfield chapelry, who were married in 1770. The name "Oswald" may indicate a link with the Hindes of Stelling, Northumberland, who used this name, and the Blakiston connection could also be most interesting as various Blakistons and Blakiston descendants have held, and continue to hold, prominent positions both locally and nationally. Another descent is from the Northumbrian family of Fenwick-Clennell.
- 376 Mrs B.K. TONGIER, 604 W. 4th St, Coffeyville, Kansas 67377, USA.
- 377 Mr E. KIRBY, 710 S. Prairie St, Champaign, Illinois 61820, USA.  
Seeks information on John Dixon, an engine man at Newcastle in 1865. Also John's son, John Jr, who was born in Winlaton parish in 1828, and ran away from home at the age of 16, because of his father's re-marriage. John Jr was a gunner (1111) in the 17th Brigade, E Regt., RA. Other families of interest are Austin (Devon) and Richards (S. Wales).
- 378 Mr C.A. HEDLEY, 31 Southward Close, Seaton Sluice, Northumberland, NE26 4EA.  
Mr Hedley's main interest is in his own surname in Redesdale, from the 16th to the 19th centuries.
- 379 Miss M.R. THOMPSON, "Chine", 18 Pentylands Close, Highworth, Swindon, Wilts, SN6 7JY.  
Seeks information on the descendants and ancestors of Johnson Thompson, Gentleman, born Pallion, Sunderland, 1831, and baptised at Bishopwearmouth. He died in 1897, at which time his address was 1 South Cliff, Roker - previous addresses had been 24 Crowtree Road, Stockton Road and 14 Argyle St. Another couple of interest are Capt John Maddison (1818-1892), Master Mariner, and his wife, Jane (1815-1899), of 45 and 57 Dock St, Sunderland.
- 380 Mrs P.B. CONNER, 404 Forest Drive, North Syracuse, NY 13212, USA.
- 381 Mr W.G. WILSON, 4 Prior's Terrace, Tynemouth, Tyne & Wear, NE30 4BE.
- 382 Mr C.R. ALEXANDER, 6 Trevelos Pk, Quintrell Downs, Newquay, Cornwall.
- 383 Mrs A.N. JACKSON, 221 Rednall Rd, Kings Norton, Birmingham, B38 8EA.
- 384 Miss J.M. WILSON, 1107-1254 Pendrell St, Vancouver, BC, Canada, V6E 3N4.
- 385 Mrs B.W. NORRIS, 16772 Roxdale, Yorba Linda, California 92686, USA.
- 386 Mr R. MASSINGHAM, 186 Milburn Rd, Ashington, Northumberland.
- 387 Mr A.S. ANGUS, "River View", Mitford, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 3PR.

#### Changes of Address

- 28 Mr P.R.D. DAVISON, 27 Fryup Crescent, Guisborough, Co. Cleveland.
- 94 Dr M.E. WILSON, 33 Archery Rise, Neville's Cross, Durham.

#### Death

We regret to inform members of the following death:

- 44 Mr T. GRAHAM, 391 Plessey Rd, Blyth, Northumberland.



