

THE JOURNAL OF THE NORTHUMBERLAND & DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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EDITORIAL

First, the good news. The N.D.F.H.S. Library and Research Centre at Bolbec Hall in Newcastle is now up and running. Now, the bad news. Northumberland Record Office (at both Melton Park and Morpeth) has reduced its opening times to three days per week, because of financial constraints.

More details on both matters, which are obviously of interest to local family historians, are given elsewhere. The Record Office closures are to be regretted but I know that the staff there regret the restrictions just as much as we do!

You should find two 'flyers' with this issue of the Journal. There is a reminder and further application form for the N.D.F.H.S. Weekend Conference at Durham in September, for which some places are still available. And there is an entry form and details of 'Big R 2' --- the proposed new edition of the British Isles Genealogical Register, being organised by the Federation of Family History Societies. Please follow the instructions carefully. This Society will in due course receive copies of the Northumberland and Durham sections and will make them available to members.

Some Words of Thanks ...

The Society could not have set up the Bolbec Hall premises without the help of a large number of people who have given of their time and effort over the last couple of years or so. First in time was the 'Premises Sub Committee', followed by other Committee members who discussed the proposals at considerable length. The lawyers had to sort out all kinds of problems with the lease. Mention must also be made of Miss Margaret Norwood, Secretary of the Lit and Phil, who was always helpful and we hope that nothing we did contributed in any way to her decision to retire just as we opened up!

When we finally obtained permission in February, Carol Yellowley came into her own. She had already done a great deal of planning and she was ever present on the site for a month, seeing to the thousand and one items which needed attention, organising volunteers, obtaining furniture ... the list is endless and it really is a case of "What could we have done without her?". Many thanks, Carol.

Thanks are due to the cleaners, the decorator Gerry Brown and the whole army of volunteers, many of whom turned up, unasked and unannounced, simply to get on with what were, sometimes, very dirty jobs. An outstanding memory is of our Secretary, John Ashburner --- who will not mind me saying that he is long past his youth --- clinging to the outside of a window, high above the street, while trying to remove years of ingrained grime with his free hand. Too many people to name individually rallied to the call, and now that we are open, the efforts must go on.

We need a continuing team of recruits, but most of all, we need you to use Bolbec Hall to further your researches and then, in the fulness of time, write them up and donate a copy of your family history to add to our collection and to assist present and future members over the years to come. That will express your thanks in the most practical way possible.

YOUR NEW RESEARCH CENTRE

by Geoff Nicholson

Have *you* visited the N.D.F.H.S. Bolbec Hall Library and Research Centre yet? The Centre got off to a good start on Monday 11th March, when our first visitor was presented with a suitably wrapped box of chocolates (who says we aren't generous?). Since then things have run very smoothly. A few words in the Newcastle *Evening Chronicle* and a hour-long programme by Radio Newcastle, recorded on the premises, have given us a little publicity, which may lead to more members. If you have already visited it, you will know what the Centre has to offer; if not, then this guide may be helpful.

First, getting there. Bolbec Hall is easy to find, especially if you start from Newcastle Central Station. Leave the station via the main portico and turn right or, from the Tyneside Metro station, leave via the "Neville Street" exit. Either way you will then find yourself walking past the Royal Station Hotel.

Continue past the Hotel and cross the side road, Orchard Street. You are now in the lower part of Westgate Road, and you may notice that the first building you pass is the Neville Hall, home of the North-East Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers, as is made obvious by an inscription running right around the building.

Note also the plaque on the wall pointing out where excavations in the 1930's revealed what was thought to be part of Hadrian's Wall - the only part yet found within the centre of Newcastle.

Immediately past that is a beautiful building with a classical Greek-style portico, set back a little from the road. This, as all Tynesiders should know, is the home of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle upon Tyne, colloquially the "Lit & Phil".

Next door is Bolbec Hall, the entrance to which faces onto the small patio outside the Lit and Phil entrance. Enter the foyer and go to the second floor, either via the stairs or by using a rather old-fashioned lift. You will reach a suite of four rooms, light and airy, and appropriately furnished under the direction of Carol Yellowley. There is a reception area where you will "sign in" and on your left is a small room where you can take a break from ancestor-hunting, have a coffee or tea, eat your sandwiches or just chat!

The first of two main rooms houses two microfilm readers, eight fiche readers and a computer, as well as cabinets containing the Society's fiche and film collection. At present, this includes the 1881 Census Index for the whole of England and Wales (except the few counties not yet published), the 1984 IGI for the whole country and the 1992 edition for Northumberland and Durham and surrounding areas. There is a set of Australian Emigrant Ships' Passenger Lists, and all the Society's own fiche publications, as well as miscellaneous items of interest such as Lloyds Captains Registers 1869, the Medical Register 1779 and the Law List 1812. It is intended to purchase items which are not readily available elsewhere in the region, the fiche of the Scottish Old Parish Registers (pre-1855) and the Somerset House Probate Index from 1858 for England and Wales are on order.

The computer houses all the marriages listed in the Society's indexes for Durham and Northumberland 1813-37 and for some parishes the period covered has been extended, usually back to 1800.

The second main room is the Library which at present consists of four main sections, apart from general genealogical reference books.

- (a) Parish Register and Monumental Inscription transcripts, sorted alphabetically by parishes, under Durham and Northumberland.
- (b) Family trees, pedigrees, histories and biographical notes, from roughly sketched 'trees' to professionally produced and bound hardback volumes.
- (c) Historical background reading i.e. general histories and descriptions of the area and accounts of individual towns and villages.
- (d) Local 'miscellaneous' items, ranging from a photocopy of 'winners' from the *Boys Own Paper* to printed histories and registers of local schools.

These sections will be arranged by a simplified form of the Dewey Decimal System with a subject catalogue and index, and we expect this to be a popular browsing area. At present, photocopies of most items can be supplied at a cost of 10p per A4 sheet and 20p for A3, subject to the laws of copyright.

As this is a reference only Library, for members to use in person, it is not intended to continue the lending system. Visitors will expect to be able to find that their choice of research material is available, especially if they have travelled some distance. However, a photocopying and limited search service will be offered.

For example, a family tree may be photocopied on request or a copy of ten years entries for a baptism register can be supplied.

A search can be undertaken in indexes but it must be stressed that this will be a limited service --- complex and time-taking searches will not be undertaken! The charges will be the same as above, plus postage, and with a minimum charge of £1. The copies may of course be kept by the purchaser, so the service should be no more expensive than the previous one. Don't forget that printed books can be borrowed from your local library through the inter-library loan system. And don't forget, N.D.F.H.S. Library would welcome donations of material!

A catalogue for sections (a) and (b) should be available by the beginning of May, price £1 and the full catalogue should be completed and for sale at the Society's conference in September.

Finally, the Library contains our collection of (fairly recent only) Exchange Journals, received from other Societies in exchange for N.D.F.H.S. Journal.

Now the Rules:-

- (a) No smoking anywhere on the premises.
- (b) Use only pencil when making notes.
- (c) No eating or drinking, except in the area provided.
- (d) No dogs, except guide dogs.
- (e) No noise --- remember others will be researching in the same room as you and they don't want to hear your problems!

There are a few 'Do's':-

- (a) Do try to let us know when you are coming, as we cannot guarantee a reader to anyone who has not booked (tel: 0191-261 2159).
- (b) Do replace everything where you found it.
- (c) Do let us have your complaints and suggestions.
- (d) Do enjoy your research!

Note the opening times, slightly changed, are:

Monday	10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.
Tuesday	10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.
Wednesday	10.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m.
Thursday	10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.
Friday	10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.
Saturday	11.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

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MEMBER

THE STORY OF "GUARD STALEY" AND HIS FOREBEARS

by Christine Jemmeson

Most of us during our research find an ancestor we wish we had known personally. Perhaps he or she witnessed major historical events; lived through dangerous times; made a major contribution to the political, scientific or artistic life of their day; or mixed with figures of fame or notoriety. Or perhaps, like my maternal great grandfather **George Staley**, they became well known in their local community for making a stand on a matter of principle, but remained unknown in the wider world. George Staley's story is particularly poignant in view of his tragic accidental death.

I was born in Darlington, at the home of my grandmother **Susannah Thompson (nee Staley)**. One of my earliest memories is of the large black Victorian clock taking pride of place on the mantel-piece. Beneath the dial was a brass plate, engraved with the following inscription:

*Presented to George Staley
as a token of esteem
by his
Fellow Workmen & Friends
in defending the principles of liberty
Shildon 27th April 1895*

As I grew up, I found out a good deal about George Staley from my grandmother and my mother. I learned that he had been a Mineral Guard for the North Eastern Railway Company in the Shildon area, was considered a 'scholar' by his work-mates, and had written letters on their behalf to the Railway Offices at York whenever they had requests or complaints to make. As a result of this, he was summoned to Head Office and reprimanded for helping the men: I suppose the Railway officials thought him a 'Union' man and a trouble-maker. They did, however, show how impressed they were with his level of literacy by offering him a desk job, a promotion in effect from blue-collar to white-collar worker. But George refused to work in York, out of a sense of loyalty to the friends he had helped, "not wanting to appear a turncoat" as my mother put it. He was suspended without pay. He bought a horse and cart and 'led coal', making just enough to survive and keep his wife and three daughters. The eldest, my grandmother, worked as a dressmaker to support family finances, and he was helped by all his friends. Eventually he was offered work again by the Railway Company, but it was a 'banishment' to Waskerley, a remote station with just a few railway cottages. My grandmother told me how she and her sister used to take the train from Waskerley to Hexham on Saturdays to go shopping, as their lives were rather isolated and lonely for most of the week. After a year of two he was given his old job back at Shildon. Ironically, only ten years later when he was 54, he was fatally injured in an accident doing the very work he had preferred to the 'desk job', in the very place he had fought so hard to return to from Waskerley.

When I began researching the Staleys, my mother gave me George's death certificate. The cause of death was "Injuries accidentally received by being knocked down or by slipping under a Locomotive whilst following his employment". There had been an inquest on 6th February 1907 following his death on 4th February in the Cottage Hospital at Bishop Auckland, and this was fully reported in that week's *Auckland Chronicle*. The report gives a detailed and vivid account of what might have happened. Across ninety years the scene comes to life.

MINERAL GUARD KILLED AT WEST AUCKLAND GUARD STALEY'S DEATH

A shocking death occurred in the Hummerbeck colliery sidings on Monday evening. Shunting operations were being conducted and Mr. Geo. Staley, N.E.R. mineral guard of Shildon, was engaged as the guard. He had given the signal for the engine to be moved on in a certain direction and immediately after he was discovered caught beneath the engine.

Guard Staley was well-known throughout the district and several years ago there were many meetings of railway servants held in connection with what was known as Guard Staley's case.

The late Mr. Staley was regarded by officials who had the oversight of his work as a highly capable and active employee ... He had been engaged as a mineral guard for 35 years ...

William Warrior, engine driver of Shildon, said he was driving the engine attached to the train of which deceased was guard ... There were setting back into a siding at Hummerbeck when the mishap occurred. The last time he saw the deceased was when he turned the points and signalled them back. A few seconds afterwards his fireman told him he thought someone had been run over ... They got down and and found deceased underneath the engine ... he had been caught by the brake gearing ... the supposition was that deceased was crossing over the line to get to the inside of the curve ... It was usual for the guard to go to the inside of the curve so that he might remain in view ... There was ice about ... They had to move the engine to release him, and two doctors were brought to him.

Frederick Alfred Dent, fireman on the engine, also gave evidence and said that when deceased was caught he heard a "shuffling" noise like a stumble and the sound of a voice. Witness shouted to the driver to hold and the engine was immediately stopped. It was black dark at the time. They found the guard under the engine and witness found his hand lamp a little distance away. The lamp was out ...

The Coroner said the accident appeared to have been unavoidable. It was a dark night and deceased had probably slipped in crossing.

This newspaper cutting had been carefully preserved by my mother, and along with it a letter written on House of Commons notepaper, from the Liberal M.P. **James Mellor Paulton**, who represented Bishop Auckland 1885-1910, addressed to my great grandfather and marked 'Private'. It was dated 28 July 1894, and refers to 'Guard Staley's Case' as it was called in the newspaper article. It must have been the persuasion of local figures such as **Sir Joseph Pease** and the M.P. for Bishop Auckland that persuaded George to compromise on his matter of principle, and accept the post at Waskerley.

28th July 1894

Dear Mr. Staley

As you have perhaps heard, I have been endeavouring through Sir Joseph Pease to make such efforts as were in my power to promote a settlement of our case with the N.E.R.

I regret, however, to say that I have not succeeded in carrying matters beyond the point at which I understand they have stood for some time. I am informed today that the Co. will not give way on the question of your going to Waskerley and unless you can be induced to do so I greatly fear that neither I nor any other third party can be of service in bringing the dispute to an end.

I therefore venture to make a personal appeal (solely in the interests of peace and without expressing any opinion whatever on the rights or wrongs of the case) and to put it to you as a friend, if I may say so, whether you had not better consent to accept the post which is still offered to you at Waskerley and resume your employment? By doing so I feel sure from what has passed that you would not lose anything in the end ... I have good reason to believe that there is no sort of unfriendly feeling towards you in any quarter, quite the contrary, and that you would only incur a very temporary disadvantage as compared with your former position.

I am well aware that to take this course would involve a sacrifice of your own feelings and of what from one point of view is a question of principle ... from a practical point of view I feel you have nothing to gain and everything to lose by refusing what is offered. You have made your protest by standing out all this time at heavy cost to yourself - and I would ask whether it is wise or even right for you now to sacrifice your prospects to no purpose? ... I would not think of urging you to do anything unmanly or contrary to your self-respect. Quite the reverse. I should respect you all the more for taking a course which will end a deadlock, and do honour to yourself by preventing such strife and bitterness as may otherwise unhappily occur ...

So George swallowed his pride and his principles and went to Waskerley for a while. His friends presented him with the clock to show the respect they felt for him, and their gratitude for what he had done to help them.

I was by now intrigued by the Staleys for other reasons. My mother mentioned that George and his wife **Eleanor** (nee **Soulsby**) had in 1875 spent their 'honeymoon' in Teesdale with cousins who were farmers. She also suggested that the Staleys might have come from Derbyshire, as she had noticed how frequently the name occurred on gravestones there! It is here that I give eternal thanks to the N.D.F.H.S. for when I joined the Society I little realised how much my researches would be helped by a kind correspondent.

In April 1983, I offered in the Journal's *Help Wanted & Offered* section to do research in Essex in return for help in Northumberland and Durham. Major Lloyd Kenyon-Fuller of Winston, a NDFHS member and experienced genealogist, replied. I was very lucky, as he had transcribed the Middleton-in-Teesdale Registers 1753-1837 and so had access to a wealth of names - including Staleys! Owing to his expertise and industry I was able to build a picture of the Staleys in Teesdale and Bishop Auckland, and prove that my mother's family stories were essentially correct. Since then I have consolidated the Major's research with my own at the Census Rooms and the Society of Genealogists in London.

George Staley was born at Gurney Row, Coundon Grange, in May 1852. His father Jonathan was a pitman, and he had two sisters and four brothers, including elder brother Thomas, in the 1891 Census a 'foreverman', and "well-known in mining circles" according to the newspaper article quoted from previously. One of his sisters emigrated to Canada with her husband. The 1861 Census showed **Jonathan Staley** living with his wife **Susannah** (nee **Robinson**) at Gurney Villas, and his birthplace was Middleton-in-Teesdale! Sons Matthew, Thomas and George were all down as 'Coal Miner', not 'Scholar', even though little George was only 9 at the time! I wonder how much schooling he had, since in later life he was thought so well-educated.

So with the help of Major Kenyon-Fuller's transcripts I was able to build a picture of the Staley family. Jonathan was baptised on 29 November 1823 at St. Mary's, Middleton-in-Teesdale, the third son of **Jonathan Staley** (lead miner) and **Jane** (nee **Brummel**) of Field Head. There were six other children, and the family seemed to move around the Upper Teesdale area a good deal between 1810 and 1827, as other abodes in the baptism registers are Watgarth, Hurth and Broadley's Gate, all fairly isolated farmsteads. It seems though that the family, or some members of it, were tempted to join the exodus from leadmining to the more well-paid jobs in the expanding coal-field. Jonathan junior was married at Stockton-on-Tees in 1848; his occupation is miner and abode Gurney Villa.

Jonathan senior had been baptised on 13 April 1776, the son of **Thomas Steley** and his wife **Margaret** (nee **Ireland**) of Underhurth. Another son Jonathan had died in 1774 "by inoculation"; I was surprised to find a new medical idea being tried out in such a remote area, as Underhurth is well off the main road, above where Langdon Beck Youth Hostel now stands.

It's not certain how many children of Thomas Stealy and his wife Margaret survived; two Thomases were baptised in 1767 and 1769, as well as Jonathan in 1776, but the only burial recorded is that of Jonathan, the unfortunate victim of smallpox inoculation. Thomas Stealy also fathered two children by his sister-in-law, **Nancy Ireland**; I suspect this was after the death of his wife although I have not found her burial. Thomas's burial entry is interesting, however:

1806 January 8
Thomas Stealy of Forest, a Miner aged 64,
Native of Derbyshire.

So my mother's hunch had been correct! But, better was to come, when the Major and I embarked on some background reading about the leadmining industry of Teesdale. A book by C.J. Hunt, *The Lead-Miners of the Northern Pennines* mentioned the immigration into Teesdale in 1758 of a group of Derbyshire miners, and a footnote provided the reference: a collection of monthly pamphlets covering the period January 1869 to March 1870 and having the title *The Lord Fitzhugh and his neighbour Lord Balliol, or The Parish Magazine for Laithkirk, covering both sides of the Tees, and also Romaldkirk, Middleton-in-Teesdale, Egglestone and Mickleton*. This collection had to be ordered from the British Library, and Major Kenyon-Fuller sent me the relevant article:

DERBYSHIRE AND TEESDALE

About 1758, a number of miners emigrated from the High Peak area of Derbyshire to Upper Teesdale, to work Langdon Beck mine, of which they had taken a lease. It is said that thirteen families came. Their enterprise, however, was not rewarded with the success they had expected, and some of them very soon returned to their native country (sic).

The **BARKERS, DRABBLES, REDFERNs, SMEDLEYS, STALEYS, ROWBOTTOMS,** and **WAGSTAFFS** stayed on, but of the rest numerous representatives still exist ...

The Captain of the Derbyshire Miners was Mr. **Josiah Wagstaff**. His tombstone, in Middleton-in-Teesdale churchyard on the south side of the chancel, is inscribed: "In memory of Josiah Wagstaff who died 29 Jan 1776, with his two children". Also the tombstone of Thomas Stealy of Forest, a native of Derbyshire, died Jan 6, buried Jan 8 1806, aged 64 years. The worthy host at Langdon Beck, a grandson of one of the Derbyshire immigrants, is able to relate a few interesting particulars of their history, but their descendants, generally speaking, have almost quite forgotten them.

In 1994 I visited Middleton-in-Teesdale churchyard with my mother, to see Thomas Stealy's tombstone. It wasn't there! We found Josiah Wagstaff exactly where the article describes but no sign of Thomas. I have since written to the Rector (no stones have been moved to his knowledge) and have consulted transcripts of the M.I.'s, but all to no avail; Thomas's grave is no longer marked.

I have over the years amassed a good deal of information on these Derbyshire families. There are Smedleys, Redferns, Barkers, Rowbottoms and Staleys still living in Teesdale. Some Staley relatives still live at Underhurth, where their forefathers settled in 1758. The landlord of the Langdon Beck inn, mentioned in the article above, was **Jonathan Barker**, leadminer and innkeeper, who married twice and had at least 15 children. His second wife **Jane** (nee **Hacknard**) carried on as innkeeper after his death in February 1871. But I have reached an obstacle: I have not yet been able to discover from which parishes in Derbyshire these families came. The only clue is the High Peak area mentioned in the 1870 article. I have worked out from the Middleton transcripts the likely immigrants' Christian names, and which ones came singly and which as married couples or family groups, but the IGI offers no names and dates which definitely tie in with these. So any help with the Derbyshire origins of **James Ro(w)bottom, John Barker, John Redfe(a)rn, Samuel Redfearn** and his wife **Dorothy, Benjamin Smedley**, born about 1740, and especially **Thomas Stealy/Staley** who was born about 1741 and who may have brought a sister **Ann** with him, would be very welcome!

To return to George, my great grandfather, and his intellectual qualities caused him so much trouble: I like to think that his lead-mining ancestry might have contributed to his academic prowess. The London Lead Company's school in Middleton-in-Teesdale was founded in 1819 by the chief agent Robert Stagg, and when reported on by Foster in 1861, he found that out of 27 randomly tested on reading "21 read fluently, correctly and with expression, though with strong local accent. The writing from dictation was perfectly accurate in every instance as far as spelling was concerned, and remarkably neat as to penmanship. The arithmetical exercises were accurately performed with astonishing rapidity and when I questioned the class on the reasons for the various modes in which they obtained the answer, it was still more gratifying to find that the operation was not merely mechanical, but perfectly understood." Foster found at this school the best educational conditions in the whole of the North East of England. In 1861, 74% of the children aged 6-14 were attending school. This was where George Staley's father was educated before he moved to Coundon Grange, so no doubt he had high expectations for his children, and George must have benefitted from this.

Yes, I wish I could have known my great grandfather!

