

# THE JOURNAL OF THE NORTHUMBERLAND & DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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

Twenty one years old! And we welcome Ray Hale as the Society's sixth Chairman in place of Geoff Nicholson who steps down after several years of sterling work.

There are also new officers for a number of jobs, so if you are corresponding with the Society, please ensure you write to the correct address as shown on the Contents Page (Inside Front Cover).

This is the first Journal since the AGM in June and I can tell you that we have an unchanged UK subscription of £10. Overseas members sub is also £10 — if they pay in sterling. Renewal details are overleaf. Please help by paying early to Jennie Ashburner in accordance with instructions on the renewal form which should be enclosed.

The reduction, for that is what it amounts to, for overseas members is a recognition that there are many services which they cannot use e.g. the Library at Bolbec Hall, and we are looking at other possible ways of improving the service to them. If you are an overseas member and have any ideas or suggestions, no matter how trivial, drop a line to the Editor, please.

We'd also like to hear from members about the contents of the Journal. What do you like, what do you dislike, what should we omit or include, but do remember that we can only publish what we receive and the Editorial desk is somewhat empty at present. So, if I can shame one or two of you into writing an article of about 1500 words ... We now have an Editorial Team of three to help to share the workload and you wouldn't want them to be underemployed, would you?

## NEW PUBLICATIONS FROM THE SOCIETY

Two new publications are now available from the Society, as books and as microfiche. They fill another small gap in the coverage of our indexes to the 1851 census of Northumberland. This time it is Glendale, which is covered in two parts. Part 1 covers the northern part of Glendale, around the picturesque villages of Ford and Etal, as well as the Cornhill and Carham districts, adjacent to the Scottish Border. Part 2, the southern part of Glendale includes the pleasant small town of Wooler. These could be a valuable addition to the library of anyone tracing a family from that district where the proximity of the Scottish Border can pose problems for many family historians.

**Volume 24 : *Glendale, Part 1 (Ford)*. 134 pages.**

Book : price £4.00 (£5.50 overseas).

Microfiche : price £2.00 (£2.40 overseas).

**Volume 25 : *Glendale, Part 2 (Wooler)*. 124 pages.**

Book : price £4.00 (£5.50 overseas).

Microfiche : price £2.00 (£2.40 overseas).

Two further volumes of our series '*Personal Names in Wills Proved at Durham*' are now available. The first volume in this series, covering 1787-1791, is still available on microfiche and in book form. Now issued are volumes for 1792-1794 and for 1795-1797, respectively. These volumes are uniform with the first and have been compiled by (1792-1794) J.A. Readdie, P.R.G. Thirkell and G. Nicholson and (1795-1797) P.R.G. Thirkell. Each contains brief abstracts of all names mentioned in Wills proved at Durham in the years covered, with relationships, occupations and addresses where these are mentioned in the Will, but no details of legacies, and each is fully indexed.

Each volume covers roughly 500 Wills, with an average of perhaps a dozen names in each, giving something like 12,000 names in the two volumes. The coverage is the whole of the original Diocese of Durham - roughly County Durham and Northumberland, but without Hexhamshire or Allendale and with the addition of Alston parish in Cumberland. The books are priced at £5.00 (overseas £6.50). Microfiche £2.00 each (£2.40 overseas).

The Monumental Inscriptions at Gateshead St. Mary were transcribed by W.H. Brockett in 1856 and updated and revised by Edwin Dodds in 1908, with copious notes and additions from newspapers and other sources. The churchyard was closed in 1853. Our members Mr. and Mrs. Shield have copied Brockett and Dodds' work and it is now reproduced on microfiche, price £2.00 (£2.40 overseas) available from Mr. K. Dalkin.

Last year we published the valuable '*Irregular Border Marriages ; Marriages at Lamberton Toll 1833-49*' being a transcript of the Registers of Henry Collins, the 'priest' at Lamberton. The book is still available (contact Mrs. Rawle) but we now have a microfiche edition available from Mr. K. Dalkin price £2.00 (£2.40 overseas)

Books should be ordered from Mrs. B. Rawle, 31 East Moffett Street, South Shields, Tyne & Wear NE33 3PL.

### NOTE:

*This is a new name and address for book orders!*

Microfiche should be ordered from Mr. K. Dalkin, 12 St. Aidans Crescent, Crossgate Moor, Durham DH1 4AP.

# SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

Yes, it's that time again! Subscriptions for 1996/97 are due for payment on or before 1st November to cover the Spring to Winter 1997 Journals. The UK and EEC subscription is unchanged at £10. A change for overseas members is that if you can pay in sterling, your subscription will also be £10. If, however, you live overseas and cannot pay in sterling, you can pay by cheque in the following currencies at the rates shown, which include an addition to cover the considerable costs of converting foreign cheques. North American members should note that they can obtain sterling cheques quite cheaply from Ruesch International, 10th Floor, 1350 Eye Street NW, Washington (Freephone 1 800 424 2923). Even after paying Ruesch's charges, this method should prove cheaper than paying by dollar cheques etc.

Please help by paying early, and follow the instructions on the enclosed renewal form.

UK and EEC addresses, including all BFPO's .....	£10
Overseas outside EEC (if paid in sterling) .....	£10
Each additional member at the same address .....	£1
Institutions in Northumberland & Durham .....	£10
Other UK Institutional members .....	£20
Overseas UK Institutional members .....	£28

## Payments in Dollars

US & Canadian personal members .....	\$28
Australian personal members .....	\$32

## PAYMENT INSTRUCTION

1. Complete the enclosed renewal form.
2. Make cheque payable to NDFHS.
3. Write your name, address and membership number on the back of the cheque.
4. Send to Mrs. J. Ashburner, Renewals, 10 Melrose Grove, Jarrow, Tyne and Wear NE32 4HP.

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## COVENANTS

This is a plea to UK Members! If you have already entered into a Deed of Covenant to pay your subscription, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you have helped the Society to recover £1,200 this year from the Inland Revenue. At no extra cost to yourself!

If you have not yet completed a Deed of Covenant, and you are a UK taxpayer, why not do so now? Would you rather the NDFHS had the money, or the tax man? If only one thousand of you did this --- and surely we have one thousand UK taxpayers among our membership --- then your Society would be able to recover over £3000. Think about it --- please.

I know some members are wary of the technicalities, but it really is very easy. If you pay UK tax and want to help, then all you have to do is complete the Deed of Covenant form on the renewal form enclosed, sign it, get it witnessed, and send it to Mrs. J. Ashburner. She will then send you a Certificate of Deduction of Tax (form R185 Covenant) to be signed and returned to her, and, hey presto, we can then recover tax, increasing the value of your subscription by about one-third. At no extra cost to you. So come and join us. No hassle, no problems, provided only that you are a UK taxpayer.

If you have already signed a Deed of Covenant, i.e. you joined the scheme last year or the year before, don't fill in the Covenant form. Just fill in the renewal form and send it with a cheque to Mrs. J. Ashburner. That's all. Thanks for your help.

## PLEASE NOTE:

For technical reasons, payments received under a Deed of Covenant before 1st November 1996 will not be banked until on, or after, that date.

## GEOFF NICHOLSON

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MEMBER



# WHICH WAY OUGHT WE TO GO?

by Ray Hale, NDFHS Chairman

At our AGM on the 4th June, Geoff Nicholson stepped down as Chairman of the Society and I was duly elected as his successor. I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my gratitude for my election to those who made it possible. It is an honour to serve the Society in this capacity and it is not a role I take lightly. I feel that the biggest challenge the Society faces is that of growth. Our membership continues to grow steadily and we have currently some 2,700-plus members. If not the largest, we are certainly one of the largest Family History Societies in the country and my concern is that we offer our members the best possible service and continuously seek to improve the quality of this service.

If you have not already done so, may I suggest that you read Geoff Nicholson's article in the Spring 1996 edition of the *Journal* "Now is the Time". Now is indeed the time, the time to stop and take stock of where we stand, where we want to be and how we are to get there. In Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*, Alice enquired of the cat, "Would you tell me please, which way I ought to go from here?". "That depends a good deal on where you want to get to", said the cat. "I don't much care where", said Alice. "Then it doesn't matter which way you go", said the cat.

If we adopt the same attitude as Alice and don't care where we want to go, then it doesn't really matter which way we go. I do not believe, however, for one minute, that any of us really don't care which way the Society goes and I certainly know that the Trustees of the Society care deeply which way we go. Each of us I feel, has an impression of the sort of Society we would like it to be. The challenge for us, however, is in discovering what those impressions are and then turning them, as far as is reasonably practicable, into reality. This requires great effort and a lot of hard work, which in turn requires willing hands, both in terms of people who are willing to communicate their thoughts and ideas to the Council and of those who are willing to put their shoulders to the wheel and move the cause along.

Over the last twenty-one years, much has been accomplished, culminating this year with the advent of our Library and Research Centre in Bolbec Hall.

This has opened a new horizon for the Society and allows us to do things we could only have dreamed of in the past. We now need to look ahead and decide where we are going from here. The Council has many ideas, such as establishing a Projects Centre in Bolbec Hall, holding workshops and lectures, establishing new branches in this country, but more especially in many overseas countries, so that our members can gain more benefit from the Society. All these ideas can be realised, but it comes down to who is willing or able to do it? The Council, officers and the volunteers who run Bolbec Hall are all hard pressed and we cannot realistically expect them to do more than they are already doing. So what is the answer?

To begin with could you please let us have your ideas, but even more importantly please consider if you can help out in some small way. It could be at home or at Bolbec Hall. There is much to be done and the more volunteers we can get the quicker we can do it. If you are overseas and are feeling left out, then why not consider helping to establish a branch in your country; we will help you in every way we can. If there is no branch in your area of this country, then why not consider helping to establish one there. If you are housebound then why not consider some project work at home. If you have spare time and like to get out and about, then why not help out at the Library/Research Centre. If you like to take an active part, then perhaps you could assist one of our newly-organised sub-committees. There is a place for each of us who is willing to help.

I understand that a lady in Australia wrote, offering her services. Unfortunately, the letter had gone astray before I received it (my apologies - GN!). Would she please contact me so that I can discuss the matter with her. The same applies to anyone else who is willing to help. No matter how small the contribution may seem, please do get in touch.

The Council is currently working on a six-year development plan for the Society. We know where we would like to go, but it would be much nicer if we knew where you, too, would like to go. So please do let us know.

## Forthcoming Conference

The Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) are holding their Annual Spring Conference, AGM and Council Meeting for 1997 at Bishop Otter College, College Lane, Chichester, West Sussex on April 4th to 6th. The theme is "Sussex by the Sea" and the Conference will be hosted by the Sussex Family History Group which will by then be in its 25th anniversary year. There are a variety of booking options, with prices ranging from £28 to £175. For a booking form and further details, send a SAE to Mrs. Doreen Hayes, 31 Poulter's Lane, Worthing, West Sussex BN14 7SS.



## TWENTY ONE YEARS

### A Look Back At Some Early Decisions

The Minutes of early NDFHS Committee Meetings have turned up. Not that they have ever been lost! Of course not ... good genealogists never throw anything away, as our spouses will confirm. It is simply that no one has looked at them for years, and a 21st Birthday is as good a time for dusting down the archives, for that is what they are.

As good family historians, the first question we should ask is "What was the date of birth?" And, as so often, the answer is a little obscure. The earliest "notes of a meeting" are dated 22nd May 1975, "to discuss the possible formation of a family history society for the area". Four stalwarts, three of whom are still members, decided that the rivers Tweed and Tees should form the boundaries of the region to be embraced and that the "most suitable name was Northumberland and Durham Family History Society". This novel and innovative title was chosen, as I recall, after a long and hard debate on the difficult question of whether it ought to be "Durham and Northumberland" or "Northumberland and Durham". I cannot remember why we came down on the side of the more northerly county first — perhaps it was the toss of a coin — but we must have chosen aright, for no one has sought to change it since!

22nd May 1975, then, is the date of conception. Family History Societies do not take as long as humans to gestate, or so it seems. Another day, another meeting, 6th August 1975 at 34 Northumberland Avenue, Gosforth and we read DATE OF CREATION OF SOCIETY. Since non-local members were to be circulated at this stage, it was felt that the Society should be deemed to have already been formed and to consist at present of the Committee. This would avoid discussion at the first public meetings on subscriptions etc., and on whether or not to form a Society and would enable all recipients of the circulars to be notified of a firm subscription of £2.00

So the deed was done. 6th August 1975 is the date of birth.

Circulars had been issued to some 200 possible members 'obtained from various sources' and the first public celebration of the fledgling Society's existence was a meeting at Newcastle Public Library on 18th September 1975. A surprisingly full house, delighting the founder parents, took place, with over 100 people present, each of whom were asked to contribute 10p towards the cost of the room rental and, despite this iniquitous levy, many joined on the spot. By 22nd September, we had 74 members, by 18th November 1975 and we had recruited 60 overseas members out of 206 by 3rd February 1976. We were well and truly underway.

The second earth-shattering decision of importance was made quite early. It was agreed that a magazine was essential and "that the first issue should be entitled the 'Journal of the Northumberland and Durham Family History Society'". The snappy title was born, but it was felt that a more suitable name might be selected after consulting the members. Later notes tell us of 'Link', of 'Octopus' and of 'Northsearch', but none of them was apparently felt to be as awe-inspiring and resonant as the title which has now served us for 21 years. A green cover, too, is also unchanged despite a quite unthinkable suggestion that the colour should be changed for each volume! No one has dared to put such impudence into practice. I should think not! What would our current membership of 2,700 say if they were faced with an 'Octopus' which was red in one year and blue in another?

We can look back to those far off days in 1975 when you could still hold and examine an original Parish Register at a Record Office — provided the Register was not still with the incumbent. To the days when microfiche had never been heard of, when the censuses for 1881 and 1891 were still secret, when no one had heard of the IGI ... and on a personal note, to when I was searching for a particular great-great grandfather ... I am still looking for him!

What fun we've had in the first 21 years. Here's to 2017 and the next 21.

#### FAMILY HISTORY MICROFICHE

County Record Offices hold many thousands of documents to interest family historians. Parish Registers and Census are well known and used but what else might help? How can you find out? If you can't visit the Record Office, it's not so easy! With permission of Northumberland Record Office and Northumberland County Council, some of the catalogues etc., of material at Northumberland Record Office are now available on microfiche. Find what records may be relevant to your ancestors and open up new areas of research. In most cases, the Record Office can then supply copies of the documents you need. (Note: South East of pre-1974 Northumberland, now in 'Tyne & Wear', including Newcastle, will not normally be covered).

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##### TRADE ETC. DIRECTORIES

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Kelly's Post Office Directory of Northumberland 1879 **£5.50**.

Kelly's Post Office Directory of County Durham 1879 **£5.50**.

Ward's Directory 1915-16: (Ward's 1915-16 include street-by-street sections, with names)

North of River Tyne — North Shields, Wallsend, Newcastle etc. **£8.00**.

South of River Tyne — Gateshead, Jarrow, South Shields, Sunderland etc. **£8.00**.

Also, Newcastle & Gateshead section (parts of each of above fiche) **£7.50**.

##### ROUNCES MARRIAGE INDEXES

(see previous Journal) - new titles available. Please ask for list.

Prices includes UK postage. Overseas add £1 to total of any sized order. Allow 14 days for delivery.  
Order by title to NORTHFICHE, 38 Archery Rise, Durham DH1 4LA.  
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## THE NDFHS - EARLY DAYS

*To mark our "coming of age" after 21 years of growth and change, we now print some reminiscences of the early days of the Society, compiled by various of our earlier members.*

Geoff Nicholson will be well-known to many members, having been associated with the running of the Society all its life, and Chairman for six years up to last June. Mr. F. Stewart Hindmarsh was our earliest New Zealand member and Ewen Herbert was our first from Australia.

### GEOFF NICHOLSON

It was early in 1975 when I enquired at Newcastle Central Library about how to record Monumental Inscriptions. A local amenity/pressure group had been formed in my native Ryton and someone - possibly myself - had had the bright idea that one suitable project would be to record the Monumental Inscriptions in the then overgrown and neglected churchyard. At any rate I was put in charge of the project. I had never done anything like it before and, being anxious, even if not to do the right thing, at least to avoid doing any wrong things, I enquired at Newcastle Central Library, the only local place I knew where such matters seemed to be taken seriously.

The only local person, I was told (wrongly) who knew much about the subject was Charles Neat, from Roker, near Sunderland. I did the obvious thing and wrote to him. Back came a friendly letter saying that although he had plenty of contacts in the Society of Genealogists, of which he was himself a Fellow, as well as being a Professional Genealogist, he considered himself too old for any such activities, but that I should get in touch with one of his acquaintances, a Mr. Alan Readdie of Neville's Cross who, with "his friend Mr. Mason from Hexham" had experience in such matters. Naturally, I did so, and in doing so I mentioned that I had recently attended a course in Family History Research at Newcastle University, run by Keith Bishop, the then Durham County Archivist. I had been interested in a remark by Mr. Bishop that there was "some talk" of founding a "Northern Genealogical Society", and asked whether Mr. Readdie knew anything of that. The result was an invitation to a meeting at Alan's house, attended by, as far as the people there knew, all those in County Durham or Northumberland who were seriously interested in local Family History.

There were seven people at the get-together. It might have been the most comprehensive Family History Conference ever held in the North East - it was certainly the smallest! Apart from myself and Alan Readdie, there were also present Charles Neat, Don Mason, Keith Bishop, Bob Vine, who was interested in computer applications, and Mary Hey, a neighbour of Alan's who had also expressed an interest.

We discussed matters such as what the Society might usefully do, how it would be organised, etc. Contact was made with some of the handful of Family History Societies then in existence and advice was obtained on various matters. Out of it all, and after several such house-meetings had been held, came a decision to set up the NDFHS.

We decided that rather than hold a public meeting and invite everyone present to consider whether or not to found a Society, we should go ahead and set one up ourselves, then invite the public in general to join us. This meant forming ourselves into a Steering Committee, so the various necessary positions were filled from amongst us. They fell into place very naturally. As the "elder statesman" amongst us, Charles Neat was the obvious choice for Chairman. Alan, a Civil Servant and the one who had written to us all and arranged the meetings, was a natural Secretary. Don, being an Accountant was chosen as Treasurer and I, at that time a Technical Editor, found myself as Editor of the Journal which we had decided to issue quarterly.

The moment of truth came when we decided to hire a room in Newcastle Library and hold a public meeting in it. Room hire costs money, and we had no funds. The solution was that each of us produced a £5 note and put it on the table as an interest-free loan to the new Society, which therefore began life £35 in debt. Compare that with the accounts published in the last Journal. Our finances have come a long way since then!

The public meeting, when it came, was a great success. The original seven of us has realised, of course, that we would get a lot more members once we had "gone public". Personally, I thought that, if we were very successful, the day might even come - round about now, perhaps - when we could boast as many as a hundred members. Thanks also to Mr. Neat circulating his clients, and Mr. Bishop allowing us to use a list of genealogical visitors to Durham Record Office, we were able to contact a lot of potential members and I think we passed the "100" mark within the first fortnight!

The *Journal* was also well-received. The first issue cost much blood, sweat and tears. Every little detail of how to get it written, printed, collated and distributed had to be worked out from scratch. Volume 1, Number 1, was printed on a spirit duplicator in Alan's office, by Alan, his Secretary and myself - an exercise never to be repeated. At least as much ink ended up on us as on the printed pages!

Durham University Reprographic Department allowed us to use their facilities at Old County Hall for other editions but for a long time the individual printed sheets collated by a few people (usually Alan and myself) walking around my kitchen table, picking up pages from a series of piles. We had to do one lap for each member - even with the membership we had in the first couple of years we soon got dizzy!

The success of the early years was marred only by the sudden sad death of our founder, Charles Neat. A new Chairman was found in that irrepressible character, Fr. William ("Bill") Vincent-Smith. Fr. Vincent-Smith was a real link with the past in that he had been active in various branches of local history, in Newcastle Antiquarian Society, among other things, since the 1930s. He was also the main authority on Roman Catholic families in the North East of England. Eventually his health broke down, but by then the pioneering early days were over.

There were others who have helped who are sadly no longer with us. Together with Charles Neat and Fr. Vincent-Smith we should remember Roger Tankerville, a very capable and enthusiastic holder of many positions who was sadly killed in a motor-cycling accident and of course Ralph Tait, the man who did a tremendous amount for the Society while holding no official position other than that of his wife's husband. That the Society's Library was in such a good state when its growth made the move to permanent premises necessary was in great measure down to Ralph's tireless work in binding, arranging and generally caring for the items within it. They all, with others also, are sadly missed.

I have many happy memories of the first 21 years. All the various conferences we have organised - one-day ones at Lumley Castle and Beamish Hall, then week-ends at Otterburn Hall and Trevelyan College in Durham, followed by trips to London to visit one-day conferences ran by our London Branch, representing the Society at Federation Conferences in Hull and London, helping out on the Society's stand at a SoG Fair, MI recording expeditions - even the one at Byrness when I mistook an ant-hill for a suitable place to sit (well, it was right in front of a stone - how was I to know the ants would take offence?), the unofficial "social" meetings at the Plough Inn at Kibblesworth in the late 1980s, organised by Roger Tankerville, and many many more.

As time went on, the Society's affairs have become on a larger scale, more complex and, yes, better organised, though at times it has seemed as though we have taken one step back for every two steps forward. Up to now, at least, we have been very well served by a steady stream of volunteers who have come forward with enthusiasm and helped, not only to fill the major jobs on the Committee (sorry - I never can get used to calling it the Council!), but all the many tasks which are necessary to keep us "on the road". The amazing way in which people have come forward to man (and woman) the Library and Research Centre is a fine example of that spirit and augurs well for the next 21 years.

PS - Oh yes, the Ryton MIs, all 500+ of them, did get recorded and are now available on microfiche from Keith Dalkin.

## F. STEWART HINDMARSH

It was through my long friendship with the late Mr. Charles P. Neat (our Founder and Member No. 1) and our interest in family history that I joined the Society in 1975. Charles was a highly regarded local historian and we first corresponded in May 1967, at which time I was gathering material for a book. In November 1975, when in his 70th year, Charles proudly informed me that our membership had now reached 151! A few months later, in April 1976, he wrote "starting with a membership of 7 in August, we now have 256 and still increasing at the rate of about 5 each week".

My branch of our family left Northumberland for the south in the late 1780s, after having lived in the county for over five centuries. Through the Society I have made more friends and exchanged a good deal of useful family information.

