

# THE JOURNAL OF THE NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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## CONTENTS

Editorial, News From Durham Record Office .....	1
News 'Snippets' .....	2
New Books and Reviews .....	3
NDFHS Publications .....	5
Bolbec Hall News .....	Gerry Langley 6
Proposed Heraldry Group .....	Geoff Nicholson 7
Why Weren't More Shot? (A look at courts martial and discipline in the Tyneside Brigades) .....	John Sheen 8
The Village That Almost Died (An account of the Haswell Pit disaster of 1844) .....	Anne English 11
News From Northumberland Record Office .....	Janet Doody 12
Northumberland and Durham Marriages At Gretna Hall .....	Arthur Brack 13
Irregular Marriages At Lamberton Toll (The case of Rev William Hall and George Lamb) .....	Arthur Brack 16
Issuers of Trading Tokens In The Seventeenth Century .....	Tim Everson 19
1996/97 NDFHS Provisional Accounts .....	20
Tithe Maps and Family History .....	Magnus Carter 22
Directories In North-East England .....	Adam Bunting 26
Member's Interests .....	29
Advertisements .....	35

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NDFHS Web Page .....	<a href="http://www.geocities.com/Athens/6549/">http://www.geocities.com/Athens/6549/</a>
Chairman .....	Mr. R. Hale, 88 Reading Road South Shields NE33 4SF
General Correspondence & Enquiries .....	The Secretary, Mrs M. Furness, 8 Shadfen Park Rd., Marden Farm, North Shields NE30 3JD
Accounts & Other Financial Matters .....	Mr P.R.G. Thirkell, 100 Stuart Court, Kingston Park, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 2SG
Articles for Journal (Other than 'Members Interests') .....	Mr M.A. Lincoln, 12 Cranleigh Place, Beaumont Park, Whitley Bay NE25 9UD
Members Interests and Queries .....	Mr P.R.G. Thirkell, 100 Stuart Court, Kingston Park, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 2SG
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Bolbec Hall Co-ordinator (Volunteers) .....	Ms S. Senior, 30 The Drive, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4AH
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Strays Co-ordinator .....	Mrs M. Howes, 1 The Kylins, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2DJ
Book Sales & Journal Back Numbers .....	Mrs B. Rawle, 19 Blenheim Walk, South Shields NE33 2RM
Microfiche Sales .....	Mr N. Richardson, 12 Banbury Way, South Beach Estate, Blyth, Northumberland NE24 3TY
Exchange Journals (Other Societies) .....	Mr P.R.G. Thirkell, 100 Stuart Court, Kingston Park, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 2SG
Postal Librarian .....	Mrs D. Tait, c/o 2nd Floor, Bolbec Hall, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1SE

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

## EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first NDFHS Journal of 1998. There are a few administrative matters to mention before you get down to the serious business, the "Family History" bit.

At Bolbec Hall, we now have the first 50 years - 1837 to 1886 - of the GRO indexes of Births, Deaths and Marriages (which until recently were called the St Catherine's House Indexes). They are on microfiche and they are of course simply indexes, from which you can get details to order the birth, death and marriage certificates themselves. If you cannot get to Bolbec Hall, the volunteer staff there are willing to do searches, for a small fee. Use the "Research Form" in the centre pages if you want to take advantage of this.

This Journal has been put together by an "Editorial Team" and under revised arrangements, would you send your valued contributions for publication in future issues to Mr Maurice Lincoln, 12 Cranleigh Place, Beaumont Park, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear NE25 9UD. Your contributions, large or small, letters or articles, snippets or comments, are always welcomed, even though they will not necessarily be published "soon". Note the deadline for the next Journal is 31st March.

I make no apology for mentioning, yet again, the subject of volunteers to assist with various Society tasks. An organisation like ours has no paid staff and relies on the

efforts of willing volunteers. But we always need more - to help at Bolbec Hall, to type manuscripts for the library, to do indexing, to transcribe tombstone inscriptions (when the weather is better!) and so on. We are currently also looking for someone, locally, to act as Publicity Officer - to "spread the word". If you can possibly help, drop Gerry Langley a line at Bolbec Hall. He will be delighted to hear from you!

Can I mention a thorny subject - copyright. We are sometimes sent articles from other magazines or from newspapers, or photographs, often 30 or 40 years old, or more, which the contributor thinks may be of interest. They often are - but we can't print them because they are still in copyright. You may own a book or a picture, but you do not own the copyright in it. That belongs to the writer, the photographer - the person who created it - and copyright usually runs from 70 years from the year of his or her death. That's a long time, and it will almost certainly mean that items published in 1928 or later, and possibly much earlier, will still be in copyright. There is no objection to using short extracts or quotations, provided the source is mentioned, and of course, with permission, we can publish more recent items. If you want to send us a previously published article, it is up to you to satisfy yourself on copyright, or to obtain any necessary permission. Sorry, but that's the way it is!

## NEWS FROM DURHAM RECORD OFFICE

*by Jennifer Gill, County Archivist*

The Office has just completed the third survey of parish records under the Parochial Registers and Records Measure, 1978. The Office is the Diocesan Record Office for Parish Records for the Diocese of Durham, that is, the area between the Rivers Tyne and Tees, which comprises 298 churches. The Measure requires that the records retained in each church should be surveyed once every five years. The Survey Archivist, Dr. W.A.L. Seaman, visits each church in turn, checks that all the records scheduled at the previous survey are present and adds to the schedule any new records. He also accepts on deposit any records which the incumbent wishes to transfer to the Record Office. All parish records which were completed over 100 years ago must be deposited in the appropriate Diocesan Record Office unless the diocesan bishop directs otherwise. No parish in the Diocese of Durham now retains its pre 1898 records. Of course, many parishes deposit much more recent records - some of the registers in the Durham Record Office go right up to 1997. The Survey Archivist also advises on the storage conditions of the records retained in each parish: the Measure requires

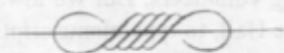
that all parish records should be stored in a fixed fire-proof safe away from any contact with liquids, such as ink or oil, and away from cloth.

The Office is starting the fourth survey of parish records in January 1998. It is to be done by rural deanery and begins in the rural deanery of Gateshead West.

The Fourth Inspection is due to finish in the year 2003: we might, therefore, call it the Millennium Inspection.

The Record Office would again like to thank all those volunteers who index parish registers and those who type these indexes. Without the hard work of the indexers, research would be much more difficult for people interested in the family history of the north-east. Without the hard work of the typists, many indexes would not be available for use for a considerable time - a very frustrating situation for indexers and users alike. The work of both is greatly appreciated by the Office and all north-eastern family historians.