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Mrs. Jemmeson's address is 8 Dilston, Hyde Lane, Danbury, Chelmsford, Essex CM3 4RN. She would welcome correspondence on the names mentioned. Other names mentioned in the *Auckland Chronicle* report in 1907 are Mr. Coroner Proud, Inspector Pears (N.E.R.), Mr. G. Alderson (N.E.R. Traffic Department), Mr. T. Jennings (Solicitor), Mr. Boddy of Hummerbeck Colliery and Nurse Blume, matron at the hospital.

THE MINERS' EMIGRATION MOVEMENT

by George Bell

The miners of County Durham, "always a gregarious race in their own neighbourhood", according to a report in the *Newcastle Courant* in 1856, were afflicted by gold-mania that year. The same report went on to comment that they "now speak as coolly and positively of the proceedings of their friends in distant colonies as if a day's post sufficed to communicate between them". In truth, postal communications would have taken 12 to 16 weeks, if not longer.

The fact is, however, that they were taken in by stories of gold diggers who had returned from Australia. What began as a trickle in the first years of the gold rush in the early 1850's, soon turned into a stampede. The *Newcastle Courant* on 6 June 1856 briefly gives the details:

EMIGRATION OF COLLIERS TO AUSTRALIA

Fifty colliers left Lumley, on Monday last, to try their fortunes in Australia. Some of them have taken their wives. The origin of this movement is the return of two of the fortunates, who have dazzled their late comrades with a profusion of jewellery [sic] and cash in hand.

The following week the *Courant* reported that the mania "seems to have seized the [entire] mining population of this country". It continued:

"in every direction nothing is heard of but sales, raffles, &c., for the purpose of raising funds for emigrating to Australia ... Huge packages, trunks, and boxes are daily taken in every kind of conveyance to the railway stations for intending emigrants. ... On Monday morning, about 100 emigrants, principally miners, left Sherburn Station, on the North-Eastern Railway, for Liverpool, en route for Australia, per Saldanha, which would sail in a few days. Nearly a thousand people assembled to witness their departure, and bid them "God speed". It is stated that most of them have signed the yearly "bond" under the Marchioness of Londonderry, and, consequently, they are not so free to depart as they seemed to think they were; and a party has been sent in pursuit, and if this be the case, they will probably be brought back to finish the remainder of the time for which they were bound, not only, perhaps, losing all or a portion of their passage money, but probably to answer for the breach of agreement of which they have been guilty."

A week later again the *Courant* reported that a group of fifteen miners were brought back to face the consequences:

"A few days ago fifteen pitmen were taken before the magistrates, at Houghton-le-Spring, charged with leaving their employment. It appears that on the 22d ult, those men, who had contracted to work in the Earl of Durham's collieries for one year, took the train at Sherburn Station for Liverpool, for the purpose of emigrating to Australia. This proceeding on the part of the men was likely to lead to great inconvenience, as numbers were preparing to follow, notwithstanding they had only recently bound themselves for a year, being under the impression that, going out of the country, they could not be stopped. Warrants were obtained for them shortly after they had absented themselves, and a number of the county police sent in pursuit who succeeded in apprehending the whole party in Liverpool. They were brought back, and taken before the magistrates at Houghton-le-Spring. The agents of the collieries, not wishing to press the case against them, accepted the bond of two tradesmen at Sherburn Hill, in the sum of £10 for each man, to work at the colliery for which he was engaged until the expiration of his term of service. This step, on the part of the men, has been to them a very serious loss, as they had sold all their furniture at a great sacrifice, and besides have paid half the passage money, and in two or three cases the whole amount has been paid. It is, however, stated that the money deposited will be kept in the hands of the shipowners (Messrs James Baines and Co., of the "Black Ball" Line), and credited to the depositors, should they wish to emigrate next year - a circumstance which speaks very highly for the firm, as the whole amount was forfeited to them according to the regulations."

It would have been of great value to compare the names of these fifteen miners against passenger lists of emigrant ships to Victoria during 1857 but, unfortunately, the petty sessions' records for Houghton-le-Spring for 1856 have not survived.

We do know from later newspaper reports, however, that the Miner's Emigration Movement (to use the press banner) continued. Two reports in 1857, both from the *Newcastle Courant*, tell us so. The first, published on 6 February 1857, says: "About two hundred pitmen of the county of Durham are preparing to leave in the spring for Australia." The second, published on 17 April 1857, had an alarmist ring to it:

"Some of the pit villages in the county of Durham have been deprived of more than one-half of their population, such is the desire of pitmen to try their fortunes in the Australian gold fields. In one village, a few days ago, no less than 30 clocks were put to be raffled for, their owners being desirous of raising money to fit them out for emigration."

Did I say alarmist? A year earlier the *Courant* (13 June 1856) remarked that "several collieries have been seriously inconvenienced, and one almost laid "idle" through the emigration of the miners". We might not know the names of the fifteen called to book for breaching their contracts with the Earl of Durham, but we do have the names of those miners who did manage to emigrate on the *Saldanha* in 1856 in search of their fortunes. But it wasn't just miners who were infected by this gold-mania. The same report in the *Courant* mentions that Newcastle residents were running lotteries and other schemes to finance their emigration. another report in the same issue spoke of a group of emigrants from Howden-on-Tyne who also sailed on the *Saldanha*.

"A number of emigrants, amounting to twenty-three, and consisting of two families and other individuals, left Howdon for Australia last week. Previous to their departure the emigrants were entertained at select tea meetings, given them by their friends and acquaintances. On the morning they started, Howdon was all excited to see them off. A special train was in waiting at the Howdon station at half past four to convey them to Newcastle, and from thence they were immediately to proceed to Liverpool, to take the ship "Saldanha", to sail for Australia. The emigrants intend making their way to the diggings. They were accompanied to the station by hundreds of their friends and well-wishers. The two families above-named were those of Mr. William Bell, a trimmer, and Mr. Cuthbertson, a blacksmith, &c. It is just two years since Howdon sent the last large company to the gold country."

The passenger list of the *Saldanha* contains details of approximately 520 people. In common with other similar lists, it shows surname, first name, occupation, age and country of origin. The precise place of origin is not shown and it is thus not possible to identify the Northumberland and Durham men who emigrated. We can, however, identify the Bell family mentioned at the end of the article --- William aged 34 (described as 'butcher'), Mary 32 ('wife'), James 16 ('labourer'), John H. 12 ('labourer'), Elizabeth 8 ('child'), Thomas 6 ('child') and William 14 ('labourer'). The Cuthbertsons were George 49 ('carpenter'), Ann 45 ('wife'), Eleanor 23 ('spinster'), John 19 and George 17 (both 'carpenters'), Ann 14 ('spinster') and James 10 ('child').

The English born miners on *Saldanha* are listed below:

John Aisbett (35), James Alderson (30), Daniel Allen (22), Thomas Anderson (30), William S. Atkinson (36), Edward Avery (37).

John Backhouse (29), Edward Barrows (32), David Baxter (19), Ralph Beamson (48), John Bigham (20), William Bishop (26), Joseph Blarney (36), Robert Bolam (34), Robert Brown (33), William Burn (29), George Burns (27), John Burns (23).

Stephen Campbell (23), Henry Carr (28), Robert Carr (22), Thomas Cleugh (28), John Collins (20), Joseph Cook (35), Joseph Cowell (24), John Cowey (27), John Coxon (36), John Craggs (27), William Craggs (28), Robert Crosby (29), William Cummings (22).

William Dixon (32).

James Emerson (33).

Henry Fenwick (38), Thomas Fenwick (24), Fred Freeman (27).

Robert Goodin (30), John Gray (37), Thomas Grayson (30), William Grayson (34), William Gundry (46), John Guy (25).

Henry Hall (27), Jonathan Hall (28), Thomas Hall (24), Thomas Hall (25), Ann Halliday (23), Ralph Halliday (21), John Harbron (24), Robert Harding (31), Roger Harles (31), Robert Hay (39), Richard Hepburn (22), Robert Hepburn (37), Thomas Hewitson (21), William Hind (25), John Hindmarsh (25), William Hindmarsh (21), John Holliday (24), Frederick Holmes (20), William Hughes (23), Robert Hunter (27).

William Jenkin (32), Henry Johnson (32), Thomas Johnson (27), W.B. Johnson (31).

Joseph Lemon (30), Jacob Lowson (40), George Luggett (25), Robert Luggett (20), George Luke (48), James Luke (36), Robert Luke (40), John Lumsden (35).

William Mathewson (26), Robert Maudling (35), George Miller (22), Robert Mink (34), William Moore (34), Ann Morgan (40), Joseph T. Morgan (9), Lucy W. Morgan (11), Stephen Morgan (58), George Morton (28).

George Oughton (22), Joseph Oughton (28).

William Parker (39), William Paul (25), Thomas Pease (32), John Peel (35), William Peel (44), John Porter (29), Richard Porter (34).

Thomas Raine (30), Frank Ramshaw (29), Joshua Ramshaw (31), John Ramson (25), William Reay (25), Thomas Richards (25), Robert Roxby (19).

Andrew Scott (29), John Shields (30), Richard Shields (30), William Shipley (36), Thomas Simmons (21), Alexander Slanther (33), Joseph Soulsby (38), George Spoors (47), James Squire (33), Anthony Stephenson (21), Joseph Stephenson (28), Michael Stephenson (30), William Storey (24), William Strick (25), Leonard Surtees (28).

Ann Taylor (23), Richard Taylor (30), George Thirlaway (35), James Thomas (32), Thomas Thomas (26), Robert Thornborrow (32), Mark Thornton (29), William Trownce (35), Henry Turnbull (23), William Turnbull (30), Thomas Turnemy (41), Robert Turnney (38), John Turnney (39).

James Walker (37), William Walker (25), William Watt (30), John Whitfield (38), Daniel Williams (21), Job Williams (29), Sacharia Williams (27), William Williamson (18), William Winter (35), William Wren (42).

EMIGRANT SHIPS' PASSENGER LISTS

The Society has recently purchased, from the Public Record Office of Victoria, a set of 197 microfiche, covering all ships arriving in Victoria from Great Britain during the 10 year period 1852 to 1861. Each year is broken down into quarterly periods. Details of ports and dates of departure and arrival are given, with the Masters' Names. The passenger lists gives names, ages, occupations and countries of origin. Any deaths at sea are shown.

Thanks to N.D.F.H.S. member Mrs. Coral Laws of Victoria for arranging the purchase.

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THE MAN ON THE MAP

~ Jeremiah Dixon & His Lines ~

by Alan Readdie

Whenever I mention Jeremiah Dixon, I am rewarded with stares of incomprehension. "Who?" they murmur.

When I mention the Mason-Dixon line, they nod knowingly. But, when I press them further, they squirm with embarrassment. A line in a song? They all know about that! Or perhaps a railway line, a shipping company, the Canada/USA border, a World War I fortification?

Wrong, all of them. Except for the song!

Our American cousins know better, of course, for the Mason-Dixon line is part of the history of their United States. But in his native county, Jeremiah Dixon, 18th century son of a south-west Durham Quaker family, merits only a few paragraphs, often inaccurate, in local histories. The 'Dixon Garden', a stone trough erected by local schoolchildren in Cockfield in 1977 to mark the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, commemorates the family, but when I saw it, the trough was empty save for a few cans and toffee wrappers. Jeremiah Dixon deserves better.

True, he is not a Cook or a Drake with innumerable islands, capes or straits named after him but his name does still survive on modern maps. There is a Mason-Dixon line. Let *Encyclopaedia Britannica* outline the essential facts:

"The boundary line (lat 39° 43' 26.3"N) between Maryland and Pennsylvania; popularly the line separating 'free' states and 'slave' states before the Civil War. The line derives its name from Charles Mason (1730-1787) and Jeremiah Dixon, two English astronomers, whose survey of it to a point about 244 miles west of the Delaware between 1763 and 1767 marked the close of the protracted boundary dispute (arising upon the grant of Pennsylvania to William Penn in 1681) between the Baltimores and Penns, proprietors respectively of Maryland and Pennsylvania. The dispute arose from the designation, in the grant to Penn, of the southern boundary of Pennsylvania mainly as the parallel marking the 'beginning of the 40th degree of Northerne Latitude', after the northern border of Maryland had been defined as a line 'which lieth under the 40th degree of North Latitude from the equinoctial'."

It is an interesting tale. We have two Englishmen braving extreme cold, hostile Indians and 'border ruffians', starting work in a 'plantation belonging to Mr. Alexander Bryan' and, with 39 men surveying first the north-south line between Maryland and the then county of Delaware. Then, in the spring of 1767, placing

'a Post Mark'd West' which began the line which now bears their names, moving slowly westwards, planting markers at mile intervals in a rough corridor about eight yards wide. It was meticulous work, with which modern surveys have found little fault. Finally, abandoning their task when Shawnee war parties were rumoured, they returned home, leaving their marker posts. Some survive to this day.

The two men cannot have known of their subsequent fame, of their permanent place on the map. Both were dead long before, in 1820, in a Congress debate, the phrase 'Mason and Dixon's line' was first used. They cannot have been aware of the word 'Dixie' as a synonym for the southern states, those south of their line. There are many explanations, possibly more likely ones, for 'Dixie' and its music 'Dixieland' but let us be romantic and patriotic and attribute the name to the link with the lad from Cockfield, Jeremiah Dixon.

The story of the line and its creation is well documented. Mason's diary was published in 1969 by the American Philosophical Society, having been rescued a century earlier at Halifax, Nova Scotia, where it had been 'flung amidst a pile of waste paper into a cellar of Government House'.

Dixon's other scientific work is also well recorded but his private life, intriguing and mysterious, is barely mentioned. The published sources cannot even agree on his date of birth -- either 28th July or 28th August 1733, in Bishop Auckland. His death, we are told, occurred on 22nd January 1779 -- despite the *Dictionary of National Biography*, in its section on Charles Mason, noting that Dixon 'died at Durham in 1777'.

This is not a man who merits inclusion in Parish Registers, or on modern aids to genealogy like the International Genealogical Index. I have been unable to locate a baptismal entry or a burial record and we are told that he died unwed so there is no marriage entry either. The trinity of baptism, marriage and burial, so beloved of family historians, simply does not exist in Jeremiah Dixon's case.

A mystery man, then, in his private life, but there are brief glimpses here and there. And some unpublished and unmentioned, perhaps unmentionable, aspects of that life.

The early 20th Century was a boom time for published family historians, often turgid and soporific affairs -- unless they concern ones own family, when they become irresistible and fascinating masterpieces, gratefully devoured by modern descendants!

One such work is a huge, 574 page tome entitled *The Langstaffs of Teesdale and Weardale*, by George Blundell Longstaff. He was related to the Dixons of Raby and Cockfield, devoted a chapter of his book to them, and included a detailed pedigree as well as a number of family tales and legends. This labour of love gives us the blueprint of Jeremiah Dixon's life.

The Dixon family was well-to-do, colliery-owning and Quaker, linked closely with the Raby and Staindrop Meeting House. Jeremiah's father was George Dixon (1701-1782); his mother, Mary Hunter (1690-1773), was the daughter of an old-established family in Medomsley in the north of County Durham. In 1745, we find father George confessing to his Quaker friends that he had been 'a great offender for many years in respect of Intemperance' and that he had fallen 'into that loathsome practice of Gitting too much Drink'.

George and Mary had several children, whose baptisms are recorded in the Raby Baptismal records, but there is no entry there for Jeremiah. He was educated at a Quaker school in Barnard Castle run by John Kipling, and there he showed talent in mathematics. He became friendly with a well-known Hurworth eccentric, William Emmerson (1701-1782) and the mathematician John Bird of Bishop Auckland (1709-1776), 'two men of kindred genius'.

It was the influence of Bird and Emmerson which caused the Royal Woolwich Academy to select Dixon, along with Charles Mason, to travel to Sumatra to observe the Transit of Venus in 1761. The expedition never reached Sumatra; storms and hostile warships saw to that but Venus was observed from the Cape of Good Hope instead.

Then came the great work in the British Colonies in North America, the work on 'the line'. After returning home to Cockfield in 1769, Dixon was soon away again, this time to Hammerfest in northern Norway, to observe another Transit of Venus. He seems to have lived in Cockfield in the 1770's. His work included a survey of Lanchester Common in 1773 and 'a fine piece of penmanship on vellum' entitled 'A Plan of the Park and Demesnes at Auckland Castle' which later hung --- maybe still does --- in the Castle, home then as now of the Bishop of Durham.

So much for his public life. What about the private man? He had his human failings, it would seem, and like his father, a taste for drink. The Raby Monthly Meeting Minutes, now in Durham County Record Office, show that in 1760 "whereas Jerry Dixon, son of George and Mary Dixon of Cockfield, from an Education amongst us the people caled [sic] Quakers was deemed one of us but he for want of minding the principle of Truth and the advice of friends hath taken undue liberty as Drinking to Excess and keeping loose company ... we think it our duty to signify our disunity with him and cannot own him as a member of our Society untill he may by unfeigned repentance and Amendment of Life come to condemn his disorderly practice is what we desire for him'.

Sadly, we are given no further details of the 'loose company' and there is no further reference to him in the Raby Minutes. We are left to wonder whether he repented.

The records of the Bishop of Durham afford us important glimpses of Jeremiah Dixon. Copyhold records, relating to a form of land tenure which was abolished in 1926, give details of land transfers in many parts of County Durham, including the Manor of Bondgate in Bishop Auckland. There, in 1770, was a 'house called a Dyehouse situated on the river Gaundless'. It was occupied by Joseph Douglas, a dyer, but had been bought by Jeremiah Dixon and was being placed in trust 'to and for such use as Jeremiah Dixon shall ... appoint in and by his last will and Testament to be made by him'.

Apart from the copyhold dyehouse, Jeremiah owned a freehold house in Staindrop and both properties feature in his Will, among the Bishop's records at 5 The College, Durham. He made that Will on 27th December 1778, some eight years after he bought the dyehouse and he died, we are told, on 22nd January 1779.

There appears to be no surviving record of his burial. All that can now be said with certainty is that he was dead by 19th August 1779 for on that date his spinster sister Elizabeth proved his Will at the Consistory Court in Durham. Longstaff, and some other sources, tells us that Jeremiah was buried in the Friends Burial Ground at Staindrop, adjoining the Meeting House there. The Meeting House is now a private dwelling, the burial ground is its garden and there are a few old Quaker tombstones there. There is no stone to Jeremiah Dixon.

Fordyce, well known and respected historian of the County of Durham, writing in the 1850's, tells a different story. Dixon, he says, 'was buried at a little chapel belonging to the Society of Friends ... which stood at the village of Old Raby near Raby Park. The chapel was pulled down many years ago' and, it appears, a dog kennel was built upon the site! 'The grave of this man of genius has neither line nor stone to indicate where his bones are laid.'

Doubt, then, about the place of burial, a doubt which probably will never be resolved. No doubt, though, about his worldly assets and what happened to them after he died. Under his Will, he gave the freehold house at Staindrop to his brother Ralph and he gave the rest of his assets, except for the dyehouse in Bishop Auckland, to his sister Elizabeth.

It is the dyehouse, the one he had bought in 1770, which is particularly interesting. He gave it to his 'good friend' John Raylton, who was to 'permit Margaret Bland to have ... the rents and profits ... as the same shall become due'. He also desired that Margaret Bland 'to pay and apply such profits for and towards the maintenance, education and bringing up of her two daughters, Mary and Elizabeth'. He provided, too, that when the children reached the age of 21, the property was to go to them 'for good'.

Who was this Margaret Bland, with two daughters who benefitted under the Will of the surveyor, mathematician, 'gentleman' of Cockfield? Probably, she was the Margaret, daughter of James and Margaret Bland of Southside, who was baptised at nearby Hamsterley on 23rd September 1753. She would be in her mid-20's when Jeremiah Dixon died in 1779. Clearly, she was fertile for the Cockfield baptism register, in April 1780, records the baptism 'at 3 years old' of her daughter Elizabeth, a 'natural child' and on the same day, the baptism of another 'natural child', a son John. Interestingly, the Bishops Transcript, the copy of the parish register which was sent to the Bishop, puts it in different words. Elizabeth and John were the 'spurious' children of Margaret Bland. There is, however, no doubt about what was being implied --- 'natural' and 'spurious' are both euphemisms for illegitimate children. Clearly then, Elizabeth, one of the children who was to benefit under Jeremiah's Will, was born out of wedlock. For the other daughter, Mary, no baptism record seems to exist and we are left to wonder about the John who was baptised with Elizabeth but he features no more in our story.

Margaret Bland, the mother --- of Southside aged 52 --- was buried at Hamsterley on 9th September 1804. Her daughters remained and we can trace the history of the dyehouse they inherited, again from the copyhold records. In 1822 they sold it for £90 to one Thomas Henry Faber. By then, Mary Bland was the wife of a namesake, John Bland, a pitman of Southside. Her sister Elizabeth was the wife of a farmer, William Thompson of Startforth. It is not difficult to trace the marriages -- Mary to John Bland at Hamsterley in October 1794 and Elizabeth to William Thompson in 1803 at Barnard Castle. Both couples produced several children and, for all I know, there may well be descendants alive today.

But the mystery woman herself, Margaret Bland, remains a puzzle. She seems to have been of quite lowly status. We know she produced three illegitimate children and we know that the two daughters married men of similar station in their community.

Elizabeth was three years old when she was baptised in 1780, so she would have been born about 1777. Mary was probably older, for she married in 1794 but she too was probably a child of the mid-1770's. Why would Jeremiah Dixon, world traveller, sophisticated and relatively wealthy, bequeath property in Bishop Auckland to two such illegitimate girls?