- 122 Mrs J.B. THOMAS, 3764 Belleau Drive, Memphis, Tennessee, 38127, USA.  
In the original paragraph on Mrs Thomas' family, mention is made of a Richard Braxton/Eden Patchett marriage. This should have been Ellen Patchett.
- 181 Mr W.E. ROUNCE, 40 Salcombe Av, Jarrow, Tyne & Wear.  
Tracing the, now established as single and Norfolk based, family of Rounce. Present objectives, in Norfolk, are the births of John cl754, John cl733, William 1751, Samuel 1772, James cl718, Charles cl826 and Richard cl795. In East London, objectives are the births of William 1793 and Charles cl798.
- 207 Miss P.A. JOHNSON, 14 Dorchester Rd, Morden, Surrey, SM4 6QE.  
Miss Johnson's expanded interests will go a good way to filling out the Members' Directory. Meanwhile the Editor requests her forgiveness if he mentions here just a few of those relating to local families. Dates are those of the earliest reference found so far. Tomlinson (Woodfield, Witton-le-Wear, 1886; North Bedburn, Auckland, 1858; Wolsingham 1841); Parkin (Woodland, Cockfield, 1760); Foster/Forster (Hamsterley 1866; Woodfield 1846; Hebburn 1841); Park (Etherley, 1788); Robson (Woodland 1760); Spencer (Wolsingham 1841); Vasey (Wolsingham 1841); Airey (Crook 1883); Watson (Thistle Flat, Witton-le-Wear, 1848°).
- 211 Mr R.W. LOCK, PO Box 44154, Tacoma, Washington, 98444, USA.  
Searching for details of the parents of William Lock (bl823), of Haswell, Co. Durham, in 1843, when he married (at Haswell) Mary (bl817, Urpeth), also of Haswell, daughter of John Boag (a Scotsman, bl789) and Margaret Westgarth (bl789). William's mother is believed to have been born at Beamish and to have died, a widow, at Waterhouses. Mr Lock will pay the postal expenses of anyone who can help in this search.
- 215 Mrs D. STANTON, 3 Lake Road, Chandlers Ford, Hants, SO5 1EZ.  
As reported in Vol. 1, No. 4, Mrs Stanton is seeking details of Philip Holmes Stanton, particularly his baptism in Newcastle cl800, son of John, and his marriage to Eliza Bilton (?Newcastle cl822). An address has now been found for Philip - Low Dene House, Benwell (Benwell was part of Northumberland until 1904 when it was added to the City of Newcastle - Ed.). Prior to 1868 this was the home of one P.M. Holmes. An example of what our Society should be all about - Mrs Stanton has received useful information from one of our New Zealand members. Mrs Stanton herself is willing to search for other members in Southampton and Winchester in return for her bus fare (currently 70p return to both cities).
- 218 Mrs H.G. WEST, 650 South Grant, Pocatello, Idaho 83201, USA.  
Wishes to contact descendants of Alfred Thomas West (1857-1898) and Elizabeth Ann Jobling (bl861, Sheepfolds, Monkwearmouth), who were married in 1881. Also any information on, or descendants of, Henry Charles West (brother of Alfred Thomas) and his second wife, Louise Marjoram Easy (née Clarke). Wishes to contact also any daughters of Jessie Ann West (bl884, Bishopwearmouth), daughter of Henry Charles West and Elizabeth Isabella Jobling, who married William Ireland and moved to W. Hartlepool. Another search is for descendants of Charles Henry West Jr (b Monkwearmouth 1876, dl960) and his wife, Isabella I. Carr (bl875).
- 221 Miss P.E. CALVERT, 1/514 Glenferrie Rd, Hawthorn 3122, Victoria, Australia.  
Additional interests include Mary Rogerson (from Berwickshire, Roxburghshire or Dumfriesshire borders, wife of John Calvert, border farmer), James Calvert (son of Mary & John, born Dumfriesshire 1774, became headmaster of Montrose Grammar School), Isabella Bogue (born cl774, probably in Berwickshire or Roxburghshire, wife of James Calvert) and the surname Rutherford, esp. as connected with that of Bogue.

## THE NOVEMBER MEETING

### VISIT TO DURHAM UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF PALAEOGRAPHY

About thirty members were treated to an interesting and instructive talk by Miss Margaret McCollum when the Society visited the Department of Palaeography and Diplomatic of Durham University in November. Many examples from the wide range of documents held there were on display.

After outlining the history of the "Prior's Kitchen" scheme, under which the Department was established, Miss McCollum explained that by this scheme the muniments of the Dean and Chapter of Durham are still held in Durham Cathedral but all the other records in the Department's custody, including those of the Bishops of Durham, are deposited in the Department's premises at South Road, Durham. Until 1882, when the Diocese of Newcastle was formed, the Bishop of Durham's Diocese included not only County Durham but also most of Northumberland and Alston parish in Cumberland. Hexhamshire in Northumberland was part of York Diocese until 1837, but the Northallertonshire area of Yorkshire was in the Diocese of Durham until the mid-nineteenth century.

The main genealogical sources in the Department are detailed below. It is hoped that fuller details of some of these documents will be given in future Journals.