## EWEN HERBERT

I have been researching my family for almost 50 years and in the early 1970s I had some work done by the late Mr. C.P. Neat. I am researching the Herbert/Wanless family who, in the late eighteenth century, lived in the Hounam/Morebattle area of Roxburghshire, Scotland. Early in the nineteenth century they drifted into Northumberland and became tenant farmers at Kirknewton, Earle, Biddleston and Elsdon. Mr. Neat wrote to me in 1975, suggesting that I join the newly formed Society, which I did. My membership number is 101.

Over the years I have looked forward to, and enjoyed reading, the quarterly Journal.

## HELP WANTED - JAMES WEDDLE

*From the 'Newcastle Chronicle'*  
29th November 1777

WHEREAS JAMES WEDDLE, by Trade a Cordwainer, left the Town of Alnwick, in the County of Northumberland, near 12 Years ago, and has never been heard of since: This is to give Notice, that a considerable Freehold and Personal Estate is bequeathed to him by the Will of his late Uncle, Mr William Weddle, deceased. If any Person can give Information of the said James Weddle's present Place of Abode, to Mr Thomas Taylor, of Elcatham, or Mr James Gladstones, or Mr Adams of Alnwick, shall receive a Reward of 10l. 10s. and if the said James Weddle be dead, the like Reward for a Discovery of his lawful Child, or Children; if now living; or a Reward of 3l. 3s. for an authentic Account of his Death, or of the Death of one of such Children. The said James Weddle, if now living, will be 33 Years of Age, about five Feet five Inches high; round-faced, black-visaged, stout made, was born at Mentz, in Germany, and speaks the Northumberland Dialect. This will be no more advertised at this Time.



## "FIFTY YEAR MAKING USE OF BOLBEC VE SOCIETY"

Now that the Society's Library and Research Centre is running at full strength, the volunteers there have reported receiving several postal requests for help from members. While every effort is made to be as helpful as possible to members, while at the same time attending to the many small jobs which need doing all the time, we cannot possibly run anything like a comprehensive search service - apart from anything else, even our rapidly-growing library can only as yet include a tiny proportion of the information potentially available from Record Offices and longer-established Libraries throughout the region.

However, it has been decided that volunteers will be prepared to undertake searches, when time permits, in the major indexes available at Bolbec Hall only, for £1 per name per event, providing that at least a rough date and place can be provided. This service will cover only indexes such as the IGI, the 1881 census index etc. - no searching through books in the hope of "finding something" can be undertaken and no indexes available for sale can be searched - we would rather you bought one yourself! Searches in the Somerset House Probate Indexes (see below) can be made at a cost of £1 for a three-year period.

The Somerset House Wills Index referred to above is more correctly the *Calendar of the Grants of Probate and Letters of Administration made on the Probate Registries of the High Court of Justice in England*. These are the indexes of which an excellent series used to be kept in the Newcastle Probate Office at Plummer House, off Market Street, Newcastle, until they disappeared in a reorganisation a few years ago. They provide an overview of the system which came into being when the State took over Probate matters from the Church in 1858, and which has survived, more or less intact until the present.

### COURIER SERVICE

#### St. Catherine's House & Somerset House

Birth, Marriage & Death Certificates  
for England & Wales from July 1837

Wills & Letters of Administration  
for England & Wales from January 1858

Fees for Birth, Marriage & Death certificates include  
search in eight quarters and cost of certificate  
£8.00 (UK), £8.50 (overseas).

Send: Name of person to be reached, place/area and  
period to be searched to:

**ROBERT W. DRUMMOND**  
438 Hurst Road, Bexley, Kent DA5 3JR.

Full transcripts of the Wills are NOT given. All that is given is the name, address and date of death of the testator, the value of the estate, the date of proving any by whom. There is one alphabetical list, covering the whole country, for each year. Two typical local entries from the 1888 lists are:

**ADAMS, Mary Jane.**

**Personal Estate £112 1s.**

27 October. The Will of Mary Jane Adams, late of Newbottle Vicarage in the County of Durham Spinster who died 5 August 1888 at Newbottle Vicarage was proved at Durham by the Reverend Douglas Samuel Boutflower of Newbottle Vicarage Clerk one of the Executors.

**ALDERSON, James Hall.**

**Personal Estate £150.**

20 November. Administration of the Personal Estate of James Hall Alderson late of 12 Palace-street-West in the City of Newcastle-upon-Tyne to Alice Coulthard (wife of John Coulthard) (formerly Alderson, Widow) of 35 Temperance-terrace Grahamsley Crook in the County of Durham the Relict.

This index is now available in Bolbec Hall as a set of microfiche covering 1858-1943.

Did you know that Bolbec Hall also contains on microfiche: the IGI for the whole country, an index to the Scottish OPRs (Old - ie pre-1855 - Parish Registers for each County in Scotland) and the indexes to the whole of the 1881 census of England and Wales (apart from any not yet published - at the time of writing this was almost complete)?

Did you know we have a copy of all 15 Volumes of the New County History of Northumberland? Did you also know we have "exchange" Journals from most Family History Societies in Britain and many from overseas? If the answer to any of these questions is "No", then why not drop in and see for yourself what we have that would interest YOU?

Bolbec Hall now closes on Saturdays at 4.00 p.m. If volunteers can be found, we can remain open until 6.00 p.m. on Saturdays. If you can volunteer for 4.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. or for any part of that period, either every week or on, say, a fortnightly or monthly basis, then please contact Moira Furness.

Visitors arriving on Saturday, or on the late night opening (Wednesday) should note that the outside door to the Bolbec Hall building will be closed. They should ring the bell marked "NDFHS" and then allow plenty of time for someone to come down from the second floor to open the door.

## BOOK REVIEWS

*This issue we review a couple of books on computers, in response to the growing demand from members for more information on this subject.*

### INTERNET FOR GENEALOGY.

*Reviewed by Brian Pears.*

Internet for Genealogy, written and published by David Hawgood, 26 Cloister Road, Acton, London W3 0DE, price £1.60. Distributed by Family Tree Magazine, 24 pages, ISBN 0 948151 12 9.

This is the book I would like to have read two years ago when I first became a member of the Internet community. Under the heading "What you can do" the author gives some brief definitions and descriptions. Two years ago these alone would have helped me considerably. These introductory paragraphs are followed by sections giving more detailed information on how to get yourself connected to the Internet, how to send an e-mail, or private message, to someone; how to post public messages to a mailing list or newsgroup; how to download files by file transfer protocol (FTP); and how to access a remote computer using Telnet.

We also learn precisely how to use the Roots Surname List and Genserv - the Internet equivalents of our "Members' Interests" service.

Most space, however, is devoted to the World Wide Web and in particular to GENUKI, the huge and ever expanding UK and Irish Genealogical Information Service. The author tells us about hypertext, underlined words and phrases which link to other pages of information. Just click the mouse on that phrase and you jump to a different page - "... clicking on 'Society of Genealogists' leads to a brochure, library guide with floor plans, and a bookshop catalogue with order form ...".

Although David Hawgood's book contains only 24 pages, it is packed with useful material. It is extremely well organised and is written in a clear and concise style.

I thoroughly recommend "Internet for Genealogy" to anyone who has recently joined this wonderful world-wide community of Internet genealogists and indeed to genealogists in general; it would, I'm sure, persuade many more to join us.

### GENEALOGY ON THE MACINTOSH

*Reviewed by Brian Randell*

*Department of Computing Science  
University of Newcastle*

Genealogy on the Macintosh, by David Tippey. Published 1996 by David Hawgood, 26 Cloister Road, Acton, London W3 0DE, price £3.50, distributed by Family Tree Magazine, 50 pages, ISBN 0 948151 13 7.

The much greater market-share of PC-style machines means there is a much greater variety of software, and in particular shareware, including shareware for genealogy, for them than for Apple-Macs, and most books on computers concentrate largely on PCs. This book is therefore particularly welcome. Its main chapters give a very clear summary of (i) the use of standard application software (word processors, databases, spreadsheets) to aid genealogy, (ii) shareware genealogy packages and (iii) commercial genealogy programs. Other useful chapters cover computer-readable research data, pictures and documents, the Internet, Compuserve, etc.

The genealogy programs singled out for most detailed discussion are GENE 4.1, Personal Ancestral File (PAF) 2.1 and Reunion 4. GENE 4.1 (US \$15), an impressive-sounding shareware package, is described as "value-packed, fast and professional". PAF 2.1 is criticised as showing its age and overdue for up update. In fact, since the book was written an update (PAF 2.3, costing about £30) has become available, making it comparable with the PC version of PAF. Reunion 4 is much more sophisticated and integrates well with other Mac applications. For example, reports are generated using the Word-Processor which has been selected by the user and scanned photographs can be incorporated into the many types of charts that Reunion produces. David Tippey evidently shares my enthusiasm for this programme, even taking into account its price of £85 (a demonstration disc is said to be available for £3).

In summary, this book packs a surprising amount of information into its 50 well-illustrated pages, yet does so in a very readable and competent fashion.

### Darlington Training College

A postcard photograph of the South House Hockey Team 1917/18 was obtained recently at York Family History Fair. It is too dark to print in the *Journal*, but can be purchased from the Editor for £3 (cheque payable to NDFHS). The team names are D. Knighton, D. Lincoln, A. Gill, P. Magson, M. Birtwhistle, R. Hodgson, A. Clark, L. Ellwood, C. Frostick, Ella Parker & Mary Gamble.

# "FIFTY YEARS OF CROOK CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY"

1865 ~ 1915

by Eileen Hopper

*This interesting book printed in 1916 has recently come my way, passed on to Easington Village Parish Council by a family after a relative died. There is too much detail to be passed on, as it starts with a history of Crook and district going back to the Boldon Book. It then covers the formation of the Crook and Neighbourhood Co-operative Corn Mill, Flour and Provision Society. The first shop was in Wheatbottom and rented from a Mr. Joseph Botham, who was then the landlord of the 'Sun Inn'. Out of three applicants, a Mr. Henry Hayton from Durham was elected to manage the shop at a salary of 24 shillings.*

*There are lists of the first members in 1864 and those that followed on in 1865/66. The book is full of photographs of the early shops, with many groups of staff and photos of long serving staff. At the back of the book a tribute is paid to those who have in the main been responsible for the successful growth of the Society.*

*Here follow edited biographies of prominent members of the Society, with their status as things stood in 1915. Fuller details can be obtained by reference to the original.*

The outstanding figure was **William Burnip**, Secretary and Manager for forty years, from 1866 to 1906. Mr. Burnip was born in 1841 in the Hunwicks district and at an early age came to live with his parents in Wheatbottom. He was one of a family of ten, of which five were boys and five were girls. Of these, four are still living; Mrs. Norman, Newcastle on Tyne; Mrs. Lister, Liverpool; Thomas Burnip (present Secretary) and Anthony Burnip, Crook. William Burnip married Miss Crawhall, of the Crawhalls of Stanhope, a very old and respected family. Mrs. Burnip, now 75, lives at St. Mary's Avenue. Mr. Burnip died in 1906. He was a member of Wesleyanism all his life. He was voted onto seats on the Auckland Board of Guardians, the old Parish Council and the Urban Council. He was also a JP.

**Thomas Pedelty** was a Treasurer for 41 years. Born at Gunnerside, Yorkshire in 1822, he came to Crook in 1847. He died in July 1906. He never shirked his duty. After his ordinary occupation at the Bankfoot Works he put in an appearance at the shop, remaining after hours to examine the accounts. In all sorts of weather he made the journey on foot to Waterhouses to bring the cash to Crook to be banked. He held every office in the Wesleyan Church. He held a seat on the old Parish Council when his son, J.J. Pedelty, was also a member.

**Henry Hayton**, the Society's first Manager, came from Durham where his mother kept a public house. Mr. Hayton gave every evidence of achieving good results, but early in his career his health failed and he died in 1868.

**John Siddle**, the first Secretary of the Society was for many years a well known resident in the town. He did all the preliminary work in forming the Society but resigned in 1866. He later held a responsible position as Inspector at Pease and Partners' works. He died in 1880. One of his daughters is married to Mr. Thomas Hilton, Contractor, Bishop Auckland. About five years ago, another daughter became the wife of the Rev. F.G. Chambers, Manchester, who for some time was Presbyterian Minister at Crook.

**John Dawson** was an Auditor for 18 years. He worked in the weigh office at White Lea, and was a mathematical genius. For many years he held the post of Clerk to the Burial Board. He died in 1885.

**Henry Stoker** was co-auditor for many years with Mr. Dawson. He resides at Peases West and is best remembered as one of the most brilliant science teachers in the North of England. He left Crook for a position in Nottingham until his death a few years ago. His son, Mr. Joseph Stoker was for some years Surveyor to Crook Urban Council and now has a prosperous business in Canada.

**Thomas Burnip** the present Secretary, has 43 years service to his credit. Brother to Mr. William Burnip, he was born in Crook. For 35 years he held the post of Cashier and succeeded his brother as Secretary in 1907. Last year he was appointed as Assistant Overseer. He has held office as Secretary to the Mechanics Institute for 27 years.

**John Lowther** was in the service of the Society for 38 years, and was General Manager for 7 years. He resigned in 1913 on account of ill health and died in 1914. He was a member of the Urban Council for 9 years and Chairman in 1910. He was also a JP.

**John Parkinson** was a Manager of Waterhouses branch from 1871 to 1898 when he died. He was first employed at the Crook shop in 1865. He hailed from Shildon. He was given a position on the Durham Board of Guardians.

**George Parkinson**, Manager of the Waterhouses branch, has been with the Society for 44 years. He first commenced in 1871 in the old shop in Hamilton Row. He was in charge of the cash office in Russell Street until the death of the manager, his uncle, Mr. John Parkinson in 1898.



**John James Pedelty**, Drapery Manager at the Central, started at the age of eleven to serve the Society in a very humble position. He is still with us after practically 55 years service, the only break being in 1879 when he went to work at Skelton. He was born in Crook and has a lifelong connection with the Wesleyan Church. He was a member of the old Parish Council and was Worshipful Master of the Freemasons in 1910.

**Wm. Arthur Smith** has held the post of Auditor for 20 years. His offices are in King Street, South Shields and he is Auditor to the Borough of South Shields.

**Christopher Rawe**, the present General Manager for the past few months, has worked with the Society for some 26 years.

**John Whitfield** was first engaged in 1872 and after 43 years' service is still at the Waterhouses branch in the warehouse.

**Andrew Reid** has 40 years service to his credit as one of the Society's Accountants.

**William Bland** was Chairman of the Society for the first 14 years. He was engaged at the Bankfoot coke ovens, yet, originally, he had been a coachman and came from London. He lived to be 90.

**Joseph Patterson**, Chairman in 1880, died in 1907 aged 85. He was once Overman at Roddymoor and Stanley Collieries. After a brief visit to America he returned to reside at Howden. As well as a shop business he held the post of Rate Collector in the Bedburn district. He was a preacher of the Wesleyan Church for many years.

**Henry Bowes**, was Chairman from 1881-83. A member from 1865, he was a Coke Inspector at Waterhouses. He died in 1890 at the age of 61.

**Wm. Heslop**, Peases West, Chairman in 1884, took the title of President in 1885. A well known Inspector with Peases and Partners Works, Collieries and Houses. He died in 1894.

**Thomas Binns**, Waterhouses. President in 1886, he was also a Temperance Missionary and has been dead for several years.

**John Scott**, President in 1887 and 1890. A well known official at Wooley Colliery, he had a long connection with Mount Pleasant Primitives. He left the district in 1893 and emigrated to America.

**Thomas Ashbridge**, President 1888-92, resided at Robin Hood, Stanley and hailed from the Cumberland district. He walked from Cumberland to Shildon to obtain work. He moved to Stanley where he died in 1893. A member of the Primitive Methodist cause and a local teacher.

**Thomas Pearson**, 1893 President, one of the best known and respected men in Waterhouse and Esh districts. A Checkweighman, he has had long service in the interests of miners. A member of Brandon and Byshottles Urban District Council, where he served as chairman, JP, and on the Durham Board of Guardians.

**George Watson**, Tow Law, Chairman on five occasions. A keeper at the Black Prince Colliery, he has long connections with Tow Law Primitives.

**William R. Heslop**, President in 1896, resided in Crook for many years. Checkweighman at the Roddymoor Colliery, he was a member of the old Parish Council and Auckland Board of Guardians.

**Tom Auton**, President in 1897. A popular Wesleyan preacher, he was also a School Attendance Officer. He met with a cycling accident in 1907 from which he died.

**James Wilkinson**, who lived at Waterhouses was President in 1898. An official at Hamsteels Colliery and preacher to the Primitives. Now residing at Thornley.

**John White**, President in 1899 is now resident at Wolsingham.

**Mr. James Leonard**, President in 1902, a Miner's Official occupied office with the Durham Miner's Association. For six years he was Chairman of the Northumberland and Durham Miner's Permanent Relief Fund. Checkweighman at Stanley Drift Colliery for almost 30 years. He served 20 years on Crook School Board, also on Auckland Guardians and the Urban Council. He left Crook in 1904 to take up a position of Clerk to the Education Committee at Sedgefield, now resides in Norton.

**Edward Milburn**, President in 1903 and 1904, held clerkships to the Parish Council, Urban Council, Burial Board, Bedburn Parish Council, Tow Law Parish Council, etc. Locally, he has held the highest offices in Freemasonry. Mr. Milburn is now resident in Tow Law. He was Choirmaster at Crook Parish Church for a number of years. Was also a useful cricketer.

**Ralph Watson**, President in 1901, an official with the company of Pease and Partners Ltd., had a long service as a Science Teacher in connection with evening classes. He died in 1911.

**Robert Young**, President 1908, 1912 and 1913. A Keeper at Roddymoor Colliery, and a member of the committee since 1892.

**Thomas Winter**, JP, President in 1906, 1910 and 1911, died in 1912. A Miner's Official, he was one of the Board of Examiners on Mining. A Parish Councillor and a member of Auckland Guardians, he held many offices in the Wesleyan Church. In his later years he was a member of the Labour Party and Chairman of the Barnard Castle Labour and Progressive Association.

**William Jackson**, present President, is a horse-shoer. He resides at Waterhouses, and is a big asset to the Wesleyan Church.

Most of the presidents have a small photo in the book. If readers would like a copy of any of these, please send a stamped addressed envelope with a small donation for each copy.

#### EDITOR'S NOTE:

Eileen Hopper is also willing to look up any possible Crook ancestors for a stamped addressed envelope and a small donation.

Her address is 7 Mill Terrace, Easington, Peterlee,

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## FIRST WORLD WAR MEDAL ROLLS

Mr. John Sheen writes:

*I am increasingly aware that many family historians are not clear what information can be obtained from the First World War Medal Roll card index in the Public Record Office and the information on the actual Medal Roll sheet. In his article in the Summer 1996 Journal, Captain Erik Gray suggests that the information on the Medal Roll card index 'differs little from that given in the Rolls'.*

*This may be true for Corps soldiers but for Infantrymen the War and Victory Medal Rolls do give additional information, important to building up a picture of a soldiers' service.*

*Mr. Sheen quotes several examples. The Northumberland Fusiliers Roll gives a list beside each man's name of the battalions in which he served but no dates of death or discharge. Rolls for the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry give in addition a date of death, discharge or transfer to the reserve, and the same information is given for the Yorkshire Regt. (Green Howards), the East and West Yorkshire Regt. and the York and Lancaster Regt. ... Other detail can sometimes be given, e.g. where a soldier has been allotted a new number within his own regiment.*

*So, check the Medal Roll as well. Also, if the soldier was awarded a Silver War Badge, check the sheet for that also, as it gives age on discharge*

## SOLDIER'S LAST RESTING PLACE CONFIRMED

*In the Spring 1996 Journal, John Sheen told the story of his researchers into the burial place of a Tyneside Irish soldier of the First World War, Corporal W.H. Lofthouse and of the possible confusion with another soldier. Mr. Sheen now tells of further developments in the story. Corporal Lofthouse is, after all, buried in Durham!*

I can now confirm that the Commonwealth War Graves Commission have decided that, given the evidence of his obituary and the entry in the Parish Register, Corporal Lofthouse must have been buried in St. Nicholas' Cemetery, Durham on 9th July 1916. The CWGC eventually found a Casualty Return relating to a soldier buried in Terlinchun Military Cemetery. The form was originally marked 'Unknown Soldier' but these words had been crossed out and the name 'W.H. Lofthouse Cpl' added.

A body had been found by a French farmer at Sheet 57D X20a 5.5. This is a grid reference in a system which is still used for World War One casualties.

The grid reference locates the body as being just in front of the German Line a little to the east of Lochnagar Crater. He was identified as a Corporal of the 1st Tyneside Irish by his shoulder titles and the remains of a red battle patch. There was an NCO's rank badge on the remains of his tunic, and also pieces of leather from British Army issue boots.

The pathologist who examined the remains and who amended the Casualty Return cannot be traced, and there is no evidence why the words 'Unknown Soldier' were deleted and the name of Cpl. Lofthouse added.

The grave stone in the French cemetery is to be replaced by one bearing the inscription 'Unknown Corporal, Tyneside Irish NF, 1 July 1916'.

Some time in the future a new grave stone will be erected in St. Nicholas' Cemetery 'Known to be buried in this Cemetery, Corporal William Henry Lofthouse, Tyneside Irish NF, 5 July 1916'.

# A SEARCH FOR SIXTY PERSONS FROM LEAD MINERS' FAMILIES WHO EMIGRATED FROM ALLENHEADS IN 1849

by Nora I. Handcock

This article is the result of studying some of the family histories of lead miners who emigrated from Allenheads, a North Pennine village in Northumberland. Lead mining had been the main occupation since the 17th century, but the mines closed in 1896. During the period studied, the mines belonged to the Blackett-Beaumont family. In January 1849, there was a strike which lasted four months, after which sixty persons — men, women and children of lead miners' families — left the village.

The aim in researching their emigration was to find out who they were, and ultimately what happened to them. To do this, it was necessary to find out the reasons for the strike and to evaluate whether the miners were wrong to strike, particularly at such a difficult time of the year.

There was considerable hardship for these families as shown in an account in *Allendale and Whitfield* (Dickinson 1903). The author names the leaders of the strike and that it started on January 1st 1849 and lasted until May 3rd 1849. It 'brought great destitution upon a large number of people.' He continued by saying that 'About sixty persons, men, women and children, left East Allendale on Thursday 17th May 1849 for America, being literally banished from the homes of their ancestors to seek a subsistence on the banks of the Illinois.'