Let George Blundell Longstaff, that early 20th century chronicler of the family, have the last word. He concludes his section on Jeremiah Dixon with the note that 'he died in 1779 --- in the prime of his life --- 46 --- unmarried. The thought occurs to one that perhaps Margaret Bland, the chief beneficiary of his Will, might have thrown some light upon his story'.

Yes, indeed. Perhaps she might.

NOTES:

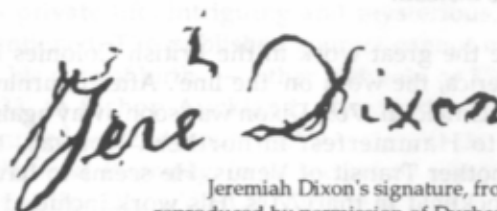
The Will of Jeremiah Dixon and the copyhold records relating to the dyehouse in Bishop Auckland are held by Durham University, Archives and Special Collections at 5 The College, Durham. The Raby Monthly Meeting Minutes are at Durham County Record Office, and its baptismal and burial records are on microfilm there. In addition to the work by Longstaff mentioned in the article, the Dixon family and its pedigree feature in *My Family*, by N. Penney (privately printed, Headley Brothers 1920, copy in Darlington Public Library). Articles on Jeremiah Dixon, of varying quality and accuracy are *Jeremiah Dixon 1733-1779*, A Biographical Note (Proceedings American Philosophical Society Volume 94, Number Three 1950), *Jeremiah Dixon and his Brother* by H.P. Hollis (Jour Br Astronomical Association Volume 44, 294-99 1934); *Quakers in Science & Industry*, A. Raistrick 1950. An article on Dixon's theodolite appears in *Geographical Journal* (Journal of Royal Geographical Society, XLVII Number One, January 1916) and there is *A Clock Sent Thither by the Royal Society* by Professor T.D. Cope, an authoritative article on the clock probably used in Pennsylvania, in *Proceedings American Philosophical Society* Volume 94, No. 3, 1950.

Jeremiah and his brother George are variously credited with the invention of gas lighting and George's home at Garden House, Cockfield, was reputedly the first house so lit - see *Journal of Friends Historical Society* Volume 51 page 57 (1965-67).

Mason's diary is in the U.S. National Archives and a transcription appears in *Memoirs of the American Philosophical Society* 76, 1969. I have not seen this or other American articles such as James Veetch, *Mason and Dixon's Line, A History of Charles Mason & Jeremiah Dixon* by T.D. Cope in *Nature* 1946 158:381 and *Some Contacts of Benjamin Franklin with Mason and Dixon and Their Work* by T.D. Cope in *Proceedings American Philosophical Society* 1951, 95:232-8.

Features on the former Friends Meeting House in Staindrop (where Jeremiah Dixon is possibly buried) and the clearance of gravestones there, appeared in the *Northern Echo* 5 October 1982 and the *Guardian* 9 October 1982.

I am grateful to N.D.F.H.S. member Miss Leila Dixon of Darlington, a distant relation of Jeremiah Dixon, for lending me her notes and papers, and to Professor J.C. Mann for a copy of his booklet *Staindrop Quaker Meeting House*.



Jeremiah Dixon's signature, from his Will, is reproduced by permission of Durham University, Archives and Special Collections.

ADAM BUNTING

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RUSSIAN MEDAL FOR SUNDERLAND

by Lillian Pickering

This press cutting from the *Sunderland Daily Echo* refers to my grandfather, John Raine; he and my two uncles, Walter and Jack, managed the firm of J. Raine & Sons, Coal Exporters, with offices in Sunderland and Newcastle.

MR. JOHN RAINE'S MEDAL.

(From the "Sunderland Daily Echo,"
February 2nd, 1911.)

A few days ago we recorded the fact that Mr John Raine, Russian Vice-Consul for Sunderland and Seaham Harbour, had received from the Czar, in recognition of his fourteen years' service, a ribbon and the Order of Alexander, accompanied by a gold medal. The document conferring the honour is in Russian as follows:—

Удостоверение

*Настоящим Представителем Императорского
двора и Высочайших Орденов сего
Величества, Императору Александру
II, в знак признания заслуг
государства, за продолжительную и
трудолюбивую службу, назначен
в 1900 году, в качестве
визе-консула в городе
Сандерленде, в Англии, и
в городе Сехаме, в Англии,
г. Рэйн, Джон.*

В Санкт-Петербурге, 7-го декабря 1910 года.
*Генерал-Адмирал, Председатель
Императорского Ордена Александра II.*



*Генерал-Адмирал, Председатель
Императорского Ордена Александра II.*

The English translation reads:—

CERTIFICATE.

The Chapter of Russian Imperial Orders hereby certifies that the British subject, the Honorary Vice-Consul at Sunderland John Raine, has had graciously conferred upon him, on the 6th December, 1910, a gold medal, with the inscription "for zeal," to be worn on the neck on the ribbon of the Alexander Order.

St. Petersburg, 7th December, 1910.

For the Head of the Chapter of Orders.

(Signed) F. Chagin.

L. S.

For the Chief of the Department of Decorations.

(Signed) Tseloulsky.

The medal itself is a remarkably handsome one. It is of pure gold, and is two inches wide, weighing 2½ oz. troy. On the obverse side there is an effigy of the Czar and the inscription: "H.M. Nicholas II. Emperor," while on the reverse appears the oak and mistletoe of Russia, and the inscription: "For zeal." The date is 1910.

Their principal trading partners were, I believe, in Russia and the Baltic States, Italy and Germany, and they were the Hon. Vice-Consuls for Russia and at least one of the other countries. (I remember seeing at least two consular brass plates at the entrance to the office, when I was taken there as a girl.) My grandfather and his sons evidently took their duties very seriously, and rendered good service - I once watched with awe one of my uncles reading a book printed in Russia, with a strange alphabet, so they were proficient in the necessary languages. My mother used to tell stories of travelling on the firm's ships to the Baltic countries, and drinking tea from samovars. I would imagine that their home gave happy hospitality to a constant stream of younger people, who had come over to learn the language and something of English ways.

My understanding is, that the Russians wished to bestow a Russian Order on John Raine - but permission to accept it was denied by the British Government, whose approval was necessary, so the medal was given instead.

The firm was in existence until after World War II. Those years were not at all conducive to exporting coal, and not long after the death of my second uncle, J. Raine & Son was forced to close down, to the great sadness of my mother and aunts.

This is not a great genealogical mystery, merely some background information - but I wonder if the people of Sunderland know of the honour that was bestowed on one of them by the Tsar of Russia.

The only mystery is - no one knows what happened to the medal! My mother always thought that it had been presented to the Sunderland Museum after my grandfather's death (1918); but after my uncle's death, when she and my aunt went there to see it, they could not find it, and on enquiry, the Museum stated that they had never received such a gift. I have written again in the last few years, and received the same answer.

I wonder if any member has ever noticed this medal lying forgotten in some other museum or collection? Unlikely, but one never knows!

EDITOR'S NOTE:

If you have any information, please contact Miss Pickering at 167-8140 B Williams Road, Richmond, B.C., Canada V7A 1G5 - but note that she will be unable to respond until October.

ABOVE: PRESS CUTTING FROM SUNDERLAND DAILY ECHO

THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE & THE FIRST WORLD WAR MEDAL ROLLS

by Captain Erik A. Gray

Until recently many hundreds of family historians had suffered severe frustration as a result of the failure of their applications to the Ministry of Defence CS(RM)2b [Bourne Avenue, Hayes, Middlesex UB3 1RF] for the release of information about soldiers who served during the First World War. Essentially, this failure may have arisen from three possible causes.

First, although sufficient information about the soldier was submitted, the application may have failed, because his documents could not be traced. In this instance, it has to be presumed that they were among a large number which perished by enemy action during the air attacks on London in 1940. To this response from the MoD, there was (and is) no remedy. It is the end of the matter.

Second, the application may not have succeeded, because the soldier's regimental or service number, or the title of his regiment, was unknown; or because the application had otherwise contained insufficient information from which to identify his personal documents. Owing to the arrangement of records in the custody of the MoD, no useful purpose is served by asking for details from a soldier's service documents if the title of his regiment is absent. Similarly, if he possessed a very common surname, although his regiment may be known, it verges on the fruitless to apply for information if his regimental or service number is not known. (For those who possess their ancestor's war medals, his number, rank, name, initial and regiment may be found engraved on the reverse of the 1914 Star or 1914-15 Star, and around the edges of the British War Medal and Victory Medal).

Third, the application may have miscarried, because, under strict disclosure rules applied by the MoD, the person making it was not entitled to receive information, as he or she was not the soldier's next-of-kin or his nearest surviving descendant. It is to persons in that category that this article is principally addressed. Their frustration may now be ameliorated by a fairly recent relaxation of the rules. Regardless of relationship, if any, these now permit anyone to make an application for details from a soldier's documents. Accordingly, the present position is broadly the same as has for long applied to the issue of certificates of births, marriages and deaths. Anyone may obtain from the Registrar General's Office at St. Catherine's House in London a copy of their great uncle's birth certificate or that of a more distant relative; or even that of a total stranger. Equally, anyone may now apply to the MoD for information from the service records of a soldier who served during the First World War.

Insofar as soldiers are concerned, however, this easing applies only to information from records of service in the British Army between 1914-1920. (Earlier ones are, of course, at the Public Record Office at Kew). Those of men and women who served after 1920 remain confidential, and the rules to which, until recently, World War I cases were subject, still apply.

For obvious reasons, completed application forms (obtainable from the Hayes address) for the release of information from service records must include the fullest available details of the soldier concerned. Apart from his Army details, it is always a good idea to include mention of his next-of-kin and any known addresses, if possible, as these may serve in the identification of his documents assuming their survival. As indicated above, particulars of regimental or service number, regimental or corps, together with the number of his battalion or other unit, are often crucial.

Family historians who do not know their ancestors' regimental or service number may be able to discover it from one or more awards, by virtue of service in a defined theatre of war between certain dates. The original rolls are at the Public Record Office (source WO 329). An index to them in card form on microfiche is arranged by order of surnames. For the purpose of ascertaining a soldier's regimental number, in order to make a proper application to the MoD, the card index is adequate. Its information normally differs little from that given in the rolls. A typical card reflecting the legendary and ubiquitous Thomas Atkins' medal awards arising from service in, for example, the old Northumberland Fusiliers, might read:-

Names	Regt/Corps	Rank	Number
ATKINS Thos.	N. Fus.	Pte.	38786
Awards	Roll	Page	
Victory	NF 100	12345	
British War	NF 100	12345	
1914-15 Star	NF 3A	6789	

Theatre of War served in FRANCE
Date of entry 25.10.15

For anyone interested to discover more of a soldier's travels and his possible experiences, his battalion or unit war diaries (also at Kew) may be consulted to discover its location on the Western Front, at Gallipoli or in some other theatre of war; and in what operations it was engaged on any given date. The battalion or unit number must, of course, be known.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The author's address is 7 Meade Court, Walton-on-the-Hill, Tadworth, Surrey KT20 7RN.

Family Tree Magazine, April 1996, reports that over the next few years, service records of the Army in World War I will be transferred to the Public Record Office. Records of 'other ranks' were badly damaged during the Blitz — surviving records (about 25-30% of the original — called the 'Burnt Records') are too fragile ever to be produced, but a National Lottery grant for filming them has been made. Work should be completed by 2001. Various additions, mainly from Ministry of Pensions records were made. These are the 'Unburnt Records' but comprise only about 8% of the total soldiers' documents. Microfilming is nearing completion, the films will be in PRO Class WO 364 and they will be available for public search from Armistice Day, Monday 11th November this year. The Ministry of Defence continues to make searches in them until then for a £20 non-refundable fee.

Although they were cap badged as Northumberland Fusiliers, over 70% of the brigade were recruited in the towns and colliery villages of County Durham. Many of those enlisting in the Irish Brigade had no connection with Ireland at all, other than that they worked alongside an Irishman and they enlisted together.

**TYNESIDE IRISH BATTALION
SPLENDID RESPONSE FROM DURHAM**

The following abbreviations are used in the additional information which has been added after the names.

wnd = wounded
trf = transferred
KIA = Killed in Action
DoW = Died of wounds
Bn = Battalion(s)
NF = Northumberland Fusiliers
DLI = Durham Light Infantry
Y&L = York and Lancaster Regiment
RIRifles = Royal Irish Rifles
CoH = Card of Honour, a Divisional award for gallant conduct

DOMINIC McSHANE	Langley Park	24/619 Sgt KiA 1.7.16
HARRY LOCKEY	Framwellgate	24/461 trf Labour Corps
THOS. JOHNSON	New Elvet	24/483 Sgt trf 12/13th NF
JOHN BOWES	Framwellgate	24/219 Dis. to Munitions Work
WM. C. BATES	New Elvet	No Trace
JOS. BURKE	Framwellgate	24/750 wnd trf 9NF Labour Corps
THOS. KELLY	Maynards Row	Should be Joseph 27/1061 wnd
ALLAN LOCKWOOD	Gilesgate	24/662 Sgt. Dis. 31.12.17 wnd
WM. MARKHAM	Gilesgate	24/756 trf 1NF
PATRICK McINTYRE	Langley Moor	No Trace
GEORGE HUMPHRIES	Langley Moor	trf 20 DLI
J. MALLOY	Langley Moor	24/776 KiA 1.7.16
JAS FLYNN	Millburngate	24/576 trf 1 Garr Bn NF
CHAS CALLAN	Davey Lamp	24/464 Sgt wnd Dis. 31.3.19
PATRICK McMANUS	Framwellgate	No Trace 24/1187 J. McManus
MICHAEL HANLEY	Millburngate	24/661 KiA 1.7.16
PATRICK MARKEY	Brandon	No Trace
J.W. ROURKE	Kimbleworth	24/577 KiA 1.7.16
HUGH GILROY	Framwellgate	24/656 CoH KiA 1.7.16
JOHN J. ROBINSON	Langley Moor	25/1239 trf 12/13th Bn
JOHN R. SMITH	Langley Moor	24/155 Sgt Dis. 28.6.16 Died 3.1.19
GEO. WM. McROY	Broompark	24/581 trf 8,16,10,22 KiA 11.4.18
G.A. LOCKEY	Langley Moor	24/1145 Dis. 9.11.17 Died 5.10.19
GEO. DAGG	Framwellgate	No Trace
ROBT. AINSLEY	Langley Moor	Joined Royal Field Artillery
JONATHAN MALPASS	Framwellgate	24/754 Sgt wnd trf Cameron High
EDWD. FOLEY	Lawson Terr.	24/753 KiA 16.9.16
L. WALES	Langley Moor	24/767 trf Labour Corps
J.G. BARRON	New Brancepeth	21/410 Joined 2nd Tyneside Scots
ROD BOOTH	Langley Moor	24/579 wnd trf 8,16 Dis. 2.5.18
JOSEPH THORNTON	Langley Moor	24/580 wnd trf 9, 1/4 Dis. 10.3.19
J. RYAN	Fowlers Terr.	24/663 trf Labour Corps
JOHN HENRY SMITH	Court Lane	No Trace
ABRAHAM FOSTER	Back Lane	24/657 wnd Dis. 24.8.17
DAVID KEENAN	Brandon	25/322 trf Labour Corps
WM. McGRATH	Langley Park	24/1106 KiA 1.7.16
JOHN STAFF	Langley Moor	24/676 DoW 21.7.16
JAS GIBSON	Langley Moor	24/674 KiA 1.7.16
JOHN REED	New Brancepeth	24/1105 trf Royal Air Force
JOSEPH HANLEY	Sidegate	24/1091 Died 5.6.21
EDWARD YOUNG	Millburngate	24/1092 trf Labour Corps
JOHN HANLEY	Crossgate	trf DLI Military Medal
JOHN GAVAGHAN	Sidegate	Still a Civilian in December 1915
RD. HUMBLE	Sunnyside Tow Law	25/254 Dis. 14.1.18
JOHN MILLER	Kimbleworth	24/1101 trf W. Yorks KiA 30.3.17
JOS. S. TURNBULL	Gilesgate	24/1282 wnd trf 26 NF
GEO. BLAGDON	Millburngate	24/1095 wnd trf RAMC
EDWD. SHEEN	Crossgate Moor	24/1100 Gassed Dis. 20.2.18
JAS. BROPHY	Crossgate Moor	25/11 L/Cpl Gassed Dis. 24.10.17
MICHAEL HOOK	Lovegreen Street	trf 8,13 DLI KiA 21.10.17
JAS. WM. COLEMAN	New Elvet	trf 30 Reserve Bn
WM. McGARR	South Street	24/1097 wnd Z Reserve
MICHAEL BRANNEN	Auton Stile	24/1098 trf 25, 12/13 Bn Z Reserve
JOHN CONNOLLY	Millburngate	24/1151 trf Labour Corps
WILLIAM CUMMINGS	Brandon Colliery	25/149 wnd trf 26,22 Bn Z Reserve
DANIEL SHANKS	Framwellgate	No Trace
HARRY GIBSON	Framwellgate	24/1099 wnd
JOHN BOWES	Broompark	26/59 L/Cpl KiA 1.7.16
THOS. HURST	Broompark	25/998 Presumed Dead 3.7.16
HUGH MEENAN	Millburngate	No Trace
MARTIN McNAMARA	New Brancepeth	25/461 trf 30 Reserve Bn
JOHN CARROLL	New Durham	25/146 Labour Corps Dis. 18.12.17
FRANK SCORER	Leamside	25/650 wnd trf 12/13 NF
JOS. LOWERY	Bowburn	25/350 Michael Joseph KiA 1.7.16
J.C. McKEWAN	Bowburn	No Trace
JAS. McKEOWN	Bowburn	25/1145 KiA 1.7.16
THOS. CROSBY	Broomside	trf Labour Corps

BENJ. HARTLEY.....	Framwellgate Moor	No Trace
THOS. F. OWENS.....	Framwellgate	24/1196 trf Labour Corps
GEORGE REED.....	New Brancepeth.....	24/1175 trf Labour Corps
ANDREW OUGHTON.....	Elvet Waterside.....	24/1160 Labour Corps R Fus
MICHAEL BRANNAN.....	Crossgate Moor	25/760 wnd trf 9,2 Bn Z Reserve
JOS. INGLEDEW.....	Framwellgate Moor	No Trace

It can be seen that of this first hundred from Durham to enlist, twenty-two were killed or died from wounds or gas poisoning, eleven of them were killed on the opening day of the Battle of the Somme and two more from wounds received that day. Others who had volunteered never joined the Tyneside Irish, but enlisted elsewhere and two others never enlisted. Twenty-six of the others would become casualties. From gunshot, shrapnel, gas, trench foot, trench fever the list is endless. Thirteen men would be transferred to the Labour Corps in 1917. These were mainly older men who had survived without being wounded in the battles of the Sommes, Arras and Paschendaele. There are fourteen for whom I am unable to trace additional details. This could be for several reasons, but the most likely is that they were discharged to work on munitions. Release of the First World War soldiers documents may in due course provide more information.

Twenty-four of them served in D. Company of the 1st Tyneside Irish and three men received awards for gallant conduct, one Military Medal Winner (won with 8th Durham Light Infantry) and two Cards of Honour.

TYNESIDE IRISH BRIGADE

RECRUITS WANTED

For this Popular Brigade

Apply,

J. M. LYNCH,
78, NORTH ROAD,
DURHAM.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Irish Heroes in the War
Joseph Keating and Felix Lavery, London 1917.
Official History Military Operations 1916 Volume I.
Absentee Voter List - Durham City, Durham CRO CC/CL/1/201.
Absentee Voter List - Spennymoor, Durham CRO CC/CL/1/206.
(Covers Langley Moor, Brandon and New Brancepeth).
WO 329 First World War Medal Rolls PRO Kew.
WO 329 Silver War Badge Lists PRO Kew.

Northumberland COUNTY COUNCIL

AMENITIES DIVISION

Revised Opening Times

at the Northumberland Record Office and the Morpeth Records Office from 9 April 1996 opening times will be as follows:

NORTHUMBERLAND RECORD OFFICE

Monday	9.30a.m. - 1.00p.m.	2.00p.m. - 8.00p.m.
Tuesday	9.30a.m. - 1.00p.m.	2.00p.m. - 5.00p.m.
Wednesday	CLOSED	
Thursday	CLOSED	
Friday	9.30a.m. - 1.00p.m.	2.00p.m. - 5.00p.m.
Saturday	CLOSED	
Sunday	CLOSED	

Telephone: 0191-236 2680

MORPETH RECORD CENTRE

Monday	9.30a.m. - 1.00p.m.	2.00p.m. - 5.00p.m.
Tuesday	9.30a.m. - 1.00p.m.	2.00p.m. - 8.00p.m.
Wednesday	CLOSED	
Thursday	CLOSED	
Friday	9.30a.m. - 1.00p.m.	2.00p.m. - 5.00p.m.
Saturday	CLOSED	
Sunday	CLOSED	

Telephone: 01670 504084

NORTHUMBERLAND & DURHAM FAMILY RESEARCH

Research undertaken by a professional member of many years' experience.

Contact: SHIRLEY LENDERYOU, 3 Westburn Mews, Ryton, Tyne & Wear NE40 4HW. Tel: (0191) 413 2809.