## NEWS 'SNIPPETS'



The FHS of Cheshire, North Cheshire FHS and South Cheshire FHS are to hold a Joint Cheshire Family History Weekend 17th-19th April at the Crewe Campus of Manchester Metropolitan University. Incorporated, on the Saturday, will be the Federation of Family History Societies AGM at which the NDFHS will be represented. Further information is obtainable from Mrs D.M. Brown, 7 Westway, Heswall, Wirral, Merseyside L60 8PJ.

ooOOoo

Howard Chadwick has completed a 15,000 name database from the Censuses 1841 to 1891 for Witton Park, Co.Durham and is willing to make a name search for our members in exchange for a SAE. Mr Chadwick may be contacted at 10 Burdon Close, Newton Aycliffe, Co.Durham DL5 4ES

ooOOoo

The Imperial War Museum has had a good response to its appeal for material to illustrate an exhibition of the impact of Nazi racial policies between 1933-45 but would still be most grateful to hear from anyone is holding photographs, documents or other material from their past lives, or those of their families. If you have anything of interest, please contact the Holocaust Exhibition Project Office on tel: 0171 416 5285/5286/5204 or fax 0171 416 5278. It is intended to open the new permanent exhibition in early 2000.

ooOOoo

Our item in the last Journal regarding 'errors' on the 1881 Census Indexes prompted a letter from Mrs Susan Lumas to remind us that details of any potential mistakes may be sent to her. It is intended that eventually the complete collection of reported mistakes will be published for the benefit of all users. They should be addressed to her at the Public Record Office, 1881 Project, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU accompanied by the full PRO reference, the fiche number and the place where the 'error' occurs.

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Post Office Archives hold the records of the British Post Office from the seventeenth century to the present day. The archives consists of a variety of records from original files and papers to photographs and maps, etc. and as they are classed as public records they may be accessed by researchers. The address is: Post Office Archives, Freeling House, Mount Pleasant Complex, London EC1A 1BB; tel: 0171 239 2570, fax: 0171 239 2576 or email: Catherine.Orton@postoffice.co.uk

ooOOoo

The following item is reproduced, with permission, from the Public Record Office's *Readers' Bulletin*, Winter 1997 issue:

*"Surviving records of service of soldiers in the British Army during the First World War are contained in two collections, one of which was seriously damaged by enemy action in 1940.*

*The undamaged collection, known as the 'Unburnt' or '1914-1920 Collection' was made available to the public in November last year. These records (class WO 364) can now be seen in the Microfilm Reading Room at Kew.*

*In May this year, the Public Record Office signed the largest microfilming contract ever awarded by a British archive in order to film the damaged documents. This project has been supported by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund.*

*The damaged, or 'Burnt Collection' as it is known, will gradually be microfilmed over the next five years. This collection is being made available to the public as each letter is completed.*

*The first letters to be completed were Z and Q, which should be available in November [1997], U and V by the end of the year [1997], and O and N by the end of March. The actual dates for the release of these records depend on how quickly each letter is filmed so at times there may be slight delays in their arrival in the Microfilm Reading Room.*

*Further information about the microfilming project can be obtained from Alison Webster on 0181 392 5239."*

ooOOoo

Members who may have Scottish ancestors, and have access to the Internet, will be interested to hear that the GRO for Scotland has signed a contract with Optical Media Systems Ltd to develop a system which will allow users of the World Wide Web to access Scottish births, marriages and deaths. The index, with over 30 million names, will be one of the largest genealogical databases in the world and will include names from the OPRs 1553 to 1854, the Scottish GRO Indexes, and the 1881 and 1891 Censuses. Users will also be able to order certificates through the Web. The facility is due to be available 'From early 1998' but update information can be obtained through the GRO(S) web site at:

[www.open.gov.uk/gros/groshome.htm](http://www.open.gov.uk/gros/groshome.htm)

ooOOoo

The November 1997 issue of *The Local Historian* (the Journal of the British Association for Local History, vol.27, no.4) has an interesting article by Professor David Hey on *The Local History of Family Names*. Using a database of all surnames beginning A,E,K and R from the civil registration indexes of deaths 1842 to 1846 (some



vol.27, no.4) has an interesting article by Professor David Hey on *The Local History of Family Names*. Using a database of all surnames beginning A,E,K and R from the civil registration indexes of deaths 1842 to 1846 (some 220,000 names), the author shows clearly how some surnames were, and still are, quite localised. There were, for example, 1198 Robson deaths and no less than 817 of them were in Northumberland and Durham. No doubt many of our members will agree with Professor Hey's remark that "Even today, most Robsons speak with a Geordie accent".

Under the title of *Muslim Migration to the North East of England During the Early 20th Century*, Richard Lawless looks at the influx of Arab and Somali seaman into the South Shields area.

There is a copy of this volume in the NDFHS Library at Bolbec Hall.

ooOOoo

Mr P.J. Heseltine of 3 Earning Street, Godmanchester, Cambs. PE18 8JD is undertaking a research project into engravers of brass memorial plates and has requested the help of members, especially when collecting monumental inscriptions from churches. He would very much like to hear from anyone who can provide details of any brass engravings with the name of the engraver, the date and a brief description. He is also interested in the export of UK brasses and would welcome any information.

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The Twelfth Family History in Wales Course will be held from Saturday 15th August to Saturday 22nd August at

the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. This residential course will have a full and varied programme, with well-known speakers, as well as field-trips and social activities. Full details may be obtained from: The Course Directors (FHW98), The Department of Continuing Education, University of Wales, 10-11 Laura Place, Aberystwyth SY23 2AU.

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For the past six years, Mr Brian V. Thomas has been travelling to Belgium and France photographing World War I graves for relatives who are unable to visit their ancestors burial places. He is now planning his 1998 trips and would be pleased to hear from any members who have 'loved ones' buried in the area.

Although a hobby, Mr Thomas has to charge a fee to assist in covering his expenses. The fee is £15 which includes his personal visit to the cemetery or memorial, a 7" x 5" photograph of the grave, 7" x 5" general view of the cemetery, information about the cemetery and, if available, information about the regiment.

Anyone who wishes to contact Mr Thomas can do so at: 8 Russell Drive, Wollaton, Nottingham NG8 2BH.

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Anyone researching the name Cobbing may be interested to hear of a new 'One-Name' society - The Cobbing Family History Society. More information may be obtained from Jennifer Cobbing, 89a Petherton Road, London N5 2QT.

## NEW BOOKS & REVIEWS

Eileen Hopper; *Easington - The Way We Were*; 1997; Easington Village Parish Council; 120pp; £5.75.