I first examined the Bargain Books used by the mine agents in the last quarter of 1848. These books contained the names of those who had taken out contracts to win the lead ore from the different parts of the mine. The miners 'speculate on the produce of the mines which they work. Four miners .... form a partnership together and they make a bargain that they will work in a certain part of the mines for the next three months for so many shillings for every bing of ore which they dig out.' (1842 Report Mitchell).

The Bargains did not always yield profitable results, particularly if the seam of lead was poor. Also, the men had to buy their own tools, gunpowder and candles from the mine owner. The ore had to be prepared for smelting before it was weighed. The Allenheads Lead Mine Bargains let on June 30th 1849, in Northumberland Record Office, show Bargains let on September 30th 1848 to Samuel Vickers and partners, who contracted to dig a level in the Grindstone Vein of 5 fathoms at 120s a fathom and any ore which they obtained would be paid for at 44s a bing (=8 cwt). The Bargains were let quarterly, commencing January.

I listed all the miners who took out contracts in the quarter starting September 30th 1848 and noted their addresses from the High Forest Enumeration District of Allendale in the Census of 1841.

Some of the addresses were conjectured, as there was a duplication of names and I assumed that there were relatives e.g. father and son, in some of the partnerships.

The next step was to list those who took out Bargains at the Allenheads mines in 1851. Their addresses were obtained from the 1851 Census of High Forest, as before. Here it became obvious that in the 10 years from June 7th 1841 to 31st March 1851 i.e. between the Censuses, there was a loss of miners. About 138 names were no longer in Allenheads.

The next search was in the Burial Registers of St. Peter's Church. Although most of the miners were Primitive Methodists at that time, St. Peter was their burial ground. Between 1841 and 1851 there were 135 male deaths and 38 of these were miners. Also the Sunday School record stated that 'some children had left for foreign parts.'

The *Newcastle Guardian* printed a letter from the miners about their grievances on March 20th 1849, nearly three months into the strike. This could only have been written by someone who had had an education — Sopwith accused Joseph Heslop. A reply letter from the Chief Agent, Thomas Sopwith, stated his case equally lengthily but he yielded nothing. Subsequent letters appeared on April 7th, April 21st, May 12th and finally July 7th 1849.

These are described later and are a useful primary source, as are the diaries kept by Sopwith. Other sources of use are American Census for Galena, Illinois (the destination of the emigrants) for 1850, and the Naturalisation Papers of Wisconsin. A useful reference is a poem entitled 'The Miners' Farewell' by H.M. Wilson 1949 which states the date of the ship sailing. Because the strike started on January 1st 1849, there were no further Bargains (except for blacklegs) until May quarter 1849 which I then studied hoping to identify some missing names. Some men had retired and were not on these lists. This method seemed simple enough but the next Census, 1851, made it more complicated because there were now some accurate ages and places of birth, and some families had grown and moved to bigger homes.



There was also a repetition of names through family links and so there is some inaccuracy. This meant I had to have a bigger sample than I had intended — 395 miners.

Other records and documents I searched were Primitive Methodist Church records, books on mining, maps, transport, monumental inscriptions, shipping lists, American documents and books, and the Open University DA301 Book Volume 2 Pryce W.T.P. (ed) (1994) *From Family History to a Community History and Lead Miners of the Northern Pennines* by C.J. Hunt, 1970. Some American correspondents have also written.

## THE ALLENHEADS LEAD-MINERS STRIKE JAN 1ST-MAY 2ND 1849

(Source : *Newcastle Guardian* 1849).

For some time prior to 1849 there had been discontent amongst the Allenheads lead-miners. Thomas Sopwith, the Chief Agent, started to work at Allenheads in 1845 having originally trained as a cabinet maker, later becoming a Civil Engineer. He was a clever but pompous Victorian with innovative ideas on how the mines should be run and he was particular about punctuality and discipline. Shortly before he arrived, the Bargain Contracts were 'to work five 8 hour shifts, per week, per man'. But the men had set their own hours of work, which were erratic.

In October 1848, Sopwith introduced 'watchers' to time the men when they started and when they finished work. These sub-agents were William and John Curry. A petition was sent to Sopwith complaining that this was unjustified, as they Currys were 'exercising powers which they had hitherto not possessed'. The petition was ignored. There was no word back but he withdrew from the 'Loyal Miners' Association' and called the men 'ignorant, indiscreet, Irish ruffians and mobs' and discharged four of the deputation from their houses. He also dismissed fourteen men from employment.

On January 1st 1849, none of the 400 men would take Bargains and claimed that Sopwith gave his own judgement before the case had been investigated. He did not keep his promise to have impartial judges. The men wrote to the *Guardian* on March 20th 'We have been lying idle for eight weeks, we are suffering privation and hunger, some of us reduced to the necessity of begging for our bread .... We are ready to be servants but refuse to be Slaves! ... While America and Australia spread their bosoms to welcome the oppressed we are ready to brave the perils of the Atlantic or Pacific.'

There were plenty of other complaints, such as withdrawal of subsistence money, and other charges against the 'Watchers' i.e. Messrs W. and J. Curry.

On March 31st, in the *Guardian*, Sopwith intimated that the miners had signed an agreement the previous November 17th stating that they would work an eight hour day for five days a week.

However, they had not done so and hence the 'Watchers'. He had also raised the subsistence money from 7s6d a week to 10s. They must understand that this 40s a month was for actual work performed during five days of eight hours.

The deputation of five men, and the other 260 who came to Sopwith on 29th October wanted the dismissal of the two Under-Agents. As they were acting under his instructions, Sopwith refused. The men who were in the deputation were dismissed — Joseph Heslop, William Snaith, Nicolas Philipson, Joseph Hewitson and Thomas Dargue. Hugh Shield went to see Mr. T.W. Beaumont, the mine owner at Bretton Park, but it was to no avail, as he was on his deathbed.

On April 7th, two columns in the paper complained that Sopwith did not stick to the agreement to have an impartial judge but went ahead and gave his own verdict.

The men argued that they are paid on piece — the amount of ore they produce — and not on a time basis and that their work does not commence until they reach the face of the mine. They carry heavy tools and it could take ten minutes or as much as an hour, so reducing the work time by two hours per day. The miners wanted to appoint their own arbitrator, Thomas Wilson Esq of Shotley, a gentleman of 'high position' who had experience of mining. If Mr. Sopwith would not agree to a tribunal and was determined to retain his two agents, then they would offer their services to anyone prepared to employ them 'for a fair day's wage for a fair day's work'.

On April 21st, the *Guardian* printed a long character assassination of Sopwith by the miners, who accused him of going back on his word. (There had been a notice saying that if the miners did not return in a week's time, their jobs would be filled). The miners said they would take him to the small claims court if he did not pay the wages owing, in particular those of Samuel Vickers and partners whose subsistence money had been withdrawn for no reason. 'The leading mental quality which has displayed itself during his whole career with us is vanity.' He was too proud to give in. He was accused of being ignorant of practical mining, and of trying to transport the usages of the cabinet manufactory to the groves of Allenheads.

May 12th. Mr. Sopwith employed 30 workmen from Alston and declared 100 of the strikers discharged. New hydraulic machinery was going into the mine which would dig 20 fathoms deeper than at present.

The men signed off as 'The Ex-Miners of Allenheads'.

From this first hand evidence, it is possible to see both sides. When Mr. Sopwith was appointed to the Beaumont mines he had done considerable surveying for roads, mines and railways so it was unfair for the workforce to describe his experiences as only a cabinet maker.

He was no doubt a clever man but unfortunately was not good at dealing with a rough work force — all born at Allenheads, and not Irish, a matter of some resentment.

In order that the men would be punctual he erected a clock outside the mine! What he did not understand was that at times the atmosphere was so bad with dust that the men were obliged to leave early. Other times they worked longer. The system of Bargains meant that the men were paid only for their production. The subsistence money was a regular payment enabling them to live on 40s a month. This was later deducted from any money obtained for the ore. Sopwith knew that 'at this time (and for some time previously) there were many more miners at Allenheads than were required for the condition of the Mines' (Diary January 1st 1849). A fortunate coincidence for him? Some of the men were taken back, 'but the greater proportion however are still suffering all the evils of starvation.' (July 7th 1849).

Samuel Vickers wrote a letter requesting the month's money owed to him, as he had finished his contract, to drive a level, at the end of January. He did not get either the money or a reply. Because of uncertainty about his sailing time he could not go to court, but went to Liverpool and the USA. Sopwith won the day and the men went back to work on Thursday 3rd May (see Diary).

This had been a strike of principle, but the miners had been starved into submission. It was a strike of words, and no doubt something of Sopwith's pride must have suffered. The Primitive Methodist church still stands where the miners held their meetings at Swinhope.

How did the miners and their families travel to Liverpool and what ship did they sail on? A visit to Liverpool's Merseyside Maritime Museum enabled me to search Lloyds Shipping Registers, and I listed the ships departing at the end of May. It took 35 days to sail from Liverpool to New York and, in poor overcrowded conditions, some people may not have arrived. The emigrants 'were obliged to book a steerage passage in a packet ship for the going rate of £5' (David Hollett 1995). The most likely ship was the *Guy Mannering* which sailed on its maiden voyage on May 22nd.

Lloyds list was a useful source as it gave the dates of sailing, but it did not give names of passengers. The shipping lists with emigrants' names are held in the National Archives at Washington D.C. and are available for personal searchers.

## EMIGRANTS FROM ALLENHEADS

Ship *Guy Mannering* left Liverpool 22 May, arrived New York 28 June 1849.

NAME	AGE	ABODE
Samuel Vickers	46	Ropehaugh
Maria	46	Ropehaugh
Thomas	23	Ropehaugh
William	21	Ropehaugh
Ann	17	Ropehaugh
Jane	11	Ropehaugh
Christopher	9	Ropehaugh
John	6	Ropehaugh
Jacob Natrass	45	Elpha Green
Margaret	35	Elpha Green
Thomas	25	Elpha Green
Thomas	11	Elpha Green
Hannah	9	Elpha Green
John	6	Elpha Green
Anne	3	Elpha Green
Jacob	9 months	Elpha Green
Joseph Reed	40	Pryfield
Phoebe	28	Pryfield
John	14	Pryfield
Joseph	10	Pryfield
Jane	8	Pryfield
Hannah	5	Pryfield
Mary A	3	Pryfield
Thomas	6 months	Pryfield
John Graham	49	Hayrake
Hannah	34	Hayrake
John	17	Hayrake
George	14	Hayrake
Mary A	13	Hayrake
Jane	10	Hayrake
Thomas	8	Hayrake
Hannah	6	Hayrake
Martha	3	Hayrake
Margaret	5 months	Hayrake
Christopher Ward	28	Hammershield
Margaret	20	Hammershield
Margaret	23	Hammershield
Thomas Chatt	29	White Rigg
Maria	29	White Rigg
Mary	8 months	White Rigg
John Hewitson	42	Hillside
Robert	32	Hillside
Robert	9	Hillside
Thomas Foster	36	
George Philipson	32	Thorn Green
William Dawson	25	Swinhoe Mill
Thomas Noble	26	Stripe House
Jacob Peart	26	Moss House
Henry Bell	30	Swinhope Row
Andrew Muir	28	
John Lee	36	Mount Pleasant
Ann	31	Mount Pleasant
John	11	Mount Pleasant
Mary A	9	Mount Pleasant
George	6	Mount Pleasant
Jane	4	Mount Pleasant
Thomas	6 months	Mount Pleasant
John Stevenson	18	Dirtpot

## SOURCES AND REFERENCES

David Hollett's *Passage to the New World, Packet Ships and Irish Famine Emigrants 1845-51* (1995) gives a useful account of emigration during the period in question. "Illinois, emigrants were told, was a large and important state containing 55000 square miles.

And there was nothing to obstruct the development of this State — apart from its 'sickly' climate ... There were few places in America that promised more rapid and more certain progress." (Extracts from Sidney's Journal). Iowa state was rich in lead and also promised to be a good agricultural and grazing country.

To discover some facts about Galena and the mining area of New Diggings I read a local history by Margaret S. Carter *New Diggings on the Fever 1824-1864 and New Diggings is an Old Diggings* (1984 reprint). New Diggings is the oldest village in Illinois and developed because of the lead deposits. Before 1824 it had been Indian territory. The Fever River changed its name to the Galena River. The Old Diggings were left by the Indians who had been driven west across the Mississippi river. It was to this area that Samuel Vickers and possibly others came in 1849 but not to end up as a miner, but as a General Dealer in Clothing, Dry Goods and Groceries, 'which he delivered to the many mining camps.' (*Lafayette County History*). This store remained in the family for 85 years from 1862 to 1947.

Similarly a Geordie Watson had a store of the same type and lived opposite to Samuel; it is possible that he was a descendant of a Watson family who left in 1849. This is proof that some emigrants arrived.

The Monumental Inscriptions in Shawneetown Cemetery give the names of some families and a gravestone states that Edward Reed, 'a native of Allendale' was interred there. He died at Hazel Green, Wisconsin on 8th March 1874 aged 47. He was living in Blackcleugh, Allendheads in 1851 so he must have left later.

#### PRIMARY SOURCES

Bargain Books, Blackett-Beaumont Estate Papers, Northumberland County Record Office ref. 672/2/65; Thomas Sopwith's Diary, NCRO M366; Census 1841 for Allendale Parish; Census for 1851 for Allendale Parish; Lloyds Lists 1849, Maritime Museum, Liverpool; National Archives, Washington DC; Personal Letter from Jean Cripps, Hockessin, Delaware; St. Peters Allendale Parish Registers; Naturalisation Papers, Platteville University, Wisconsin.

**EDITORS NOTE:** : This is a condensed version of an Open University project completed by Mrs. Handcock. She has considerable further information on these families and their backgrounds. Her address is 14 Forstersteads, Allendale, Hexham, Northumberland NE47 9AS. NDFHS Journal Volume 4 No. 2 January 1979 has an article "Some Family Links Between County Durham and the State of Iowa in the mid-19th Century" concerning letters 1852-53 from William Morris, formerly of Hamsterley and his sisters Mary Ann Greenwell and Jane Wilson from Fayette, Iowa, to another sister Hannah Hall of Harperley Station.

## ONE THING LEADS TO ANOTHER

by Marjorie Robson

I wonder if other readers share my feelings when reading the Editor's plea for articles for our *Journal*. When I think that I should do something about it, I ask myself what can I contribute? I have not discovered any very famous ancestors, nor have I managed to research much beyond two or three generations, and besides, apart from my own family, would anyone really be very interested?

So I thought perhaps other researchers might like to hear about how I have discovered information from sources other than the usual registers, Census Returns etc. I find the results much more exciting and satisfying.

Starting off with a lot of enthusiasm, and notes from my Family History evening classes, I began to research my husband's family. I already had a few facts to start with. Unfortunately, I had left it too late to follow the first piece of advice given to all researchers, "Ask your elderly relatives, they are a great source of information." My husband's late Grandmother, Elizabeth Mary Robson (formerly Sparks) (1872-1965), was a great raconteur of family stories.

How I wished that I had listened more intently when she had entertained our children with memories of her family.

As my notes told me, I had only to start with the I.G.I. and I would find dates of births and marriages of the family, but as we know it is not that simple. However, as time went by and learning all the time I managed to collect a reasonable amount of information. I was feeling quite pleased with my progress until I came to a dead end and my enthusiasm was beginning to wane.

The one day when reading the 'Looking Back' column in the *Hexham Courant*, I was very excited to see an item about my husband's Great Grandfather's death 75 years ago. I followed this up by visiting the Hexham Courant office, where I was able to read the account of his funeral and his obituary, with a photograph.

Great Grandfather David Sparks (1840-1913) had been an engine driver in the L.N.E.R. and the N.B.R. A full account of his life on the railways was given, including details of numerous accidents in which he had been involved. I also discovered that his ancestors had come from over the border, belonging to an old Covenanter family, and helped to build the first Scottish church in England.

The reporters in those days really did their job well. The detailed list of mourners present, and the names of the senders of the wreaths, helped to fill in many of the pieces of the family puzzle.



My enthusiasm was re-kindled and I wondered how many more relatives might have their obituaries printed. I knew that Great-Grandfather Henry Robson (1826-1914) had been the first Superintendent of Hexham Cemetery, so surely his obituary would have been reported too.

I was not disappointed when I found a similar obituary to Great Grandfather Sparks, also with a photograph and the usual list of mourners as well as some interesting information about his position before his appointment at Hexham. Most of his sons had settled in Hexham and I was able to find their obituaries also, and discover quite a lot of useful information about their lives.

After reading about Great Grandfather Sparks' accidents on the railways I wondered if there had been any reports in the local papers. However, the main problem was that I had no exact dates of the accidents, so I made some inquiries at the County Record Office, unfortunately without success. Whilst there I glanced at the book shelf and noticed that there was an assortment of local books including *The Clockmakers of Northumberland and Durham*. I picked it up with some interest, remembering that Granny Robson in her stories about the family mentioned we had some Harrisons who were clockmakers in Hexham. I did not think that they would be important enough to be included in the book but much to my delight, I read: "Frank Harrison clockmaker of Hexham". I learned that indeed they were a very well established family. The author has done his research very thoroughly on all the Harrisons as far back as the 18th century, and mentioned a possible distant link with John Harrison, the famous London horologist. So I came away from the Record Office, not with any information about railway accidents, but a lot of unknown facts about our Harrison clockmakers.

Another time a few years ago, Cambo School had an Open Day with a display of material on the history of the school. I knew that my husband's Great Grandfather James Cowen (1838-1922) had been Head Master of the school some time last century, so I went along to have a look at the exhibition of photographs etc. I was delighted to discover in the school hall a board with the names and dates of the former head masters.

This led me to wonder about other schools where he had been a head master, and knowing that he had been at Throckley, I made some inquiries there. I was told that he had been the first head master, and the original log books were still at the school.

The Head Mistress very kindly allowed me to go along to the school and examine them. It was a privilege to be able to read the weekly entries in his own handwriting about all the very interesting details of school life in those days.

The following are examples of the entries:

*February 1877 : Great depression in the coal trade, many children absent in the lower portion of the school, some parents pleading inability to pay.*

*January 1879 : Attendance very low after the vacation. Great distress in the district, several children were unable to get to school through sickness and others for want of warm clothing.*

*May 1881 : On Wednesday a boy named Humble was sent home for copying and answering the Master and shouting in his class.*

From the entries I was able to learn that Great Grandmother Sarah Cowen, formerly Park (1863-1945) had helped with teaching needle work in the school and the date of the appointment of their oldest son as a pupil teacher. He completed his training at Durham and followed on as head master when his father retired.

I also learned that my husband's Granny Cowen was also a pupil teacher there. I had often wondered how she had met up with her future husband since she was born in Bishop Auckland, and here was a possible explanation.

I was also able to give the school a copy of a photograph of Great Grandfather Cowen and his wife for any future displays of the history of the school.

So, if you are like me, and are not satisfied with just dates of births, marriages and deaths, remember that there is more to research than indexes and the I.G.I. One thing leads to another, especially in Family History.

#### EDITOR'S NOTE:

Mrs. Robson has information on HARRISON of Hexham and HEPPLER of Cambo which she is willing to share. Mrs. Robson's address is Snuff Mill Cottage, Mitford, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 3PY.

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## WEST-DURHAM DATABASE

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*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.

## WILLIAM DIXON

### A Postscript to "The Miners' Emigration Movement"

(SUMMER 1996 ISSUE)

by Margaret Fletcher

George Bell's article in the Summer 1996 issue of this *Journal*, regarding the Miners' Emigration Movement, raised many questions. Did the emigrants find gold? Did they, too, return home to boast of their wealth? Were they ever reunited with their families? There is also another question raised by the article: were these Durham miners afflicted with gold mania as the press suggested, or were they in fact astute and capable miners who sought no more than better employment and living conditions for themselves and their families?

This postscript to George Bell's article answers some of the questions for one of the emigrants listed: William Dixon.

William Dixon was my great great grandfather, born at Cowpen Quay in 1824. His father George was a pitman, and William and his brothers Edward and John joined their father in the collieries at a very early age. The family moved almost every year as was the custom (thus causing great frustration to the family historian).

In 1846 William was living in Felling when he married Jane Thornton, daughter of an Overseer in Jarrow. They moved to Seaton Delaval prior to the birth of their first son John Thornton Dixon in 1847. In 1852 they were at Seghill for the birth of their next child George. They then moved to Shotton Colliery where their third child, Elizabeth, was born in late 1856. However, William Dixon was not present for the birth of his daughter. He had emigrated to the colony of Victoria on the vessel *Saldanha*, leaving Liverpool on 5 June 1856.

In 1856 on the Bendigo and Eaglehawk goldfields, gold digging by enthusiastic amateur fossickers for alluvial gold along the creek beds and exposed quartz outcrops was quickly clearing the district of surface gold. The gold diggers had become increasingly frustrated by the amount of gold locked into the quartz, which required crushing machinery to extract the precious metal. Also, it was becoming clear that in Bendigo/Eaglehawk the great reefs of gold bearing quartz could be followed underground if proper mining techniques were employed and sufficient capital invested. Experienced professional miners were required, as some of the shafts would ultimately penetrate more than 3,000 feet below the surface.

In my family the myth persists that William Dixon was recruited in Durham to bring his mining skills to Victoria. This requires more research.

I do know that William sailed on the *Saldanha*, leaving his pregnant wife Jane and young family in Durham at the insistence of Jane's mother Elizabeth (Clish). William settled in Eaglehawk and commenced employment as a quartz miner.

Jane and the three children, accompanied by Jane's brother Robert Thornton, emigrated as full fare-paying passengers on that magnificent vessel, the *Great Britain*, in 1863. Two more children were born in Eaglehawk, and by 1867 William had acquired five residential blocks of land at California Gully, Eaglehawk. All records of his family's life suggest they were staid, conservative and staunch Primitive Methodists, keen to improve their situation, but not through any form of gambling. Jane taught herself to read and write after her marriage, and became an astute businesswoman.

William Dixon became a Mining Manager prior to 1873. In 1876, he was recorded as being the Mining Manager of one of the larger gold mines: the Catherine Reef United mine (depth 2,300 feet), Eaglehawk. The original Catherine mine was opened in 1854, named after the owner's wife, Catherine Ellis. It may be that William Dixon was employed by this mining venture from the time of his arrival. His son George worked in the same mine, and a George Marshall, possibly a cousin, was Mining Manager at Catherine United at one time.