NORTHUMBERLAND & DURHAM FAMILY RESEARCH

By Local Historian & Writer

Contact: GEORGE BELL, 113 East View, Wideopen, Newcastle upon Tyne NE13 6EF. Tel: (0191) 236 6416.

WEST-DURHAM DATABASE

Covers a quarter of the County and contains all parish registers up to 1852, 1851 Census, MI's, Bonds, Wills, etc.
£5 per name, RON NUBLEY, 66 Alderside Crescent, Lanchester, Durham DH7 0PZ.

ESTATE RECORDS : AN UNDER-USED SOURCE

by Sue Wood

Estate Records are generally neglected by family historians and hopefully this article may prompt readers to consider them as a potential source. All the examples cited are from papers held at the Melton Park site of Northumberland Record Office and have been selected simply because they are ones with which I am familiar. They illustrate only a few of the ways in which estate records might be used. Many of the collections listed in the appendix will include records similar to those mentioned here.

The term 'estate record' is used in this article to describe the papers of a landed family. A typical estate collection might include personal papers of the family, papers about the estate, and papers relating to industrial or business interests. Each type is likely to contain information of interest to the family historian.

Before commencing research, one needs to discover which collection may contain information about particular ancestors. There are several possible ways for establishing which family owned an estate in the area in which an ancestor was living. The relevant volume of Northumberland County History should include detailed information about title to lands. Trade directories (18th-20th centuries) provide information about landowners. Tithe awards (c.1838-1860) list owners of property in most townships in Northumberland. A more recent source might be the 1910 Land Valuation (NRO 2000), which again provides information about landowners. Land Tax returns (18th-19th century), located amongst Quarter Sessions records, are another potential source.

As stated, many estate collections include references to the business interests of a family and it may be possible to locate references to ancestors among such papers. The **Blackett (Wylam) MSS** includes much information about the coalmining interests of the Blacketts in the Wylam and Prudhoe areas, including a series of pitmans' bonds -- agreements to hire made between the coal owner and the workmen (ref ZBK/A2). The collection is unusual in that so many bonds have survived, covering the period 1787-1868, with a few gaps. To aid searchers, an index of names referred to in the bonds has been compiled and it is possible to use the bonds to establish how long an individual was employed in the Blakett colliers. For example, the index allows us to trace the employment history of (James) Miller Greener. In 1855, Miller Greener is employed as a driver, usually an occupation of teenage boys and therefore a clue to Miller's age. The bond of 1856 refers to James Miller Greener employed as a putter; those of 1857-59 show James Miller Greener as a driver. By 1860, he is employed again as a putter and continues so until 1864. The 1865-66 bond refers to him as a hewer.

A search of the 1861 Census (RG9/3857 f22p5) revealed James Miller Greener, aged 17, residing with his father George, a coal miner and innkeeper at the Three Tuns Inn, Wylam, and his mother Eleanor and three siblings, including William, also a coal miner. The index to the bonds also reveals references to both William and George Greener, which could be followed up. Interestingly, the census shows that all members of the Greener family were born in Ovingham, so it is possible that there was a long history of family employment in the Blakett mines. It was usual for the men to sign the bonds, if they were able to, and these signatures may be used for comparative purposes.

Amongst the Blakett (Wylam) coalmining records in the agreement book, 1806-09, (ZBK/A/4), containing details of agreements between employer and worker. Individual agreements are detailed. For example, Robert Symm was employed 'to drive two coal waggons - on either part of the road to Lemington'. Rates of pay are also given, as are details of the 'earnest', the sum of money given to the miner in part payment of the bond. Comments are added in some cases --- it is noted, for example, that Thomas Makepeace is 'from Blaydon, formerly Greenhead', that Thos. Brown Junior's father is 'horsekeeper at Wylam colliery' and that William Murrow 'lives at Crawcrook (Public House)'.

Another estate collection which includes much information about family industrial interests is the **Allendale MSS** --- the Blakett-Beaumont family, later the Lords Allendale, owned much land in the north Pennines which was mined for lead. The bargain books (NRO 672/2) refer to mining in Northumberland and Durham and are described in the catalogue by area --- Allenheads, Coalcleugh and Weardale. The books record quarterly contracts made between the mine agent and the miners, usually in partnership of between two and twelve, with details of rates of pay. The names of all men forming the bargain are listed and it should be possible to track an ancestor's career in the Allendale mines using the bargain books, discovering rates of pay and the different partnerships a man worked within and his eventual disappearance from the lists. The earliest books date from 1720 and the most recent 1883, with gaps in the series.

Among the Allendale MSS is a notice book of fatal accidents occurring in the Blakett-Beaumont mines 1876-83 (NRO 2762/A37) and a companion volume, a notice book of personal injury 1876-1900 (NRO 2762/A36). The former records seven fatal accidents including one to John Joseph Roddam, a lead ore washer aged 17, at Groverake on 3rd November 1882 -- 'While engaged putting the elevation of the chat crushing mill on to the guides, which had got off, his foot got into the wheels and crushed his legs. He died six hours after the accident.'

A potentially fruitful source of information is 'rentals' -- commonly located among estate collections. The Allendale MSS includes a series of rentals from 1862 to 1953 (NRO 712/C1-44) which provide an alphabetical list of tenants, name the property rented, and give details of rent and of any arrears. An additional 'remarks' column often includes interesting information --- the earliest volume of rentals (NRO 712/C1) refers to Emerson Macmillan renting Meadow Cottage in December 1862 for a half-yearly rent of £3-10-0 and a note in the volume refers to John Hewitson taking over the property in May 1864. A search of subsequent volumes failed to find further references to Emerson Macmillan although there were references to the Macmillan surname in the first column, including a reference to Joseph Macmillan occupying Shaw House for a half yearly rent of £11-13-7 in 1862. Subsequent volumes revealed that this tenancy continued until December 1875, when Shaw House was occupied by Elizabeth Macmillan for a half yearly rent of £12-10-0. This tenure appears to have continued until 1885; there is no volume for 1886, but by 1887 Shaw House is rented by Elizabeth Macmillan's Representatives. By 1897, the lessee is Joseph Macmillan. Further investigation is obviously required but it would appear that the same family occupied Shaw House for almost 40 years. The reference to Elizabeth's Representatives may indicate that she died circa 1886 and a search of burial registers might corroborate this, whilst a search of census records might provide additional information. Was Elizabeth the widow of Joseph Macmillan? Was Joseph her son?

The rentals quoted are comparatively modern, but some estate collections contain earlier documents which might be used to establish information in a period prior to Parish Registers. For example, the **Swinburne MSS** include rentals for estates in Northumberland and Durham from 1665 (ZSW 214).

Some records within the Allendale MSS reflect the paternalistic attitude of the family as employers. Between 1848 and 1850, Thomas Sopwith, agent to the Beaumont family, established four libraries in Allendale and Weardale. NRO 2762/A22 is a book comprising annual lists of members of Allendale Library, providing addresses, subscriptions paid and volumes borrowed. Interestingly, there were references to Emerson Macmillan in this volume and it appears that he was in occupation of Meadow Cottage from 1849, when the column commences, until 1864 (as was stated in the rental). His name also appears in the membership list of 1865-66 but with no address. By 1866-67 he is living at Guide Post and is still doing so in 1871-72. There then follows a gap in the membership lists, and there is no reference to Emerson Macmillan in the final list of 1881. Investigation of census returns, and possibly electoral registers is required to confirm this information and, like the rentals, the membership lists may prove to be a finding aid to locating a family on a census. For the same purpose, a register of female pupils at Allenheads School 1849-60 (NRO 2762/A23) could be used. This consists of a list of pupils with 'residences' and an account of monthly payments.

An estate collection might include leases which can be analysed in conjunction with any surviving rentals. The **Delaval MSS** includes a number of rentals relating to the Ford and Seaton estates. They include a lease of Kimmerstone Farm to Thomas Pattison of Kimmerstone and John Hall of Ford Hill, farmers and stockmasters, for 21 years (2DE 1/12/1). It is dated 20th December 1763 and is signed by both Hall and Pattison. Tenure was to commence at Whitsuntide 1764 and the annual rent was set at £330 per annum. The lease reveals that the farm was currently leased to Thomas Pattison and George Thompson 'their under tenants and assigns'. This earlier lease over the property does not seem to have survived but a search of the rent account book, 1760-64, revealed references to Pattison and Thompson each paying a half-yearly rent of £70 to Sir John Hussey Delaval at Martinmas and Whitsuntide 1760-64 (2DE 2/14). One wonders why Pattison's business relationship with George Thompson was dissolved. Perhaps Thompson died? Again this could be followed up with a search of the appropriate burial register.

Another source which lists personal names is 'day books'. These record the daily activities of workers, and they were used to calculate the payments to be made to individuals. There is a series of such volumes in the **Allgood MSS**. One of the early 19th century volumes (ZAL 51/1) 1837-54 includes references to female and child labourers and we learn that Isabella Heslop spent one day raking leaves on 20th November 1839 and another pulling turnips (20th December). She also worked two half days in February 1840 --- pulling turnips on 14th and gathering sticks on 17th.

On occasions, females and children are not identified by their own names but by family relationship. For example, we see many references to Barney English's wife. The volume gives a picture of various family members working to contribute to the household economy and it ought to be possible to calculate the family income from the information provided in the volumes.

One might find references to persons who were in the service of landed families. The **Delaval MSS** includes a bundle of applications and testimonials of people applying for position within the Delaval household. There is a testimonial for George Robson who applied to 'undertake the management of Lord Delaval's garden'. The testimonial is provided by William Falla junior of Gateshead who reported that Robson was 'at present working in out Nursery his last place was at Eslington House where he lived near five years and though there was no forcing there except frames, yet at Nunwick where he served his apprenticeship and at Winyard where he was two years and at Studley Park, he had every opportunity that was necessary in that branch of gardening.' (2DE 33/8/73).

George Robson's application to Lord Delaval was successful — a list of servants (2DE 33/7) records that 'Robert Turnbull, gardener left on account of broken leg 24th Dec. 1801. Geo. Robson gardiner came in his room 9th March 1802.' The volume contains lists of servants to 1807 and George Robson appears on each list. Further examination might allow us to discover when he left the employment of the family.

There is much information about servants in the Delaval MSS and the testimonial quoted above is of particular interest since it allows the researcher to look at other estate papers to establish further information about George Robson's career. The Allgood (Nunwick) papers are held at Northumberland Record Office and it is possible that there may be a reference there to Robson's apprenticeship.

Often estate collections contain details about goods and services purchased by the family and may possibly mention ancestors who were local tradesmen.

The Delaval MSS contain much material of this nature. 2DE 34/3 is a bundle of letters from tradesmen about the despatch of household and personal goods for the Delaval family 1800-08. A preliminary inspection of them has revealed correspondence from several Newcastle traders who appear in trade directories of 1790 and 1793. Caleb Angus, coach and harness maker of Bigg Market; Langlands and Robinson, silver plate manufacturers, goldsmiths and jewellers of The Side; Thomas Mather, grocer and tea dealer of Newcastle; Mrs. Hudson, milliner of Mosley Street; Archibald Reed; Surtees, Johnson and Dale, wine merchants, Dean Street. All of the letters are signed and many refer to the goods being purchased.

Not all estate records are in the custody of local Record Offices. However, anyone interested is advised to contact the local Record Office in the first instance. I list the main estate collections in Northumberland Record Office, with details of the approximate dates of the collection and an indication of the geographical area served by the estate.

Major Collections of Estate Records Deposited in the Northumberland Record Office

COLLECTION	GEOGRAPHICAL AREA	COVERING DATES (CENTURIES)
Allendale (Allendale)	Allendale, Bywell & Hexham. Durham, Weardale.	16th-20th
Allgood (Nunwick)	Simonburn. Durham, Lanchester.	17th-20th
Anderson (Little Harle)	Newcastle, Kirkharle & Kirkwhelpington.	17th-20th
Armstrong (Craggside)	Rothbury.	20th
Benson (Newbrough)	Newbrough.	19th-20th
Blackett (Matfen)	Haltwhistle, Matfen & St. John Lee.	15th-20th
Blackett (Wylam)	Wylam, Ovingham & Prudhoe.	18th-20th
Blackett-Ord (Whitfield)	Allendale, Benwell, Fenham, Haltwhistle, Morpeth, Ninebanks & Whitfield.	12th-20th
* Blake (Tilmonth)	Cornhill, Norham, Tilmonth & Twizell.	16th-20th
Browne (Callaly)	Bamburgh, Callaly & Whittingham.	19th-20th
Butler (Ewart)	Doddington. Salop, Staffordshire & Worcestershire.	18th-20th
Campbell (College Valley)	Kirknewton.	19th-20th
Carr-Ellison (Hedgeley)	Alnham, Eglington & Halwhistle. Durham - Dunston & Gateshead.	17th-20th
Collingwood (Lilburn)	Tynemouth.	17th-20th
Cookson (Meldon)	Hartburn & Meldon.	17th-19th
Cookson (Minsteracres)	Ponteland & Saley.	17th-19th
Craster (Craster)	Beadnell, Craster & Dunstan.	16th-20th
Lord Crewe	Bamburgh, Blanchland, Shotley & North Sunderland.	17th-20th
* Crossman (Holy Island)	Cheswick, Goswick & Holy Island.	16th-20th
Culley (Coupland)	Chatton, Fenton & Fowberry.	18th-19th
Delaval (Seaton Delaval & Ford)	Ford, Seaton Delaval, Dissington, Hartley, Black Callerton, Monkseaton, Tynemouth, Preston, Murton, Chirton, Earsdon, North Shields, Holywell, Newsham, Seghill, Burradon, Cowpen, Hartley, North Seaton, Woodhorn, Newbiggin, Lynemouth, Hirst, Horton, Cresswell, Druridge & Backworth. Lincolnshire - Doddington	15th - 19th
Dickinson Dees (Newcastle)	Ovingham (Bigge)	20th
Fenwick (Brinkburn)	Brinkburn.	18th-19th
Grey (Backworth)	Backworth, Chipchase & Preston. Durham-Whickham	16th-19th
* Haggerston (Haggerston)	Ellingham, Haggerston & Lowick.	14th-20th
Hope-Wallace (Featherstone)	Asholm, Featherstone & Knaresdale.	13th-19th

	Cumberland - Penrith, Barton, Brampton, Glassonby Strickland & Skelton.	
*Joicey (Ford & Etal).....	Crookham, Etal, Ford, Howtel & Milfield.....	18th-20th
Lockhart (Hexham).....	Hexham.....	18th-20th
Middleton (Belsay).....	Belsay, Choppington, Edington, Tritlington & Whalton.....	13th-20th
	Essex-Albury Hatch.	
	Yorkshire - Carlton.	
	Lincolnshire - Caenby & Glenthams.	
Orde (Nunmykirk).....	Elsdon, Felton, Netherwilton & Nunmykirk.....	17th-20th
Redesdale (Redesdale).....	Redesdale.....	19th-20th
Riddell (Whitefield).....	Hepple.....	16th-19th
Ridley (Blagdon).....	Beside, Blagdon, Byker, East Heddon, Heaton, Plessey & Prestwick Carr.....	16th-20th
Ridley (Park End).....	Falstone & Simonburn.....	19th-20th
Sample (Bothal).....	Bothal.....	19th-20th
*Simpson (Middleton).....	Glanton, Kirknewton, Ilderton, Middleton & Wooler.....	18th-20th
*Sitwell (Barmoor).....	Barmoor & Lowick.....	19th-20th
Swinburne (Capheaton).....	Allendale, Capheaton, Chollerton, Edlingham, Haughton, Heugh, Knaresdale, Matfen & Newtown.....	13th-20th
	Durham - Hamsterley & Slingsby	
Trevelyan (Longwiton).....	Netherwilton.....	16th-19th
Trevelyan (Wallington).....	Longwiton, Unthank, Wallington & West Ord.....	18th-20th

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TRACING MARRIAGES IN DURHAM AND NORTHUMBERLAND

A Beginner's Guide ~ Part II ~ Before 1837

by Magnus Carter

Part I of this article, dealing with marriages after 1837, appeared in the Summer 1995 issue of this Journal.

Q Why is 1837 important to someone trying to find a specific marriage?

A 1st July 1837 is the date on which civil registration of births, marriages and deaths in England and Wales began. The techniques for tracing a marriage before and after 1837 are quite different.

Q What does this mean in practical terms?

A From 1st July 1837, the state took over responsibility for collating and indexing all marriages in England and Wales. Thus, at least in theory, you ought to be able to find a post-1837 marriage in the Civil Registration records. I discussed this, and the problems which arise, in the previous part of this article.

Q And pre-1837?

A Prior to 1st July 1837 there was no 'state system' as we know it today. The Parish Registers were the principal places in which marriages were recorded. There are other possibilities, but you will probably need to look at a Parish Register, or a transcript of one, and there are several indexes to help you.

Q Tell me about the Parish Registers.

A In 1538, Thomas Cromwell ordered that each parish should keep a register of the births, marriages and deaths in its area. In theory, therefore, every Church of England parish should have registers from that date, or from the date the parish was formed, if that was later. In practice, however, few parishes have registers going back so far. Most surviving registers commence in the 17th or 18th centuries, although there are a few 16th century examples. The registers of St. Nicholas, Newcastle, for example, begin in 1558. Durham St. Oswald's registers begin in the 1530's. But even if a particular register begins fairly early, there are often 'gaps' or 'missing years', due to losses or damage --- or a failure to keep the appropriate records in the first place!

Q So where will I find the registers, if they still exist?

A Almost without exception, the pre-1837 registers of Northumberland and Durham will have been deposited with the appropriate County Record Office. They have been microfilmed, to save wear and tear on the irreplaceable originals, and you'll have to use the films if you go to the Record Office to examine them.

Q Where are these Record Offices, and what will it cost me?

A There is no charge for consulting the microfilms in person, but it is wise to book a microfilm reader in advance, as they are heavily used. The films for Northumberland are at Morpeth Records Centre (The Kylins, Morpeth, telephone 01670-504084). Those for Durham are at Durham County Record Office, County Hall, Durham DH1 5UL (telephone 0191-3833575).

Those for what is now Tyne and Wear are at Tyne and Wear Archives Service, Blandford House, Blandford Square, Newcastle (tel: 0191-232 6789). There is some overlap, so you will find some films of the registers of Tyne & Wear parishes in Durham or Northumberland Record Offices as well as at Blandford House.

Q What about transcripts?

A Leaving aside 'Bishop's Transcripts', which I shall mention later, there are many relatively modern transcripts, or copies, usually in manuscript or typescript, of the registers of Northumberland or Durham. They have been compiled over the years and they provide an alternative to looking at the register or itself, or the microfilm of it. An immediate word of warning, however. Having located an entry in a transcript, it may be advisable, if possible, to check it with the film of the original register. The transcripts are just copies, made by human beings, often from difficult-to-decipher originals, and all sorts of transcription errors or omissions can arise.

Q So where are these transcripts?

A All over the place! The late Herbert Maxwell Wood, for example, copied a large number of Durham and Northumberland registers, mainly to 1812, earlier this century and there are literally hundreds of volumes of his work in the Genealogy Room at Newcastle Central Library. Other people, both before and after Wood, have done similar work and it is of course continuing to this day, thanks to the efforts within N.D.F.H.S. and by others. There are other locations for transcripts --- Durham County Record Office, for example, has a sizeable collection, mostly fairly recent, and there are some in all the Record Offices and in many libraries other than Newcastle. There are many at the Society of Genealogists in London and N.D.F.H.S. has a growing collection.

Q So are all of these transcripts complete?

A Sadly, no. Coverage and completeness varies immensely. I have mentioned that Wood's transcripts usually go up to 1812 but there are some for even shorter periods and generally speaking, the number of transcripts covering the years from 1813 to 1837 is small, although it is growing.

Q Have none of these transcripts been published in book form?

A Yes. The now long-defunct Durham and Northumberland Parish Register Society, largely the brainchild of Herbert Maxwell Wood, printed over 30 volumes earlier this century. These are fully indexed, which many of the other transcripts are not. More recently, Northumberland and Durham Family History Society has published a few on microfiche.

Q So, is there any central record of what transcripts exist?

A No. This work is ongoing and by its very nature any such record would be soon out of date. In 1979, the Society of Genealogists published Volume XI in its series 'National Index of Parish Registers', which dealt with Northumberland and Durham but this volume is out-of-date and also out-of-print!

Q Are there any Northumberland and Durham parishes for which no transcripts at all exist?

A Yes. Several. But for marriages, which is what this article is about, Bill Rounce, former N.D.F.H.S. chairman, did great work in the 1970's and 1980's in transcribing and indexing the marriage registers for many Northumberland and Durham parishes, including some not covered earlier by Wood or others. But even his efforts could not include every parish. Incidentally, you'll find Bill Rounce's work at Newcastle Library.

Q Faced with this patchwork of original registers and transcripts, how do I, as a beginner, know which parish to search?

A If you are reasonably certain that a particular marriage took place at a particular place in or about a certain year, it would make sense to start by looking at one of the several marriage indexes which exist. They may well point you to the correct parish.

Q What indexes are there?

A The largest and best known is the International Genealogical Index --- the well known 'IGI' --- compiled by the Mormon Church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, from its vast collections. This is available on microfiche (and nowadays on computer) and there is a separate set of fiche for each county. It covers both marriages and baptisms, but not deaths or burials. It is alphabetical and you may find that some surnames are grouped together --- Ross, for example, appears under Rose.