This book is a photographic history of Easington Village and Colliery recently printed by Easington Village Parish Council. The history of Easington and the changes that came in the 1900's to a rural community, with the opening of the colliery on the north-east coast is covered in both story and pictures. The author borrowed photographs from people in the area, covering views of local places and many events, showing the community spirit of the past with residents at work and play.

The book with almost 300 photos closes with the demolition of Easington Colliery. The book can be bought from: Seaton Holme, Hall Walk, Easington Village, Co. Durham, SR8 3BS for £5.75. Postal applications should be accompanied by an A4 addressed envelope with £1.20 in stamps.

Lord Dormand of Easington writes of the book "I wish to congratulate you on such a splendid achievement. It will not only give immense pleasure to all who read it now, but will be a valuable source of information for future historians researching the area".

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Alan Morgan; 1997; *Bygone Jesmond Vale*; Newcastle Library and Information Services; ISBN 1 85795 093 3; 24pp; £1.95 plus 50p p&p (£1 overseas)

This is the latest in the 'Bygone' series published by Newcastle Libraries. For anyone who has not seen any of the series, they consist of about twenty old photographs with a brief description. This volume has a short history of Jesmond Vale which was first mentioned in 1272 in Court proceedings. The NDFHS Journal for Winter 1996 has a list of other booklets in the series. Orders or requests for publication lists should be sent to: Promotions and Arts Unit, Central Library, Princess Square, Newcastle upon Tyne NE99 1DX



John Hailey (compiler); 1997; *Maritime Sources in the Library of the Society of Genealogists*; Society of Genealogists; ISBN 1 85951 069 8; 32pp; £2.50 plus 50p p&p (Overseas £1 surface, £2 airmail)

This is number 10 in the SoG's series outlining the contents of their library. Anyone researching the maritime history of their ancestors may find this booklet useful, even if they are not a member of the SoG. Many of the references will be obtainable through member's own local library or in the exchange journal collection in our own Society's library. Although the booklet does not claim to be a complete listing in the SoG Library, one must wonder how representative it is. Despite the sea-faring connections of Northumberland and Durham there doesn't seem to be a single reference to any articles which have appeared in the NDFHS Journal.

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Colin D. Rogers; *The Family Tree Detective*; 3rd edition; soft back; Manchester University Press, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9NR; ISBN 0 7190 5213 0; 289 pp; £10.99

There can be few family historians who have not become stuck in at least one line of their family tree. This book, although primarily written to help solve those problems, is an excellent book for all genealogists. It is clearly written, easily read and covers most sources of information. It includes a section of other useful genealogical works and a very useful list of Registration Districts with addresses. The first edition has been thoroughly updated and some sections have been expanded. Medieval sources, heraldry and the Internet are also included. Even the section on organising those scraps of paper and lists of information from Record Offices will ring a bell with most family historians. The book has inspired me to look again at those problem lines in my own tree and I am sure it will inspire others.

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David Butler (editor); *Seaham Harbour: The First Generation. The 1851 Census of Dawdon Township*; Seaham Census Group, Seaham Harbour Coastal Centre, Seaham House, Seaham, Co.Durham SR7 7EU; ISBN 0 9528329 0 9; 78pp; £5.00 (£6.70 overseas)

This volume is the product of a Worker's Educational Association evening class led by David Butler. It is more than just an index to the 1851 Census; it is a full transcript with additional details taken from contemporary directories. Included are some individuals, mainly seaman, who are known to have been living in Seaham at the time but were missing from home on the night of the census.

As well as being a transcript of the information from the enumerator's books, there is a short description of

Dawdon township and an explanation of how the census was carried out.

There are indexes to personal names and streets as well two maps of 1857 showing Dawdon township and Seaham Harbour.

ooOOoo

David Hawgood; 1998; *IGI on Computer*; published by David Hawgood; ISBN 948151 16 1; 48pp; £2.74 (UK), £2.93 (Overseas), including postage.

The book describes the use of the International Genealogical Index on CDROM. It covers searching, printing and copying records, and ways of using the download data on home computers. It describes use for IGI analysis of genealogy packages, conversion utilities, and mapping programs, with many examples. Appendices give examples of all IGI event types and features, description of GEDCOM formats, and detail of the way source descriptions are included in GEDCOM version 5.5 as used in PAF 3.0.

ooOOoo

Rev. Ian Gomersall; (1997); *Cockfield in 1881*; published by Ian Gomersall and available from him at 11 Mardale Avenue, Manchester M20 4TU; price £7.50 or £8.25 by post. (No details about overseas costs).

This book is written by a former Rector of Cockfield and uses the 1881 Census returns for Cockfield in south west County Durham, and other sources, to produce an analysis of how the village was in 1881.

The book includes comment on the work of the people, their origins, their names, the population structure and details of households. It is supported by local material. Bar charts are used to illustrate statistical material, and reproductions of documents of the time are included.

An appendix lists, alphabetically, the names of all heads of household.

ooOOoo

Rev. Frank Palgrave; 1997 reprint of 1896 edition; *Hetton-le-Hole Pitmatic Talk 100 Years Ago: A Dialect Dictionary of 1896*; 88pp; ISBN 0-9531402-0-2; Johnstone-Carr Publications, PO Box 140, Gateshead NE8 3YP; £4.99 (No details on postage costs).

This is a facsimile reprint of a Durham dialect wordbook first published in 1896. It describes around 900 dialect words collected by Rev. Frank Palgrave and is reprinted in full with a foreward by David Ridley, a Hetton man and Durham University PhD History graduate.

## PROPOS NDFHS PUBLICATIONS GROUP

**DI (C1341) 1851 Census Piece No H0107/2399 South Shields, Boldon etc.**

**D2 (C1342) 1851 Census Piece No. H0107/2400 Jarrow, South Shields, Hedworth.**

It has been confirmed that a significant amount of information has been omitted from the two transcripts. The Committee have therefore decided that they should be redone and South Shields Group have agreed to do the work. There are in the region of 1100 folios (2200 pages) to transcribe and this will take at least 18-24 months to complete. It is proposed to continue selling the present edition in the meanwhile; the books will be sold at the reduced price of £2.50 each in the U.K., £3.75 overseas, whilst the microfiche will remain at £1.50 U.K., £1.90 overseas.

### **MS399 Big R2 British Isles.**

This set has proved very popular and is shortly to be re-ordered. As mentioned in the Autumn 1997 Journal the price from the Federation will increase by £3.75 per copy on re-ordering. We are therefore obliged to increase our price to you by £3.00. From 1st March 1998 MS399 will cost £18.00 in the U.K. and £18.75 overseas.