Bishops' Transcripts - copies of parish registers sent by each parish to the Bishop - should date from 1597. In fact, almost all commence in the 1760s and the fate of the earlier ones is unknown. Until 1812, many transcripts were for years ended 25th March. The documents came in a variety of shapes and sizes and, at certain dates, if they were properly wrapped no postal charges were incurred. If they weighed too much, the Diocesan Registry could refuse to accept them and they piled up in the Post Office, as evidenced by the refusal to accept a Newburn transcript which cost 16s. 4d. in postage! The transcripts are now in parish order, and a full list appears in Vol. 1, Nos. 3 and 4, of this Journal.

The Bishop had jurisdiction in probate matters until 1858, and all the Wills and Letters of Administration proved in Durham Diocese before this date are held here. There is a card index of the Wills, etc., from 1540 to 1615 and four main index volumes covering the periods 1600-1660, 1660-1786, 1787-1831 and 1832-1858. The Will of Margaret Henderson, a spinster of Longframlington, was exhibited, "spinster" here being apparently a description of the lady's occupation, since she had two sons and six daughters and the sons had different surnames! Many Wills (to about 1720) have with them Inventories of the possessions of the deceased, and they provide a fascinating insight into social conditions at all periods.

Marriage Bonds are held from the sixteenth century onwards, and are the Diocesan record of marriages authorised by Licence issued by the Bishop's officials, rather than by Banns called in the parish churches. They often give useful details of occupation, parentage and age (although the age is usually a laconic "21 and upwards"). There is a Microfilm index 1580-1815. Later years are in boxes, unindexed, and searching can be tedious.

The Department holds Ordination Papers for Anglican Clergy who were ordained in Durham Diocese. Often there is with these a baptismal certificate. Some Scots were ordained at Durham.

The Consistory Court heard all types of cases. The depositions of the witnesses often give useful biographical information. There is a card index of the parties to the cases recorded in the cause papers, and it is hoped eventually to index also all the witnesses.

The Halmote Court Records are a useful source, especially if an ancestor was a tenant of the Bishop. There are indexes to some of the records in this collection. Records of the Trade Guilds of Durham City are held. The freedom of the city was passed from father to son, as well as being earned by apprenticeship. Some Land Tax records are held, and there is a large collection of Family Papers of both national and local interest. These include the Grey papers (the family includes the architect of the 1832 Reform Bill, whose Monument is a well known Newcastle landmark), papers from the Earls of Carlisle (who held large estates in Cumberland and Northumberland) and material from the families of Baker-Baker (of Houghton-le-Spring, Elemore Hall, Pitlington and Sedgfield), Shafto (Beamish area), Shipperdson, Eden (West Auckland), Dixon, Johnson (Ryhope) and Backhouse (the Darlington Quaker family, whose records include records of Quakers throughout the country).

Miss McCollum's talk clearly demonstrated that the Department is one of the "musts" as a place of search for local genealogists. The Department's Search Room at South Road, Durham (opposite the New Inn), is open Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., and on Saturdays during term time from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. It is closed for a period in August and for about a week at Christmas and Easter.

M.H. & M.McC.

## THE DECEMBER MEETING

### ASPECTS OF PALAEOGRAPHY AND GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

A.P. Champley

#### 1. Introduction

Mr Champley began by defining palaeography as a branch of the science of documentary criticism. It concerns the reading of old documents, their interpretation, the influence of handwriting and illumination schools, rules of calligraphy and scribal conventions, dating and origin of texts and the distribution of styles. In other words the term "palaeography" (literally "old writing") refers not to the actual classes of record, but to the physical and intellectual difficulties involved in reading and interpreting them.

All local archive repositories contain material which presents difficulty to the amateur - and indeed to the professional! Sometimes transcripts exist (e.g. the Wood transcripts of parish registers, in Newcastle Central Library) or Calendars (e.g. that for Newcastle Common Council, in the Tyne and Wear Record Office) can be used in place of the originals, but often no such aid is available and the searcher must use the original documents.