Within each surname, the entries are arranged first by the Christian or forename and then by year. For instance, in County Durham, you will find seventeen entries for a Richard Carter, the earliest in 1599 and the latest in 1872. Most of them are baptisms, but there are three marriages, shown as 'M' in the 'type' column of the index. The IGI will tell you that a Richard Carter married Alice Richardson on 18th April 1784 at Heighington, that another married Margaret Hodgson at Sedgfield in 1830 and that a third married in Gateshead in 1872. The reverse entries will be under the female name. You could look up Alice Richardson and locate the 1784 Heighington marriage to Richard Carter. Notice that the IGI covers periods after 1837. Up to about 1875 in some cases, but this is by no means universal.

Q Where will I find the IGI?

A Most Record Offices and many large libraries have either the IGI for the whole country, or the county sections relevant to their area. N.D.F.H.S. has it, and it is widely available at Mormon Family History Centres throughout the world. Incidentally, individuals can buy county sections quite cheaply.

Q Need I look further that the IGI for a particular marriage?

A Most certainly, yes. First, you must appreciate that the IGI is an index only, a finding aid, and there is likely to be much fuller information in the Parish Register itself --- the parishes of origin of bride and groom, perhaps, and their status as bachelor or widower, spinster or widow and maybe more detail and the names of witnesses who may well be relations.

Remember that like all transcripts of indexes the information on the IGI was put there by a human being and errors may have been made. And --- most important --- the IGI is NOT complete. It does not cover every parish and sometimes includes some parishes for a few years only. Darlington, for example, is not on the IGI at all. So be thankful if 'your' marriage is on the IGI, and then check the detail with the register itself, but don't give up if you can't find what you want.

Q What if the marriage I am seeking is not on the IGI?

A There is 'Boyd's Marriage Index' and there are 'modern' indexes compiled within the last few years.

Q What is Boyd's Marriage Index?

A It is an index compiled some years ago by Percival Boyd. He covered lots of different counties, to varying degrees and the index is divided into 50 year periods e.g. 1701 to 1750. The full set is at the Society of Genealogists in London but there are sets for Northumberland and for County Durham at Newcastle Central Library. There are typewritten books, compiled before computers or microfilm had been thought of, but microfilm or microfiche copies now exist at various places. Durham County Library, for example, has the County Durham set.

In the main, Boyd's indexes do not go later than 1812 and, like the IGI, not every parish is included. To a large extent, both the IGI and Boyd's Index use the transcripts compiled by H.M. Wood early this century and he did not manage to cover every parish and seldom included marriages after 1812. I think I am right in saying that everything in Boyd will be on the IGI but not vice versa and nowadays you would probably do better to confine yourself to the IGI. Moreover, Boyd does not give as much detail as the IGI, incomplete though the latter is. Names, parish of marriage and year (not the complete date) is what you will find and Boyd's arrangement is phonetic. Scott will be found as Skot.

Q So I can forget about Boyd?

A I will put my head on the block and say 'effectively, yes'. It was a wonderful aid in its day but time marches on, and finding aids get better and more numerous all the time.

Q What about 'modern indexes'?

A As we have seen, the IGI, a modern index, is incomplete, but there are now complete indexes for both Durham and Northumberland for the years 1813 to 1837. They were compiled under the auspices of N.D.F.H.S. from a number of part indexes e.g. indexes for 1813-37 marriages in north Northumberland, in southwest Durham, in north west Durham and so on.

Transcriptions by Bill Rounce and others were added, as were a few parishes which had not been transcribed and the whole lot was re-indexed by George Bell. So we now have a complete marriage index for County Durham for 1813 to 1837 and a parallel one, for the same period, for Northumberland.

Q *Where can I find these 1813-37 indexes?*

A There are microfiche copies available from N.D.F.H.S. at the very reasonable price of £8.50 for each county and there are a few 'hard copies'. Newcastle Central Library has book versions for both counties as does Durham University Archives and Special Collections at 5 The College, Durham. Durham Record Office has a copy of the County Durham index, Northumberland Record Office has the Northumberland volumes and Tyne and Wear Archives has a version covering the parishes in its area. And of course, N.D.F.H.S. has copies.

Q *What do these 1813-37 indexes include?*

A The names of each party, the date, and the parish in which the marriage was celebrated. You should, as usual, use these indexes purely as finding aids and then look at the relevant entry in the Register if you can. During this period, the 'extra' information you will obtain will be the parish of origin of each party, their status (bachelor, widow etc.) and there will be signatures (or 'marks') and names of two witnesses, who may well be relations.

Also, you will find whether the marriage was 'by banns' or 'by licence', which could point the way to other sources.

Q *So these 1813-37 indexes are complete and I should therefore find the marriage I want?*

A Subject to the possibility of error in the index compilation, yes, provided the marriage was celebrated in Northumberland and Durham. With 75,000 entries on the Northumberland index, and rather more for Durham, some errors or omissions are inevitable and one or two have already come to light.

Q *What if 'my' marriage does not appear?*

A It must have taken place before 1st January 1813 or on or after 1st July 1837, or have been celebrated in some other place outside the county and possibly in Scotland or even abroad. Or the couple were not married at all! Or they married 'irregularly', a form or marriage very common at this period, particularly among north Northumbrians who often had a 'Gretna Green style' marriage at some spot on the eastern side of the Scottish Borders, such as Coldstream or Lamberton. I mentioned these in my previous article.

Q *I can see the significance of 1837. But why 1813?*

A Under an Act of Parliament in 1812 ('Roses Act'), a standardised form of marriage register was adopted in all parishes. So the format, and the detail given, will vary, depending on whether the marriage was before or after 1812.

Q *What about periods before 1813?*

A The same procedures as above, but there is no 'complete index'. Use the IGI and if not on that, try whichever parishes not on the IGI seem to you to be appropriate.

This can be a long and possibly fruitless exercise, particularly as you go further back in time. Like all genealogical research, you have to pick up clues wherever you can. There was a particularly important piece of legislation in 1754, Hardwicke's Marriage Act, which attempted to counter earlier abuses and scandals. It provided that no marriage in England was valid unless it took place in a Church of England place of worship. The only exceptions were members of the Royal Family, Jews and Quakers. The subject of Quaker Marriages is one I can't cover here, and remember the 'Irregular Marriages' in Scotland which I mentioned earlier, which became particularly common after 1754. Registers or other records of these marriages are few and far between, I am afraid.

Q *Anything else about Hardwicke's Act?*

A Yes. It provided that a marriage had to be preceded by the calling of banns for three successive Sundays prior to the marriage, or alternatively a licence from the Bishop had to be obtained. 'Banns Books' survive for a few parishes --- they will be in the County Record Office.

Licences can be most useful and if you find a marriage which mentions a licence, try to examine the relevant documents, the Marriage Bonds etc., which will be held among the Bishop of Durham's records at 5 The College, Durham. They are in yearly boxes, by date, and can give valuable further detail --- the age of the parties, for instance, especially if they were minors. There is no charge for looking at these documents and they are 'originals' and not microfilms! There are microfilm indexes up to 1815, and Newcastle and Sunderland Libraries have copies of 'Durham Marriage Bonds 1590-1815' by E. Dodds and J.W. Robinson, in several volumes.

Q *You mentioned Bishop's Transcripts'. What are these?*

A Each year, each parish should have sent a copy of the Parish Register for that year to the Bishop. Where they survive, they are held among the Bishop of Durham's records at 5 The College, Durham. Unfortunately, although the series should in theory commence in the late 16th century, there are only a handful for years prior to 1760 and there are often considerable gaps in later years. There are separate boxes of transcripts for each parish but no form of index to them. These Bishop's Transcripts, which should be faithful copies of the original Registers, are particularly useful if the original Register no longer survives. For example, the Registers of the Northumbrian parish of Kirknewton were destroyed by fire on 1789. The 'BT's (as they are called) form the only surviving record of earlier marriages. Similarly, the important Sunderland parish of Monkwearmouth lost its registers in an 18th century fire and the BT's are invaluable here.

By the way, the BT's, and the Marriage Bonds, cover each county i.e. the whole of Durham and the whole of Northumberland, except for some parishes in the Hexham area, which fell under the jurisdiction of the Archbishop of York and the relevant documents for these areas are at the Borthwick Institute in York.

Q *So what are the prospects of my finding the marriage I want in the pre-1837 period?*

A Pretty good, for 1813 to 1837. Pretty good, too, in the late 18th century but success is by no means certain and the further you go back, the more likely you are to be unable to locate the wedding you want. We have mentioned the reasons - or some of them. Registers lost/burned/destroyed, entries not made by church officials, marriages in Scotland, 'irregular marriages'. Every family historian has a 'missing marriage' somewhere in his tree! But keep trying. You never know!

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THEY MOVED AROUND A LOT A Look at Population Mobility in North-East England

by Adam Bunting

PART II

This continues the article whose first part appeared in the Spring edition of the Journal Vol. 21 No. 2, pp27-28.

3 THE 'MAGNET EFFECT' OF CITIES

Racked with disease and squalor, the cities always had a higher death-rate than the surrounding country. London is of course the most striking example, but smaller cities suffered in the same way, and the periodic epidemics that swept through them created a natural vacuum in their populations that could only be replenished from outside.

In addition to the natural vacuum created by high mortality rates, the existence of trade and industry, with proportionally large numbers of influential and wealthy middle-class citizens, meant that cities acted as an attractive force on the surrounding country. The tendency was for a city's population to grow steadily over the years, providing its sources of wealth were not diminished by shifts in demand for its products. This population growth was fed by migration from the outside. Studies of London's population show that the nearer the place was to London, the greater the pull on its population. First generation Londoners from the immediate Home Counties consistently outnumbered those from even a little further afield. In the North-East, it could probably be shown that Newcastle attracted more in-comers from parishes such as Gosforth and Whickham than it did from Belford or Wolsingham.

With its commercial and industrial strength, Newcastle was also a port and hiring-market, and we can only imagine the number of young men who might, for example, arrive one day intending to be hired as a miner, only to leave on the next as crew on a collier.

The expansion of industry in Newcastle during the early and mid-19th century led to a huge increase in population.

All levels of skill were demanded. The building of new factories created a demand for masons, tilers, joiners, glaziers, bricklayers ... Ralph Richardson, a joiner born in 1822, made a speciality of working in new developments. He had left his native Bishop Auckland when his father's business there failed, married in Newcastle, and raised his children in a succession of raw, new mining developments across County Durham. He moved back to Newcastle at the same time that a wealthy Quaker family, the Richardsons (no relations), were building a leather works in Elswick. He joined the company and probably helped build his own house in Shumac Street, one of the streets built for company workers, where he lived and prospered until retirement.

Often it would happen that a dweller in one city might move to another, perhaps expanding, city, where his skills could be used.

It is not yet known exactly why James Spens, a master printer, moved with his wife and family from Edinburgh to Gateshead in the mid-1820's, but the increased demand for printing skills which accompanied a mushrooming publishing industry in Newcastle in the mid-19th century could well have been the reason. James Spens was constantly on the move, returning to Edinburgh for brief spells over twenty and more years, although he did finally settle in Newcastle where he died in 1870.

4 OUTWARD MIGRATION FROM CITY CENTRES

Outward moves became extremely common in the 19th century as suburban life took its place in the general pattern of existence. We could take as a simple example, the eldest son of James Spens, Thomas, who remained in the City for most of his life, but shifted his address every few years as his engraving business prospered, and as he branched out into dealing in china, glass and earthenware. From fairly humble beginnings in Blandford Street, West of the City in the 1840's, he moved up the social scale via the City centre addresses of Mosley and Grainger Streets, to the prestigious Grey Street, and thence to the highly sought-after Leazes Terrace area which in the 1870's was on the outer North-West fringe of Newcastle.

This unexceptional example was followed in the Newcastle area by tens of thousands, as the sheer force of numbers, coupled with a wish (by those who could afford it) to leave the unhealthy inner city areas, resulted in the construction of suburbs within a tram-ride's distance from the centre. The new middle classes - clerks, agents, small businessmen, local government officers - found their niches in Fenham, Jesmond and Heaton, while the endless rows of working class terraces spread out into Elswick, Byker, Arthur's Hill, and so on. It goes without saying that on a smaller scale, the same phenomenon was to be seen in North Shields with its expansion into Whitley, Preston and Tynemouth; South Shields expanding away from the River into Westoe and Harton; Gateshead pushing out into Bensham and Felling ... the list could itself take up a whole article. The result for the family researcher is a different address for every decade of the census returns in the case of many town-dwelling families in the North-East.

The distance travelled by the urban migrant in search of suburban bliss was often very small. A commission agent such as Thomas Walton, living in Victoria Street, Elswick in 1871, had only a mile or two to move his family into the recently built Ashburton Crescent, Coxlodge, as his business prospered and as the decline of mining in the Gosforth/Coxlodge area was balanced by large-scale sales of land for housing development. Thomas Walton's move to leafy Gosforth must however have seemed far less dramatic than his original shift from Stanhope, in rural Weardale, to the smoky city, and which, conveniently for the purposes of this article, makes him the embodiment, in his lifetime, of both patterns of urban migration that I have outlined above.

5 COASTAL MIGRATION

We must remember that for all of history (apart from Roman times and since the mid-eighteenth century with the improvements gradually brought by turnpikes and railways) it has generally been easier to travel by water than overland. The importance of rivers, canals and the sea must all be taken into consideration when considering the origins of ancestors who seem to appear, often with an 'out-of-county' surname, as if from nowhere into the parish registers.

In the North-East, land routes naturally followed the river valleys, but our rivers are too shallow along most of their lengths for river-born traffic ever to have been important, except of course in the tidal stretches of the Tyne, the Wear and the Tees. Furthermore, despite grandiose plans, there has never been a canal system to match those of other parts of the country. Coal was carried down tracks, later waggon ways, to the nearest navigable point on the Tyne or Wear, and thence by shallow-draught boat (the *keel*) to ships anchored in the tidal reaches. From that point, any fair-sized port on the East coast was accessible to the laden colliers. Then there was the general coastal trade, and the fishing-fleets which followed the shoals up and down the North Sea according to the seasons, not to mention the foreign shipping from Northern Europe and Scandinavia.

Newcastle, Sunderland and the other ports teemed with activity. As ships called up and down the coast, Geordies met girls in every port from Lerwick to Dover and brought them home; and sailors from other East Coast ports - and further abroad - settled and married in Newcastle, the Shields, Sunderland, and smaller havens too numerous to mention. Small wonder it is that names from much further South existed in small pockets in the port areas; the Buntings of County Durham may well have had Norfolk roots originally, while the Winches of South Shields probably came from Essex or London.

This was not all: the McMains of South Shields, first recorded in the last decade of the 18th century, originated from Cumberland. George McMain, first of the line and a mariner, may well have endured a rough voyage around the North coast of Scotland before settling at the mouth of the Tyne. On balance, however, persons finding an 'untypical' surname in pre-census parish registers on Tyneside would probably find the ancestor's origins more quickly by looking first of all at the IGI for the Eastern counties of England and Scotland.

6 'CIRCULAR' MIGRATION

Some families went round a full circle. Anthony Camp, in his useful book *My Ancestors Moved in England and Wales*, reminds us that 'even the children of a migrant will probably maintain some connections with the areas from which their fathers came or return there. Often a migrants child visiting his (relatives) will marry someone from their areas and thus give a clue to the family's general place of origins.'

This tendency to return back to the family's original town, village or farmstead is a feature of family life that we understand ourselves as family historians. Even illiterate people were in possession of often quite elaborate genealogies handed down orally by the senior members of the family, and in times of need it was not uncommon for a person to seek out some cousin who had 'done well' in order to solicit their help in the form of a job, money, or shelter.

People had a sense of 'country': a place that they felt attached to emotionally and through the ramifications of their family ties and friendships. These do not appear in written form except perhaps in wills and related documents. Few people have the privilege of family papers going back beyond more than a generation or two, and so we tend to forget that at all times, these ties have existed. When researching, we neglect at our peril the probability of the existence of such ties, and when someone 'disappears' from the parish registers, there may be reasons which go to the very origins and essence of the family group.

The concept of 'country' was reinforced in the old days by the Settlement Laws. People were legally settled in their parish of birth, or if they moved, in the parish where they had lived unchallenged by the Overseer for more than a year. If an apprenticeship was served in another parish, or if work was obtained in another parish, than that parish became the parish of settlement. However, in the case of the permanently poor, who might only be able to obtain seasonal work to eke out parish relief, they would be settled on their parish of origin.

Could England be said to have been a free country? The matter was taken up by Daniel Defoe in his *Journal of the Plague Year*. Two characters are discussing the idea of fleeing London to escape the Plague.

Thomas ... Here we were born, and here we must die.

John : Look you Tom, the whole Kingdom is my Native Country as well as this Town ... I was born in England, and have a right to live in it if I can.

Thomas : But you know every vagrant Person may by the Laws of England, be taken up, and pass'd back to their last legal Settlement.'

This system lasted three centuries, from the Act of Settlement (1662) to an Act of 1876, though in practice, in the North-East of England as well as elsewhere, the system came under great strain much earlier than this due to such factors as the annual hiring of pitmen which led them from one parish to another, and due to the rapid expansion of population in general.

The whole question of Settlement was complex and the subject of much dispute; but it was a cause of considerable 'circular migration' as people were shuffled back to their old parish in times of hardship.

CONCLUSION

This brief look at migration has neglected to mention many factors which might involve the move of a family. Servicemen, merchants and the professional classes are just three groups whose careers will probably have led them to move at some stage in their lives. Country people needed only to travel a day's journey of ten miles to a market town to meet someone of the opposite sex from ten miles on the other side, for an apparent twenty-mile migration to take place. So the examples can be multiplied *ad infinitum*. The population was fluid, enterprising and dynamic, despite the Settlement Laws.

When researching our families, we hear the exclamation of surprise from the neighbouring micro-viewer: 'My, they did move about a lot!' As long as we accept that this was the rule rather than the exception, then we can plan research to take that into account.

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ODDS and ENDS

WILLS FROM SOMERSET HOUSE

Wills ordered personally at Somerset House now cost 75p regardless of the number of pages. It still costs 25p to merely read the will.

Incidentally NDFHS has on order a microfiche set of the Somerset House Will Index from 1858. More news at a later date.

FRIENDS OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE MUSEUM

Are working to establish a Museum. Membership is not restricted to police officers. If you have an ancestor who was concerned with the 'Met', contact Inspector Paul Rason, Friends of Met Museum, c/o Plumstead Police Station, 200 Plumstead High Street, Plumstead, London SE18 1JY. Subscription £5 per annum.

CHILEAN TOMB

February 1995 mentions a tombstone in Antofagasta Cemetery in Chile - Raymond, husband of Gertrude Ritson, Bath, only surviving son of Charles Ritson of Sunderland died 25 September 1911. A follow up letter from a member appears in the August 1995 issue and gives more family details - Raymond was a Royal Navy captain, Gertrude was nee Fox-Andrews and there were two sons, Gordon and Peter Ritson.

FAMILY BIBLE

East Surrey FHS Journal, Vol. 17, No. 3 (September 1994) gives details from a Family Bible found in Australia some years ago. Details of James Townsend Oswald Johnston who married Sophia Martha Bainbrigge in Guernsey in 1844. A child Robert Bainbrigge Johnston was born Berwick, May 1849 and baptised by the Chaplain to the Garrison there. On 10th June 1849 Sophia died at Berwick. Her husband, an Army surgeon, married again in 1856 and for a third time in 1880.

JOHN HARRISON OF SLEETBURN HOUSE

~ In the Parish of Brancepeth ~

by Elizabeth Neat

The parish of Brancepeth in the 17th century was extensive, including the village itself, Brandon and Byshottles, Tuddow (Tudhoe), Stockley, Willington, Helmedenrow (Helmington Row), Crooke and Billyrow¹. From 1625-1643, John Cosin, prebendary at the Cathedral Church at Durham and rector of Brancepeth (afterwards Lord Bishop of Durham) by his strong personality and strict rules on churchmanship must have had considerable influence on the parish². Brancepeth Castle and Estate, once owned by the powerful Neville family, was now in the possession of a Royalist supporter, the great grandson of a blacksmith, who had accumulated wealth through coal mining. This was the setting of Sleetburn House and Mill at the north eastern part of the parish³, where the Harrisons had lived since before 1600⁴.

We may suppose the derivation of the surname, Harrison, was Harry's son. It was spelt at least eleven different ways; Sleetburn was also spelt a number of different ways - Slideburn, Sledburne, Sledborne, Sleckburn, Slockburn.

As parish registers are not available until 1599, it is difficult to trace the family's earlier history. There was a John living at Sleetburn House before 1600, who died in 1612. The John Harrison whose story is told in this article was his son. Born before 1600, he had a brother William who is mentioned in the Durham quarter session records of 19th November 1612⁵, and several stepsisters. His father had been married twice, secondly to a Miss Fletcher of East Brandon. She survived him and lived with John until her death in 1650⁶.

On 11th July, 1615, John Harrison of Sleetburn House married Elizabeth Morrison⁴, of Stockley. Ralph Morrison, Elizabeth's father, farmed 28 acres of land, at £8 per annum. Elizabeth had several sisters, who in turn wed lads from Brancepeth and, with their spouses, acted as godparents to Elizabeth's children. She had several brothers; John Morrison, one of her brothers, left ten shillings to each of Elizabeth's children in his will, which was proved in 1639⁶. John and Elizabeth Harrison had six children living at the time of John's death in 1654. Brancepeth parish, although extensive, must have been a close knit community. At the beginning of the century it would appear there was much inter-relationship⁷.