### **1998 Library Catalogue and Postal Library Catalogue.**

New material arrives daily for the Library necessitating a revised catalogue at regular intervals. The latest edition is now available on microfiche, and for the benefit of distant members the postal catalogue is published with it, separately at the end.

Obtainable from Mr. Neil Richardson, 12 Banbury Way, South Beach Estate, Blyth Northumberland, NE24 3TY. Price £1.50 U.K., £1.90 overseas.

For members preferring a hard copy, the Library Catalogue priced at £3.00 in U.K. and the Postal Library Catalogue priced £1.50 in U.K. are both obtainable from Bolbec Hall, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1SE.

### **NEW PUBLICATIONS**

**Northumberland 1851 Census Piece H0107/2421 Folios 609-809. Berwick on Tweed part 3 and Northumberland.**

The 1851 census of Northumberland has been completed with this Piece. It shows alphabetically, surname index, forename, age occupation, place of birth, and folio number.

Book no. N27 price £4.50 in U.K., £6.00 overseas; fiche no. CN37. Price £2.00 U.K., £2.40 overseas.

**Co. Durham 1851 Census Piece H0107/2388 Folios 313-492. Edmondbyers, Hunstanworth, and Wolsingham.**

Completion of piece H0107/2388 covering lower Weardale and high ground areas of Hunstanworth, Edmondbyers, and Tow Law. Alphabetical index of surname, forename age, place of birth and folio number.

Book no. D11 price £4.50 in U.K., £6.00 overseas; fiche no. CD51 price £2.00 U.K., £2.40 overseas.

**PR213. Durham City Burials: St Giles' 1813-1841; St Oswald's. 1813-1831 and 1831-1853.**

Indexed alphabetically, the entries give date of burial, surname and forename, place of dwelling and age. Two fiche; price £2.00 in U.K., £2.40 overseas.

**PR214 Lanchester All Saints Church. Burials 1781-1847.**

Indexed alphabetically, lists date of burial, surname, forename, occupation or relationship, place of abode and age. One fiche; price £1.50 in U.K., £1.90 overseas.

**TD 168 Monumental Inscriptions. (A) Esh C. of E. (B) Esh Laude R.C., (C) Satley.**

All inscriptions fully recorded, including plaques in the churches, up to summer 1997. One fiche; price £1.50 in U.K., £1.90 overseas.

All books obtainable from Mrs. B. Rawle, 19 Blenheim Walk, South Shields. NE33 2RM.

All microfiche to be ordered from Mr. N. Richardson, 12 Banbury Way, South Beach Estate, Blyth. Northumberland. NE24 3TY.

**PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR MICROFICHE SALES.**

### **AGM NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the  
Annual General Meeting  
of the Northumberland and Durham Family  
History Society will be held on  
Tuesday 2nd June 1998 at 7.30 pm at  
Pelaw Social Club, Heworth, Gateshead.

# BOLBEC HALL NEWS

by Gerry Langley, Bolbec Hall Co-ordinator

The Society has made a large investment in purchasing the first 50 years (1837 - 1886) of the main register indexes of Births Marriages and Deaths (formerly known as St Catherine's House Indexes). The indexes comprise of all registered birth, marriages and deaths in England and Wales arranged alphabetically in quarters (viz:- March, June, September and December). The index was bought using proceeds from covenant income together with some input from the funds of the Society. Additions will be bought as covenant funds allow, so if you pay income tax in the UK, please covenant your annual subscription to provide us with additional funds. It costs you - Nothing! The Members service is prepared to undertake specific searches of four consecutive quarters for specific people provided that a town or village is specified as the area concerned "Northumberland" will not be searched neither will one name studies be undertaken.

## UNWANTED CERTIFICATES

The Library has a growing collection of Unwanted Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates donated by members. The lists are available by post for £2.00 and including a SSAE or 2 IRC's for all 4 lists.

OR, lists can be sent separately for £1.00 each.

If you have unwanted Certificates why not donate them to Bolbec Hall?

## INDEXING AT BOLBEC HALL

The Librarian requires the recently deposited research of Bill Rounce and others to be indexed/typed as much of it is at present hand-written. This may well be the opportunity to start a computer orientated team to undertake such

"In House" Projects. Ideas and Names to Bolbec Hall Co-ordinator Gerry Langley.

## BOLBEC HALL OPENING HOURS

DAILY 10am-4pm MON-FRI

1st WEDNESDAY of the MONTH 4pm-8pm/9pm

1st SATURDAY of the MONTH 11am-4pm

For Wednesday late & Saturday please ring in advance with your arrival time so that we can open the front door.

ADVANCE BOOKINGS (0191) 2612159

The volunteers at Bolbec Hall have recently been involved in a stocktake of the holdings with a view to producing a composite catalogue of all our research material. That task is now completed and a fiche will be produced in the near future. (Watch This Space!) In the interim, and for those who would prefer it, paper catalogues are now available. See below for prices. The Postal Library has its own holdings which are available for members to borrow; however it must be stressed that holdings from the main library CANNOT be lent out.

We now have a new volunteer who is undertaking First Wednesday evening of the month opening. Telephone for an appointment.

Full details of hours and other projects are shown below.

## FICHE WANTED

Have you any unwanted FICHE?

Bolbec Hall Library

is the ideal place to deposit

FICHE purchased from other Societies

which are no longer required.

## HELP WANTED

At Bolbec Hall

New Volunteers always needed to assist our members in their research.

Apply to Sheila Senior,

Volunteer Co-ordinator at Bolbec Hall.

Interesting and varied tasks available to all applicants.

## NEW LIBRARY CATALOGUES

The new catalogues show many additions acquisitions and discoveries

Costs Postage (UK) (O/seas)

Library £3.00 60p £1.65

Lending Library £1.50 39p £1.40

Fiche/Film £1.50 26p £1.12

The lending library cannot lend items from the main book and fiche libraries

### THEY ARE SEPARATE

We are able to copy some material from the main library but our scope is limited by copyright.

Lending Library update list SSAE



# PROPOSED NDFHS HERALDRY GROUP

by Geoff Nicholson

In Clause 2 of the NDFHS constitution is the statement: *"The purpose of the Society shall be to advance public education in the fields of family history, genealogy, Heraldry, demography and kindred subjects in relation to Northumberland and Durham and adjacent areas...."*. So far we have spent 22 years on family history and genealogy and as a result I think we have managed to do a commendable amount for those subjects locally, but in all that time we have had only two talks on Heraldry - and they were both very much beginners' introductions and a long time ago at that. It is time to start taking our constitutional commitment more seriously!