Mr Champley did not attempt to explore the mysteries of Medieval records, as these demand one set of specialised knowledge and techniques in their reading and a second set in their interpretation! Most genealogical research is of necessity done in the post-medieval period - fortunate indeed is the genealogist who has to do much work in the period before 1500 - and by the time he does he will be well on the way to mastering the techniques required! Mr Champley therefore concentrated on the period after 1500, especially the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, when most problems occur. 1538 was, as is well known, the date when the first parish registers were introduced, under Henry VIII. This date is also significant as it was about the time of the Dissolution of the Monasteries, when many estates came under secular ownership for the first time and when many classes of records (often of interest to the genealogist) first appear.

To those unfamiliar with the early records the problems may seem formidable, but as Dr Emmison has said:

To furnish himself with two aids - post-mediaeval Latin and palaeography - is definitely not beyond the reach of the amateur with a little determination and a little leisure. Give it a trial!

## 2. Languages

The medieval researcher may encounter Norman-French, but for our purposes this will be discounted. Most Tudor and Stuart documents are in English, but if you need to consult legal or other records up to as late as 1733, except for the Commonwealth period (1653-1660) you may well find that they are in Latin. These include Quarter Session Court records, ecclesiastical records, title deeds and even some parish registers. The Latin used is not "difficult" Latin, so all the grammar forgotten from your schooldays need not worry you too much. It is not even as difficult as earlier medieval Latin, as the writers quite clearly thought in English and wrote in Latin by convention. Construction is therefore very simple - often English, or even French words are used in the same sentence:

"Ject un Brickbat ...."  
"Tunica, Anglice jerkin"  
"vocatur Le Millpand"

- all these are genuine examples.

Many phrases are used over and over again and repetition is thus a vital clue. An experienced searcher will grow to know what to look for - e.g. "Incipit" in title deeds. Common words in parish registers, etc., usually prove of little difficulty - e.g. obiit, natus, baptizatus, filius, filia, etc. Especially useful, if a little obvious, is a familiarity with the Latin forms of common English names (e.g. Johannis, Guillelmus, Jacobus, Carolus, Georgius, Galfridus, Humfredus, etc.). Once a little experience has been gained there will soon be little difficulty in recognising standard words and phrases.

## 3. Spelling and punctuation

Mr Champley next turned to deal with documents in English. One must remember, however, that the English of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries was often very different in spelling and punctuation to its modern counterpart. Tudor and Stuart spelling was by no means regular and some common words can be very confusing because of unorthodox or antiquated spellings. Indeed, it is quite common for there to be several spellings of the same word in one document, or even in one sentence! By the eighteenth century spelling was becoming more regular and, apart from obvious mistakes such as one finds today, is mostly recognisable as "modern".

Some points to note are:

- (a) The tendency to add or omit a final "e" at random (com for come, mak for make).
- (b) Spelling confusion (could for cold).
- (c) w for u (howse for house).
- (d) ie for y - a most common usage (verie for very, Januarie for January).
- (e) Consonants are doubled or singled at will.
- (f) Vowel changes (gode for good, foteball for football).
- (g) c and t are often interchangeable (commocion, commendacion).



Punctuation is also very irregular before about 1700. Modern symbols are often used for other than their modern purposes and obsolete symbols include the virgula and the lett.

#### 4. Abbreviations

One of the most difficult problems in reading a document can be that of understanding the abbreviations. This is especially so with Latin documents, and some of the conventions which grew up for speed of writing, economy of sewing parchment, etc., were carried over into later English documents. It would take too long to give an exhaustive list - even if such a thing were possible - but a few obvious examples are:

pish for parish,  
psonnes for persons and  
pte for part(e),

#### 5. Handwriting

Leaving aside the many medieval hands which, generally speaking, are the most difficult and become more difficult from the thirteenth to the fifteenth centuries, most difficulties occur with the hand which flourished in Elizabethan and Stuart England, generally known as "Secretary hand". This was eventually influenced and superseded by Italic - forms of which are copperplate and modern hands.

When trying to read Secretary hand it helps to look for the common words first (the, and, if, with, for, it, etc.) and note the letter forms. It may be possible to construct your own alphabet for a particular style or even for a particular writer. Note that there are two or more forms of some letters (e.g. s or  $\int$ , h or  $\xi$  for h). Next read one word at a time - do not attempt to guess at whole phrases or sentences. It helps to familiarise oneself with the script by working from copies or facsimiles with transcripts, as are found in most books on palaeography.