Mortality among children was high, for there is a gap between John Harrison (born 1618) and Edward (born 1625). We know that Elizabeth lost a child, Anne, aged 2. There may have been a child, Elizabeth, and there could have been several miscarriages. This pattern persisted throughout the century for John's descendants.

In October 1679, it is recorded, "Suzanne, the daughter of Edward of Sleetburn House baptised 28 day", just five days after she was born. Sadly she did not survive. It would appear that Edward lost several children under five. Infectious diseases such as measles often proved fatal for very young children.

Sleetburn House must have been comparatively spacious, according to John's will, dated 1652⁸. It may have been of cruck construction and was in existence before 1600. Yeomen's houses usually had one entrance opening into the hall or living room. According to the records it had two hearths⁹ - "one iron chimney standing in the hall or forehouse of my now dwelling house wherein I now inhabit" was to be inherited by his son, Edward⁸. Sleetburn House was two storeyed and contained more than one parlour, as after John's death were Elizabeth to decide to live separately, "my said loving wife" was to have "the cross chamber and the loft adjoining on the said cross chamber, and two adjoining rooms at the east end of the barn and and a lawful and free liberty in the bakehouse and oven there for her baking bread and meat"⁸. Edward inherited one long settle (a wooden seat with a back) and "one Ark or great chest now standing in the upper room above the said hall or forehouse"⁸. Mildred Campbell in her book *The English Yeoman* suggests that the importance of the chest that stood in the master's bedroom was that it held "evidences" of his property, often the sole proof he had title of his lands¹⁰.

In his father's will, John, the eldest son seemed to have had some quarrel with his father. He is to inherit "the messuages, lands and tenements...lying and being in Ushaw...now in the possession on one Alexander Knaggs, my tenant...upon condition only and not otherwise that if he chance to sell the same or any part thereof (as I am afraid he will) that he shall so sell the same to some or one of his brethren. But is he wilfully sell the same lands...then this my bequest is to him and his heirs to be void and of non effect." Otherwise he bequeaths the land to his youngest son, Lancelot, "his heirs and assigns for ever"⁸. This may have been the situation at the time of John junior's death in 1680¹¹. who, although residing at Flasse, in Ushaw, appears to have left little in his will. Lancelot, on the other hand, residing at Ushaw left considerably more in 1690 (will proved in 1693)¹². What could John have done to annoy his father? It is quite obvious his father did not trust him.

Edward, described as a yeoman, was obviously his father's favourite and a dominant personality. He must have been attending to business affairs and transactions of land in 1652, before John's death in 1654. Could there have been some jealousy in the family? Edward inherited Sleetburn House as well as the mill.

In land transactions¹³ there is mention of the late Lancelot Harrison, Clerk in Holy Orders, of Waddingham, Lincolnshire,¹⁴ and John, his son, of St. John's College, Cambridge, who in 1666 became a "doctor of physick"¹⁵. Lancelot appears to have been born at Brancepeth¹⁶. John had apparently been born in Durham and went up to Cambridge as a pensioner aged 19,¹⁶ from Durham School¹⁷. Could Lancelot Harrison have been John Harrison's brother? Unfortunately, as Brancepeth Register does not commence until 1599, there is no record of this, but surely this is no coincidence! Lancelot was an unusual name; besides Lancelot, the son of John and Elizabeth, was not given any of the godparents' names as appeared to be customary at this period.

In the seventeenth century it was not unusual for yeomen to carry on some sort of craft or business as well as farming. John, followed by his son, Edward, were millers as well as farmers. In fact John bequeathed to Edward "my water corn mill called Sleetburn Mill and the houses, buildings, dams, races, waters, shute, sucken and conduits thereunto belonging or appertaining"¹⁸. The mill had a millpond, which was probably allowed to fill overnight to supply power for milling. It appears to have been necessary to dam the flow of water in order to allow two working periods each day. The *shute* directed water onto the millwheel¹⁸. The quern or millstones consisted of a lower stone or bedstone, and an upper or runner stone which was turned above it. Tentering was the action to control the fineness of the meal. Gearing was the principle by which a horizontal millstone could be turned by a watermill¹⁹.

Certain preparations were vital before the actual milling. Rudimentary cleaning happened during the threshing and winnowing - the course matter and stones being removed. Dust, dirt, straw and any light particles were blown off. John mentions in his will, "all the sawn wood by me intended to be used in and about the said mill" - this could have been used to repair parts of the mill but, most importantly, it could have been meant for the *kiln* drying the corn⁶. The floor had to be fireproof in construction, being of slate, tiles or even clay. A small hole in the roof was usually left for a smoke outlet. Once dried the grain was ready to be led through spouts to the mill for shelling and grinding.

Tithes were a major part of the parson's wages - one tenth of the fleece and lambs, as well as calves, seem to make up the payment of tithes. In the years 1630-1633, John would appear to have been an average farmer, his brother-in-law at Hairholm (spelt Harumholm in Tithe book) paying twice as much in tithes²⁰. Nicholas and Henry Briggs seem to have paid 10 shillings in compensation and John and his stepmother 5 shillings each. It would appear for the year 1637, only two farmers paid more than John Harrison "for his mother's tithe and his own"²¹ in his neighbourhood.

Also, in 1637, the levy for "Ship Money" on his property was valued at 100 and taxed at thirteen shillings and four pence. Five people paid the same amount, four people less and three people more in the "Personal Estates in the Same Division"²². Does that mean John Harrison was a freeholder? We know that by 1681 Edward was amongst the nine freeholders in the Brandon and Shottley Division²³.

John had six children under the age of sixteen in 1633 and yet when he made his will in 1652 he left a reasonable amount of money and property. He and his son, Edward, were obviously good business men, but one wonders whether there was some private marketing. In general terms, these average private traders were often very shrewd business men - gentlemen, yeomen and millers among them²⁴. After his father's death, Edward, inheriting Sleetburn House and Mill, married Mary Jenkinson. The entry in St. Nicholas, Durham, Register reads: "1655 April 24th Edward Harrison, of Sledburne mill, and Mary Jenkinson of Burningham, were married before Mr. Maior of Durham".

It being the Commonwealth, every couple was compelled by law to be married before a Justice of the Peace. Mary bore him six children before she died on November 5th, 1676 (probably in childbirth). Very soon Edward married again - as far as we can ascertain - one Marie Crawforth, in Durham Cathedral on June 5th 1677²⁵. Marie had at least four children before Edward died on July 5th, 1696.

After 1700 various families occupied the mill, possibly descendants of the Harrison family. We know that Ann Harrison, the writer's great, great grandmother was born at Sleetburn House on August 22nd, 1788,²⁶ the child of William and Jane (nee Hutchinson), married in 1787²⁷. Ann married Thomas Palmer on April 11th, 1814, at Kirk Merrington²⁸. It is understood that Sleetburn Colliery was sunk over what had once been Sleetburn House. All that remains of John's mill is a heap of stones, but traces of the millpond and the mill races are recognisable. The last of the millstones was carried to Hillhouse Farm by one of the farm workers more than fifty years ago.

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I am deeply indebted to Mrs. Dorothy Hamilton, my tutor, for the help, guidance and numbers of documents, without which I could not have attempted this assignment.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

This article is a fine example of what can be achieved by using resources available for research. Mrs. Neat's address is: 'Lyndewoode', 7 Elvet Moor, Durham City DH1 3PR.

Northumberland & Durham Family History Society

TAPE LIBRARY

The London Group of the Society have been recording many of the speakers at their meetings since 1987 and tapes can now be offered for hire. The charge is £1.60 inclusive of post and packing and the hire period is 14 days. Write to N.D.F.H.S. Tape Library, Mrs. Edith Styan, 18 Albert Street, Cambridge CB4 3BE and make cheques payable to N.D.F.H.S. To conform to copyright laws and undertakings given to speakers, all tapes are for individual use only and are available to UK members only.

The tapes currently available are listed below.

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 001. Resources for Research in Northumberland and Durham | W.E. Rounce |
| 002. Further Sources in London for Research in Northumberland and Durham Family History | Peter Bennett |
| 003. Non Parochial Sources in Northumberland and Durham for Research into Family History | Robin Gard |
| 004. The Coal Industry in Northumberland and Durham | George L. Atkinson |
| 005. Migration to Tyneside | W.E. Rounce |
| 006. Anglo-Scottish Migration | Mrs. Marnie Mason |
| 007. Catholic Records in Northumberland and Durham | Michael Gandy |
| 008. Trades Unions and their Records | Ms. Sally Fincher |
| 009. North East Methodists and their Records | D.W.V. Branfoot |
| 010. North East Shipbuilding in the 19th Century. 1815-1870 | Joe Clarke |
| 011. A Most Melancholy Accident | Geoff Nicholson |
| 012. Not a Drum was Heard, not a Funeral Note | Norman Welch |
| 013. The Shipping and Trade of Old Northumberland. 1750-1850 | Tony Barrow |
| 014. Was Your Ancestor a Coastguard? | Eileen Stage |
| 015. The Pilots of South Shields | Bill Stephenson |
| 016. Origins of Northumberland and Durham Names | Alan Foster |
| 017. Lead Mining and Miners in the Northern Pennines | Don Wilcock |
| 018. Beer, Barley and Brigs | David Bond |
| 019. What Did Uncle Harry Do? (Northumberland Fusiliers) | Tom Hewitson |
| 020. Glassmaking in Tyne and Wear | Dr. Catherine Ross |
| 021. History of the Border Country | John Almond |
| 022. Durham History. 1560-1930. | John Smith |
| 023. The Boldon Book - People, Places and Social Life in Northumberland and Durham | Alan Foster |
| 024. The Border Reivers Before 1603 | John Smith |
| 025. Keelmen | Geoff Nicholson |
| 026. Life and Death at Sea | George Patterson |
| 027. Trades, Networks and Tracing Seamen in the 17th and 18th Centuries | Rosalin Barker |
| 028. Tyne Sailing Ships | Richard E. Keys |

N.D.F.H.S. ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST OCTOBER 1995

ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS ON THE UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS OF
NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST OCTOBER 1995

We report on the accounts for the year ended 31st October 1995 set out on pages 2 to 4.

Respective responsibilities of the Officers and reporting accountants
The Council of Officers of the Society is responsible under the Charities Act 1992 for the preparation of accounts which comply with the provision of that Act. The Council considers that the Society is exempt from the requirement for an audit under the provisions of that Act and has requested instead an independent examination of the accounts. It is our responsibility to carry out procedures designed to enable us to report our opinion following that independent examination.

Basis of opinion

Our work was conducted in accordance with the Statement of Standards for Reporting Accountants, and so our procedures consisted of comparing the accounts with the accounting records kept by the Society, and making such limited enquiries of the officers of the Society as we considered necessary for the purposes of this report. These procedures provide only the assurance expressed in our opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion:

- the accounts are in agreement with the accounting records kept by the Society;
- having regard only to, and on the basis of, the information contained in those accounting records:
 - the accounts have been drawn up in a manner complying with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 1992, and
 - the Society satisfied the conditions for exemption from an audit of the accounts for the year under the provisions of the Charities Act 1992.

BIRCHESTERS CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

67 Sadler Street
Durham
26 March 1996

Note £ 1995 £ 1994 £

Subscriptions and Donations		25640	24410
Income Tax refunds on Covenants		1022	-
Surplus on Journal and Publication sales	1.	9047	8135
Add Stock Increase		714	302
		9761	8437
Donations		97	-
Surplus on Conference		416	-
Bank Interest Received (Gross)	2.	1425	628
		38372	33475

Less Expenditure

Printing and Distribution of Journals	13883	12628
Printing Postage and Stationery	2827	2375
Telephone and Travel	675	556
Meeting Expenses	1096	852
Library Additions	75	163
FFHS Affiliation	400	374
1881 Census Index Project	-	263
Equipment Repairs and Maintenance	710	859
Sundry	(9)	616
Bank Charges	142	84
Accountancy and Audit	673	400
Depreciation	767	647
	21232	19817

SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR
£ 17133 £ 13658

NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST OCTOBER 1995

NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST OCTOBER 1995

	£ 1995	£ 1994
FIXED ASSETS		
As at 1st November 1994	1500	1700
Additions	767	447
	2267	2147
Less Depreciation	767	647
	1500	1500
CURRENT ASSETS		
Stock	6711	5997
Cash at Bank	57166	37664
Group Accounts	481	246
Officers Accounts	1614	1416
Sundry Debtors	588	732
	64560	46055
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Subscriptions in Advance	9361	7797
Accruals	3528	2790
	12889	10587
NET CURRENT ASSETS	51671	35468
	£ 53101	£ 35968
Represented by:		
RESERVES At 1st November 1994	35968	22310
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	17133	13658
	£ 53101	£ 35968

In approving these financial statements as Officers of the Society we hereby confirm:

- that for the year in question the Society was entitled to exemption from audit under the Charities Act 1992;
- that we acknowledge our responsibilities for:
 - ensuring that the Society keeps accounting records which:-
 - disclose at any time, with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Society at that time, and
 - enable annual statements of accounts to be prepared under the requirements of the Charities Act 1992.

The accounts were approved by the Council of Officers and signed on its behalf by

Signature G. Geoffrey Wickham Date 21/4/96

NAME GEOFFREY WICKHAM
(BLOCK LETTERS)

The Notes on page 4 form part of these accounts.

These accounts will be presented to and discussed
at the Annual General Meeting of the Society
on June 4th, 1996

THE DURHAM & NORTHUMBERLAND OATH OF ASSOCIATION ROLLS OF 1695/96

In the last *Journal*, an article by Alex Glendinning outlined the history of the Association Oath Rolls, when "all men of importance" responded to a call to vow to "combine with others for the better protection of His Majesty's royal person and government" and to recognise William III's sister-in-law and cousin Anne as his successor, maintaining the Protestant succession. The Rolls are now in the Public Record Office and we listed all the names appearing on the

Berwick-upon-Tweed Roll. We now publish the names on the Roll for :-

THE MASTER PILOTTS AND SEAMEN OF THE TRINITY HOUSE, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE (C213/196), rearranged into alphabetical order.

Thanks to Mrs. Sue Wood of Northumberland Record Office for palaeographic help.

Andeson John	Harris George	Rewcastle Tho.
Atkinson John	Harrison William	Richardson Edward
Barker George	Hauxley Amb.	Ridley Matthew
Barnes John	Hooger? Tom	Rogers Robert
Bate Daniell	Horner Joseph	Shadforth Henry
Bee John - Mastr	Ingleby Christopher	Simpson John
Bilton Tho.	Jackson George	Smith Robert
Borfield Abraham	Jackson Ralph	Snawden Robert
Browne Robt.	Jacques John	Snow John
Burdon Nicho.	Jeffreyson Jno.	Swaddell George - Sect.
Burton Francis	Johnson John	Taylor John
Butterey Tho.	Johnson John	Thornton Henry
Carr Edward	Lakey Wm.	Thurston Thomas
Carruth Lodovick	Lowson Tho.	Towert Henry
Clarke Edward	Milbourne Joshua	Twizell Samuel
Clarke Fr.	Miller George	Vaughan Jno.
Clifton Thomas	Mills Tho.	Vaughan Leonard
Cooke John	Partis Francis	Ward Christ.
Coule George	Pearson John	Ward Edwd.
Cuthbertson ... Arthur	Potter Giddon	Watson Thomas
Dawson Roger	Preston Robt.	Weatherley John
Dunn Daniell	Pringle James	Welford John
Fenwicke Tho.	Proctor Robert	Wilkenson Hen.
Foster Thomas	Read Tho.	Wilkinson John
Frost Isaac	Reed Jno.	Woolfe Ebeanzer?
Gillery James	Reed Robert	
Harle John	Reed Robt.	

MEMBERS INTERESTS AND QUERIES

This section of the *Journal* is to allow members to advertise their interests and to seek help from other members with their problems and queries. We will also publish any offers of help from people with specialist knowledge or information, or who are prepared to do searches for fellow members in their local record offices, libraries etc.

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. There is no restriction on how often you may submit items but please try to be brief, as, the shorter the items, the more we can print. Please note that it is hoped that, as a matter of courtesy, members will acknowledge any communication they receive as a result of their entry in this column.

0405 Mrs. DOREEN LOMAS

17 The Rise, Darlington, County Durham DL3 8HD.

John, baptised 1777, and Anthony, 1772, both at Bishop Middleham, were two of the five children of James Bambrough who married Elizabeth White at Billingham in 1763. They next appear in Sunderland c.1802. Is anyone researching them? Also, who was Isabella Dobson who married Thomas Nesbitt at St. Peter's, Monkwearmouth 1808. Was she a widow? Another Thomas Nesbitt living in the same area is causing confusion.

0784 Mrs. NELDA C. KELLEY

2224 Skyline Drive, Forth Worth, Texas 76114, U.S.A.

Seeking information on Robert Hall born Felling in 1826, owner of the Albion Hotel, Gateshead, and his children Mary born 1853 at Seghill, William and Robert born Whitehaven and Sarah Elizabeth born North Shields in 1863.

1342 FRANK KITCHING

51 Hackness Road, Scarborough, North Yorkshire YO12 5SD.

Searching for birth and parents of George Kitching at Eldon near Shildon in 1797. He died 1869 aged 72.

Also researching Tarn and Tillotson families. Jane Hall Tarn born 1858 at 34 Hendon Road, Bishopwearmouth. Does this house still exist? She was the daughter of Thomas Tarn, butcher of Sunderland and innkeeper at Shildon.

1768 Mr. R.S. PRUDDAH

19 Bernard Street, Cwmarn, Newport, Gwent NP1 7EE.

Is making a one-name study of Pruddah/Prudhoe and would welcome any information.

Also interested in: Ayden, Lea, French, Dodds, Bradberry, Corbet, Iverson and King.

2231 Mrs. ANN McCARTY

33 Westlands, Rustington, West Sussex BN16 3NW.

Interests: **Barter** - Gloucestershire/London 19th C.; **Knaack** - Peter Heinrich Diedrich, wife Elizabeth Williams, son George Henry born 1863 Newcastle, daughter Helena Elizabeth Theodora born 1865 London, second wife Emma Jack married 1875 Hull. Peter Knaack died 1877 Hull. After 11 years, still looking for marriage of John Hinter Smith and Sarah Mowbray of Monkwearmouth. A child Isaac Mowbray Smith born 1849, died aged 2 months. Any help appreciated.

2520 Mrs. MOLLY HURFORD-JONES

47 The Parade, Cold Knap, Barry CF62 6SF.

Seeking marriage c.1835 of George Watson Purdy, bapt.1813 North Sunderland, and Elizabeth Crack, born 1815 East Harling, Norfolk. Possible irregular border marriage (not at Lamberton although his brother William Watson Purdy married Mary Ann Robson there in 1839, both of North Sunderland). George Watson Purdy's parents were Robert Purdy, bapt.1788 Felton, and Mary Watson, born c.1784 Kyloe, and his grandparents were James Purdy, born 1759 Bamburgh, and Eleanor Weatherhead, born Yetholm, Roxburgh. Would like to share information on the Purdy's of Adderstone (Bamburgh), North Sunderland (Seahouses) or North Shields.

2817 JUNE HOLMES

71 Redlands Lane, Fareham, Hampshire PO14 1HQ.

Thomas Jobey, house carpenter of Gallowgate, Newcastle married Mary Ann Cassady in 1846; father given as Benjamin Jobey, also a house carpenter. One known son Thomas Benjamin born 1848. The 1851 Census for Plough Yard, Bigg Market, Newcastle shows Mary Ann, aged 27, born Howick, lodging house keeper, and Thomas Benjamin aged 3 years; where was Thomas? In Bath Lane there was Benjamin Jobey, house carpenter, wife Maria, both of Gateshead, and sons Benjamin and Wilkinson, both born in Newcastle. Could this be the family of the missing Thomas? Joseph Jobey, born Milan, Italy married Hannah c.1800; two daughters Rosanna (1800) and Sarah (1802). Joseph Jobey, silk dyer and flower dresser at Gibson Street in 1847; Joseph Jobey 3 months hard labour in 1873 and 6 months in 1875. Is there a family connection? Thomas Jobey born c.1857 married Elizabeth Brown, believed to have been a butler at Maske Hall or The Grove, Richmond, Yorkshire, and died 1897 aged 40 years. Are there any estate records? Would be interested in any Joby/Jobey information.

2915 ELIZABETH QUINN

314 Coventry Lane, Manchester, Missouri 63021, U.S.A.

Interested in Coxon, Cuthbertson, Jordon of Newcastle and Tynemouth areas; Spirit of Hexham and Durham; John Reed, widower of Merrington, married Margaret Culberson (nee Jordon) 1845. Were John Reed and Ann Simpson his parents? Need information on John Fitzgerald, cordwainer in Newcastle in 1740's. His children were Martha, Letitia, Thomas, William and Daniel. Also seeking Matthew Ridley, yeoman of Allendale (Ninebanks) married Mary Dent 1744. In Stanhope parish: Colling, Hodgson and Trotter. Also, Bell of Hett, Brown of Bishop Middleham in late 18th century and Henry Athey who married Isobel Rogers 1769 at Chester-le-Street.