William Dixon died of pneumonia in March 1876, aged 51. His estate was valued at about six hundred pounds, derived from hard work and real estate investment, not the luck of the gold digger.

William's cousin, Robert Marshall had also emigrated to Victoria in the late 1850s, but not on the *Saldanha*. Perhaps he was one of the fifteen miners who were recalled to serve out their contracts as mentioned by George Bell, for Robert and William were very close and it seems credible that they planned to sail together. In Melbourne in 1860 Robert Marshall married Jane Todd, the daughter of a Northumberland miner, and he also rose to become a Mining Manager on the Eaglehawk goldfields.

After Jane Todd's death, Robert Marshall married William's widow Jane in 1883. However, she died the following year of cancer. Jane had inherited all of William Dixon's estate and has increased the value of the estate to be passed on to her children to more than fifteen hundred pounds, including shares in several gold mining companies with which her family was associated.

In the old country the Dixons and their relations, the Marshalls and Thorntons, were traditionally miners. The tradition continued in the colonies after the emigration of several family members. For instance Jane's uncle, Robert Thornton, emigrated to the coal mining district of Newcastle, New South Wales in the 1860's.

I would like to conclude by proposing that there was a world of difference between the professional miners of whom William Dixon was representative, and the fortune seeking gold diggers of the early colonial goldfields. Three of my great grandfathers were the genuine article: amateur, fortune seeking gold diggers, afflicted with gold mania just as described in the article. Their tales of restlessness, hard living and ultimate failure reflect the fickle dream they were chasing.

William Dixon, however, chased no dream, just the reality of a better life for his family, through the work he knew so well.

#### EDITOR'S NOTE:

This is an edited version of a lengthier article that traces the subsequent history of the Dixons in Victoria, together with the families of MARSHALL and THORNTON.

The author wishes to express her indebtedness to Jennie Ashburner of the NDFHS and Annette Donogue and Bev Hanson for their help with research. She welcomes correspondence on the names and places mentioned. Her address is P.O. Box 81, Bungendore, New South Wales 2621 Australia.

## THE THORNHILLS OF SUNDERLAND AND THE CAPE

by J.K. Brown

If you are Sunderland born, or live within the Borough, the name of Thornhill will be well known to you. There is a Thornhill Park, Thornhill School and Thornhill Garage. Many streets or roads and other places bear the name.

But who was Thornhill, to have so many places named after him?

John Thornhill was a Londoner who came into the Borough in about 1758 or 1759. His first home in Sunderland was a modest house, near the entrance of Sunderland market in Coronation Street. Later he built his mansion house of Thornhill, Bishopwearmouth.

John was soon to become involved in local affairs, and eventually became one of the town's most prominent members. In 1761 he was elected a stallinger and in 1765 a freeman of the Borough. Stallingers were an elected group of prominent townspeople, who by ancient charter, were allowed certain privileges; such as free grazing of their stock on land owned by the town.

In 1764 a new chapel was planned by all the Sunderland masonic lodges. The land on which the chapel was to be built was donated by Marshall Robinson of Herrington. The designing, planning and construction of the building was undertaken by John Thornhill who paid most of the costs. Amidst thousands of people assembled outside the site, he laid the foundation stone and, on 5th October 1769, the church was consecrated, as a chapel dedicated to St. John the Evangelist.

John Thornhill built the quay formerly called Thornhill's Wharf (later to be known as the Railway Wharf). He also built a commodious covered fish market, which had a large stone basin in the centre for the purpose of washing fish.

The dealers, however, refused to leave their market at Ettrick's Quay, and John reluctantly had to demolish what had become a 'white elephant'.

Mr. Thornhill was certainly a controversial figure. In 1790 he built a wall at the end of his copyhold quay, adjoining Hardcastle's slipway, which prevented townspeople from free and easy access to Hardcastle's property. Thomas Hardcastle and his workmen pulled down the wall, which Thornhill rebuilt, but it was pulled down again. This happened many times and the local saying at the time was "The wall that Jack built and Tom pulled down again". In the end Thornhill had to give up.

In his later years, John Thornhill was appointed magistrate for the county of Durham, but his appointment was virtually cancelled by William Ettrick (another well known Sunderland name) of High Barnes who, as chairman of the Sunderland bench, refused to act with him in that capacity, as he did not consider Thornhill a fit and proper person to hold such an important office.

On 27th June 1802, John died at his Thornhill mansion.



He was buried in a vault, made expressly for that purpose, under the altar of St. John's Chapel, the church of which he had been the principal in designing, planning and endowing.

In his Will of 1799, John, who appears to have been a bachelor, named his cousin Christopher Thornhill Camm, gentleman of Antigua, West Indies, as heir to his estates. The condition was that cousin Christopher had no longer to use the name of Camm, and was to use the surname of Thornhill only. This condition had to be complied with within three months of notification. Failure to comply would result in the estates going to the Reverend John Thornhill of Anderby in Yorkshire.

Young widower Christopher Thornhill Camm lost no time in returning to England, and upon his arrival in Sunderland he promptly adhered to the condition, and took up residence at Thornhill Park.

On 29th October 1802, Christopher Thornhill Thornhill (ex Camm), whose mother had been a Thornhill, was granted the Thornhill coat of arms by King George III. On 29th March 1804 he married Dorothea Mounsey at Carlisle Cathedral. Dorothea was the daughter of Mr. T. Mounsey, attorney at law, baptised 20th April, 1768 at Carlisle Cathedral.

Christopher and Dorothea lived at the Thornhill mansion, and all their four children were born here, and were baptised at Bishopwearmouth church. They were John (1805), Ann Margaret (1807), Mary Francis (1809) and Christopher Mounsey (1812).

By 1819 the whole family were in London, staying no doubt with relatives before their emigration to South Africa. In December 1819 they sailed on the ship *Zoroaster* disembarking at Simon's Bay, on the Indian Ocean, near Cape Town. They then embarked on the ship *Albury* sailing further up the coast, and eventually disembarked at Alogoa Bay on 26th June 1820.

There was an influx of English, who settled in the eastern Cape, mainly around the Grahamstown in 1820, and today there is the 1820 Settlers Association.

The Thornhills finally settled at Craddock, inland from Grahamstown. Their son John died there in March 1848, Mary Francis, his sister died in 1886 and Christopher Mounsey died in 1892. Ann Margaret, born 1807, married William F.A. Gilfillan, a native of Jersey, at Greenfontein, Albany, Eastern Cape on 19th April 1821, when only fourteen years of age. The Gilfillans had sixteen children. The first, William Turnbull, was born 2nd November 1822; Ann Margaret was only fifteen. Both Mary Francis and brother Christopher returned to England to live for a number of years with their uncle Camm at Clifton, Bristol, but both returned to Craddock.

Christopher T. Thornhill and his son in law Wm. Gilfillan joined forces in a business venture. They are reputed to be the first tea growers in the Cape, but, due to prolonged drought conditions, the venture failed.

The whole Thornhill family ended their days in the Eastern Cape.

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## WANT TO LEARN MORE?

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The autumn season of new day and evening courses will soon be upon us. Newer members might like to know that many local authorities, the WEA, etc., organise short courses in Family History, usually aimed at beginners, and there is usually something on offer in most local towns.

One course you might like to think about is an introductory one run by our recent Chairman, Geoff Nicholson. This is under the auspices of the Durham Branch of the Workers' Educational Association (WEA). Although it has run in Durham City for several years, it moves this year to Fyndoune Community College, Findon Hill, Sacriston, the venue used for our Durham Branch meetings. Called "Trace Your Family History", it comprises ten meetings of two hours each, on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 p.m., commencing on September 18th.

There is a small fee, with concessions for students, senior citizens and those "between jobs".

More details can be obtained from the WEA Durham Office, 4 Redhills Villas, Redhills, Durham DH1 4AB (Phone 0191-383 2717).

The University of Newcastle is again running its certificated course in Family History in 1996-97. The course, which is taken by Mrs. Sue Wood, commences in October 1996 and will run through until December 1997.

Students will be introduced to a variety of Family History sources - the aim is to look beyond basic sources to such a business, estate and manorial records, which are often neglected by family historians.

The course is examined and students are expected to submit six assignments and a final term project.

Details of fees, etc., may be obtained from Brenda Wright at the Centre for Continuing Education, King George VI Building, Queen Victoria Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU.

# BATTALION *and* UNIT WAR DIARIES of WORLD WAR I & II

by Captain Erik A. Gray

A question repeatedly asked of me is about soldiers' travels. It is put by the more serious family historian who is not only interested in dates and places of births, etc., but also in where and when an ancestor served. For the 18th and 19th centuries, such details may be determined by reference to regimental muster returns. They show with accuracy where in Britain, Ireland or overseas a man was garrisoned on any given date. The War Office monthly returns may also be of value. They give the location of every regiment and corps in the British Army in any month of a given year. For example, they will reveal which were stationed in Dublin in 1792 or in Calcutta in 1844. So, if an ancestor's regiment is unknown, but there is evidence that he was in a certain place during a particular year, they may be employed for determining the regiment to which he may have belonged. It is then only a short step towards tracing his name in its musters and perhaps finding some information about him.

Soldiers' travels in this century are more difficult to trace, except in respect of campaign or war service from 1907 onwards. The First and Second World Wars are obviously bountiful periods. Men are seldom mentioned by name; but entries in the Battalion and Unit War Diaries of both wars provide terse accounts of the day to day operations and events within those formations. They were normally written by the intelligence officer or adjutant of the battalion, often under shellfire or equally harrowing conditions. Their briefly-written accounts are expressed in coldly factual and un-emotive terms. They can paint a grim and vivid picture of daily operations and occurrences. For the intending author of a book about a particular campaign or battle, they are essential for accurate reference, while for the family historian who knows in which battalion of a particular regiment his ancestor served, they can serve to provide considerable insight into his soldiering life and the pursuit of war. If, for example, you have a relative who was killed in action, it may be possible to discover the circumstances of the day on which he lost his life.

The following examples of content of battalion war diaries are based on my wife's family research and on my own personal experience, and serve to illustrate their use. The battle of Loos took place in France in 1915. Part of a massive British offensive against German lines, it involved thousands of guns and hundreds of thousands of men. One of the many units engaged in the affair was 6th Battalion The King's Own Scottish Borderers. Already depleted by casualties, it was virtually put to death between 6.30 a.m. and noon on 25th September 1915. During that morning, in concert with many other regiments, the Battalion launched an assault on the German trenches a couple of hundred yards to its front.

The stark, official account of what befell its soldiers on that ill-fated morning is told in a few words in its war diary. Including some of the events of days before this terrible slaughter and waste of human life, it says:-

- 17.9.15 *In trenches, incessant sniping by enemy, replied to by our own snipers. Battalion closed up to New Front M4-P3.*
- 19.9.15 *In trenches, enemy shelled old support trenches considerable sniping by enemy. Violent explosion heard in Hohenzollern Redoubt, with large column of dense smoke (about 11am). Fine but colder.*
- 21.9.15 *Battalion was relieved in trenches by 11th HLI [Highland Light Infantry] and proceeded to Annequin where it occupied reserve trenches. Our artillery heavily bombarded the German lines throughout the day and night. Fine and cold.*
- 22.9.15 *Battalion remained in reserve trenches. Our artillery continued the bombardment of the German lines. Fine and cold.*
- 23.9.15 *Battalion in reserve trenches at Annequin. Our artillery bombardment continued. Weather fine during the day, cold at night with some rain.*
- 24.9.15 *Battalion returned to trenches (ZO Section) in relief of 11th HLI. (Captain A.C. Campbell wounded).*
- 25.9.15 *Attack by Division on enemy's position in front of Haines - Auchy - Les La Bassee. The Battalion formed right of 28th Brigade with 10th HLI on left. Battalion assaulted German trenches at Mad Point and S.E. of Madagascar Trench at 6.30am. The position was reached and at some point entered. Severe machine-gun fire chiefly from flanks, un-destroyed obstacles and uncertain effects of gas caused severe losses and prevented the attack from succeeding. Battalion reinforced at 9.30am by 2 companies 11th HLI. At 12.15pm after 2nd bombardment, further attack by 28th Brigade ordered. This attack failed to reach the trenches. (Casualties officers: killed 12, wounded 8, missing 0. Other ranks: killed 189, wounded 266, missing 169, gassed 6). During the rest of day the survivors of the Battalion under a senior NCO, assisted 11th HLI in manning the trenches and carrying dead and wounded. The reserve Machine-Gun Section under Lieutenant Evans [wounded] was placed during the action in support of 9th SR [Cameronians: Scottish Rifles]. Weather very wet.*
- 26.9.15 *The Battalion under Lieutenant [R.P.] Hills was attached as a Company to 11th HLI and occupied the old fire trench as a support. Sniping and some shelling all day. Operations at Fosse 8 and Hohenzollern Redoubt by Brigade on the right caused constant orders to 'stand-to'. Wounded brought in under difficulties owing to snipers. Reserve machine-guns as on 28th. Weather very wet.*

The diarist goes on to say that by 29th September the remnants of the Battalion and those of 11th HLI, numbering 2 officers and 156 soldiers, were relieved by a battalion of the Queen's Royal Regiment at about 5pm and marched to Sailly La Bourse, thence by motor lorry to billets in Bethune. Then detached from 11th HLI, 6th KOSB had virtually ceased to exist, all its officers and most of its men having been killed or wounded.

It remained commanded not by a Lieutenant-Colonel, but by the humble Lieutenant Hills until the arrival of reinforcements. He had returned from other duties and had missed the fatal attack.

Although static situations existed in various theatres of operations during the Second World War, the pursuit of warfare was generally of a more fluid and mobile kind. The contrast between the actions of WW I and WW II is illustrated by the war diary of the 1st Battalion Royal Norfolk Regiment, which landed on the beaches of France on D-Day, 6th June 1944. By 1st August, after weeks of vicious fighting on the plains around the ancient town of Caen, which had been reduced to rubble by artillery bombardments and aerial bombing, it found itself deep in the beautiful Normandy Bocage. A profusely fertile region of gentle hills, it is embroidered by a patchwork of tiny fields, impenetrable hedges and lush vegetation, and criss-crossed by a maze of lanes and sunken tracks, overhung by arches of trees.

No regular or continuous front existed in the area. A few miles ahead of the Norfolks' line of advance lay a ridge, of which a part was defended by an infantry brigade comprising three battalions. Its most forward unit - up at the 'sharp end' - was 3rd Battalion Monmouthshire Regiment, at the tip of a salient. Hell bent on securing this high ground, over a period of several days, enemy forces had subjected the Monmouths to ferocious attacks by tanks and infantry. The events affecting the Norfolks and leading up to its contact with the enemy are described in its war diary in the following terms.

2.8.44 *Early in morning route, etc., arrived for move and in good order the Battalion moved with the Brigade Group to new area, North of Caumont, to come under command of 15th Scottish Division. During the afternoon all reconnaissances made and everything ready to take over from 9th Cameronians tomorrow morning. Weather very good. Very dusty. Quiet night.*

3.8.44 *Moved almost as per plan, but orders changed once more. Under command of 11th Armoured Division as an extra infantry brigade. Very little happened to-day as far as we were concerned. After many changes we finally settled down into a position for the night, prepared for what may come in the morning. Position just South of Le Reculey 6639. The general situation in this area still uncertain, and it seemed there were many changes before we were able finally to get on the ground. Weather good.*

4.8.44 *Change of plan again to-day. Battalion attack on La Chapelle to push out enemy who had been infiltrating North through forward positions of 11th Armoured Division. Attack went fairly well. D. Company badly messed about by 4 tanks. Finally consolidated the position, but had to draw in our horns a bit, so that medium artillery could shoot La Bistiere, tomorrow's objective. Weather excellent.*

5.8.44 *Beautiful day. Well prepared attack on La Bistiere found the place empty of tanks and infantry. Consolidated and remained there for the night. Conditions good.*

6.8.44 *Battalion moved forward in TCVs [troop carrying vehicles] to relieve 3rd Monmouth Regiment in front of 11th Armoured Division. Route up under [enemy] observation and we had some casualties in men and vehicles.*

*All in, except A Company, when enemy put in heavy counter attack and again caused many casualties to personnel and vehicles, both ours and Monmouths. Attack finally beaten off with help from artillery and tanks, and at about midnight we finally settled down, a composite unit of 2 depleted battalions. Weather good.*

7.8.44 *Beautiful day. Certain enemy activity but no actual attack. Trouble from Mark IV [enemy tank] on our left, which took a whole day to shift, and then it was not properly disposed of. Probably left on its own free will. Heavy mortaring of whole area during the day caused several casualties, including the Adjutant. Conditions fair. Some casualties caused during the night.*

8.8.44 *Still in the same area. Enemy activity confined to shelling and an occasional dose of the nebelwerfers, rhinewerfers [multi-barrel rocket launchers] etc., which seem to be hidden away on the left. Still very unpleasant and casualties continue to mount up. Morale is very good despite all we have had to put up with. Fortunately the weather continues extremely good.*

The enemy gave up. In the early hours of the following night, under heavy German shelling, causing further casualties, the two severely depleted and exhausted battalions withdrew from contact, having been relieved by an Irish Guards battalion.

The extracts quoted above are Crown copyright and produced with permission of the Controller of HM Stationery Office. The war diaries of the 6th King's Own Scottish Borderers and 1st Royal Norfolk Regiment are in the custody of the Public Record Office in the sources WO 95/1775 and WO 171/1350, respectively.

#### EDITOR'S NOTE:

We regret to report the death of Captain Gray on June 18th. He has been a regular contributor to our columns on military records for some years and has given help and advice to a number of our members. His expertise and helpfulness will be missed by the Society. We understand that Mrs. K. Priestley will be dealing with some unanswered mail. Our condolences to Captain Gray's wife and to his two sons and daughter.

There are microfilmed transcripts of the War Diaries for all battalions of the Northumberland Fusiliers at Northumberland Record Office and at Newcastle Central Library. Mention of particular individuals and particularly of 'other ranks' varies from battalion to battalion. Thus the Diary of the 20th Battalion gives a complete casualty list for the First Day of the Somme, 1st July 1916, whilst that of the 27th Battalion (4th Tyneside Irish) mentions only three 'other ranks' throughout the whole war. One of the main uses of the Diaries to the family historian is to establish the whereabouts of a given unit, and therefore of a particular soldier.



## 19TH CENTURY EMIGRATION FROM WEARDALE

Durham County Record Office has a series of letters (reference DX 1035) from mid-19th century emigrants from Weardale. Among them is a letter from John Graham of 'Brunthills' to his brother Joseph in North America, dated 1st August 1854. The letters were presented to Durham County Council by a descendant of Joseph Graham.

The County Record Office and Killhope Lead Mining Centre, near Cowshill, Upper Weardale, County Durham DL13 1AR have kindly given permission for NDFHS to publish this letter (DCRO DX 1035/9), which contains the names of a number of the emigrants to 'Upercanada' and to Australia.

Dear Brother,

I forward you another letter which I would have sent sooner had I not been delayd by expecting an answer from you to my last letter which I wrote to you on 11th of March which I have not received no answer from yet for we long to hear from you again. I recived a letter from you on the last week of March to answer to the one I sent before which astounded me very much to hear so much disencouragement from you of us going to America for I am led to think that you are in the worst state thair is in America for the labourien Man for a great many men cannot get no father for want of mony which make a heavier weight on the labour market which give the employers a great advantage over the labourers for I'm led to think so for because thair is a greate number of Femiales in America now which has goin from Weardale and many of them Neighbourss to us which writes very encourageing letters back to us again And I will give you as many of thir Names as I can at prisant. Jonathan Emmerison, Burnhope; Walton Elliot, Seadlon; Samuel Elliot, Seadlon; Joseph Thompson, Burnhope; John Featherston, Burnhope; Watson Lowee, Copthill; Wm Patison, Wearhead; Jane Walton, Cornriggsgate; Joseph Hodgson, Wearhead; Jos Wearmouth, Tlaverls rest; Walton Gibson, Wearhead; John Fleamen, Blackdean; Featherston Phillipson, Irsup burn who was one of Thomas Millburns partains who left hear for America this spring has sent a letter back saying that he has bought a portion of land in Upercanada Weast of Hamelton near Lake Erie which he say he can live very well on without the assistance of any other work. Fleamen and Wearmouth has bought 100 acrs of land about the same place and speaks heightly of the place they say that thir is plenty of work to get of all sorts to get thir and good toges to it is grandest and flourenshing Counteys they ever so. We had a man the name of John Featherston who went from this Countery Twenty years ago who is a relation to many a one in Weardale who is very rich in property now and when thay went first thay weir a great Family of them thay had not a penney left when thay landed and I think that is encouragment and all the names that I have menshed over has goin into Upercanada and a great deal more not menshed for thair was above a Hundred of Men Women and Children left this spring all for America and John Featherston who went to America about a year ago write thay will very soon have a littel Weardale thar.

And thair is a vast more prepairen to go this Autoumn Jos Thompson who I have menshed before was Marrid to Besse Emmerison of Wellhope and John Emerson her Brother to all came to America thay have goin to Upercanada. And thy Comrade John Peart sister Hannah has got landed to New York I understand for we had John sister Mary over in Killhope tow or three weeks ago and she said that thay have had a letter fro her and she had landed to New York and that she had company to you and I understand that the vassel that she sailed in made a passage of Eighteen day over the Atalantic Ochen and I know nothing more about her you must let me know the next letter you write if she has landed or not and wether John Dawson and Jane has landed or not and how thay are gotten on.

And I have not don with the Emegration yet for we have had a great many goin to Australia this Spring again and a few of thir names I will give you over. Perhaps you may know them Wm Crag, St. Johns Chapil; John Milburn, Burnthills; Thos Peart, Westfall; Edward English, Burnthills; Joseph Peart, Hlightgreen; Jonathan Featherstone, Laneheads and we had a party got back again after an abstance of thirteen months from home and I understand with a fortune of 12 or 1300 £ each which has encouraged a Great Deal to go so I must leave of that now this time.

Mr. Ian Forbes of Killhope Lead Mining Centre --- well worth a visit! --- says that they intend to publish all the letters in the future, and adds that they are interested in the fate of emigrants from Upper Weardale and would welcome information on the people mentioned in the letter.

They would also like to hear from anyone who has worked on 19th century emigration from Weardale in general, as it is their intention to build up a file of information to be made available to interested persons.

If you can help, please contact Mr. Forbes.