#### 6. Practical work

Mr Champley concluded by passing around a number of copies made from documents illustrative of the various points raised, and took members step-by-step through some of their more difficult passages. As these had been taken from documents in the care of Tyne and Wear Record Office, members found them fascinating for their own sake as well as providing useful palaeographic practice.

#### 7. Bibliography

##### (a) For Latin words:

MARTIN, C.T. A Record Interpreter (1910)  
LATHAN, Revised Medieval Latin Word List (1965)  
GOODER, E.A. Latin for Local History (1961)

##### (b) For handwriting:

HECTOR, Handwriting of English Documents  
GRIEVE, H. Examples of English Handwriting, 1150-1750 (2 vols.)  
EMMISON, F.G. How to read local archives, 1550-1700

A.P.C. & G.N.



## THE JANUARY MEETING

### MEMBERS' EVENING

Most of the evening was taken up by three short addresses: Mr R.E. Vine on his methods of Record Keeping, Dr M. Wilson on the Members' Directory and the Society's library and Mrs A. Power on the Sunderland Branch Genealogical Library.

#### 1. Mr R.E. Vine

Mr Vine's records may be considered as forming three distinct groups: (a) Total Records, (b) Summary Records and (c) Search Control.

To build up a Total Record system each item of information must be retained, as it may turn out to be invaluable at some future date. Notes are made on as many different details as possible of each family being studied. A loose-leaf folder is most useful for storing all this material - preferably one with an index on the first page. Mr Vine has eight such folders, all well filled. This information includes material taken from such sources as Census returns, Wills, Boyd's Marriage Index, etc., and is all linked through the index to the many surnames represented.

Three different sizes of card are used for the different types of records kept. For Parish Registers, the largest size is used. Each card is referenced to the particular Archdeaconry involved and contains a summary of where the originals, Bishops' Transcripts, other transcripts, etc., are to be found and whether any of the transcripts are indexed. At the bottom of the card is a list of the neighbouring parishes and on the back under baptisms, marriages and burials are notes of which years have been searched and which surnames have been searched for. These cards are kept in an indexed box.

The Summary Records are the main class of record and are recorded on the middle-sized card. These records are based on married couples, and are "family cards". These are colour-coded, four different colours being used to cover four different groups of ancestors - white cards are also used, but only for non-direct ancestors, collaterals, etc. These build up "family trees" which go back to Mr and Mrs Vine's great-great-great grandparents. They are linked through a "continuity sheet", of which there are eight - one for each grandparent of Mr and Mrs Vine, respectively.

The smallest size of card is used for Search Control. For example, if a search was to be undertaken in, say, Carlisle, then the relevant Search Card would be taken along so that with its help the searches made would be immediately recorded.

Mr Vine also has a series of wallets, relating to different Record Offices, etc, and these contain local maps, parish maps, road maps, etc., and books and pamphlets relating to the records held in that particular place. Also in the wallets are any handouts issued by the Record Office, personal notes on opening times, etc, and, of course, the relevant Search Card.

A generation numbering system is used: Mr and Mrs Vine are generation 1, their parents are generation 2, etc. This makes it easy to link the generation numbers to a particular period. Each generation tends to average about thirty years.

Dr Wilson began by explaining a little about the forthcoming Members' Directory. It will contain columns relating to: Surname, Member's Number, Parish, County and century, with an entry for each family in which a member is interested. Dr Wilson mentioned the problems which arose when members gave the name of a town in their interests but failed to specify the county. She could easily supply the county for well-known towns, but obscure places are a different matter and a few errors may well have arisen.

As to the library, the Society has been fortunate in receiving many interesting and valuable books formerly the property of our late Chairman, Mr C.P. Neat. This collection had been built up by Mr Neat over many years and some discussion took place as to whether it would be appropriate for members to be allowed to borrow certain of them, and if so how this could be managed. It was decided that this matter should be discussed at a future meeting of the Committee.