At a recent Council meeting I obtained backing to investigate setting up a Heraldry Group within the NDFHS, and the subject was aired at the Society's monthly meeting in September. A formal meeting of those interested will be probably called in a few months time, but until then you might like to think, and let me have your thoughts about how such a group should work. It could have formal meetings if suitable speakers or activities could be found, or it might have simply a consulting role, rather like that of the "Computer Users Group". Another possibility for meetings could be site visits to places - churches, castles, etc. where examples of Heraldry are to be seen.

As I see it the main purposes of the Group would be as follows:

(a) To catalogue all extant examples of Heraldry to be found in public places in the two historic counties of Northumberland and Co.Durham. A lot of work in that direction was published in the 1920s in one or two volumes of the Newcastle Records Committee publications, in papers by Dr Hunter Blair. These will now need to be checked to ensure the depictions still exist, and if possible extended to new sites - I think Dr Blair covered only mediaeval churches, but there are other likely sites - e.g. castles - those of Lumley and Hilton both have fine displays - and churchyards, as opposed to the interiors of churches.

Isolated examples of Heraldry can be seen in all sorts of places, even on modern buildings, especially Civic and other Institutional Heraldry, which we should include in our study as well. Most of you will have seen the County Durham Arms displayed outside County Hall in Durham. It is the "new" version, granted only in 1974 and is a good example of modern, living Heraldry. An example of the "old" Arms was only recently removed from the south end of the Tyne Tunnel.

b) To draw up an Armorial for Northumberland and Durham This would be something on the lines of those for Cumberland and Westmorland, published by the late Roy Hudleston some 20 years ago. An Armorial is an alphabetical list of the surnames of armigerous families, with details of their Arms, when they were granted, or what is the earliest known use of them, where representations of them are to be found, etc. Information for this could come initially from a survey of printed sources - the various visitations, most of which have been published, the Arms attached to pedigrees in the Northumberland County History, various Heraldic papers published in *Archaeologia Aeliana*, etc.

(c) To educate the public about Heraldry, especially to counteract the activities of the "bucket-shops" or so-called "Heraldic Stationers", to be seen with their barrows in many modern shopping Malls, in particular locally in the Metrocentre, who will sell a copy of anyone's Arms to anyone else for a fee, regardless of whether or not they can establish any right to them. The message we must put across as strongly as we can is that Arms are the personal property of the person entitled to them and unauthorised use of them by other parties is a form of fraud. The original purpose of Arms was for identification; if you use someone's Arms then you are, in theory claiming to be that person. If you are not that person, then you are guilty of fraud!

Other activities, such as compiling a list of armigerous NDFHS members, may suggest themselves as we go along but I think that will be enough for now!

Please send your reactions and/or suggestions to Mr G Nicholson, 57 Manor Park, Concord, Washington, Tyne & Wear NE37 2BU or, preferably, if possible, by email to: [geoff@genic.demon.co.uk](mailto:geoff@genic.demon.co.uk)

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## A Boy Named Sue

Found in the baptisms register for St Michael and All Angels, Newburn:

"25th March 1837 [Maria Susan crossed out] Richard Edward to Samuel Goodwin and Susannah Maria Barrett of Newbiggin, Gentleman. Signed S.D. Shafto, Curate. This child was baptised in the name of Susan Maria but proving to be a male is now named by its parents Richard Edward. Signed John Reid Vicar. April 14"

# WHY WEREN'T MORE SHOT?

## A LOOK AT COURTS MARTIAL AND DISCIPLINE IN THE TYNESIDE BRIGADES

by John Sheen

In recent years wide publicity has been given to the fact that many British soldiers who served during the First World War were executed after being found guilty and sentenced to death by a Field General Court Martial. Calls for a general pardon for those executed, particularly around the time of Armistice Day, help keep the matter in the public eye. Whether one is for or against the granting of a pardon is not the aim of this article.

When researching the Tyneside Irish Brigade, information was readily available about the execution of Corporal Short of the 26th Northumberland Fusiliers (3rd Tyneside Irish) and Private Milburn of the 24/27th Northumberland Fusiliers (1/4th Tyneside Irish).<sup>[1]</sup> This led to me asking myself how many local men were court martialled? Another question was that of discipline in England prior to embarking for France for the local newspapers have many reports of soldiers who were absent without leave, or who had deserted, not only from the Tyneside Brigades but from many of the locally raised units, as well as Regulars and members of local territorial units. For example, one young man, George Mason, aged 16, appeared in court in Durham having enlisted consecutively in the Northumberland Fusiliers, Durham Light Infantry, Royal Naval Division and the Tyneside Irish. Charged with obtaining money by false pretences, he was sentenced to one month's hard labour. Articles about how a man 'mad drunk' was arrested and brought before the court led to me asking myself, 'if they were like this in England, what were they like in France?'

Perhaps the most interesting record consulted for the period before embarkation was the weekly *Police Gazette*.<sup>[2]</sup> This publication, circulated to all police stations gives a great deal of information about soldiers that is of interest to the family historian. A large page roughly two foot high by fifteen inches wide is divided into fifteen columns.

The headings are as follows:

On the right, a local soldiers details <sup>[3]</sup>

Name,	Scott
First names,	John Thomas
Number,	13096
Battalion,	8th
Regiment,	Green Howards
Age,	27
Height,	5' 6"
Complexion,	Dark
Colour of Hair,	Dark Brown

Colour of Eyes,	Dark Brown
Trade,	Miner
Date enlisted,	3/9/14
Place enlisted,	Durham
Place of Birth,	Wrekenton
Date of Desertion,	30/12/14
Place of Desertion,	Aldershot

It can be seen from the above that the family historian has a very good description of the soldier ancestor, but only worth searching if he was a known, or possible, deserter as there are approximately one hundred names to a page and some months there are over twelve pages of names.

Apart from the soldier above I have only researched the Tyneside Brigades and found that between January and August 1915 there were over two hundred entries for men from these units, but I did note that many men of the Durham Light Infantry, and in particular the 8th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers, were also in the lists.

A further set of documents that have survived are the Battalion Part I and Part II Orders for the 20th (Service) Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers (1st Tyneside Scottish).<sup>[4]</sup> The Part I and Part II Orders are the Commanding Officer's written instructions for the daily smooth running of the Battalion. Things such as leave, courses, duties etc. are all listed with the soldiers names and numbers. Also listed in great detail are the charges, sections of the Army Act, and the punishments given to offending members of the battalion. For example, on the 9th October 1915, 72 men of the 1st Tyneside Scottish, were awarded a stoppage of pay for over-staying their embarkation leave. The same Part II order lists two NCO's reverting to the ranks voluntarily, having been absent. On 3rd of December a further 49 men of C Company were absent without leave and received stoppage of pay, with eleven men to undergo Field Punishment and five to receive detention for varying periods. Alas, these are the only known surviving Part I and II orders for local units.