Brunthills 1 August 1854

## THE JOURNEY TO WORK IN THE 20TH CENTURY

Following the recent success of their "Residential Histories Project", which owed a great deal to the assistance provided by family historians, Lancaster University have recently begun work on a new project, which has developed out of the previous one and is being funded for three years by the Leverhulme Trust. The study focuses on men and women who began work between 1890 and 1990 in seven parts of the country: London, Manchester and Salford, Glasgow, Cardiff, Leicester, Norwich and Aberdeen. Although they are interested in people who began work in those specific areas, they are interested in following up all their details, no matter where they moved for work in later life. They are collecting information on occupational history, residential history and the journey to work for all the people included in the study.

If you have information, or know of others who may be able to help, the Project Organisers would like to hear from you. It would be particularly helpful if you could tell them how many people you are able to provide information on.

Once you have contacted them, they will send you forms, detailed instructions and a SAE for their return. All information provided will be used only for the purposes of academic research and confidentiality will be strictly maintained in future publications.

If you think that you can help in any way, please contact Dr. Jean Turnbull, Department of Geography, Lancaster University, Lancaster LA1 4YB (Tel: 01524 593730; e-mail: j.turnbull@lancaster.ac.uk).

# WYLAM REMOVAL ORDERS

Northumberland Record Office has a series of removal orders relating to 'settlement cases' both in and out of Wylam township. Some of the orders include examinations and related papers which produce additional information. The orders themselves provide details of family relationships, details of marital status, and some ages. The series is in the

Blackett (Wylam) MSS - NCRO reference ZBK/D/2. It will usually be possible to obtain photocopies of the documents on application to the Record Office. With the permission of Northumberland Record Office, we now print a list of the cases between 1821 and 1851.

NAME	FROM	TO	DATE	NAME	FROM	TO	DATE
1. Thomas Waggott & family	Newcastle, St. Ann	Wylam	7 Sept. 1821	44. Bridget Stokoe	Wylam	Ovington	10 May 1834
2. Mary Coulson & 2 children	West Rainton	Wylam	13 Dec. 1821	45. John Ramsay	Kenton	Wylam	20 Dec. 1834
3. Robert Liddell & family	Newburn	Wylam	6 July 1822	46. Elizabeth Anderson	Wylam	Newbiggin	3 Jan. 1835
4. Ann Gibson & 3 children	Houghton le Spring	Wylam	27 Nov. 1823	47. George Greener & wife	Hetton le Hole	Wylam	3 Feb. 1835
5. John Elliot & family	Longbenton	Wylam	10 Jan. 1824	48. Bridget Stokoe & bastard child	Wylam	Ovington	18 April 1835
6. Isaac Golightly & family	Newcastle, St. Nicholas	Wylam	23 Feb. 1827	49. Eleanor Ramsey & bastard child	Wylam	Ovingham	20 June 1835
7. Hannah White & bastard child	Ryton Woodside	Wylam	11 July 1827	50. John Swindle	Wylam	Hexham	5 Jan. 1836
8. Jane Huston & child	Newcastle St. John	Wylam	27 March 1829	51. Thomas Urwin & family	Hawkwell	Wylam	4 Feb. 1837
9. John Rutter & wife	Seghill	Wylam	2 Aug. 1828	52. Elizabeth Hunter & bastard child	Ovington	Wylam	11 July 1837
10. Elizabeth Jackson	West Rainton	Wylam	27 Jan. 1829	53. Ralph Smith	Wylam	Heddon on the Wall	11 July 1837
11. Thomas Turnbull & family	Seghill	Wylam	21 Feb. 1829	54. Jane Huston & children	Newcastle All Saints	Wylam	9 Oct. 1837
12. Ann Raffle	Lamesley	Wylam	14 March 1829	55. William Peel	Kenton	Wylam	21 Oct. 1837
13. William Reed & family	Gateshead	Wylam	9 May 1829	56. Robert Turnbull	Troughend	Wylam	2 Feb. 1838
14. Sarah Nixon	Gateshead	Wylam	8 Aug. 1829	57. Ann Martin	Wylam	Lanchester	3 Sept. 1839
15. Ann Wild & 3 children	Earsdon	Wylam	9 Feb. 1830	58. Jane Huston	Newcastle, St. John	Wylam	7 April 1840
16. Archbold Scott/ Taylor & family	Houghton le Spring	Wylam	22 April 1830	59. Eleanor Bell & children	Hetton le Hole	Wylam	19 May 1840
17. John Wigham & family	Seghill	Wylam	23 April 1830	60. Jane Wilkinson	Wylam	Black Callerton	1 Dec. 1840
18. Joseph Ramshaw & wife	East Denton	Wylam	24 April 1830	61. John Lynn	Wylam	Ingo	1 Dec. 1840
19. Hannah Heron & 2 children	Washington	Wylam	9 July 1831	62. Mark Young & wife	Winlaton	Wylam	10 April 1841
20. John Wilkinson & family	Wylam	Black Callerton	2 Aug. 1831	63. Sarah Burdon & bastard child	Winlaton	Wylam	22 Sept. 1841
21. William & Mary Hall, orphans	Newcastle, St. Andrew	Wylam	28 Nov. 1831	64. Ann Wigham & children	Josmond	Wylam	1 Oct. 1841
22. John Thirlway & family	Wylam	Wall	3 Dec. 1831	65. Charles Elliott & family	Ryton	Wylam	10 Nov. 1841
23. John Hall & wife	Wylam	Styford	10 Dec. 1831	66. John Pearson & wife	Wylam	Kirk Oswald	1 Feb. 1842
24. Mary Douglas & 3 children	Wylam	Newburn	12 May 1832	67. Elizabeth Bambrough & children	Wylam	Heddon on the Wall	1 Feb. 1842
25. Jane & Margaret Middleton	Heworth	Wylam	18 Aug. 1832	68. George Greener & family	Hedworth, Monckton & Jarrow	Wylam	20 April 1842
26. Ann Wheeler & 3 children	Black Callerton	Wylam	19 May 1832	69. George Storey & family	Wylam	Farlam	3 May 1842
27. Ann Forrest & daughter	Byker	Wylam	3 Nov. 1832	70. Elizabeth Summersides	Newburn	Wylam	21 May 1842
28. George Hall	Whickham	Wylam	10 Nov. 1832	71. Frances Sewell & children	Kyo	Wylam	22 July 1842
29. Robert Liddell & family	Elswick	Wylam	26 Jan. 1833	72. Michael Burdon	Winlaton	Wylam	7 Sept. 1842
30. William Middlemas & family	Cododge	Wylam	9 Feb. 1833	73. William Brown & wife	Newcastle All Saints	Wylam	22 April 1843
31. John Brown & family	Elswick	Wylam	9 Feb. 1833	74. Margaret Fenwick	Longbenton	Wylam	9 Sept. 1843
32. Robert Forster & family	Gateshead	Wylam	13 Feb. 1833	75. James Ridley	Newcastle All Saints	Wylam	30 Nov. 1843
33. Francis Orram	Winlaton	Wylam	13 March 1833	76. Isabella Greener & child	Crawcrook	Wylam	12 June 1844
34. Henderson Wigham & family	Wylam	Elswick	6 April 1833	77. Elizabeth Fellowes & children	Hedworth, Monckton & Jarrow	Wylam	24 July 1844
35. Thomas Henderson & wife	Hetton le Moor	Wylam	16 April 1833	78. Elizabeth Bambrough	Wylam	Heddon on the Wall	21 May 1845
36. Thomas Greener & family	Wylam	Fawdon	20 April 1833	79. Frances Cook	Ovington	Wylam	15 July 1845
37. James Charlton & family	Black Callerton	Wylam	18 May 1833	80. Mary Philipson	North Middleton	Wylam	26 Feb. 1848
38. Mary Thompson & children	Wylam	Hexham High Quarter	20 July 1833	81. Isabella Wild	Kenton	Wylam	30 Dec. 1848
39. Ann Wheeler & children	Black Callerton	Wylam	5 Oct. 1833	82. Robert Treweek	Heddon on the Wall	Wylam	10 March 1849
40. Robert Brown & family	Elswick	Wylam	28 Dec. 1833	83. Susannah Duffy	Wylam	Ireland	5 May 1849
41. John Croft & family	Ponteland	Wylam	28 Dec. 1833	84. Margaret Middlemas	Lanchester	Wylam	Aug. 1849
42. Jane Futers	Newcastle All Saints	Wylam	7 March 1834	85. Easter Charlton	Whickham	Wylam	26 June 1850
43. Thomas Hope & family	Durham St. Giles	Wylam	17 April 1834	86. Jane Patterson	Newcastle All Saints	Wylam	30 Aug. 1850
				87. Thomas Stoker	Longbenton	Wylam	9 Aug. 1851

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

In the Spring 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 the names appearing on the Berwick-upon-Tweed Roll in the Spring Journal and those of the Master Pilots and Seamen of Trinity House, Newcastle in the Summer Journal.

We now publish the names on the Roll for :-

## (C213/195) ASSOCIATION ROLL, OFFICERS OF THE MILITIA, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE rearranged into alphabetical order.

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

Arey? ..... William  
Arncotts ..... John  
Blackett ..... Wm.  
Blunt ..... Mat.  
Boutflower ..... Wm.  
C ington ..... Christopher  
Carr ..... Wm.  
Carr ..... Edward  
Clarke ..... Mich.  
Coultherd ..... Ralph  
Cruir...? ..... ?  
Davison ..... John  
Dukes ..... Jeremiah

Emrson ..... Ge.  
Forster ..... Henry  
Fosster? ..... Ralph  
Hargraves ..... Jonat.  
Jeffreyson ..... Jona.  
King ..... Nicholas  
Knaggs ..... Tho.  
Leamon ..... John  
Liddell ..... Tho.  
Ma...don? ..... Peter  
Maddison ..... Hen.  
Milbourne ..... Matthw.  
Potts ..... Jno.

Quiincy ..... James  
Robson ..... Sime - Major  
Rogers ..... John  
Scarbrough ..... [blank]  
Snawdon ..... Wm.  
Stott ..... William  
Swaddell ..... John  
Varey ..... John  
Watson ..... John  
White ..... Matth.  
Wilson? ..... Tho.

We now publish the names on the Roll for :-

## C213/106 ASSOCIATION ROLL, CITY OF DURHAM rearranged into alphabetical order.

..elon? ..... Ra. .... Mercer  
..eston ..... ? ..... Tayler  
..iswl? ..... ? ..... Butcher  
..son ..... Robt. .... Currier & Chandler  
? ..... Miller ..... Butcher  
Adamson ..... Cuth. .... Fuller & Peltmr  
Adamson ..... Robert ..... Mason  
Addamson ..... Humphrey ..... Mason  
Allenson ..... Jo. .... Fuller & Peltmr  
Allinson ..... Antho. .... Mason  
Allison ..... Cuthbert ..... Carpenter  
Allonson ..... Abra? ..... Glover & Skinner  
Anderson ..... Geo. .... Tayler  
Anderson ..... Edw. .... Tayler  
Anderson ..... Will. .... Mason  
Anthy? ..... Maland ..... Butcher  
Arkley ..... Matt. .... Pewtherer & Plumer  
Arrasmyth ..... Henry ..... Smyth  
Arthur ..... John ..... Tayler  
Ashworth ..... Abrah. .... Currier & Chandler  
Atkinson ..... John ..... Cordwainer  
Atkinson ..... Will. .... Smyth  
Avison ..... Jno. .... Mercer  
Bainbridg ..... Cuthbert ..... Butcher  
Bainbridge ..... Ra. .... Mercer  
Baitson ..... Tho. .... Dyer  
Baker ..... Ro. .... Fuller & Peltmr  
Baker ..... John ..... Mason  
Banks ..... Robert ..... Carpenter  
Barker ..... Millier? ..... Glover & Skinner  
Barritt ..... Peter ..... Sadler  
Barritt ..... Edward ..... Sadler  
Baynbridge ..... Ra. .... Cordwainer  
Beecroft ..... Geo. .... Carpenter  
Beg ..... Jacob ..... Glover & Skinner

Bell ..... Thomas ..... Weaver  
Bell ..... Rich. .... Weaver  
Bell ..... Arthur .... Pewtherer & Plumer  
Beverley ..... ? ..... Cordwainer  
Bird ..... Ibitt  
Bird ..... John ..... Tayler  
Bird ..... William ..... Cordwainer  
Bird ..... Robert ..... Cordwainer  
Blacket ..... John ..... Carpenter  
Blakiston ..... Francis ..... Butcher  
Bny...? ..... John ..... Tayler  
Bohannon ..... Tho. .... Mason  
Bolih? ..... Nicholas ..... Smyth  
Borough ..... David ..... Mason  
Bowey ..... Robt. .... Cordwainer  
Bradley ..... Richd. .... Smyth  
Bran.mham? ..... Ro. .... Tanner  
Brass? ..... John ..... Carpenter  
Brice ..... Richard ..... Fuller & Peltmr  
Brice ..... Richard ..... Fuller & Peltmr  
Brignell ..... John ..... Carpenter  
Brough ..... George  
Browne ..... Henry ..... Sadler  
Browne ..... William ..... Tayler  
Browne ..... Bart ..... Smyth  
Browne ..... Thomas ..... Carpenter  
Browne ..... Rowland ..... Fuller & Peltmr  
Browne ..... Natt. .... Mason  
Bullock ..... Georg ..... Barber & Roper  
Bullocke ..... Geo.  
Burdon ..... Robt. .... Mercer  
Burdon ..... Tho. .... Dyer  
Burdon ..... Nich. .... Smyth  
Burdon ..... Willm. .... Smyth  
Burdon ..... Tho. .... Mason

Burnopp ..... Simon  
Butterick ..... Tho. .... Butcher  
Chambers ..... John ..... Mason  
Chapman ..... H? ..... Tayler  
Chapman ..... Hugh ..... Fuller & Peltmr  
Chilton ..... Robt. .... Mercer  
Chipchoss ..... Richd. .... Butcher  
Clark ..... Cuth. .... Weaver  
Clark ..... John ..... Weaver  
Clark ..... Richd. .... Fuller & Peltmr  
Clarke ..... Jo. .... Tayler  
Clarke ..... Rob. .... Mason  
Claxton ..... Ro. .... Mason  
Clayton ..... Ralph ..... Fuller & Peltmr  
Cogdon ..... Jo. .... Tayler  
Colson ..... Nicho. .... Fuller & Peltmr  
Conyers ..... Will. .... Carpenter  
Cooke ..... Thomas ..... Carpenter  
Cooper ..... Isac ..... Barber & Roper  
Corbey ..... John ..... Butcher  
Corneforth ..... ?  
Corner ..... Tho. .... Dyer  
Cornforth ..... Robt. .... Butcher  
Counsell ..... ?  
Cowing ..... Jno. .... Smyth  
Cowlson ..... John ..... Smyth  
Cowlson ..... Robt. .... Carpenter  
Cowlson ..... Thomas ..... Carpenter  
Cowlson ..... Chris. .... Barber & Roper  
Cox ..... Geo. .... Tanner  
Craggs ..... Richard ..... Tayler  
Crisle? ..... R...ve? ..... Tayler  
Crow ..... Ro. .... Fuller & Peltmr  
Cukin? ..... Geo. .... Butcher  
Cushopbridge? ..... Robt. .... Carpenter



Dale	James	Dyer	Graham	Tho.	Taylor	Jefferson	Jos.	Pewtherer & Plumer
Darlington	Cutho.	Weaver	Gray	Robt.		Jobling	Cuth.	Mason
Davison	Wm.	Recordr	Green	Richard	Pewtherer & Plumer	Johnson	Robt.	
Davison	John	Weaver	Greevson	Antho.	Glover & Skinner	Johnson	John	
Davison	Jo.	Glover & Skinner	Gregg	David	Butcher	Johnson	John	Tanner
Davison	Richd.	Pewtherer & Plumer	Greives	Wm.		Johnson	Tho.	Tanner
Davison	Robert	Fuller & Peltmr	Grimes	Jo.	Taylor	Johnson	Robart	Taylor
Davnton?	Richd.	Sadler	Haire	John	Tanner	Johnson	Abraham	Taylor
Dent	P.?	Cordwainer	Hall	Jo.		Johnson	Robert	Weaver
Denton	John	Barber & Roper	Hall	Edman		Johnson	Robert	Weaver
Dickinson	George	Cordwainer	Hall	John	Sadler	Johnson	Tho.	Tanner
Dickinson	George	Pewtherer & Plumer	Hall	John	Mercer	Johnson	Wm.	Weaver
Ditchburne	John	Cordwainer	Hall	Antho.	Taylor	Jolly	John	Currier & Chandler
Dixon	Tho.	Dyer	Hall	Ralph	Taylor	Judson	Geo.	Carpenter
Dixon	Nicho.	Mason	Hall	John	Glover & Skinner	Justice?	John	Taylor
Dixon	John	Mason	Hall	Jo.	Currier & Chandler	Kay	John	Currier & Chandler
Dixon	Hugh	Mason	Harris	Henry	Currier & Chandler	Kay	Thomas	Currier & Chandler
Dixon	Thomas	Mason	Harrison	George	Cordwainer	Kerry?	Charles	Cordwainer
Dobinson	Tho.	Tanner	Harrison	Thomas	Barber & Roper	Key	William	Mason
Dobson	Wheat?		Harrison	Wm.	Pewtherer & Plumer	Kirkby	George	
Dobson	Will.	Smyth	Harry	John	Carpenter	Kirkhouse	John	Cordwainer
Dobson	Antho.	Glover & Skinner	Heighington	Richd.	Mercer	Knaggs	Mich.	Weaver
Dobson	Robart	Glover & Skinner	Heighley	Nathaniell	Pewtherer & Plumer	Ladler	Chr.?	
Dodds	John	Mason	Hendry	Hamd.	Butcher	Laidler?	John	Smyth
Dodds	Tho.	Mason	Herison	Cha.		Laiuge	Thomas	Butcher
Dorkin	John	Dyer	Herjingle?	Geo.	Sadler	Lambe	Robt.	Weaver
Downes	Matt.	Dyer	Heron	John	Weaver	Lambe	Jo.	Fuller & Peltmr
Dreury	Wm.	Mercer	Herry?	James	Carpenter	Lambton	Robert	Smyth
Duck?	Richd.	Mason	Heslopp	John	Taylor	Lambton	Geo.	Mercer
Dun	Thomas	Fuller & Peltmr	Hilton	Cuthbert	Pewtherer & Plumer	Lambton	Tho.	Dyer
Dunn	Wm.	Tanner	Hilton	Cudbert	Fuller & Peltmr	Landers	Robt.	Weaver
Eales	Tho.	Glover & Skinner	Hobs?	Richard	Tanner	Lawes	Will.	Taylor
Eales	Robert	Glover & Skinner	Hobson	Richd.	Butcher	Lawes	Jno.	Cordwainer
Ebdoo	William	Pewtherer & Plumer	Hobson	Ri.	Mason	Lawes	John	Carpenter
Egleston	Jo.	Butcher	Hodgshon	Albart	Carpenter	Lawes?	Richard	Mason
Eldon	Robert	Sadler	Hodgson	Wm.		Lax	Anthony	Glover & Skinner
Elwood	Richard	Glover & Skinner	Hodgson	Richard	Carpenter	Lee	Wm.	Cordwainer
Emmerson	Christopher	Cordwainer	Hodgson	Stephen	Barber & Roper	Lee	Thomas	Cordwainer
Errington	George	Cordwainer	Hodgson	Nicholas	Pewtherer & Plumer	Liddell	Hen.	Mason
Errington	Will	Taylor	Hopper	Mark	Carpenter	Lidle	Tho.	Mason
Eubank	Geo.	Weaver	Hopper	Thomas	Pewtherer & Plumer	Litsites?	Tho.	Taylor
Eubank	John	Weaver	Horsman	Will.	Carpenter	Litster?	John	Smyth
Evans	Ralph	Smyth	Horsmane	Christ.	Mason	Loftus	Will.	Smyth
F...aule?	Tho.	Cordwainer	Houldon	John	Glover & Skinner	Lowther	Lancelot	Fuller & Peltmr
Farilles?	James	Taylor	Houldon	John	Glover & Skinner	Madysen	John	Smyth
Fawcett	Antho.	Butcher	Howhoise?	Wm.	Smyth	Man	Georg	Cordwainer
Faweles?	Edward		Hoysier?	Tho.	Fuller & Peltmr	Man	Christopher	Glover & Skinner
Fedmsen?	Robert	Tanner	Hu...etheall?	Jas?	Taylor	Marr	Joseph	Butcher
Fereh?	Nicho.	Fuller & Peltmr	Hubbock	John	Fuller & Peltmr	Marshall	Thomas	Carpenter
Fetherston	Geo.	Glover & Skinner	Hudson	Charles	Butcher	Marshall	Christopher	Glover & Skinner
Fewster	William	Cordwainer	Hulebinson?	Matt.	Pewtherer & Plumer	Martin	Jno.	Mercer
Fisher	Richard	Fuller & Peltmr	Hunter	Willm.	Butcher	Martin	Jo.	Glover & Skinner
Flawdard?	Geo.	Weaver	Hunter	John	Cordwainer	Martin	Richard	Glover & Skinner
Floatir?	John	Weaver	Huntley	Hugh	Tanner	Martin	Jo.	Vicar
Ford?	B...d?	Carpenter	Huntley	Richd.	Tanner	Mascall	Richd.	
Forrer?	John	Tanner	Huntly	Geo?	Tanner	Mason	Ralph	Cordwainer
Forster	Will.		Hutcheson	RI?	Fuller & Peltmr	Mason	Matt.	Weaver
Forster	Robt.	Butcher	Hutchinson	Jo.		Massam	Antho.	
Forster	Joseph	Sadler	Hutchinson	Cuthb.		Maugham	Chris senr	Tanner
Forster	John	Taylor	Hutchinson	Joseph	Butcher	Maugham	Mart.	Glover & Skinner
Foster	Geo.	Cordwainer	Hutchinson	Jo.	Butcher	Maugham	Richd.	Fuller & Peltmr
Foster	Geo.	Glover & Skinner	Hutchinson	Sim?	Cordwainer	Maugham	George	Fuller & Peltmr
Foster	Phill.	Mason	Hutchinson	Hugh	Cordwainer	Maugham	Richard	Fuller & Peltmr
Fowler	John	Carpenter	Hutchinson	Nicolas	Cordwainer	Maugham	Robert	Mason
French	Tho.	Cordwainer	Hutchinson	Robert	Cordwainer	Mawer	Richd.	Smyth
Frizell	William	Cordwainer	Hutchinson	Matt.	Weaver	Middleton	Geo.	Mason
Frzell	John	Cordwainer	Hutchinson	Tho.	Weaver	Middleton	Richd.	Butcher
Fuerres?	Nicholas	Cordwainer	Hutchinson	Lack?	Weaver	Midleton	Willm.	Butcher
G...ton	Robt.	Weaver	Hutchinson	Richd.	Weaver	Midleton	Matt	Butcher
Gallaley	Richd.	Fuller & Peltmr	Hutchinson	George	Carpenter	Midleton	George	Mason
Garnett	Christophr.	Butcher	Hutchinson	Ralph	Carpenter	Milbton?	George	Taylor
Gascoyne	Georg	Fuller & Peltmr	Hutchinson	Richard	Tanner	Milbourne	John	Currier & Chandler
Gibson	Ralph	Weaver	Ingleby	Wm.	Pewtherer & Plumer	Misleton?	Rai	Taylor
Glover	Wm.	Dyer	Jackson	John		Mitchell	Willm.	
Goodans	Thomas	Cordwainer	Jackson	Cuth.	Butcher	Mitchell	George	Glover & Skinner
Gordon	Jo.	Mayr.	Jackson	John	Cordwainer	Mitford	John	Glover & Skinner