3505 Mrs. DOROTHY K. MARSHALL

653 Patricia Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 3A8, Canada.

Leslie Withrow Kindred was born 1869 Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada, son of John Kindred born 1832 Eastport, Maine, U.S.A. and Maria White born 1840 Newcastle or Liverpool. In 1871 John was a ship's carpenter in Quaoi, Saint John. His daughter Pauline born 1901 is reported to have said - "Maria was one of the famous White sisters in England who had their own business making stockings. There was also a connection with the manufacture of Paisley shawls". Pauline also remembers the name Scripps in the family bible which she thinks was destroyed to conceal a family scandal. Does anyone have information about the White sisters or on Withrow as a surname?

3700 MARION Y. BASSETT

Walwyn, Wyson Lane, Brimfield, Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 4NQ.

Researching Adam Black, married Jane Hindmarsh - their parents and residences. Their family was: Adam bapt.1823 Warenford Presbyterian Chapel, Alexander 1824, Robert 1826 at Hepburn Moor, Chillingham, bapt.1826 Warenford Pres., Walter 1832, James 1834, Jane 1835 and Margaret 1837. Where were the family in May 1855 when sons Alexander, Walter and James left for Australia? Robert Black married Agnes Scott 1858, perhaps at South Dean near Jedburgh. Their first son Adam was born 1859 at Heather House, perhaps near Alwinton. Also looking for forebears of Walter Hindmarsh b.1805 at Toddlemore, Chillingham, son of Alexander Hindmarsh and Isabella Fretter. Walter married Elizabeth Fulford 1836 and moved to Australia.

4114 GORDON CORBETT

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

"Miss Gabriel - The Liverpool Nightingale" - Jane Gabriel of Llanyblodwell, Shropshire. Does anyone have any information on my great grandmother, married in 1828 to William Tunley? Family recollection is that she was a singer, probably between 1818 and 1828. Heggie - why was John Heggie the first to be buried in the family grave of David Falconer in Macclesfield Cemetery (1884)? No apparent family connection.

4127 Mrs. WYN CHALKER

13 Margerison Crescent, Ben Rhydding, Ilkley, West Yorkshire LS29 8QZ.

Seeking the four families of Alexander Watson: 1) married 1880 Gateshead to Hannah, daughter of Hardy Hutchinson, farmer of Toft Hill, Bishop Auckland; 2) married 1889 South Shields to Rose Hannah, daughter of Herbert Clay, building contractor, whose other children were Henry, Harry, Emma and George; 3) married 1905 Newcastle to Frances Bell, daughter of Thomas Bell, whitesmith of Newcastle. Also seeking Donald McDonald Watson born 1894 Hexham, son of Alexander Watson and Rose Hannay Clay; and, family of Annie Finnigan, unmarried mother of father, who was born, son of Alexander Watson, in 1903. Seeking the family of John Henry Dixon and Georgina Watson married Christchurch, Gateshead 1887.

4328 Mrs. S.E. HACKERS

3 Orwell Close, Biddick Hall, South Shields, Tyne & Wear NE34 9JT.

Local family interests include: Arnett (Swalwell, Leadgate, Jarrow); Bond (Tynemouth, North Shields, High Fell); Coats (Tanfield); Dalton Bond (Tynemouth, North Shields); Gartlan (Swalwell, Bishop Auckland); Hall (Newcastle); Murphey (Leasingthorne); Phillips (Jarrow, Broom Park); Ridley (Gosforth); Scott (Stockton, Leadgate, Middlesbrough); Smith (Leadgate); Steele (Stockton, Leadgate, Swalwell); Stephenson (Birtley); Wharton (Craghead, Annfield Plain) and Wilson (Bellingham).

4400 DON JEFFREY

17 Cobhams, Speldhurst, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN3 0QA.

Researching the family of John Jeffrey (1810-1877) b.Chirnside, Berwickshire and Ann Ainsley/Ainslie (1814-1873) b.Norham, married 1835 at Mordington, Berwickshire. William Jeffrey b.1837 Berwick m.Christina b.1840 Winlaton; John (1843-1868) b.North Shields; Ainsley b.1841 Winlaton Mill, married Mary b.1844 Winlaton; David (1843-1894) b.Winlaton Mill, married Jane Philips (1843-1894) b.Carlsle; Charles b.1845 Blaydon Mill, married Elizabeth b.1847 Winlaton; George (1847-1875) b.Blaydon Burn, married Mary b.1848 Benwell; Allen Rathray b.1848 Blaydon Burn, married Mary b.1855; Thomas b.1850 Winlaton; James Kerr (1852-1877) b.Winlaton. Also looking for three daughters of Charles Jeffrey (1808-1857) who were living with John and Ann in Winlaton in 1861: Margaret b.1832 Crookham, Jane b.1844 Etal and Elizabeth b.1846 Spittal.

- 4608 JOHN L. JOHNSTONE**
61 Salisbury Road, Farnborough, Hants GU14 7AG.
Interested in: **Schooler** (Wooler/Ashington 1850+); **Richard Robinson** (Durham 1850+, 1876+ and Ashington 1907+); **Carlton** (Ashington 1860+); **Carr** (Sunderland 1870+) and **Frelford** (Sunderland 1860+).
- 4622 Mrs. M.J. NICHOLSON**
39 Links Rd., Cullercoats, N. Shields, Tyne & Wear NE30 3DY.
Seeks information on **Walter John Colman** and his two brothers who emigrated to Canada 1902/3. They lived in South Shields in Westoe Ward and the Milldam area and had a sister **Mary Jane** who married **William Sullivan** and they moved to North Shields in 1914 with family, **Isabella**, **Elizabeth**, **Mary** and **Alice**.
- 4768 Miss ANNE MORECRAFT**
4041 Angeleah Place, Victoria, British Columbia V8Z 6T1, Canada.
Looking for descendants/information on: 1) **Christopher Jackson**, shoemaker, and his wife **Mary**. Known children: **John**, **Mary**, **John**, **Edward**, **Christopher** and **Scithey**, all born before 1817. **Christopher** (senior) appears on 1841 Census for Hexham aged 80, not born in the county. Not on the 1851 Census but no burial is recorded in the Hexham registers.
2) **Scythia Elizabeth Jackson**, daughter of **John** and **Elizabeth Jackson**, born 1783 **Barnard Castle**, married **William Calvert** (native of **Anderbystaple**) in **Newcastle** and had children, **John** and **Sarah**, both born at **Barnard Castle**. Where was **Christopher Jackson** born/baptised, married and buried? - not at **Barnard Castle**. Where is **Anderbystaple**? Where are the **Hexham Wesleyan** registers?
- 4875 MOIRA BESWICK**
2 James Road, Whitchurch, Tavistock, Devon PL19 9NJ.
Gibson Frederick William born **Bishop Auckland** 1873 married **Jane Ann Ivey** 1895. **Frederick** was in the army and retired to **Monkseaton** pre-1939, but was bombed out and moved to **Longhorsley**. Died at **Longhorsley** but grave not traced. They had five children: **Joseph**, **Percy**, **Wilfred**, **Fred** and **Winifred**. **Winifred** never married and lived in **Cullercoats** until her untimely death. Seeking relatives and newspaper reports of her death.
- 4877 Mr. J. ARCHER**
40 High Leys, St. Ives, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE17 4RX.
Interests: **Archer** of **Wooler/Lowick** area of **Northumberland** and **Herrington/Houghton-le-Spring** area of **Durham**; **Brunskill** of **Rainton/Herrington** and **Houghton-le-Spring**; **Thompson** of **Stanley** and **South Moor**, **County Durham** and **Carr** of **Stanley**.
- 5075 Mrs. J. SEYMOUR**
87 Shire Road, Corby, Northants NN17 2JS.
Seeking birth and other information on **Richard Rutherford** born, according to 1851 Census for **Bishopwearmouth**, in **Allington**, **Northumberland** [Ellington?-Ed.] about 1779; married **Falstone** 1809 to **Mary Dodd**, died **Bishopwearmouth** 1857 aged 57 years.
- 5120 Mr. M.S. GIBSON**
6 Rushycroft, Mottram, Cheshire SK14 6TD.
Researching any ex-**Sunderland Football Club** players from 1890 - information regarding date and place of birth, death, etc. Can offer help to anyone seeking information about their footballing relatives.
- 5267 Mr. J.V. FORSTER**
49 Thornfield Road, Middlesbrough TS5 5DA.
Seeks information on the family origins of **Thomas** (or **Clarence**) **Henry Forster** who married **Alice Corne** 1890 **London** when his age was given as 25 and his father's name as **John** (deceased). Siblings included at least one brother and a sister **Mary Ann** living in **London** c.1900 but family thought to be from **NE England**, possibly with **Quaker** antecedents.
- 5320 RAY BARRASS**
Vanbrugh House, **St. Helen Auckland**, **Bishop Auckland**, **County Durham** DL14 9EN.
Researching **Jane Triffitt/Treffet**, widow with children **Mary Ann** (born 1845), **Elizabeth** (1848) and **William** (1851) from her first marriage (to **Thomas Barrass**, killed at **Leasingthorne Colliery** 1853) married **Hugh Ritson** at **Durham** in 1855. **Jane** and **Hugh** had children **James** (1854), **Margaret** (1857) and possibly others. All seven were living at **Newfield** near **Bishop Auckland** in 1861.
- 5327 Mr. F. BRITTON**
26 Springfield Ave., Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland TS18 4EH.
Do any members have knowledge of two brothers and their daughters who taught at **Gosforth schools**? **Thomas Laws** commenced teaching in 1882 and retired in 1925 as headmaster of **Gosforth Central School**. His brother **Robert** started in 1889 and left to go to **Hull** c.1900. **Robert's** daughter **Margery Laws** started teaching in **Gosforth** in 1914, subsequently becoming **Mrs. Stevens** of **Surrey**. **Thomas's** daughter started teaching in 1902 and left in 1912 to marry a **Mr. Walker** of **Edinburgh**.
- 5364 Miss M.E. ROBSON**
Flat 2, Regent Court, 17 Lawn Avenue, Doncaster DN1 2JE.
Seeking the baptism of **George Ormston** who was married 1830 at **St. Paul's Church**, **Jarrow**. Born in approximately 1805.
- 5389 Mrs. GLENDA ROBSON**
2 White Lea Close, Peterlee, County Durham SR8 5TH.
Seeking birth/baptism of (1) **Surtees Hutchinson**, born **Gateshead** c.1831/2 (son of **John**), married 1857 **Earsdon** to **Isabella Auld** (2) **Edward Auld**, born 1812/3 **North Shields**, who married **Mary Ayre** 1833 at **South Shields**. 3) **Mary Ayre**, born 1808/9 **Tanfield**.
- 5465 Mr. J.A. LAWS**
48 Caledonian Road, Hartlepool, Cleveland TS25 5LQ.
Interested in additional information about **Jonathan Lowes**, baptised 1763 at **St. John's Chapel**, son of **Jonathan** of **West Black Dean**. **Jonathan** married **Phoebe Hodgson** 1790 at **Stanhope**. Particularly interested in pre-1763 information relating to this branch of the **Lowes** family. Also researching the men and their families instrumental in the development of **West Hartlepool** including **R.W. Jackson**, **W. Gray**, **G. Pyman**, **J. Pile**, **C. Furness** and **R. Lauder**. Would welcome any hitherto unpublished information or photographs about them or others with strong **West Hartlepool** connections.
- 5529 Mrs. J.M. LLOYD**
28 Rounton Road, Church Crookham, Fleet, Hants GU13 0HB.
Seeking descendants of **Alexander** (1847-1939) and **Isabella McGregor** nee **Crammond** (1852-1936) who lived at **Bon Accord**, **Hood**, **Ellison** and **Cuthbert Streets** in **Hebburn**. Children: **Charlotte Ann** (1872-1916) m. **John Crager**; **Alexander** (1874-1922) m. **Dorothy Saunders**; **John** (1876-1920) m. **Margaret Elizabeth**; **Ellen** (1878-?) m. **Alfred Marples**; **James** (1880-?) m. **Sarah Jane** (1882-1893); **William David** (1885-?) m. **Charles** (1887-?) m. **Joseph Crammond** (1889-1943) m. **Mary**; **Isabella** m. (?) **Hastings**; **Jessie Margaret** (1892-?) m. (?) **McGuinness**; and **Wallace** (1894-?). Interests in **Chester-le-Street**: **Coates** and **Swan**; in **Sunderland**: **Coates**, **Curry**, **Crawford**, **Parkinson**, **Saunders** and **Thompson**; in **Byker** and **Jarrow**: **Greening**; in **Windy Nook** and **Heworth**: **Fenton** and **King**.
- 5544 Mrs. CLAIRE JANE TRAVIS**
2 Chapel Lane, Binfield, Bracknell, Berkshire RG42 4AS.
Would welcome references to the name **Yearsdon** and any variants including **Earsdon**.
- 5556 Mrs. J. KIRK**
38 Haselbech Road, Binley, Coventry CV3 2HT.
Searching for birthplace of **Thomas Beattie**, born **Scotland**, a coke drawer, died 1896 at **Plantation Road**, **Leadgate**, **Iveston**, **County Durham**. Would welcome information about where he worked and of any local newspaper death notices.

5575 CHARLES D. HARPER

GPT SPM Ltd., P.O. Box 9854, Riyadh 11423, Saudi Arabia.

Researching: 1) Smith families of Berwick. 2) Lamb of Allendale and Simonburn. 3) Matthew Lamb, born 1841, and Jane Craig, born 1853, whose descendants were James (1873), Elizabeth (1877), Margaret (1882), Annie (1883), Isabella Craig (1885), Polly (1886) and Laura (1888) of High Pit Farm, Byker.

5597 Miss ANDREA MUSGROVE

12 Norburn Park, Witton Gilbert, Co. Durham DH7 6SF.

Seeks information: 1) John Musgrove born Newburn 1778. 2) Jane Musgrove nee Fleming born Crossgate, Durham City 1822. 3) William Agar, blacksmith, born St. Nicholas, Durham City. 4) Isabella Agar nee Beveridge, born North Sunderland near Seahouses. 5) Ann Newton nee Elcoat, born Birtley 1841; father William Elcoat was a shoemaker. Where and when was he born? 6) Ann Agar nee Urwin/Orwin born Benwell High Cross 1840/41.

5645 Mrs. H. PEARSON

The Chapel Manor, Browney, Durham DH7 8HU.

In May 1876, Ralph Macdonald married Frances Scott at Barnard Castle, both "of full age". In 1885 they were at Henknowle near Bishop Auckland where son John George was born; possibly also two older children. Unable to trace the family on any Census. Can any member help please?

5713 HARRY LONSDALE COXON

2 Clarence Terrace, Willington, Co. Durham DL15 0HS.

Researching Thomas Coxon, father of Thomas Coxon, baptised at Newcastle All Saints 1783; he was a miner. Also, the birth place and date of Joseph Lonsdale who married Elizabeth Ann Teasdale at Crook 1884. The 1891 Census gives his place of birth as Northumberland. His father's name was William; both were miners.

5726 Mrs. IRENE VEALE

11 Forest Ave., Forest Hall, Newcastle upon Tyne NE12 9AH.

Looking for any information regarding John Johnson, who was a Member of Parliament. Also interested in the Northey family which came to Co. Durham late 1800's from Cornwall.

5788 Mrs. I. EDMONDS

Thorntree House, Beamish Burn, Stanley, Durham DH9 0RN.

Searching for a copy of *The Valley of the Dinosaurs - It's Families and Coalmines* by Ernest Hlady, published in Edmonton, Alberta in 1988 and now unobtainable. It contains information about emigrants to Alberta in the 1920's.

5783 JOAN WATSON

"Holmwood", Woodlands Park, North Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE13 6PG.

Tracing (1) the McClure family? Margaret McClure was born 1889 at Anne Street, Gateshead to Alexander and Mary (?) McClure. Unable to find their marriage or Mary's maiden name. They had four children: Alexander, Thomas, Margaret and Elizabeth. Alexander (senior) said to have come from Scotland and worked at 'Snowballs' as a foreman upholsterer. Died in a Union Workhouse in 1908 of paralysis as a result of a roof fall. (2) Parents of James Freeman, born 1885, married 1910 to Margaret McClure, died 1939.

5934 Mrs. E.M. DIXON

9 Parkhill Avenue, Gwersyllt, Wrexham, Clwyd LL11 4RQ.

Researching: Stewart (Newcastle/Morpeth); Coward (Morpeth); Thompson (Dinnington/Newcastle/Gosforth); Angus (Dinnington); Buckham, Wylie and Fulthorp (Newcastle/Gateshead); Walker (Gateshead); Ruffhead/Roughhead (Northumberland); Emerson (Newcastle/Weardale); Raine (Newcastle/Teesdale); Watson (Whickham). Also grateful for any help with: Rev. Robert Stewart (Newcastle/Gateshead); Nellie Colman (Byker); William Thompson born Dunston c.1840; and Mary Ann (Polly) Stewart died c.1943 York area.

5943 MARK DOCTOR

1 Cloverland, Hatfield, Herts AL10 9ED.

Seeking information on: 1) Robert Conn married Jane Storm 1738 Sunderland. 2) George Gilley m. Jane Burne 1744 Easington. 3) John Cockburn m. Elizabeth Coxon 1784 Monkwearmouth. 4) John Latham m. Jane Harrison 1799 Monkwearmouth. 5) Richard Garland m. Jane Chambers 1817 Sunderland. 6) John Fargie m. Elizabeth Cockburn 1818 Bishopwearmouth. 7) John Thompson born 1820 and Joseph and Mary, Monkwearmouth. Also seeking information on Galley (Houghton-le-Spring), Loadman (South Shields), Surtees (Ravensworth) and Tierney and McGravey (Sunderland).

5956 MICHAEL TENNANT

11 Badsey Fields Lane, Badsey, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 5EX.

(1) John Teasdale born Williamson Street, Sunderland in 1856, son of Thomas and Elizabeth nee Hall. Timothy Teasdale married Agnes Tinmouth 1806. Would like to know where they came from and about their children. (2) James Shepherd, born 1815 Plymouth, went to sea from Sunderland as apprentice to Thomas Hunter aboard the *Hunter*. He married Margaret Crawford in Sunderland 1836. Any information? (3) William Tennant, potter, married Isabella Nicholson in Gateshead 1798 and described as a native of North Shields, later lived in Monkwearmouth.

5968 Mrs. LILIAN FRASER

39 Lovaine Avenue, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear NE25 8RW.

Researching Reaveley and variations, especially Robert Reaveley, born 1873, and Thomas Arthur Reaveley, born 1868, sons of Daniel and Jane Ann nee Slater.

5973 Professor JOHN E. HECKELS

6 Arun Way, West Wellow, Romsey, Hants SO51 6GT.

Seeking information on: 1) Heckels anywhere in Northumberland and Durham. 2) Kell in Merrington, Ferryhill, Shildon areas. 3) Henry Yarrow born Newcastle c.1824, living in Sunderland c.1852. 4) Richard Wigham born 1812 North Shields and his wife Ann Grainger. 5) Family of Ann Pearson born 1808 Tynemouth.

5975 FRANK N. MALANEY

8708 Mink Street S.W., Pataskala, Ohio 43062, U.S.A.

Looking for information on the parents of John Hunt, born 1821, and Mary Pratt, born 1827/8, who married 1860 at St. Helen's Auckland. The marriage registration gives John's father as Thomas and Mary's as John; their residences being Evenwood and South Church. John, Mary and four children emigrated to the U.S.A. in 1879 but a daughter may have remained in England and was probably living in South Shields in 1920.

5994 Mrs. C.A.M. WAKELY

85 Loom Lane, Radlett, Hertfordshire WD7 8NY.

Researching Stamp, Morrell and Collie families in Sunderland, Bishop Middleham, Whitburn and Staindrop areas. Earliest, Robert Stamp, married 1769, died 1819, said to be aged 74, but birth not yet found.

6026 AUDREY PORTER

88 Warwick Road, St. Annes, Lancashire FY8 1XL.

Seeking information on: 1) William Wilson Carr born 1849 Wylam, son of Thomas Carr born c.1817 and Hannah Wilson born c.1818. 2) Elizabeth Clara Mole nee Golding born c.1860 Shindcliffe but not recorded on the fiche of Shindcliffe baptisms.

6038 Mrs. JOAN ROBERTSON

76 Donovan Avenue, Maroubra, N.S.W. 2035, Australia.

Seeking information on forebears of Thomas Weighill, ironstone miner, who married Clara Dack at Brotton in 1882 aged 26 years. No information concerning his father is on the marriage certificate. 1891 Census gives place of birth as Norton, Co. Durham. The family later moved to Langley Park.