Petty Sessions Registers for local civil courts also have details of local men who were Absent Without Leave or had deserted. However, in the majority of cases the soldiers regimental number is not given and, in the case of Tynemouth, the Clerk of the court omitted any unit details also.

The following Petty Sessions Registers have details of soldiers in them, giving the man's unit:

Durham City, Newcastle, Gateshead, Houghton le Spring, South Shields, Sunderland, Bedlington, Blyth, Morpeth and Ashington.

Cross referenced against the local newspapers a fascinating picture of some men can be built up. Some, it would seem, regretted joining the army and had no intention of going overseas if it could be at all avoided.

In January 1916 the 34th Division, to which both Tyneside Scottish and Tyneside Irish belonged, crossed to France. Going absentee without leave was more difficult there but still many soldiers managed to get themselves Court Martialled.

The registers for Field General Court Martials for the First World war are also large volumes <sup>(5)</sup> with many columns. The headings as follows:

Rank	Private
Initials	A.
Name	Johnston
Battalion	22nd
Regiment	North. Fus. (3rd TS)
Place of Trial	Fleurbaix
Date of Trial	Feb 21 1916
Charge/Charges	Manslaughter
Award	Guilty
Punishment	3 years hard labour.
	Reduced to 6 months then quashed.
	Returned to duty.

The unfortunate thing about these records is that no regimental number is included making the positive identification of the soldier difficult unless he has an unusual name, or much background work has already been done. Thus we can find that Sergeant J. Connolly of the

26th Northumberland Fusiliers was tried at Serques on 25th of April 1916 and found guilty of being drunk. He was reduced to the rank of Corporal. There was only one Sergeant Connolly in the 26th and only six weeks after the court martial he took part in a trench raid for which he was awarded the Military Medal; later in 1917 he was commissioned into the Leinster Regiment.

The chart below shows Field General Court Martials for the Tyneside Irish Brigade in France between January and September 1916; it was during this period that most of the original members of the Brigade were serving.

It can be seen that at least two soldiers of the Tyneside Irish Brigade could have faced the death penalty, for striking a superior and sleeping at a post, long before Corporal Short and Private Milburn were executed in October and November 1917.

A similar chart could be drawn up for the Tyneside Scottish, but perhaps the most interesting cases for their brigade are from August 1916 when four soldiers of the 4th Tyneside Scottish were convicted of 'Quitting their post in the face of the enemy,' and in the following month two NCO's of the 3rd Tyneside Scottish were tried for the same offence. One, a Lance Corporal was found not guilty; the others all were given one year's hard labour. It should be noted that three NCO's from the 18th Battalion the Durham Light Infantry, 'The Durham Pals' were executed for this very same offence in early 1916.

The Tynesiders of the 34th Division were lucky in that Captain J.C. Arnold of the 26th (Service) Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers, 3rd Tyneside Irish, was a lawyer by profession and he was given the task of defending many of the men and his memoirs tell of some of the cases where he was able to get a reduced sentence.

#### FRANCE JANUARY TO SEPTEMBER 1916

Battalion	24	25	26	27	Total
Charge					
Section 40	4(1)	3(1)	5(1)	2	14
Drunkenness		2	5	1	8
Absence	4	4	1		9
Insubordination	1				1
Striking a Superior	1(1)	1			2
Sleeping at Post		1			1
Disobedience		1			1
Total	10	12	11	3	36
(I) Not Guilty					
Total Not Guilty	2	1	1		4
Convicted by FGCM					32



He recalled a case he took part in as a member of the court and not as a defending officer. This was one of those cases that ought never to have been brought - a charge of drunkenness against a Sergeant of the Tyneside Scottish well behind the lines on New Year's Eve, the one night of the year when a little license might have been given to members of a northern regiment. Captain Arnold recorded the facts of the case:

*'According to the evidence an officer (whose reputation for tactlessness was notorious in the Tyneside Scottish Brigade) found the sergeant lying on the roadside, incapable and smelling of drink. The officer sent a party to bring him in and had him examined by the doctor, who pronounced him drunk and a charge was laid. The men who brought him in could only say he was incapable and smelt of liquor. The doctor, who obviously did not like the job, gave his evidence very fairly. "I asked him what he based his conclusion that the sergeant was drunk." He said "He breathed stertorously, was incapable of looking after himself and smelt of liquor." I said to him, "Doctor, let us look at these symptoms in isolation. You would not say a man was drunk because he was breathing stertorously? It might be from a fit or an affliction of the nose?" The Doctor cordially agreed, "You would not say he was drunk because he was incapable of movement? That might be due to a fit or some sort of weak turn?" The Doctor was quite willing to take that from me. "Now as regard to the fact that the man smelt of liquor you are not going to say of course that that is proof of drunkenness? Where would we all be if you did?" This hardly required an answer and the Court retired to consider the finding. It is sufficient to say that we found the prisoner not guilty.'*

There was a sequel to this story. A week or two afterwards, when he was in the front line, Captain Arnold received a 'snorting' letter from the Brigadier General Commanding 102 Brigade [Brigadier General Trevor Ternan CB CMG DSO]. The letter commented upon what the Brigadier considered to be the absurdity of the finding as being against the weight of evidence and virtually put the members of the Court on the carpet for dereliction of duty. Captain Arnold wrote:

*'I did not like it at all and though I was commanding in the line and had my hands full I sent out for a copy of "KR's" and the "Manual of Military Law"; I had an idea that the brigadier had exceeded his duty. I looked up the jurisdiction of the "Confirming Authority" which in this case was the brigade. I found that the authority had the right to comment on a finding of "guilty" or to comment upon the sentence given by the Court, but had no right to comment in a case of a finding of "not guilty." That was enough for me and I communicated with the Brigade Major chapter and verse. The answer was what I expected, that he knew the position as well as I did, but that he had acted at the brigadier's dictation. I never knew if my reply reached the Brigadier but I got a sense of satisfaction over that discovery of a point of law at a time I was faraway from libraries and reports.'*<sup>[6]</sup>

It can readily be seen from the above charts and statements that it is indeed fortunate that more of the soldiers of the Tyneside Brigades did not face the firing squad. As to pardons for those who were executed I leave that to each individual reader to decide.