Molunex? Geo.  
 Montague Cha. Mason  
 Moore O. Butcher  
 Moore John Cordwainer  
 Morton William Weaver  
 Mountaine Thom. Mason  
 Mountain John Tayler  
 Mour? Peter Smyth  
 Mudison Gilbt. Fuller & Peltmr  
 Nickolson George Smyth  
 Padman Richard Barber & Roper  
 Paxton John Butcher  
 Paxton Thomas Tayler  
 Paxton? Thomas Butcher  
 Paxton? William Carpenter  
 Peacock Nicho. Tayler  
 Peacock Jar? Currier & Chandler  
 Pearson Tho. Mercer  
 Pearson Bry. Pewtherer & Plumer  
 Pecton? Tho. Sadler  
 Perkin Robt. Smyth  
 Philipson Jo.  
 Pickring Tho. Cordwainer  
 Potter Tho. Dyer  
 Poulson James  
 Priston William Weaver  
 Rackett? Jo. Cordwainer  
 Railph? Mishel Weaver  
 Raskitt John Mason  
 Rassall Tho. Currier & Chandler  
 Reah John Butcher  
 Reed Willm. Tanner  
 Reed Tho. Tanner  
 Reed Robert Tanner  
 Reed Richd. Mercer  
 Rennoldson John Weaver  
 Rennoldson Tho. Weaver  
 Rennoldson Ralph Weaver  
 Resshall Richd. Mason  
 Richards Ralph Glover & Skinner  
 Richardson William  
 Richardson Robert Butcher  
 Richardson Tho. Cordwainer  
 Richardson Philip Cordwainer  
 Richardson Tho. Cordwainer  
 Richardson Will. Smyth  
 Richardson Nich. Smyth  
 Richardson Cuthbert Weaver  
 Richardson Henry Pewtherer & Plumer  
 Richardson Simond Fuller & Peltmr  
 Richardson Jo. Mason  
 Richardson Geo. Mason  
 Richardson James Smyth  
 Richardson Ro. Smyth  
 Richdson R. Weaver  
 Rickley? Ralph Barber & Roper  
 Ridley Matthew Butcher  
 Ridley Matthw. Tayler  
 Ridley Arthur Cordwainer  
 Ripley John Fuller & Peltmr  
 Robinson Jar. Carpenter  
 Robinson Thomas Mason  
 Robson Matt. Tayler  
 Roddam Hugh Cordwainer  
 Roper Wm. Mercer  
 Roper Robt. Mercer  
 Roper John Mercer  
 Roper Wm. junr. Mercer  
 Rowall Geo. Weaver  
 Rowall John  
 Rowall John Weaver  
 Rowell Nic. Mason  
 Rowell James Mason  
 Rowell Ralph Mason  
 Rowell Thomas Mason  
 Sannkey Thomas Cordwainer

Serton? Thomas  
 Sharp Dun.? Fuller & Peltmr  
 Shaw Matthew Smyth  
 Shaw Alexander Smyth  
 Shealer Hen. Glover & Skinner  
 Sheeles John Glover & Skinner  
 Shephard Thomas Butcher  
 Sherindod Ralph Sadler  
 Shields Willm. Sadler  
 Shields John Cordwainer  
 Shigle? Mjk? Tayler  
 Shippard William Carpenter  
 Shorwood Will. Weaver  
 Shuttleworth Nicholas Carpenter  
 Sim Phineas Mason  
 Simpson John Cordwainer  
 Simpson Nicholas Smyth  
 Skaithlock? Tho. Butcher  
 Skinner Thomas Currier & Chandler  
 Smart John Weaver  
 Smith John  
 Smith Tho. Tayler  
 Smith Jno. Carpenter  
 Smith Anthony Carpenter  
 Smith Richard Mason  
 Smyth Abraham Carpenter  
 Smyth Zadack Fuller & Peltmr  
 Snaith John Pewtherer & Plumer  
 Snowball Richard  
 Snowball John Smyth  
 Softley Richd.  
 Softley Toby Mason  
 Sopper? Tho. Tayler  
 Sran? Tho. Mason  
 Starforth Henry Barber & Roper  
 Stelling Edward Currier & Chandler  
 Stephenson Humphrey Carpenter  
 Stobart Rob. Smyth  
 Stobbs George Carpenter  
 Stobs Wm. Tayler  
 Stott George Barber & Roper  
 Stott Mathew Barber & Roper  
 Stott Gill.? Barber & Roper  
 Stout William Butcher  
 Stout Willm. Sadler  
 Stuffield? Go. Tanner  
 Summers Georg Cordwainer  
 Surtes William Mercer  
 Talor Thomas Butcher  
 Taylor Steven  
 Taylor Geo. Cordwainer  
 Taylor Bena. Cordwainer  
 Taylor Lance. Smyth  
 Taylor William Weaver  
 Teesdale Jo. Butcher  
 Thompson Nicho. Smyth  
 Thompson Robert Smyth  
 Thompson John Currier & Chandler  
 Thompson James Fuller & Peltmr  
 Thompson Thomas Mason  
 Timpler Michael Cordwainer  
 Todd Will. Mason  
 Trotter Ra. Mason  
 Turner Richd. Fuller & Peltmr  
 Tweddell Geo.  
 Tweddell horn? Butcher  
 Tweddell Thomas Mercer  
 Vasey Thomas Currier & Chandler  
 Wade Thom. Cordwainer  
 Walgter? Sim. Sadler  
 Walker Jo. Weaver  
 Walkinton Thomas Smyth  
 Wall Jos. Smyth  
 Waller John Tayler  
 Walton John  
 Walton Rog. Cordwainer

Walton Alex. Cordwainer  
 Walton Jona. Cordwainer  
 Walton Henry Smyth  
 Walton Geo. Currier & Chandler  
 Ward Richd. Sadler  
 Ward Mich. Mercer  
 Warden Willm. Weaver  
 Warkindell? John Cordwainer  
 Wate? Richard Tayler  
 Watson Chris. Tanner  
 Watson Reynal Cordwainer  
 Watson Richd. Smyth  
 Watson Jon. Glover & Skinner  
 Watson Fran. Carpenter  
 Watson Chr. Mason  
 We..th Robert Mason  
 Weames Will. Glover & Skinner  
 Weames Thomas Glover & Skinner  
 Weddell Andrew Carpenter  
 Wells John Weaver  
 Werton? Will.  
 Westgarth Ra. Dyer  
 Wetherell Nathan Mason  
 Wharton Anth. Tayler  
 Wheatley Robt. Tayler  
 Wheatley Thos. Barber & Roper  
 Whit John Barber & Roper  
 White John Weaver  
 White John Weaver  
 Whitefield Tho. Cordwainer  
 Whitfield Richd. Sadler  
 Whitfield John Tanner  
 Wilkayon? Ra. Mercer  
 Wilkinson Hennen? Tayler  
 Wilkinson Jon. Cordwainer  
 Wilkinson Ralph Cordwainer  
 Wilkinson Willm. Glover & Skinner  
 Wilkinson John Currier & Chandler  
 Wilkinson Tho. Currier & Chandler  
 Wilkinson Geo. Currier & Chandler  
 Wilkinson ? Mason  
 Williamson Robt. Tanner  
 Williamson Will. Weaver  
 Williamson Geo. Glover & Skinner  
 Wills John Barber & Roper  
 Wilson Jo. Glover & Skinner  
 Wilson John Mason  
 Wilson John Tanner  
 Wilson Robt. Mercer  
 Wilson Will. Weaver  
 Wilson Robt. Glover & Skinner  
 Wiseman? Hen. Cordwainer  
 Wolfe Wm. Mason  
 Wood Thomas Cordwainer  
 Wood Nicholas Glover & Skinner  
 Wood John Pewtherer & Plumer  
 Wood Samll. Fuller & Peltmr  
 Woodmas John Fuller & Peltmr  
 Wrangham? Hen  
 Wright Mathew Tayler  
 Wyeeis John Pewtherer & Plumer  
 Young John Smyth

# MARRIAGE ~ ITS' LAWS AND CUSTOMS

## WAS YOUR ANCESTOR REALLY MARRIED?

by Colin R. Chapman

Taken from his book *Marriage Laws, Rites, Records & Customs* available now from Lochin Publishing, 6 Holywell Road, Dursley, Gloucestershire GL11 5RS at £5.50, add 75p P&P.

Marriage, matrimony or wedlock, call it what you will, and its validity, apart from the moral standpoint, is vitally important if legitimacy is under question, and particularly relevant for a couple with material goods. If you, or your ancestors, did not undergo a valid marriage, any children are illegitimate bastards, not entitled to a legal inheritance. Subsequent marriage by the parents of bastards did not legitimate those children in England, Wales and Scotland until 1926 (and not until 1931 in Eire), and even then only under particular circumstances.

A marriage of our ancestors, with the inevitable wedding comprising the solemn nuptial ceremony and the attaching riotous celebrations, now relegated to the reception, was a communal event in which the whole parish looked forward to collectively participating. But not all marriages were harmonious: most matrimonial wrangles in the past concerned inheritance claims. However, marriage law was so complicated that (apart from a few cases involving debt, alimony and other financial complications of equity and common law when recourse to the Chancery and Civil courts was necessary) even the secular courts did not attempt, indeed were not permitted, to become embroiled in matrimonial matters until the middle of the 19th Century. All interpretation of marriage laws and decisions on legitimacy were the responsibility of church courts, presided over by an archdeacon, a bishop or an archbishop, or an especially appointed official.

Before the 16th Century throughout the British Isles, all marriage law was dictated by the (Roman Catholic) Church and only ecclesiastical lawyers could interpret Canon Law. But even they had difficulties in applying the early proclamations and decrees of Popes and bishops and synods. Ecclesiastics were constantly seeking guidance from Rome on matrimonial matters, and the clergy had often to be reminded that celibacy was part of their remit and for them to have several female partners was most unacceptable. At the Reformation secular legislation was introduced regarding marriage, confirming kindred with whom one should not marry, as quoted in the Bible (*Leviticus, Ch.18, v.6*).

Having undergone a valid marriage ceremony, hopefully before the birth of any children, a couple was married for life. Normally only the death of one partner could release the other for a subsequent marriage; divorce, as we know it today, was not possible in England, Wales and Ireland, except by Papal dispensation before the Reformation.

After then, divorce could be attained (but not in Ireland) by means of an Act of Parliament until 1857 - a costly and lengthy process which only the affluent could afford. A separation could be granted by an ecclesiastical court for adultery and cruelty, but this did not dissolve the marriage and did not permit either party to legally remarry; the Church was always optimistic for a reconciliation. On the other hand, divorce was possible in Scotland from 1573. Civil divorce was possible in England and Wales (but not Ireland) after 1857.

Those other couples who were determined to sever the matrimonial bond had only one answer - their marriage to be declared null and void as though it had never occurred; this was possible if an ecclesiastical court was convinced the marriage should not have taken place, say because the couple was related through an existing blood or marriage relationship prior to their marriage, or one of them was already married to someone else, or was physically or mentally incompetent, or the marriage had taken place without the prior publication of banns or issuing of a licence, or at a prohibited time or place. There were also, at some periods, age restrictions on the bridegroom and bride, see below, or them being apprentices or Fellows of Oxford or Cambridge which denied them entering wedlock. Do not overlook that if a marriage was proved void, so enabling the couple to go their separate ways, any children they had jointly produced became automatically illegitimate.

Strictly speaking, all that was necessary for a valid marriage was for a couple to mutually agree (effectively enter into a contract) to remain faithful to each other for the remainder of their lives. Church lawyers accepted this, although ecclesiastical authorities encouraged a couple to have their agreement or contract blessed by a priest. The difficulty was to prove that a couple had truly entered into a contract; and hence the notion of witnesses or a public ceremony (or both), was conceived, although the Church favoured a ceremony at the parish church or the diocesan cathedral. In addition, the Church encouraged a couple to marry after they had proclaimed their intentions to marry by the publication of banns or seeking a licence from an ecclesiastical official. Without this publicity marriages were assumed to be celebrated in secret and so termed clandestine. To make absolutely sure that the mutual agreement had been witnessed by as many people as possible, some marriages were conducted at the church door, in the church porch, or "in the face of the Church". There were occasions, if, say, one party was physically deformed, when a secret marriage was understandable.



The numbers of clandestine and irregular marriages escalated at the end of the 17th Century as a result of William III attempting to raise money to fight the French. He imposed taxes on the registration of marriages (and other events), causing a number of validly conducted marriages to be unregistered, and so considered irregular, even if they did actually take place. Many clergy also believed that these taxes did not apply in *Peculiars* (places normally outside the Church's organisation), and so even more irregular marriages were conducted. The poor were exempt from these duties, so some couples did register their marriages, becoming paupers for the convenience of non-payment. Hence "P" can be found in marriage registers of this time, although it is unclear if this indicated "Pauper" (who did not pay) or "Paid"! As this legislation further increased the frequency of irregular marriage, especially in London around Ludgate Circus, it was modified by another Act in 1696 and yet again in 1753 by Lord Hardwicke's Marriage Act (see below).

An added problem was the debate, which continued until 1837, as to the actual point when a marriage began. Possibilities were the espousal (when the spouses agreed to stay together), or the betrothal (when the bride's family and the bridegroom agreed the terms of the marriage, when a gift of land or money may have been involved), or a formal public witnessing of the event, or at some point in a religious ceremony when the cleric declared the couple to be man and wife. Other possibilities were during the first act of sexual intercourse (when the man and woman became one flesh - another Biblical expression), or at the time of fruitful intercourse (the conception of a child being proof that intercourse had taken place). Even in the mid-19th Century the lack of children was quoted in the courts as evidence for the invalidity of a marriage - and hence grounds for it being void.

Marriage settlements (contracts in Scotland) arranged at the time of the betrothal often give useful family and local history information. A dowry could be provided by the bride's family for use in the event of the death of her husband-to-be to care for her (and even her children) during her widowhood; this could be in the form of cash or land, described and delineated in a written settlement by naming landmarks and owners of adjacent properties, and sometimes previous owners as well. As these settlement papers were usually personal agreements, few have found their way into archives (except in Ireland, held at the Registry of Deeds), although some may survive among local or national family collections.

A popular misconception among the poorer classes was that a marriage could be dissolved by a husband selling or auctioning his wife at a local market or fair. Perhaps the public display of the break-up of a marriage was believed a valid converse of the required proof for the original union. Although quite unfounded, such events were attended even by parish church wardens or overseers who occasionally acted as auctioneers. Some wife sales were recorded in parish registers and reported in newspapers. Research indicates that most illegal wife sales were prearranged; the wife had probably been unfaithful to the husband selling her and the purchaser was the father of a child recently born or about to be born.

The Church's influence provided two valid routes to marriage: (1) after the publication of banns by the clergy in the parishes of both the man and the woman and (2) following the issuing of a licence, either a Common Licence by a bishop or archbishop (or a nominated representative), or a Special Licence by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The first route was cheaper and by its very nature informed all the parishioners of the couple's intentions to marry; although it involved less paperwork, it could take three or more weeks; the second route could be expensive, few people knew of the intended marriage and whilst creating much paperwork, was considerably quicker. Accordingly a couple normally chose to marry after obtaining a licence if they could afford it, and did not want all-and-sundry, even parents, to know their business, or were in a hurry (if the husband-to-be was only briefly on leave from military service, or the wife-to-be was excessively pregnant), or even if one party had a surname with embarrassing connotations, which would attract ridicule when proclaimed from a pulpit.

The records which both routes to marriage generated can be extremely useful in genealogical research. However, a formal record of the publication of banns was not required by secular statute until Hardwicke's 1753 Marriage Act even though the clergy had been reminded of the requirement of banns' publication several times since 1200. Accordingly, banns books or registers are more likely to be found from 1753. Associated with the issuing of a marriage licence was the allegation, the bond, the licence itself, the entry in the bishop's (or archbishop's) register that a licence had been issued, and an entry in a parish register that the marriage had taken place by licence. Although not all this documentation has survived, generally at least two of the five items can be found.

Hardwicke's Act also required both parties to be at least 21 years of age at the time of marriage, unless their parents otherwise consented. Before this time (and incidentally between 1823 and 1929; until 1975 in Eire) the respective ages were 12 for females and 14 for males. Hardwicke's main aim was to prevent the expanding numbers of clandestine marriages - hence the reminder regarding banns. Nevertheless, marriage registers from 1754 were separated from those of baptism and burial and normally contain useful genealogical data, such as the parish or residence of both parties, whether bachelor, spinster, widower or widow. Names of parents, usually only fathers, appeared later. Names of witnesses (and their signatures or marks) can sometimes provide clues on other relations of the bride or groom.

By 1822 the authorities were suspicious of the information given by many couples to comply with Hardwicke's Act regarding true names, ages, and residences. Hence from 1 September of that year affidavits were required to be signed verifying this information, for which a fee was charged. The affidavits were displayed at the churches where the two parties lived until the banns had been called three times and then deposited by church wardens in the parish chests.

The imposition of a fee, in particular, caused so many fresh clandestine marriages that the fee requirement was abolished on 26 March 1823 and the whole Act repealed and replaced by another Act coming into force on 18 July 1823. The latter 1823 Act effectively reintroduced Hardwicke's Act, though some conditions regarding common licences were altered. Nevertheless, some affidavits have survived and are extremely valuable documents for family historians.

Rose's Marriage Act required new and separate registers to be used after 31 December 1812 for marriages (and for baptisms and burials) and for them to be kept in well-painted iron chests. A schedule to the Act identified the details to be recorded. The annual forwarding of Bishops' Transcripts to the Diocesan Registrar was to continue.

Prohibited kinships in marriage found in the Bible were restated by Henry VIII in 1533, 1536 (in two Acts) and 1540, by Mary in 1553 and 1554 and by Elizabeth I in 1558, laid down in an Admonition by Archbishop Parker (of Nosey Parker fame) in 1563, embodied into Canon Law in 1603, and repeated in successive editions of the Book of Common Prayer from 1662. Church weddings were forbidden at certain times of the year, during Lent, for example, and at certain hours of the day. Originally a valid marriage could be held only between 8am and 12 noon (when they were likely to be more witnesses, and the bride and groom were more likely to be sober); by successive Parliamentary Acts the hours were extended into the afternoons.

When a couple married they "became one flesh"; hence a man's wife's sister was regarded as his own sister - in fact his legal sister (sister, in law). Even after his wife died, her sister was considered still to be his sister and so "unmarriageable" by him. Not until 1907, including Scotland, was it legal for a man to marry his deceased wife's sister (or for a woman to marry her deceased husband's brother), although in the many instances where this did take place any children were clearly illegitimate. In 1921 it became legal for a man to marry his deceased brother's widow and in 1931 to marry his deceased wife's niece or aunt and his deceased nephew's or uncle's widow. Similar relaxations of prohibited relations permitted a woman to marry her deceased sister's widower etc. All these relations were confirmed by the 1949 Marriage Act. In 1958, 1960 and 1986 other Acts further relaxed the impediments to a marriage.

After 1753 until the civil registration of marriage (and birth and death), beginning on 1 July 1837, valid marriages in England, Wales and Ireland could take place only in a licensed church or chapel, or following a Special Licence. In practice this meant an Anglican Church, or if both parties were Quakers or Jews, at one of their respective services. As most dissenting congregations experienced difficulties in obtaining licences, valid marriages of Roman Catholics, Independents, Baptists and other dissenters and nonconformists were normally recorded only in the Anglican marriages register. After 1836 many dissenting meeting houses were licenced for marriages although the presence of a civil registrar was needed in some instances.

Many customs associated with the ceremonies accompanying a marriage - the wedding - originated in pagan times. The scattering of wheat or its token replacement, confetti, and more recently rice, expressed the expectation of the germination of a new generation. A ring, having no end, shows an everlasting relationship. Throwing an old shoe after the newly-married couple symbolised the ancient custom of laying down a shoe to indicate a contract had been agreed. Wearing a veil was to show subservience by the bride to her groom whilst pealing bells and flaming candles frightened off evil spirits. The presence of a best-man beside the bridegroom was to confuse the devil as to the groom's true identity. The bride's-maids, originally dressed identically to the bride, similarly confused the devil as to her identity. A few tears from the bride on the wedding day demonstrated that she was no witch.

Other customs accompanying marriages such as drinking wine and eating cakes to express community, throwing sawdust in the path of the married couple, performing biddings and conducting the marriage on a certain day of the week, appear to be of Roman origin and in many cases continue today. Collecting tolls and racing from the church to the wedding breakfast were all part of the general jollifications. Some customs have been incorporated into the Christian marriage ceremony in the British Isles; others have been relegated to the reception, now regarded by many couples as an essential part of their marriage.

In any case either with, or without, the accompanying customs, a marriage must have been valid for the children of the couple to have been legitimate. Many irregular marriages (without witnesses or even being recorded) were valid so long as the couple had exchanged a mutual contract; but it may never be absolutely clear if your ancestors were really married and if you are descended from a legitimate heir or a bastard.