Mrs A. Power

Mrs Power is the Branch Librarian of the Mormon Genealogical Library soon to be opened in Sunderland. There are now 150 such libraries, throughout the world and five will shortly be open in England and Wales. Each branch is controlled by a local Library Board, which supervises the general running of the branch. The Librarians in charge must have undergone a Church Teacher Training Course. A Church Genealogical Training Programme consists of twelve lessons and there are also sixteen lessons of Library Training. Anyone wishing to be an Assistant Librarian must commit themselves to attending the sixteen Library Training lessons and then to taking one duty session per fortnight.

The library is housed in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Sunderland, one wing of which has been altered to accommodate it. The facilities comprise a Library Room, Staff Room and Public Search Room.

Local members of the Church have contributed towards setting up the centre and in future local areas will contribute monthly towards the running costs. Contributions from the public will be gratefully accepted.

The Branch Librarian can call on the main Genealogical Society Headquarters in Salt Lake City at any time, for advice or assistance on any matter which cannot easily be dealt with at a local level. The Genealogical Society now holds 900,000 rolls (each 100 ft) of microfilm. The microfilm card catalogue system is arranged in three parts - locality, surname and subject. Although there are a few restrictions on ordering microfilm, the process is normally quite simple. Inevitably, a form must be filled in, on which the number of the microfilm required must be stated. For a fee of £1 (50p. handling charge, plus 50p. postage) it is possible to have access to the microfilm for one month. If a longer time is required, it is possible to extend this period and, in certain cases, an indefinite loan may be arranged. The microfilm may not be removed from the library, as many people mistakenly think.

There are some basic books available for use in the library, and others on microfilm. One most useful publication available is the English Census Place Name Register, 1841-1871, and the Parish and Vital Records Listing, which covers the whole world. This leads into the Computer File Index, which is an index of names contained in the Genealogical Society's computer. The names are arranged by geographical regions (e.g. North America or England), then by localities within these regions (e.g. Utah or Yorkshire), then

alphabetically by surname and then by "given" name. For Norway, Wales (including Monmouthshire) and Ireland the arrangement is alphabetical by "given" name, because of the predominantly patronymic naming system found in those areas. The names are printed on a series of microfiches, each of which measure 4 x 6 inches and contains 270 pages of printed material, with about sixty names on each.

A special microfiche reading machine will enlarge and project these microfiches onto a screen, for easy reading. The names on these microfiches have come from two sources. Some have been submitted by members of the Church researching their own ancestral lines and also included is the systematic extraction of names with genealogical data which the Genealogical Society is doing all the time. The names are extracted from selected records - primarily church records from many countries. A list of all the places from which records have been extracted (up to 1976) is in the Parish and Vital Records Listing Book, which is available in the library. Both the Computer File Index and the Parish and Vital Records Listing Book will save patrons from wasteful duplication of research effort.

M.H. & A.P.

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#### WAIFS AND STRAYS

##### M.I.s from St. Paul's Churchyard, Shadwell, Middlesex

1. Richard Watts PEACOCK  
Master Mariner of Newcastle  
A ...ate of this parish  
.. July 1846 aged 51 years
2. William YOUNG, Master Mariner  
of South Shields died June 11 1832  
aged 54 years; also William YOUNG son  
of the above died August .....  
(?) 1853 aged 26 years

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#### FUTURE PROGRAMME

##### Wednesday, April 20th

"One man's look at genealogy", a talk by Lt.Col. I.S. Swinnerton, TD, JP, FSG, Chairman until this year of the Federation of Family History Societies, President of the Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry and Chairman of the Swinnerton Society.

YMCA Building, Ellison Place, Newcastle, 7.15 p.m.

##### Thursday, May 19th

Annual General Meeting, followed by "A Genealogical Exhibition" - a display and talk by Mrs A. Power, including books, pedigrees, photocopies of source material, etc.

YMCA Building, Ellison Place, Newcastle, 7.15 p.m.

##### Thursday, June 16th

The June meeting will feature a talk by Miss A. Haynes, BA, Assistant Archivist at Northumberland County Record Office.

YMCA Building, Ellison Place, Newcastle, 7.15 p.m.

There will, as usual, be no meetings during July and August.