Notes:

- [1] *Shot at Dawn* by Julian Sykes and Julian Putkowski; Leo Cooper, London; 1989; ISBN 0 85052 295 1
- [2] *The Police Gazette* is held at The British Library Colindale
- [3] Apart from this record I have been unable to trace further details on Private Scott. He is of interest because I have a photograph of Durham Railway Station taken on the 3rd September 1914 showing all the Durham men who are leaving to join the Green Howards. My Grandfather was numbered 13093 just three in front of Private Scott; I wonder if he is on the photograph.
- [4] The Battalion Part I and II Orders for the 1st Tyneside Scottish are held at The Imperial War Museum.
- [5] Registers of Field General Courts Martial are held in WO 1213 at the Public Record Office, Kew.
- [6] Extracted from *Tyneside Irish* due to be published soon.

## DURHAM MIDSUMMER SESSIONS

Monday, June 29

ROBERT TAYLOR, otherwise Lord Kennedy, described as 19, was charged with bigamy in having, in the parish of Acklam, in Yorkshire, feloniously intermarried with Mary Davison, Ann Taylor, his first wife, being still alive.

The prisoner, who behaved in the most impudent way, contended that the marriages were not valid because he was under the age of 21.

Elizabeth Taylor said she was the prisoner's mother; that he was an illegitimate child, and not very right in his mind; but she had not come there to say who his father was.

The jury immediately found the prisoner guilty.

He was then tried on another indictment charging him with having married Mary Ann Wilson of Newcastle, his first wife being still alive. The offence was distinctly proved by Wilson herself. She was entrapped by the old device and she was married on the 19th of October 1839. He got £1 from her father for the marriage. Guilty.

In passing sentence the Chairman animadverted severely on the unprincipled conduct of the prisoner, and ordered him, for the first offence, to be kept to hard labour 12 calendar months, and for the second to be further kept to hard labour 18 calendar months. [It is believed that the prisoner has had no less than 7 or 8 wives].

*Extracted from the Durham Advertiser 3rd July 1840*

# THE VILLAGE THAT ALMOST DIED

by Anne English

We have become accustomed to black banner headlines in our newspapers bombarding us with words such as disaster and tragedy. Remember the impact made by the Zeebrugge ferry disaster and the Hillsborough tragedy? At Hillsborough, 95 football spectators died during an FA Cup semi-final. That was in 1989.

Almost 150 years earlier the same number was killed in one small Co. Durham village. The village was Haswell, the year was 1844 and the victims were pitmen.

Their deaths were caused by an underground explosion, described with remarkable restraint by the *Illustrated London News* of the time as 'fearful', while the local *Durham Advertiser* called it 'the painful calamity at Haswell colliery'. The impact on a small and close-knit community can only be imagined today when the bonds of family and comradeship have loosened.

Not long after 3 o'clock on the afternoon of Saturday 28th November 1844, father died with son, brother with brother, among them the three Clough brothers aged 14, 12 and ten. Forty two of those who died were aged between 10 and 20, while the oldest to lose his life was 61 year old Thomas Briggs.

Before the pit disaster spread the name of Haswell throughout the country, the quiet village was typical of many in the south eastern part of Co. Durham. With written records going back to at least the twelfth century, life had changed only slowly, being dependent on farming and a few land-owning families. But life as a colliery village was to be dramatic - and comparatively short.

The first sinkings at Haswell were made in 1831 and in that same year the Engine Pit was lost because of quicksand. Two years later the New Engine Pit was begun and by 1835 the first coals were being shipped out. Only sixty years later, in 1895, the colliery was to close with the expiration of the lease, leaving the pitmen to travel to neighbouring collieries.

Even before the September disaster, 1844 had been a troubled year, remembered afterwards as the year of the Great Strike. Collieries at Thornley, Wingate and Haswell had all been affected. A major grievance was the fines which the colliery owners were imposing on the men in an uneven and arbitrary way.

Striking broke the annual 'bond' which the miners had signed and they could therefore be evicted from their tied cottages. For many there was no alternative but to camp in the open. At Haswell, where the strike lasted for 18 weeks, some of the men chose to work thus lessening the strike's

impact. This led to great bitterness, as poverty slowly forced the majority to return to work with no improvement to their working conditions.

It was against this background that the disaster occurred. Of the 99 men and boys working underground in the Little Pit only four were saved and this because the flames did not reach them. The other 95 lost their lives, some by fire, most by choke damp, that noxious gas often found in mines.

George Parkinson, a contemporary of the men who died, visited their families immediately after the accident. In Haswell's Long Row he found every house save one had its dead. "In one house five coffins stood - two on the bed, two on the dresser and one on the floor," he wrote. This was probably the home of the four Dryden brothers and the Nicholson cousin who was brought up with them.

Parkinson himself survived an horrific pit accident and went on to become a renowned local preacher. His first hand description of working life underground has never been bettered.

"The monotony of the mine is simply monotony itself," he wrote, in *True Stories of Durham Pit Life*. "The darkness never changes. The seasons make no difference. Spring and summer, autumn and winter, morning, noon and night are all the same."

The men who died in the Haswell pit disaster had shared that life. The village became one of mourning, a village of widows and fatherless children. Several pitmen left families of four, five or six, others had only recently married. It's worth remembering that the earning power of the men was at its highest when they were young and strong. This, and the constant threat of colliery accidents or even death, meant that many pitmen married young and had families when young. Deputy John Williamson, who was 34, left six children and a wife pregnant with the seventh.

At the enquiry into the disaster, held in Haswell's Railway Inn, several local miners gave evidence that the pit was considered a safe one and that ventilation was good. But others, who went underground immediately after the explosion, spoke of the air being so bad with choke damp that they had to keep returning to the surface.

By the third day after the disaster all the victims had been buried, two at Gateshead (George Bell and William Davidson), the others at South Hetton, Pitlington's Hallgarth and St Mary's, Easington Village, which at that time was the parish church for Haswell. St Paul's church,

Haswell, was not built until 1867, and the village has never had a churchyard.

There seem to be no existing lists of who was buried where. The vicar of St Mary's, Easington, is not aware of any gravestones making reference to the disaster and there is no marked site. It was to be 140 years before the deaths were marked in a public manner. Then, running in tandem with an appeal to raise funds for a new Parish Hall at South Hetton, a memorial service was held there for the victims of the disaster. The service, in 1984, took place on 28th September, the anniversary of the explosion, and it began in the churchyard close to their presumed resting place. The address was given by the then Bishop of Durham, the Right Reverend David E. Jenkins.

Two days later a miner's lamp and a commemorative plaque were placed in St Paul's, Haswell. The date was 30th September, the same date that the inquest on the victims was opened. The verdict then had been accidental death, with no blame attached to anyone.