#### EDITOR'S NOTE:

Dr. Colin Chapman is a life Vice-President of the Federation of Family History Societies. He has long been involved with the Federation, first joining its Executive Committee in 1977, and has served it in many roles including Chairman. A most popular lecturer, in constant demand, and author on many family history subjects, Dr. Chapman was also responsible for the introduction of the county abbreviations now known as the Chapman County Codes. Over the years he has been associated and actively involved with many different family history societies, including those for Bristol and Avon, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire, where his main ancestral origins lie. This extract from his book is published with his permission and with that of Lincolnshire Family History Society, in whose Journal it has previously appeared.



# 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 the 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 September. 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.

## 0017 Mr. D.G. HARRIS

34 Lupin Drive, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 6FH

John Owen Harris, sergeant in the Tyneside Scottish was killed on the Somme 1 July 1916. Married in Benwell in 1905 to Lizzie Miller Bedford and their only offspring, John Owen, died 1907 aged 17 months. However, War Office records give the name of his wife as Elizabeth Harris nee Brown, born Prudhoe, and their only son as died 1918 aged 2. Post widowhood, Elizabeth was living in Benwell with her sister Dorothy Barras but disappears after 1928. Dorothy Barras died 1984 leaving issue. Information about the presumed death of Lizzie and marriage and subsequent movements of Elizabeth would be appreciated.

## 1139 LESLEY BRAMBLE

PO Box 326, Bondi Junction, Sydney, NSW 2022, Australia.

Searching for: 1) William Smith married Mary Gladwin 1842 Auckland; known children - Jane (1848), Stephen (1844), William (1850) and Alfred (1872). 2) Robert Rogerson married Elizabeth Spraggon 1827; children - Robert, William, John, Mary, Sarah and Grace. Grace married Stephen Smith 1866 Darlington; children - Elizabeth Mary, Sarah Spraggon. John George, William Ewart Gladstone, Lavinia Rogerson. This family emigrated to Australia in 1884. Also seeking relations of John Walton who married Margaret Tweddle at Durham. Son John married Ruth Hird 1858 Darlington; children - Robert William, John Tweddle, Richard Barnes, William Barnes, all born Whessoe Street, Darlington. Robert and Richard emigrated to Australia.

## 2326 Mrs. EDNA MARSHALL

21 Cooksey Avenue, Harbord, NSW 2096, Australia.

Seeks information on Bell/Hanlon families. John (Jack) Bell married Elizabeth Robertson; issue - Jack, George, Tom, Joseph, Robert, Margaret and William. William, died 1932, married Elizabeth Hanlon 1896; Elizabeth died Ebchester 1945. Their issue: Emma Jane (1897 Ebchester), James (1898 Medomsley), Olive (1902 Consett), John (1907 Allendale), Norman (1910 Medomsley) and Sydney (1912 Allendale). James, Norman and Sydney died in Australia. Hugh Hanlon married Elizabeth O'Neill (1854-1936); their children - Mary Ann married P. Gallagher, Peter, Hugh, Margaret, Theresa, Elizabeth married William Bell, Katherine.

## 2588 Mr. R. MADDOX

33 Glebe Road, West Moor, Newcastle upon Tyne NE12 0NA.

Searching for: 1) Parentage and birthplace c.1766 of Thomas Maddox. Longbenton parish registers from 1792 describe him as native of Fort George and Boston, America. Present area of search in Maine.

2) George Swan born 1849 Aylsham, Norfolk, miner. Looking for his marriage to Elizabeth Clamp born 1851 Chester-le-Street area, daughter of James and Hannah Clamp of Edmondsley. 3) James Frederick Foot(e), a groom, born c.1835 London, married Isabella Gordon 1861 Perth. Both were employed by the Earl of Mansfield at Scone Palace and in London where he died in 1866 aged 31. Information sought on his parents: James Foot, coachman, and Mary Taylor. Also interested in Connell (Dumbarton); Braidlaw (Greenlaw); Small (Leicester/Hertford); Gordon (Cockburnspath); Turnbull (Berwick) and McLaren (north Northumberland).

## 3804 S. BARWICK

Basement, 28 St. Ann's Villas, London W11 4RS

Does anyone have ancestresses in the north with the forename Thirza/Tirzah or variations - I have an especial interest in north Tyne Tirzah Armstrong/Elliott/Sharp/Dodd of all periods. Also, is anyone researching north Tyne Valley Coulson lines as well as disentangling 18th century Dodd groups there? Also Burnikell in 18th/19th century County Durham or close; and is anyone researching the Vest family of Durham City?

## 3829 Mr. W. SPENDLEY

15 Dunedin Avenue, Hartburn, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland TS18 5JF.

Seeking birth/baptism of John Forcer, born Bishopwearmouth c.1817/18 (per census), but not found in the parish register. Also seeking birth and ancestry of George Forcer, presumed father of John, buried Bishopwearmouth 1826 aged 48. Any connection with the Catholic Forcers of Old Elvet, Durham?

## 4610 Mrs. MARGARET KENNEDY

PO Box 718, Shepparton, Victoria 3632, Australia.

Seeking information: 1) Richard Kennedy and Catherine nee Quaine/Kane, arrived Sunderland from Ireland c.1853. Issue: Richard b.1854, John 1856, Mary 1858, Edward 1860, Laurence 1862 and Catherine 1870. John became a sailor and married Jane. Richard, who married Isabella Chambers, and Laurence were glass bottle makers living in Southwick. 2) Hugh Walton, born Staindrop c.1828, gardener, and wife Christina c.1823 North Shotton. Issue: Jane born c.1857 married David Ham, French Polisher, and they had Christina 1878 and Jane Annie c.1881 who later married Peter Calvert, brass finisher. Issue of Jane and Peter: Sarah 1903, David, Wilfred, Emma, Lily, Mark Anthony, Fred, Ernest and Leslie. 3) David Haugh married Anne Wilkinson 1804 Sunderland. Son Andrew born 1807 married Margaret Gray. Their daughter Jemima b.1835 married James Tulip.



**4618 Miss JENNY HEWITT**

1 Park Avenue, Morisset Park, NSW 2264, Australia.

Researching the following County Durham families: Hewitt, Mears, Waller, Barrass, Crossley, Davison, Martindale, Carr, Cuthbert and Hay.

**4657 Mrs. MARGARET ANDERTON**

31 Knights Templar Way, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP11 1PX.

Searching for birth and/or burial of Adam Mather. Information to date: At Shilbottle, married, with parents consent, Jane Grey; children baptised at Shilbottle, William (1823), Jane (1829 aged 4 years), Isabel (1829 aged 1 year), Adam Henry (1831). By the 1841 Census the three children Jane, Isabel and Henry were living alone at West Moneylaws, Carham.

**4681 DOROTHY WALKER**

40 Tanekaha Road, Titirangi, Auckland, New Zealand.

Seeking descendants of Jane Matilda Jones, wife of Israel Jones, a burner at the time of his marriage and originally from Old Hill, Staffordshire; died before 1923. Also any information on where the family or sister Martha Annie Sidaway lived before her death in the Poor Institute, Houghton-le-Spring. A brother William Isaac Sidaway was married to Charlotte Badger and lived at Railway Terrace, East Herrington. Also a brother James Henry Sidaway was in Cradley, Staffs., on the 1891 Census.

**4873 JOY CAMPBELL**

PO Box 2, Burrum Heads, Queensland 4659, Australia.

Seeks information on Alexander Campbell, son of Joseph, a mariner born in Liverpool, and Isabella Peterson. She died of cholera in 1849 and buried Gosforth; he died 1858 and buried Tynemouth. Alexander was a mariner who "jumped ship" in Australia where he was reported to be a bare knuckle boxer fighting under the name of the "Western Binica Boy". He had a sister Isabella Alice, born 1833, who married John George McKellor Hutchinson in 1856. They had a son, also John George McKellor Hutchinson, who married Hannah Friskin in 1890 at Tynemouth.

**5023 WILLIAM S. MINTO**

33 Caistor Road, Laceby, Grimsby, Lincolnshire DN37 7HZ.

John Minto (native of Branton) married Mary Clarke (native of Morpeth) at Chester-le-Street in 1790. Son John born 1811 baptised as a Presbyterian at Chester-le-Street. I have been searching for a possible marriage for John without success. However, on the 1851 Census for Chester-le-Street, a John Minto aged 19 is listed as being apprentice to George Wheatley, cordwainer. This John could have been the son of the John born 1811 but I have not been able to trace a record of his birth. Help appreciated.

**5087 Mrs. CAROLE WARBY**

Little Orchard, 89 Watford Road, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire WD4 8QH.

Seeks information on McCready of South Shields, 1890 onwards. Also, Summers, particularly George, of Durham and South Shields, 1890 onwards.

**5210 PETER BURNS**

5 Henry Street, North Shields, Tyne & Wear NE29 6SH.

Could any member please check the 1871 Census for Spennymoor, County Durham? Looking for information on Peter Burns born 1840, Susannah 1845 and Mary 1869. Peter married Susannah, nee Hudson, in 1868 Auckland RD.

**5364 Miss MARJORIE E. ROBSON**

Flat 2, 2 Regent Court, 17 Lawn Avenue, Doncaster DN1 2JE.

Seeking dates and places of deaths of Alfred Thomas Powell aged 44 years at the time of his marriage to Louise Powell Shaw; she was 24. Married 1884 at Scarborough but they almost certainly moved to Sunderland after their marriage, where they both died.

**5378 MARTIN JAMES DANIEL**

602-Colinet Street, Coquitlam, British Columbia V3J 4W9, Canada.

Looking for information regarding Robert Lowther and Elizabeth Hall who married 1754 St. John's, Newcastle; and, for family of John Jack and David Jack who, respectively, married Alice Twizell and Margaret Wright. Their parents were Andrew Jack and Isabel Adam from the parish of Newton, Midlothian. Andrew Adam may have also married Dorothy Porteus, also from Newton. During the 1860s, the name Jack may have changed to Jacques.

**5409 Miss JUDITH GRAHAM**

10 Aldsworth Close, Edgehill Estate, Springwell Village, Gateshead NE9 7PG.

Seeking information on: 1) 5th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers. Matthew Young Matheson and his brother served with the battalion during the Great War. 2) Fishing boat Nellie Dodds which belonged to great grandfather George Benjamin John Hardingham. Believed he came from Aberdeen but can't trace him anywhere. 3) Families of John Graham and Elizabeth Vasey of Toft Hill, Durham who married 1856 at Toft Hill. John's father was Stephen Graham, Elizabeth's, unknown but her mother was Martha Vasey. 4) Following names, all connected with Belhelvie, Aberdeen - Sim/Simm, Taylor, Smith and Thompson, Gateshead; McMullen and Ford, Carlisle; Maloy and Blacklock.

**5428 MAUREEN (DIXON) ZISSLER**

34 Wicklow Avenue, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 2HQ.

1) Would welcome help in finding birth/baptisms of four sons of Joseph Dixon, tailor, native of Bamburgh, and his wife Margaret Davison, known children George (1796), Ann (1806, 2nd daughter) and William (1808, 6th son). 2) Seeking marriage of Charles Frank Dixon, grocers assistant, to Mary Ann Brown Stuart/Stewart, possibly non-conformist in North Shields district. Daughter Mary born 1913 Willington Quay. 3) Interested in Captain Joseph Dixon who died before 1880 when his son Charles George William Dixon married Sophie Ferguson at North Shields. Was Joseph the son of George Dixon of Pandon Bank, Newcastle?

**5464 Mrs. CYNTHIA K. PAINTER**

Blandford Cottage, 36 Woodside Avenue, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire HP9 1JJ.

Seeking family of Edward Pearson born 1770 who gave his place of birth as Buboth (Bubwith?), Yorkshire, and his wife Elizabeth (Nee Ellison) of Weardale. They married Newburn 1799 and had children: John (1800 Wylam), Mary (1803 Heddon on the Wall) and Hannah (1805 Heddon). John married Ann Dodd of Stamfordham at Bolam in 1825, living first at Silver Hills, Benwell and later at Black Swine, Denton; their children: Mary Ann (1826), Elizabeth (1829), Ann (1835), Thomas (1839), Charlotte (1837), James (1843), Edward (1846) and Esther (1849). Also trying to find information regarding: a) Edward Crisp born 1816 Chatton, son of John and Isabella nee Ayres of Pitlington. b) Seeking the wife of James Barber, son of Thomas and Mary nee Darling of Chillingham. c) Stephenson in the Bellingham area.

**5559 JOHN A.E. BRITTON**

15 Ngarimu Grove, Ngaio, Wellington, New Zealand.

Robert Ellis Walton married Isabella Faulkner 1837 at Bishopwearmouth. Seeks parents and birthplace, etc. Also, researching Britton families in Durham and Northumberland who originated from Gloucestershire in the 1880s.

**5581 PETER STOTEN**

11 Summerhill Road, South Shields, Tyne & Wear NE34 6DT.

Do any members have connections with the surnames Cullen, Christison, Jensen and Ord(e)?

**5592 Mrs. LESLEY BARROW**

29 Lockhart Avenue, Palmerston North 5301, New Zealand.

Seeking descendants of Thomas Miller, born 1830 Castleside, Durham, son of William Miller. Married Elizabeth Holmes 1855 Houghton-le-Spring and by 1881 Census living at Hetton-le-Hole where son Andrew had been born in 1860. Thomas and Andrew described as miners. Thomas was brother of John Miller born 1820 Castleside, married Jane Hudson 1846 and lived and died at Newbottle, Durham. Thomas and Elizabeth may have had more children.

**5610 Miss I. LEE**

59 Church Lane, Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire DN15 7AE.

Seeking parents of John Bell, miner, born 1796 Alston, Cumberland, married Hannah Cousin 1819 Alston. Their children: William, Mary, Thomas, John, Hannah, George, Matthew and Joseph, all born in the Alston area. On 1851 Census they were in Glenridding, Patterdale, Cumberland; where were they in 1841? Also tracing Bell family bible bequeathed to Hannah Bell of Penrith in 1859; and, for death/burial of Thomas Bell of Alston, joiner, after 1811. His wife was Mary Craig. Seeking Newcastle census information from 1871 onwards on Matthew Hetherington, draper, and his nieces, all born Patterdale but presumed living in Newcastle. Also researching Aaron - Emily Aaron born 1874 Darlington, daughter of Thomas Aaron, engine fitter, and Margaret Ambrose. Possibly had brothers Jack and Fred in the Middlesbrough area.

**5611 Mrs SUE EYNON**

Pavilly, Treskillard, Redruth, Cornwall TR16 6LB.

John Wright had an ironmonger's shop at 40/42 The Side, Newcastle in the 1860/70s. Does anyone know if photographs or prints exist? Also interested in: Wright (Newcastle & Whitby); Monaghan (Penshaw & Newcastle); Robertson (County Durham and Newcastle); McLeod (Edinburgh & Newcastle); Askew (Chester-le-Street) and Barron (Shincliffe).

**5614 Mrs. V.E. EDGARD**

21 Stackbraes Road, Longtown, Carlisle, Cumbria CA6 5UR.

Researching: 1) Matthew Glenwright who married Elizabeth Elliott 1818 Primitive Methodist Chapel, Cornwallis Street, Gateshead; children - Richard (1820), Thomas (1821), Elizabeth (1823), Robert (1826), Michael (1831) and William (1833). 2) Michael Glenwright married Esther Johnson at the same chapel; family - Elizabeth Elliot (1864), Esther (1866) and James Robert (1871). 3) Esther Glenwright married Thomas Grey 1887; family - Margaret Ann (1888), Esther Glenwright (1890), James (1892), Arthur (1894), Thomas (1896), Elizabeth Elliot (1898), Matthew (1901), Jean (1903) and Ethel (1904). The family lived at Church Road, Tweedmouth. 4) James Grey born Ancroft, died before 1910, married Margaret Ann Johnson 1862 Berwick Register Office; family: Thomas married Esther Glenwright, Alexander married Liza, James married Dolly Leggett, Bessie married James Jonstn, Tyne Dock, Frances married Tom Pattison, postmaster at Tweedmouth, Mary Ann married James Weatherburn, Jane married Mr. Dingle.

**5652 Mrs. N. SMITH**

4 Huxley Close, Locks Heath, Southampton SO31 6RR.

Seeks information on Telford of Jarrow area. Also, William Marshall believed to have married Mary Gibb and had a son Peter (from the Glasgow area?), lived Prince Consort Road until 1950s. Other interests include Gash and Jackson from the Cumbrian area. Still seeking information on young people's migration to Australia c.1926 from the north east.

**5653 IAN BLENKINSOPP**

73 Whitestiles, Seaton, Cumbria CA14 1LD.

Is carrying out a one name study on the Handyside family and would be pleased to exchange information with any interested parties. Would also be able to do searches in west Cumbria for other members.

**5693 DONALD CARLIN HEWISON**

18 Lismore Grove, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 9AW.

Seeking baptism of George Hewison c.1789 who married Ann Wright at Earsdon 1814 and subsequently lived at Hartley. Also, the baptism c.1751, and marriage, of his father George Hewison who died at East Holywell 1839 aged 88.

**5713 HARRY L. COXON**

2 Clarence Tee., Willington, Crook, Co. Durham DL15 0HS.

Interested in Thomas Coxon and Isabel Wilkinson whose banns were called in January 1780 at Newcastle, St. John, but can't find any record of the marriage taking place. In 1772, Isabel Wilkinson was a witness at the wedding of Isaac Coxon and Margaret Wilkinson at Newcastle, All Saints.

**5758 Mr. ALAN S. KEITH**

Bayfield, Culmstock Road, Hennyock, Devon EX15 3RJ.

Researching the Keith family of Northumberland and Durham. Particularly interested in James Keith, sometimes spelt Keeth, who was married three times: 1) Isobel Lee living at Milbourne Grange and Newham Edge 1758-1769; 2) Anne Clarke at Kirkley Farm and Lough House 1771-1779; and, 3) Jane Watson from 1779 at Kirkley Farm and Lough House. All these places are in the Whalton/Ponteland area. Would welcome any information particularly the parents and date/place of birth of James. Also interested in Dorothy Keith who married John Potts at Whalton 1746.

**5775 Mrs. R. JENNINGS**

3 St. George's Road, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 2HG.

Researching the life of Joseph Catherall, founder, in 1864, of the *Hexham Courant*; born 1839 Newcastle, son of John, grocer, himself born in Leeds, married Elizabeth Whinfield who predeceased him. Joseph died suddenly in Hexham in 1881. Can anyone elucidate him connection with Catheralls of Cheshire and Manchester, e.g. William Catherall, editor of the *Manchester Chronicle* c.1830, and his son Thomas Nield Catherall who married Sarah Armstrong in Hexham in 1847.

**5818 WILLIAM R. EAGLE**

11 Mustang Lane, Sequim, WA 98382, U.S.A.

Seeking information on Charles Clement Hodges, born 1852 Wentworth, West Yorkshire, died 1932 at 36 Albert Drive in Hexham or Durham; author of a book on Hexham Abbey published in 1888. Wife was Nina Curley and they had four children: William, Freida, Etheldreda and Hilda.

**5841 Mr. S.M. GODFREY**

2 Rennie Walk, Darlington DL1 1DU.

Interests: Northumberland - Watson, pre-1800; Shepherd, pre-1750; Tait of Berwick, pre-1850, Durham - Staindrop, pre-1850; Cummins, all; Coxon, pre-1800; Lindsley, pre-1800; Bainbridge, pre-1850; Godfrey, all.