- 6041 Mr. L.H. WINTERS**
27 Valewood Crescent, Gloucester, Ontario K1B 4G1, Canada.
Researching descendants of William Winter, skinner of Hexham, and wife Mary Moore of Chollerton. Son Thomas moved to South Shields and then to Deptford where he married Elizabeth Wyatt and had three sons: John, William and Thomas. They then emigrated to Nova Scotia. Thomas, senior, a master mariner may have sailed on ships owned by Capt. Anthony Landers of Sunderland. Interested in knowing more about these families, particularly the parents of William, senior, shipping records of Thomas, etc.
- 6054 ROBERT G. BATES**
17 Chepstow Close, Castle Park, Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glam. CF48 1JG.
1) Matthew Bates born c.1828 Gosforth married Isabella Bulmer born c.1830 Knock near Appleby. Worked and lived at Castle Eden Colliery c.1858-61 as a mining engineer before moving to Risca and later Merthyr Tydfil. 2) Robert Bates born c.1831 Gosforth married Isabella born c.1844 Longbenton. Lived in Corsenside before moving to Newcastle Hill, Bridgend c.1870. Believe that Matthew and Robert were brothers. Does anyone have any further information?
- 6085 Mrs. J.E. PITT**
4 Lindrick Close, Worksop, Notts. S81 0JT.
Researching: 1) Hedley, William born 1836 Newburn, married to Rachel Lee born Whitley Bay. 2) Carr, Henry, butcher, born 1786 Bardon Mill, married Elizabeth born c.1800 Scotland. 3) Bell, William, grocer, born 1785 South Biddick, married Mary, possible Brown. 4) Bowman, Mark born 1726 Hartburn, married Mary Wilson. 5) Weddell, Margaret born 1826 Alnwick, father Alexander, married Fenwick Bowman in 1851. 6) Rutherford, Allison born 1862 Netherton Colliery, Bedlington, parents Thomas and Allison, formerly Hand.
- 6102 Mrs. CAROL STRONG**
14 Holystone Drive, Newcastle upon Tyne NE27 0DH.
Seeks marriage of Thomas Brown and Mary Stewart Wilson c.1880-1894, also marriage of Daniel Quinn of Newcastle to Anne Temple of Bishop Auckland c.1887. Also looking for Daniel's parents Thomas Quinn and Margaret nee Garraty from Ireland.
- 6120 Mr. S.A. BRIGGS**
46 Third Avenue, Gillingham, Kent NE7 2HE.
Seeking any information on the following, all in Sunderland area: 1) Sarah Huddleston born 1783, married Peter Parkinson 1803; father John married Ann Forster 1763. 2) Elizabeth Stonehouse married Matthew Briggs 1810. 3) Susannah Parkinson born 1816, married James Briggs 1834; Peter born 1784, John born 1747 and William. 4) Elizabeth Gray 1830. 5) Catherine Nicholson born 1832, married Matthew Briggs 1856; father Robert. 6) Ann Sanderson of Gateshead married John Parkinson 1769. 7) Jane Bufan married John Briggs 1762. 8) Ann Forster 1763.
- 6129 Mrs. BARBARA GRENVILLE**
5 Hanley Orchard, Hanley Swan, Worcester WR8 0DS.
Looking for information on Mary Ridley born Newcastle c.1818, married John Smith, a stonemason. Two sons John born 1838 and Adam born 1844. Her father was probably William Ridley and her mother may have been Frances Mack.
- 6131 ALF ARMSTRONG**
56 Benbow Avenue, Eastbourne BN23 6EB.
Henry Armstrong born c.1863 near Alnwick, believed to have been one of several brothers whose father was a farmer, left home to marry Margaret Short of Hedgeley Cottages, daughter of a tailor. Henry worked at Hedgeley Halt railway station in the early 1900's. He was knocked down by a train at Blyth goods yard where he had worked as a guard and died January 1928 from the injuries. Any information appreciated.
- 6132 PATRICIA ARMSTRONG (nee Golding)**
56 Benbow Avenue, Eastbourne BN23 6EB.
Information on William Golding, coalminer of Cambois, whose son James married Elizabeth Angus at the Primitive Methodist Chapel at Morpeth 1885. William may have originated from New End, Norfolk. His wife may have been named Annie.
- 6137 MARIENA D. TURNER**
Unit 9/17 Armitage Cres., Burnie, Tasmania 7320, Australia.
Robert Davison baptised 1816 at Warenford Presbyterian Church, son of Robert and Mary nee Swan. Looking for the marriage of Robert and Mary. Robert may have been an only child as no other baptisms found. Were there any siblings? Was there a death around that time for a Mary Davison/Davidson? She may have died in child birth.
- 6185 Mr. PETER E.W. MATHER**
Flat 2, Crown House, 3 Crown Place, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 1BU.
George Mather (1774-1856), native of Masbrough (Rotherham), painter and glazier, freeman of Newcastle and Master of Holy Jesus Hospital 1850-56. Lived in Gateshead from c.1820 until entering the Hospital but formerly in The Close, Newcastle. Six sons and three daughters by his wife Susanna (nee Craggs), native of Houghton-le-Spring. Information sought on George's father John Mather, smith, known to have been living in Masbrough in 1774 and the Skinner Burn district of Newcastle in 1789. May have settled in Gateshead and died there early 19th century; wife's name possible Mary.
- 6192 DEREK CHARLTON**
23 Grange Park Avenue, Sunderland SR5 1NS.
Researching Thomas Charlton who died 1916 at South Shields Workhouse Infirmary, Harton aged 59 years. No birth or marriage certificate found but had family of Thomas and John William to Jane Husband, previously Mallam.
- 6196 JOYCE JOHNSON-PEART**
17 Coldicotts Close, Bretforton, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 5HT.
Researching James Johnson of Belford who was connected to the Darling family and lighthouse keepers on the Farne Islands. Would like to know of any blacksmith Johnsons in the Belford area pre-1861 and connections with the first horse and carriage service on the Northumberland coast road.
- 6202 NEVILLE POTTER**
43 Holden Crescent, Wanniasa, ACT 2903, Australia.
Researching Robert Potter, born c.1786 in Alnmouth, married Alice Storey in 1805 at Newcastle. Would also appreciate any information about the Presbyterian dissenters of Alnwick's Zion Meeting House.
- 6203 Mrs. C. GREEN**
3 Andersons Close, Kidlington, Oxford OX5 1ST.
Interests: 1) Hadaway, Dixon, born c.1780, ropemaker, North Shields, married Teresa (born Genoa). Son Edward, born Malta 1813, was a shipwright and publican. Has anyone come across Dixon and Teresa on 1841 Census? 2) Jeffrey, Robert Albion, born c.1832, married Elizabeth Work. Their son Robert Albion, born South Shields 1862, was an engineer in the Merchant Navy. Also interested in Rogers and Lutley.
- 6204 Mrs. DOROTHY JOHNSON**
41 Brooklands Road, Hull HU5 5AD.
Seeking birth details of Richard Crosby, born Sunderland c.1833/4, married Bridget Jane Rooney 1856 at Sunderland. Also Richard's father Edward who married Jane c.1832, and details of William Crosby, born c.1770, who married Ann Johnson in Sunderland 1795. Also, birth details of Mary Jane Jerrard/Jerard, born Sunderland c.1833-38.
- 6206 Mrs. J. HENDERSON**
23 Witham Way, Peterborough PE4 7XR.
Any information appreciated on Thomas Frank and Catherine Masson of Aberdeen and Walker; Brankston of Northumberland and Walker, and Taylor of Byker and Walker. 'Nellie' Taylor had Salvation Army links.

- 6207 D.M. HENDERSON**
23 Witham Way, Peterborough PE4 7XR.
Seeks information on Thomas Spoors **Henderson** and Mary **Digby** of Scotswood and Lemington, and Joseph **Swinbank** and Margaret **Marshall** of the Leagate area.
- 6215 Mrs. CAROL PARKER**
4 Weber Crescent, Towradgi, N.S.W. 2518, Australia.
John William **Hall**, born c.1858 Durham, married Mary Jane **Thompson** c.1880. Not found on 1891 Census by which time they had about six children including George William **Hall**. Are there any records for Ashington and Ellington mines before 1950? Also, grandfather George W. **Hall** born 1887 was in the Northumberland Territorials before W.W.2 started; how can I find out more about him?
- 6227 Mrs. MARGARET E. ALLISON (nee Reed)**
42 Soppett Street, Redcar, Cleveland TS10 2AL.
Seeking James **Nimmo** c.1890, chainmaker, North Shields area, married Jane born c.1811 Percy Main (could be his second wife) and son Robert Reid **Nimmo** born c.1835 North Shields, chainmaker. Family moved to Gateshead where sons William born c.1838 and John c.1841. Robert married Hanna **Blankinsopp** c.1844, children - Matilda c.1867 and William c.1869, both at Gateshead. Moved to Middlesbrough by 1871. Robert **Reed** born 1818 North Shields, brother James baptised North Shields 1818, both sons of John c.1789, gardener of North Shields. 1851 Census gives John and Margaret married, children - Joseph c.1839, Sandra c.1841, Jane c.1843. Robert **Reed** apprentice on ship *Penelope* 1829, married Middlesbrough 1845 to Sarah Isabella **Gibbon** of Woodlands. Robert later became a master mariner.
- 6237 ROSEMARY JOSELAND**
New Cottage, The Street, Great Tey, Colchester, Essex CO6 1JS.
Seeking fellow researchers of the following: James **Frelford**, b.Sunderland 1804, m.1823 Sunderland, Eliza **Murdock** b.Sunderland 1805. Was Eliza the sister of John **Murdock** b.1800, parents: Robert and Maria **Murdock**? Was Sarah **Frelford** who married John **Murdock** in 1830 related to James **Frelford**? Children of James and Eliza: John, James, Hannah, Edward, Robert **Murdock** and Eliza. James m.Isabella nee **Bell** 1848. Their children: Edward and John George who m.Greenwich 1874 to Alice **Buck**, daughter of James and Elizabeth nee **Towart**. Both James **Frelford**s were cordwainers.
- 6241 GEORGE HARRISON WESTGARTH**
11 Greenbank Road, Chester CH2 3RW.
Interests: 1) All **Westgarths** in Northumberland and Durham, especially Tyneside; also **Kidd** and **Binney**, and **Smith** of Walker c.1800. 2) Working craft on the Tyne, especially Alice a tug-sized boat supplying fresh water to ships moored in the Tyne around 1930 and a tug mentioned in the 1881 Census as being owned by Cuthbert O'Connor **Westgarth**. 3) Glass making on Tyneside. Also, can anyone help with information about Byker Hill School and its records.
- 6242 Mrs. M. WESTGARTH**
11 Greenbank Road, Chester CH2 3RW.
Interests: **Bush** and **Spears/Spiers**. Also, **Scott** in the Stockton area 1880 to 1920.
- 6246 Mrs. JAN HOSKINS**
c/o 21 Othello Street, Sunnybank Hills, Queensland 4109, Australia.
Researching: 1) **Rutherford**, Andrew, joiner, born 1800 Wooler/Chatton, married Margaret **Mole**, born Rothbury 1810, at Newcastle St. John 1832. Andrew and Margaret lived in the Congregational Chapel at Amble. Children: James, Thomas, Ann, Andrew, Joseph William, John and George Robert, all born Amble. 2) **Wake**, George, shoemaker, born 1785 Warkworth, married Ann, born 1782 Netherwitton. They lived next to the Jolly Sailor pub in Warkworth. Children: Ricard (shoemaker born 1816, Warkworth), and Thomas (1823, Warkworth). Richard married Jane and had children, Emma and Ann **Minna**.
- 3) **Cowell** - James, coalminer born 1834 Earsdon, married Ellen, lived at Broomhill. Children: William, coalminer, born 1865 Togston, Ann and Jane. 4) **Aynsley** - Robert, coalminer b.1807 Togston, married Ann, child Ellen **Aynsley**, b.1833.
- 6259 Miss CAROL WITHEY**
1 Wheatley Road, Forest Hill, Oxford OX33 1EH.
Seeks information on Matthew Storey **Brown** who married Catherine Frances **Connor**, their known children Matthew, Frances, Hilda, Violet, Catherine, Laura and Cyril. Some of the children born at Francis Street, South Shields 1915-30's.
- 6268 Mrs. JOAN GEERING**
2 Jays Cottages, Jays Close, Basingstoke RG22 4BS.
Seeking information about the **Hand** family, believed to be of Irish origin. Thomas Peter, son of Owen married Rosina **Woolcock** at St. James', Gateshead in 1894; resident at the time at 46 Eugenie Terrace.
- 6270 Mr. A.R. ABRAHAM**
22 Church View, Oakington, Cambridge CB4 5AU.
Seeks information on: 1) William **Bailey**, father of Robert, living at Emily Street, Newcastle in 1894. Also his father William said to run his own school. 2) Isabella **Bailey**, nee **Turner**, wife of William and mother of Robert, born U.S.A. (Missouri?), died 1951 at Wallsend. Family said to be from NE Northumberland. 3) Families of James Andrew **Smith** and Elizabeth Ann nee **Garrick**, living at Quarrington Hill, Durham in 1895. **Smith** was originally **Baird-Smith** from southern Scotland.
- 6271 Mrs. A.V. LEESON**
5349 Monte Bre Crescent, West Vancouver, British Columbia V7W 3A7, Canada.
County Durham interests include: **Harwood** of Bishop Auckland, Crook and Barnard Castle; **Lieser**, **Gardiner** and **Scarr** of Bishop Auckland; and **Richardson**, **Thornby** and **Gray** of Washington.
- 6280 Mrs. RITA KNELL**
107 Brands Hill Avenue, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 5PX.
Researching **Bambrough/Bamborough** family. Traced from Poplar to Southampton but now find that in 1851 some members of the family originated from Newcastle (But where?) Particularly interested in Thomas **Bambrough**, blacksmith, who married Mary nee **Cavannah** and had a son Thomas born Southampton 1848. Also, relatives William **Bambrough** and Eliza Sarah nee **Murdell**. He was an engineer born Newcastle 1818; and Ellen **Bambrough**, dressmaker, married, and born in Newcastle 1818, living with Eliza **Bambrough**, born 1819, a milliner, married, and born in Newcastle. Ellen and Eliza were living in Southampton in 1851 and had married two **Bambrough** brothers, but where were they?
- 6281 BARBARA HASWELL**
93 Leicester Road, New Barnet, Herts EN5 5EL.
Seeks information on **Haswell** families of Berwick upon Tweed, especially: William **Haswell**, born 1744, married Elizabeth **Ruderford** in 1771 at Norham; James **Haswell** born 1776 (son of William?); Elizabeth **Jordan** born 1784; Isabella **Borthwick** born 1823; James **Callan**, born 1830 Ireland, married Eleanor **Dagleish**, born 1834 Berwick; and John **Davis**, born 1822, married Grace **Gribbon**, born 1823.
- 6286 ADAM LONG**
Mews Cottages, c/o 53 Russell Terrace, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV31 1HE.
Interested in the **Bewick** and **Watts** families of the North Shields area. John **Bewick** born 1849 at North Shields, son of Thomas **Bewick**, a keelman, and his wife Ann nee **Todd**. John **Bewick** married Elizabeth **Smith Watts** 1866 at Holy Saviours, Tynemouth. She was the daughter of Andrew **Hodgson Watts**, a grocer, and Mary Ann nee **Smith**, born Blyth 1849.

- 6295 Mrs. SANDRA MOVERLEY**
10 Tolsta Crescent, Polmont, Falkirk FK2 0XN.
Jane Turner's marriage certificate indicates birth c.1859/60. She married Percy Joseph Moverley in 1887 at Thorpe near Easington; her father Joseph Turner, a miner, was dead by that time. Unable to find any further information at Thorpe or St. Catherine's House. Considering the migratory nature of coal miners, perhaps family rumours of origins in Appleby or Alnwick could be correct. Information or advice welcomed.
- 6296 JUNE CARMICHAEL**
38 Foxearth Road, Selsdon, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 8EE.
Looking for the birth/baptism of William Farmer in Newcastle c.1790 according to the 1851 Census; he was in London by 1828. Wife, Rosetta, born Mile End, London but no marriage found in London. Marriage certificates of children give trade as master cabinet maker, but Census and trade directories variously give blind maker, wire maker and foreign bird dealer.
- 6297 BJØRN CODLING**
Skolebråten 5, N-3031 Drammen, Norway.
Researching family name of Codling, especially in Durham area before 1800 and would like to hear from anyone who can help.
- 6299 Mr. C.E. INGLEDEW**
4252 Dovercrest Drive S.E., Calgary, Alberta T2B 1Y1, Canada.
Researching the following Northumberland and Durham family names: Ingledew, Smith, Sawkill, Taylor, Hope, Baston, Wakeford, Weddell, Wanless and Iderton.
- 6310 Mrs. J. PORTER**
5 Marshall Avenue, Willerby, Hull, East Yorks HU10 6LL.
Interests are the following Sunderland families: George John Tipping Wilkinson (1808-87) was a chemist married to Eleanor Smith. They had at least five children: Mary, William George Perlee, Fanny, Polly and Robert who was also a chemist. Robert married Margaret Elizabeth Allison 1872 at Sheffield. She died the same year in Sunderland following the birth of their son George Allison Wilkinson. Margaret was the daughter of Matthew Allison, a solicitor. George Allison Wilkinson married Mary Gertrude Liddell in 1875 and they had several children, moving to Hull c.1910. Mary Gertrude was the daughter of Robert Liddell and Elizabeth Thompson and had at least two sisters Kate and Emma.
- 6312 Ms. DONNA J. CASKO**
P.O. Box 87, Wheeler, IN 46393, U.S.A.
Researching the families of John Hall and Elizabeth Green, both born in Durham. John was born 1850, son of Thomas Hall and Elizabeth Hedley who emigrated to the U.S. in 1853. Thomas born Sunderland 1783 to Thomas Hall and Mary Short. Elizabeth Green born 1852 Lanchester, daughter of William Green and Mary Elizabeth Thorpe.
- 6338 Mrs. A.R. BURRELL**
31 Pear Tree Walk, Cheshunt, Herts EN7 6RG.
Seeks information on Matthew Burrell born Earsdon in 1840, married Mary Hindson born 1843 to Edward Hindson in Willington Co. Durham. They lived at various times in Shotton Co. Durham and Staveley, Derbyshire before moving to Castle Eden Colliery in 1881. Children with them in 1891 were Edward, Thomas, Elizabeth, Gerard and Richard. In 1904, Richard married Margaret Cairns, daughter of George and Mary Cairns who migrated to Wardley from Ireland.
- 6339 Mrs. H. LONG**
5 Llantwit Major Rd., Cowbridge, South Glamorgan CF71 7JP.
Seeking information on John Elliott McGlade. Scunthorpe 1891 Census indicates that he was born Shotley Bridge c.1855 but family sources give his birth date as June 1852. There appears to be no record of his birth (P.R.'s and St. Catherine House checked) and no other census information has yet been found. He probably moved to Scunthorpe area c.1880. Death certificate states surname as McGlade but Elliott is given on some other records.
- 6341 ELIZABETH ALLEN FORNENGO**
1918 Opal Street, Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901, U.S.A.
Grandmother was Elizabeth Brown, daughter of John Wakefield Brown and Jane Luke, who married John Allen at Shotton in 1879. Emigrated to the U.S. in 1883. John and Jane Brown were at Shotton Colliery in 1861 living with Brown great grandparents. John Wakefield Brown was born at Longbenton and his wife Jane was born at Painshaw.
- 6344 Mr. MICHAEL D. JOHN**
18 Fisher Close, Newport, Gwent NP9 9GQ.
Researching family of John Bell, born 1874 South Shields, to George Bell, born 1841 Norfolk who married Alice Manson, widow nee Pickering, in 1873 at St. Mary's, South Shields. Also interested in Leonard and Sarah Pickering of Etherley 1803+, Leonard and Hannah Hodgson nee Chipchase of Staindrop 1770+, and William and Hannah Shotton nee Dixon of Escombe 1800+.
- 6354 STEPHEN W. MADDISON**
95 Arethusa Road, Rochester, Kent ME1 2UN.
Is anyone researching Maddison? Help needed in tracing marriage of John Maddison (born c.1814 Lumley) and Elizabeth Fletcher (born c.1812 Low Fell). In 1861, lived at Silver Street, Whitworth with six children, a daughter in law and mother in law, Isabella McDougle (born c.1791 Low Fell). Did Isabella remarry to a McDougle or is it her maiden name? Help also needed to trace the movements and origins of John Campbell married to Jane Wilson. He was a miner at Spennymoor in 1865 at the time of wedding of his daughter Julia Campbell (born 1847 Workington) to Henry Maddison. The witnesses were Richard and Isabella Campbell.
- 6369 ANGELA THOMAS**
1 McColl Street, Ainslie, ACT 2602, Australia.
Interests: Pinkney (Teesdale 1805+, Newfield, Byers Green 1890+); Swinburn (Walbottle 1800+, Newfield 1850+); Dawson (Chester-le-Street 1800+); Hopper (Durham 1770+); Hawkey (Hexham 1830+); Wood (Helmsley 1800+); Dowson (Helmsley 1880+) and Bulman (Etherley 1770).

Help Offered

- 2277 Mrs. A. ELDER**
1 Esk Road, Lowry Hill, Carlisle, Cumbria CA3 0HN.
Frequently visits Carlisle Archives and would be happy to do research for fellow members.

International Genealogy

Mr. Cyril Jewitt sends what he describes as a "piece of international genealogy", an item on page 119 of Volume 1 of the Jarrow St. Paul Burial Register:

Master Cuthbert Ellison of Hebburne departed this life at London August 2d 1685 and was buried at St. Martins in the Fields. Elizabeth wife of Robert Ellison buried at Kensington 1750 or 1751. Robert Ellison died 1755 at Albany in North America unmarried. Elizabeth Ellison died 1760 unmarried buried at Kensington April. Jane Ellison died 1764 unmarried buried at Kensington April 1st. Catharine Airey died April 1st 1779 buried at Kensington without issue. Robert son of Henry Ellison & Hannah his wife died unmarried Sep. 4th 1783 at Lausainie in Switzerland. Cuthbert Ellison died unmarried Oct. 11th 1785 was buried at Kensington. Henry Ellison Esq. died at Bath August 20th 1795 leaving Henrietta his widow and 8 children.

In very small print at the end of the above note set out as below:

H. Ellison an eminent Physician at Bordeaux was born in America & probably a son of Robert and was told that his fathers ancestor was from the neighbourhood of Newcastle.