- 5845 Mrs. VALERIE A. BLANCHARD**  
372 Station Road, Dorridge, Solihull, West Midlands B93 8ES.  
Researching the McKenzie family from Newcastle, late 18th to 20th centuries. Also researching the Low family from Ferryhill for the same period.
- 5944 ROBERT H. HOLMES**  
1310 Hillside Drive, Bettendorf, Iowa 52722, U.S.A.  
John Harwood, born 1839(?) Low Moor, Yorkshire, married Mary Ann Maw 1866 St. Andrew Auckland, died 1922. Does anyone have him on their family tree? Would like to correspond with any descendants.
- 5963 IVAN LEARMOUTH**  
86 Okebourne Park, Swindon SN3 6AJ.  
Can anyone kindly give me advice on researching High Court of Admiralty records? Interested in a case involving droits heard at Portsmouth in 1813.
- 5989 Mrs. D.V. HICKS**  
Berrington House, Moor Lane, Strensall, York YO3 5UG.  
Feeney/Feenie/Feeny. Information gathering for a one name study. All references past and present gratefully received.
- 6035 Mr. W.C. DOWSON**  
5 Alma Avenue, Foulridge, Colne, Lancashire BB8 7NS.  
Seeking any information on William George Dowson born 1879-80; not found in St. Catherine's indexes. He married 1906 at St. John's, Darlington to Elvena Sylvia Pike, witnesses being Sarah Elizabeth Pike and John Dowson. His father was William, deceased. William George died August 1909 at Greenbank Hospital, Darlington as a result of an accident. There were two children from the marriage: William Charles born 1907 and Elvena Sylvia born 1909.
- 6043 NORMAN E. NICHOLSON**  
Cross Hawes, Broughton-in-Furness, Cumbria LA20 6BB.  
Seeking information on forebears of great grandfather John Brodie (1823-1905), who married Ann Hewison in 1850 and lived in or near North Shields. He is recorded as journeyman boat-builder (1862), steamboat builder (1867) and steam tug owner (1886). Also seeking more information on John's son Christopher Brodie (1862-1923) and particularly his association with his cousin Thomas Thompson in the formation of the North Shields & District "Peers" Economic Building Society in 1889.
- 6072 Mrs. D. ROBERTS**  
48 Churchill Crescent, Wickham Market, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP13 0RW.  
Researching: 1) Pattie of Lowick, Wooler, Newcastle areas. 2) Burn of Longhoughton - possibly related to the Darling family. 3) Crichton of Morpeth area but previously of Hawick. 4) Swinney of Tweedmouth, Spittal, Morpeth.
- 6136 D. YOULL**  
139 Rothbury Road, Newton Hall Estate, Durham DH1 5QB.  
Researching Bradley, especially Thomas Bradley, born Coundon, County Durham in 1850, married Mary Ann Bell of County Antrim although the registration of the marriage has not been found. They had twelve children, the first born 1868 at Hill Top, Easington. Thomas was a blacksmith, his last known position was foreman at the Grange Iron Works, Carrville, Durham.
- 6137 MERLENA TURNER**  
Unit 9/17 Armitage Cres., Burnie, Tasmania 7320, Australia.  
Mary Swan married Robert Davison/Davidson c.1815 and looking for this marriage. They had one known child: Robert Davison/Davidson who became a master mariner. His father could also have been a mariner. Also looking for any siblings of Robert.
- 6181 HUGH WALDIE**  
Northside Farmhouse, Bickley, Langdale End, Scarborough, North Yorkshire YO13 0LL.  
Researching James Waldie and his ancestors, born c.1857 Scotland, and his wife Mary Ellen Smith, born c.1870 Corsenside. They married St. Barnabas, Middle Hendon 1890. Mary Ellen was the daughter of Walter and Sarah Smith of 1/2 Parade (Hotel), Hendon, Sunderland. Walter Smith was a licensed victualler. James Waldie was an innkeeper of the Clayton Arms, Clayton Street, Newcastle in 1891 and subsequently of the Red Lion, Darlington. They had six children, the eldest being Norma Naruda of whom little is known.
- 6184 Mr. ROBERT HEWITT**  
6 Oakhill, Claygate, Esher, Surrey KT10 0TG.  
Trying to trace the descendants of William Hewitt, born 1841, and Emma nee Hudson, born 1843, lived South Shields. Their family: Joseph born 1863 (children Hughie, Susie and Josie); William born 1867 (children names unknown), lived areas of Sunderland Road, South Shields; Emma Isabella born 1878; Florence, nurse/midwife, emigrated to Canada after WW1; Herbert, worked Washington, married Nell, only child was Audrey.
- 6220 ANDREW FLETCHER**  
Branksome Hilders, Hindhead Road, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 3PU.  
Researching: Burn, Downs, Fairley, Petty and Raw of Sunderland; Charlton of Ponteland/Cramlington/Seaton and Sunderland; Coe of Tanfield/Whickham; Fish, Hall, Hudsbeth/Husepeth, Simpson and Wardell of Chester-le-Street; Hunter of Bothal; Kendall, Nicholson and Richardson of Tanfield; Lawson of Crawcrook; Lightfoot of Gilesgate/Sunderland; McKie of Berwickshire; Milburn and Storey of Bywell; Robson of Harbottle/Alwinton/Rochester and Elsdon; Rogerson of Bishopwearmouth; Russell of Ponteland and Earsdon; Rutter of Co. Durham; Sanderson of Sunderland/Alnwick and Newbottle; Scott of Tynemouth and Stannington; Soulsby of Rothbury and Bellingham; Stoker of North Shields; Wake of Tynemouth and Chester-le-Street; Whitfield of Bywell and Newcastle; Winter of Stockton and South Shields; and Wright of Sadberge.
- 6227 Mrs. MARGARET E. ALLISON (nee REED)**  
42 Soppett Street, Redcar, Cleveland TS10 2AL.  
Seeking James Nimmo c.1809, chainmaker, North Shields area, may have married Margaret Reid, Wallsend 1831, and later Jane, born c.1811 Percy Main. Son Robert Reid Nimmo born c.1835 North Shields. Family moved to Gateshead where two sons were born, William (c.1838) and John (c.1841). Robert married Hanna Blenkinsopp born c.1844; children - Matilda (c.1867) and William (c.1869), both born Gateshead.
- 6229 VALERIE STAPLETON**  
46 Greenleaf Road, Walthamston, London E17 6QQ.  
Researching: 1) Wood family of Aberdeen, Sunderland and Hebburn. Peter Wood and son Peter Valentine Wood, boilermakers in Tyneside shipyards; family dates 1820-1916. 2) Small family of Co. Antrim, Renfrew, Hebburn and Wallsend, particularly George Small, shipwright, living Hebburn 1891, Wallsend 1907-1934; family dates 1840-1934. 3) Dawson family of Sunderland, particularly Robert Dawson, mariner, born 1773 Sunderland; family dates 1700-1860. 4) Laidler family of Whitby and Sunderland, particularly John Laidler, mariner, born 1823/25 Whitby and father John, mariner and merchant, born Whitby, later of Sunderland; family dates 1770-1913.



**6248 ROGER K. SIMMONS**

South Ende Green, 1 Clare Corner, New Eltham, London SE9 2AE.

Searching for the birth/baptism of George Frost Jobson c.1820 in the Newcastle area, probably the son of Edward Jobson, farmer of Elswick, and his wife Dorothy Frost. George Jobson, engineer, married Elizabeth Hamilton, daughter of William Hamilton and Jane (?Melrose) at Carlisle in 1841. George appears to have had links with railways as he is found in major railway towns like York where great great grandmother Dorothy Jane was born in 1844. He died in 1876 at Mile End, London. Also seeking contacts with anyone searching for Jobsons in the North East.

**6250 Mr. S.T. DOWNEY**

35 Foxhills Road, Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire DN15 8LH.

Seeking information about the 3rd Artillery Volunteer Force which started about 1860. Interested in grandfather Lieutenant Thomas Stephenson Downey, who was in the force in 1884.

**6260 BRIAN HARRISON**

5 Trentham Close, Widnes, Cheshire WA8 9RH.

Seeking the birth of Catherine Flynn born c.1873, daughter of James Flynn, labourer. Mother's maiden name thought to be O'Malley. Had sisters Mary 1875-1890 and Bridget 1877-1943. Married John Robert Brownlee, a hatter's furrier, 1896 at St. Dominic's RC Church, Newcastle and died 1913 Newcastle. Also looking for any Brownlee information.

**6272 Mrs. SUSAN DONALDSON**

36 Twirlees Terrace, Hawick, Roxburghshire TD9 9LP.

Researching John Robert Donaldson, born 1854/5 South Shields, iron driller and machinist, married Jane Elizabeth Rushton, born c.1861 London. Their son, also John Robert Donaldson born 1880 Waterloo Place, Coronation Street, South Shields, journeyman painter married 1906 St. Stephen's, South Shields to Sarah Jane Hawkyard, born 1884 Napier Street, Westoe. Also, Matthew Iley White born 1849 Scarborough, mariner, married 1884 South Shields to Louise Pierce, widow, nee Moffat, whose father was Robert Moffat, mariner. His father William Moffat married 1838 Tynemouth, Margaret Turnbull, daughter of David Turnbull, butcher.

**6312 Mrs. DONNA J. CASKO**

103 Sixth Street, PO Box 87, Wheeler, Indiana 46393, U.S.A.

Searching for information about: 1) Thomas Thorpe born 1805 Lanchester, son of James Thorpe and Sarah Thacker. 2) He had a daughter Mary Elizabeth who married William Green. They had a daughter born 1852 Lanchester. William Green and his daughter emigrated to the U.S. in 1857. His wife stayed in England; what happened to her? 3) William Green born 1833 Sunderland, son of William Green and Eliza Todd. 4) Thomas Hall born 1783 Sunderland, son of George Hall and Deborah. He married Mary Short 1811 Bishopwearmouth.

**6363 DAVID STOCKS**

Linden House, Woodroyd Rd., Bramhall, Stockport SK7 3LT.

Researching Stocks family which originated in the area around Edmondbyers and the Tyne valley.

**6367 Mrs. DOROTHY E. BLAIS (nee HENSON)**

445 First Avenue W., Qualicum Beach, British Columbia V9K 1J8, Canada.

Information wanted on grandfather and family. Only information is mother's birth certificate registered 12th May 1905 giving father as William James Mitchell, stonemason, married to Elizabeth Ann Mitchell nee Dixon and residing Church Street, Tynemouth.

Information also wanted on ancestors of Elizabeth Ann Dixon nee Wilson and husband William Dixon, forgerman, of Wellington Court, Tynemouth when grandmother was born 1885. They later moved to East Jarrow with other children John, George, Caroline, Edie and Sarah. John married Kate, George married to Liz (from Byker), Caroline married Alfred Gillies (no children), Edie married W. Whitkowski then W. Walker (Primrose), Sarah (Sally) married T. Johnson (South Shields). William was a Wesleyan and Liberal agent; Elizabeth Ann a former captain in the Salvation Army and unofficial midwife and nurse to East Jarrow, noted for her cooking.

**6380 JAMES THOMAS SCURFIELD**

952 Princes Street, Kincardine, Ontario N2Z 1Y5, Canada.

(e-mail: scurfield@nmts.com).

Grandfather Joseph Scurfield was born 1879 Gateshead to Joseph George Scurfield and Mary Ellen Boyd. Have found the family on the 1881 Census but not on the 1891 Census by which time they are thought to have moved to Mulgrave Terrace Baths where Joseph George was the manager. Joseph George and Mary Ellen were married at St. Andrew's, Newcastle 1874. Joseph's father was William but haven't got an address to search for on the 1871 Census. Can anyone help please?

**6390 Mrs. C. JOHNSTON**

Chestnut House, 22 The Middlings, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 2NN.

Researching Farrow/Farrar, Frankland, Purdy, Clark, Denton and Ferguson. William Farrow of Sunderland married Emma Frankland in Hinderwell, Yorkshire in 1796. Their children were born in Yorkshire but son William, master mariner, married Mary Ann Purdy of Hampshire and their children were born in Sunderland. William Clark married Dorothy Ferguson in Sunderland in 1785 and their daughter Ann married John Denton, ship owner, Bishopwearmouth 1826. John's father was also living in Bishopwearmouth, was also called John and a mariner.

**6408 LYNN SPALDING**

"Wippens", 29 Corton Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 4PJ.

Seeking information on the Murphy family. Vincent Paul Murphy was born 1902 Sunderland, son of John and Catherine, nee Wilson. His siblings include Christopher, Arthur and John (Jack), and there are also thought to have been two sisters. Also seeks any information on John Starkey born c.1845 Sutton Coldfield area, or James Tibbles, lived Plumstead early 1900s and changed his name to James Rhodes during the 1920s.

**6410 Mrs. J. ARCHER**

12 Third Avenue, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 4EY.

Seeks information on the following families: 1) Thomas Davison, married Hannah Wilkinson at Houghton-le-Spring 1767. 2) Thomas Ayre, papermaker, born c.1777, living at Hett/Merrington in 1841, his wife Ellen/Elenor, born c.1789 Durham City, their son John Ayre, coal miner, born c.1820 Framwellgate/Coxhoe, Susannah Ayre (formerly Ditchburn, nee Lynn) born 1817 at Garmondsway Moor, Bishop Middleham, married the above John Ayre at Lanchester Register Office. 3) Robert Lynn, butcher, father of the above Susannah Lynn.

**6414 Mr. DOUGLAS FLACK**

23 Thoresby Crescent, Draycott, Derbyshire DE72 3PH.

Researching: 1) John Martin Wilson, bottle-maker, born 1844 Southwick, married 1867 to Elizabeth Jane Henderson, formerly Williams, born 1846 Southwick. 2) Their daughter Eva Wilson, married c. late 1890s to John Douglas last known Ahory, Co. Armagh. 3) Possible connection of Wilson, Henderson or Williams families to the Darling family of lighthouse keepers on the Farne Islands. 4) David Flack of Belfast and Ayrshire married Sarah Smiley born 1883.

**6422 Mrs. D. MILLBAND**

10 Abbey Drive, North Walbottle, Newcastle upon Tyne NE5 1QR.

Seeks baptism of William Bennett who married Hannah Davi(d)son at Shotley 1837 - per census born c.1810 at Harlow Hill, Ovingham or Stamfordham. Other interests: Kneebone, Collins, Scott, Kirsop(p) and Bat(e)y.

**6444 Mrs. ANNE GROOME**

5 Nicholas Road, Morristown, New Jersey 07960, U.S.A.

Searching for information on George and Mary Morton's parents. George Morton, junior, was born to them in 1823 and his brother Henry in 1825 at Trewitley Farm, Longhorsley. George, junior, married Ann Davison at St. John's, Newcastle 1840 when he was described as being of Bothal. Ann's father was William on the marriage certificate and her mother Eleanor. Her father was believed to have been born 1779 at Hebburn, son of Thomas Davison of Earsdon Hind Mill who was buried 1847. Ann had the following siblings: John, Thomas, William and Mary.

**6453 GLENN L. JENKINS**

"Two Ways", Salters Hill, Gloucester Road, Twykesbury, Gloucester GL20 7DB. (e-mail:100325.446@compuserve.com).

John Swanson was a painter in Newcastle from the 1850s to the 1870s and married Ann Mather in Newcastle 1852. He was born Aberdeen c.1827, son of Peter Swanson, a weaver. John's children were: William Mather b.1855 and Margaret c.c.1858, both at Wallsend. John Hildrew/Hildreth was a shipwright in Sunderland in the 1840s, c.c.1800. He married Elizabeth Liddle/Liddel, their children were: James b.c.1836, John b.c.1840, William b.c.1845, Matthew b.c.1846, Robert and Thomas Liddle, all born Pallion. James Hildrew's daughter Elizabeth married William Mather Swanson in South Shields in 1878. Mainly interested in Swanson and Hildrew.

**6463 CAROLINE WETTON**

7 Mersey Road, Bulkington, Nuneaton CV12 9QB.

Looking for the birth/baptism of Isabella Leach c.1821 in Newcastle. She married William Mills before 1851 when they were living in Leazes Lane. Can anyone help in locating a quarry in Newcastle in 1871, possibly in the Westgate area, and who owned it?

**6471 PAMELA CLARE**

89 Friars Croft, Kirkintilloch, East Dumbartonshire G66 2AU.

Researching Pile/Pyle and Bates, all dates. Any information please on Pile in the areas of Glanton, Branton, Wooler and Borders. Especially interested in William Pile (wife Elizabeth) who lived in the Glanton area c.1826. Believe that this George married Ann Forster and had ten children including George Pile born 1864 at Branton. Information wanted on Mary Ann Bates born 1862 at New Row, Elvet, Durham.

**6473 BRIAN J. EDWARDS**

46 Tilsworth Road, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 1TP.

Looking for birth/baptism of Samuel Robert Weddell in Newcastle c.1811, son of William Weddell, a hatter. There was a marriage at All Saints, Newcastle in 1804 between William George Weddell and Elizabeth Lyons, and the baptism of their first son, William George in 1806. They are likely to be Samuel Robert's parents but William was in Newcastle prison for debt in 1812 around the time Samuel was born. Elizabeth was a pauper widow by 1851 but William's death has not been traced. Any suggestions would be welcome about Newcastle prison, Quarter Session or Poor Law records that might help to find out more about this family.

**6483 Mr. DAVID F. SWAP**

5 Ingsmill Drive, Clayton West, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD8 9PW.

Seeking any information on Swap/Swapp family in Durham/Northumberland (Bishopwearmouth, Chester-le-Street, Gateshead, Newcastle and Tyne & Wear areas). Is anyone else researching this name? Also, any information on William Waldon, farmer and father to illegitimate son William Waldon Davison who was born St. Helens, Auckland 1832 and died Darlington 1879. His mother was Isabella Davison, a servant. Her parents are thought to be William Davison, farmer, and Elizabeth Crosier of Houghton/Heighington area.

**6485 MARGARET ROBSON**

7 St. Andrews Way, Tilmanstone, Nr. Deal, Kent CT14 0JH.

Would like to find out more about great grandmother Mary Harkinson who was born in Scotland but married James Collinson St. Giles, Durham in 1851. The marriage in 1851 does not tally with the 1851 Census which records them as living at Chester-le-Street with two children aged 3 and 1. Grandmother Mary Tindale of Hebburn married Charles Rose in 1884 and they lived at Willington Quay. She was the daughter of Joseph Tindale, farmer of East Rainton who married Elizabeth Hardy at Bishopwearmouth 1861.

**6504 Mrs. BARBARA B. AITKEN**

4242 Bath Road, Kingston, Ontario K7M 4Y7, Canada.

Interested in Fullerton and Fairbairn ancestors who lived in the Flodden area of Northumberland.

**6512 Miss FRED M. RUSLING**

73 Cairns Road, Crosspool, Sheffield S10 5NA.

Seeks information on origins and birthplace of John Curr, a Roman Catholic born 1712, coal viewer at George Silvertop's Pontop Colliery at Bushblades, died 1777 Lanchester, married Elizabeth who was born 1722. Children: George (born 1749); William (1753); John born 1755 at Kyo near Lanchester, brought up at Pontop Pike. Possibly all three brothers moved to Sheffield in 1774. George married Ann Glossop 1785 and had seven children, the youngest being Henry born 1802. He lived in Bristol and had by his first wife: Teresa 1826; George 1828; Henry John 1829 and Charles 1831. He came back to Sheffield and married second wife Mary Barrett in 1839. Would welcome any information.

**6519 DENNIS W.T. KELLY**

10 Walter Drive, Apt. 1N, North Kingstown, RI 02852, U.S.A.

Seeking information on William Fell, born c.1815 Maryport, Cumberland, clock and watch maker. His spouse was Sarah of Keswick and they had three children: Joseph (1861), Thomas (1863) and Margaret Ann (1865), all born Newcastle. In 1851 they lived in Jesmond Vale and in 1881 at 2 Mill Street, Jesmond. Margaret Ann was not in the household on the 1881 Census. Where would their parish church be?

**6548 Mrs. VALERIE ROPER**

c/o Tha Toom Mill Office, Advance Agro Ltd., PO Box 1, Simahaphot 25140, Thailand

Particularly interested in the family of Lieutenant Barnabas Fenwick R.N., baptised 1731, married Ann Reay 1771. He was Commander of the *Firebrand* and lived at Elvaston Hall, Ryton, County Durham. The most recent, and last, Barnabas Fenwick died 1921 aged 78. He was a mining engineer who spent the latter part of his life in Newcastle. He had a brother John Henry Fenwick. Interest in the Fenwick family is through Mary Dodd who married a Barnabas Fenwick 1841 at Ryton.

**6551 JANE TINDALL**

Old Ouse Farm, Wistow, Selby, North Yorks YO8 0RP.  
 Seeking information on Tindall family of Sunderland area.  
 William Tindall, excise man of Deptford, retired Ryhope 1846;  
 children: 1) Mary married James Milne 1846 at Fawcett Street  
 Chapel, Bishopwearmouth, lived Williamson Terrace,  
 Monkwearmouth, missionary amongst sailors. 2) Betsy,  
 married, two sons - Jack and Tom. 3) Maria Phillips. 4) Rev.  
 John Tindall, Methodist minister.

**6565 Mr. GORDON HUMBLE**

9 Victoria Avenue, Chard, Somerset TA20 1HA.  
 Northumberland family interests: Humble (1600-1800); Dodd  
 (1700 onwards); Maughan (1700 onwards); Cadle (1800  
 onwards) and Watson (1800 onwards).

**6567 Mrs. P.M. BROOK**

Messfield, Gale Barn, Hutton Roof, via Carnforth, Lancashire  
 LA6 2PQ.

Researching Lillico/Lilico(e) family.

Seeking information on:

- 1) George Lillico and his son Thomas who married Margaret  
 Hunter at Crookham 1844; what relation were the witnesses,  
 James and Richard Lillico?
- 2) Unable to find the marriage of George Bulmer, born South  
 Shields c.1830, to Ann Milburn, born Cramlington c.1843;  
 their daughter Mary, born Bedlington 1878, married Jacob  
 Lillico in 1901 at Morpeth.

## HELP OFFERED

**Mrs. RITA M. PLATT**

43 Mill Lane, Coppull, Lancashire PR7 5AW.

Mrs. Platt is Vice Chairman and Librarian of the Chorley  
 branch of the Lancashire Family History Society and has  
 offered to advise our members with interests in that area. She  
 had indexed the 1891 Census for Chorley and is currently  
 working on the Wigan district.

**6154 Mr. JAN KERRIGAN**

PO Box 15, Adaminaby 2630, Australia.

Often visits the National Library of Australia in Canberra and  
 is prepared to do research in Australian records in return for  
 Northumberland research.

**6414 Mr. DOUGLAS FLACK**

23 Thoresby Crescent, Draycott, Derbyshire DE72 3PH.

Visits both Derby City and Nottingham(shire) Archives and  
 would be happy to assist fellow members by looking up  
 information.

**6473 BRIAN J. EDWARDS**

46 Tilsworth Road, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 1TP.

Is a regular visitor to the Public Record Office at Kew and also  
 Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire Record Office  
 and Libraries.

Mr. Edwards would be happy to come to a reciprocal  
 arrangement for helping with his Weddel ancestors at  
 Newcastle sources.

**Mrs. A. ELDER**

Mrs. Elder was inundated with requests after offering, in the  
 Spring edition of our *Journal*, to help members with research  
 in Carlisle Archives.

Although it may take some time, she will eventually get  
 round to answering everyone.

## Northumbrian Bites 4 - Northumbrian Lardy Cake

by Joan Bunting

Lardy Cakes are just about as undesirable, as far as diet  
 goes, as anything you could imagine; every one should  
 carry a public healthy warning. They are, however,  
 completely delicious.

To be strictly fair, these wondrous creations were only  
 ever meant for high days and holidays, especially  
 harvest time. In the North country, sugar was always  
 considered to be a hugely expensive luxury; and it  
 wasn't until it became relatively cheap that rich breads  
 and cakes like these were made. The extravagance of  
 using sugar is tempered by using, instead of butter, the  
 fat that everyone who kept a pig, (that is to say most of  
 the population), had in plenty: lard.

Lardy Cakes are known all over England. I first made  
 one from a recipe given to me in Berkshire where we  
 lived when first married, although I had eaten and  
 enjoyed my Durham-born grandmother's version as a  
 child. The lard must be real lard, not vegetable fat, but  
 in this Northumbrian version the proportion of lard is  
 kept in reasonable bounds. The secret of success is to  
 keep the mixture very cool as you work.

**INGREDIENTS:**

8oz. / 225g. / 1½ cup Plain Flour  
 5fl.oz. / 150ml. / 2⅓ cup Milk  
 ½ oz. / 15g. fresh Yeast  
 1 teaspoon Sugar  
 1 Egg  
 Pinch Salt

**FILLING:**

2oz. / 30g. Lard  
 2oz. / 30g. Sugar  
 2oz. / 30g. Currants

Sift the flour and salt, and leave in a warm place.  
 Cream the yeast with the sugar and add the egg and  
 warmed milk. Mix into the flour to make a soft dough.  
 Cover and leave in a warm place until doubled in bulk.  
 Turn out on to a floured board, and roll out. Divide the  
 filling into two portions and spread one half on to two  
 thirds of the dough. Fold the dough into three and roll  
 out again. Repeat with the rest of the filling, then  
 refold.

Roll out and fold into three - two more times, leaving  
 the dough in a cool place between the foldings and  
 rollings. After the last rolling, shape the dough to fit an  
 8 inch/20cm cake tin. Allow to rise until doubled in  
 size then cook in a very hot oven for 30-35 minutes.  
 Turn out and leave to cool upside down to allow the  
 lard to soak right through the cake.