The (almost) alphabetical list of names given here was taken from printed material in Durham City Library reference department - *Local records of Gateshead 1844*, (942.812/L), *The Illustrated London News* of 5th October 1844, printed "A List of Sufferers". It gives no ages and is not alphabetical. Spellings can vary between the two lists (Farish/Favish; Cleugh/Clough; Drydon/Dryden), and so can names (Wheatman/Weightman) but the ILN does give

additional brief information in some cases such as 'George Richardson and Joseph Moffat, married to two sisters.'

George Bell, 31; Joseph Bell, 28; John Brown, 42; Thomas Briggs, 61; John Briggs, 25; James Briggs, 10; Thomas Bottom, 17; John Brown, 17; John Curley, 30; Michael Cleugh, 14; Henry Cleugh, 12; Matthew Cleugh, 10; John Curry, 39; Robert Carr, 26; Robert Douglas, 32; William Dixon, 16; John Dixon, 15; Mark Davison, 16; George Drydon, 18; Robert Drydon, 16; James Drydon, 25; Thomas Drydon, 22; William Dobson, 50; George Dawson, 53; William Davidson, 26; William Dixon, 46; John Dixon, 21; William Elsdon 22; George Elsdon, 18; John Ferry, 35; George Ferry, 14; William Farish, 20; Joseph Gibson, 50; John Gibson, 22; Robert Gibson, 15; William Gibson, 12; William Gilroy, 16; John Gilroy, 13; George Hall, 38; Robert Hall, 12; Robert Hogg, 20; George Heslop, 20; William Harrison, 13; John Harrison, 13; John Hall, 10; William Jobling, 29; Daniel Lemmon, no age given but believed to be a young man; James Layland, no age given but he left a wife and two children; Henry Mather, 19; Thomas Moody, 25; Joseph Moffat, 25; James Maughan, 23; John Noble, 40; Thomas Nicholson, 16; William Nicholson, 11; William Nicholson, 18; (There's some confusion over the Nicholson entries as the ILN list gives Edward Nicholson, a cousin of the 4 Drydon brothers who were killed, and two Nicholson brothers, Robert and Thomas). John Padley, 28; John Parkinson, 28; Elliot Richardson, 28; John Richardson, 14; James Robson, 11; Robert Rosecamp, 33; William Rosecamp, 22; George Richardson, 29; Peter Robinson, 17; William Routledge, 18; James Richardson, 41; Ralph Surtees, 19; John Surtees, 17; William Surtees, 12; James Sanderson, 43; John Sanderson, 24; Wanless Thompson, 55; Christopher Teasdale, 21; John Teasdale, 19; Stephen Teasdale, 17; Michael Thurlaway, 18; William Taylor 21; Thomas Turnbull, 22; Henry Ward, 39; John Williamson, 34; Robert Williamson, 19; John Wolfe, 25; Peter Wolfe, 20; John Willis, 20; Thomas Willis, 18; John Willis, 12; Henry Wheatman, 42; William Wheatman, 11; John Whiffield, 31; John Whitfield, 10.

## NEWS FROM NORTHUMBERLAND RECORD OFFICE

by Janet Doody, Northumberland Record Office

The new rota system, involving the movement of searchroom staff between the offices at Morpeth and Melton Park, has now been in operation for three months. The staff have found it interesting and useful, although we are not always sure where we are supposed to be! The rota will continue and we hope searchers have felt the benefit of the staffs increased knowledge and experience.

Another change in the searchrooms at all three offices is the introduction of Information Cards. These are A4 coloured cards which give instructions how to carry out different procedures in the office. They cover subjects such as loading a microfilm reader, locating microfilm numbers for different types of record (e.g. parish registers and census returns) and ordering photocopies. Staff on duty in the searchrooms will still be happy to give any advice and help that is needed as they know how confusing the searchroom can be. The cards can be used as reminders for searchers who have not visited the office for a long time or to help new searchers understand the self-

service system. When the searchrooms are busy people will be able to use the cards instead of waiting for searchroom staff to become free. A display of the cards available is in each office and searchers can help themselves to the ones they need.

Berwick Record Office has recently received several new transcripts. These are for Berwick Holy Trinity baptisms 1856-1874, Berwick St Mary's baptisms 1858-1874, Berwick Bankhill Presbyterian baptisms 1835-1837 and 1849-1889, and Kyloe Parish census returns 1841-1871.

Two United Reform Churches, Spittal and Berwick Bankhill, have deposited items in the Berwick Record Office, including communicants rolls. The baptism register 1837-1918 for Spittal church was destroyed by a fire, and as there are no baptism registers for Tweedmouth Scotch Church prior to this century it can be very difficult to trace Presbyterian ancestors in the Tweedmouth and Spittal areas.



# NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM MARRIAGES AT GREтна HALL

by Arthur Brack

When the English began to make their way to Gretna Green to be married after Lord Hardwicke's Act of 1753 had put an end to clandestine marriages in England, they were faced with an arduous journey over bad roads with indifferent accommodation on the way and when they arrived in Gretna they would find that they were to be married by an uncouth semi-literate.

The building of turnpike roads in the last decades of the 18th century improved the travelling but the nature of the "priests" who carried on the marriage trade remained unchanged.

In 1793 the Minister of Gretna complained that "The greatest part of the trade is monopolised by a man who is a fellow without literature, without principles and without manners. His life is a continued scene of drunkenness. His irregular conduct has rendered him an object of detestation to all the sober and virtuous part of the neighbourhood. Such is the man (and the description is not exaggerated) who has had the honour to join in the sacred bonds of wedlock many people of rank and fortune from all parts of England". There was an obvious opening for a superior service for those who could afford to pay for it but it was not supplied until John Linton took over the tenancy of Gretna Hall in 1825.

Gretna Hall had been built in 1710 as a family mansion. When the new turnpike roads connected Gretna with Carlisle in the south and Dumfries and Moffat in the north it was converted into an inn, with modest success before Linton, a former valet with a good appreciation of the standards of comfort required by the gentry, improved its amenities and made it a regular stopping place for all the coaches using the road. Among the facilities he provided was marriage for those who wanted it in the comfortable surroundings of Gretna Hall as an alternative to the primitive conditions in the village. At first he brought in one of the "priests" from the village, and himself acted as a witness, but from 1828 almost all the marriages at Gretna Hall were celebrated by Linton or by his son Richard. Linton died in 1851 and Gretna Hall's marriage trade dwindled until it disappeared after 1855.

Linton's records survive in the Ewart Library in Dumfries. In 1949 his register from 1829 to 1855 was issued in print as Volume 80 in the Scottish Record Society's series. The list of marriages shows Gretna Hall to have been popular with people in Northumberland and Durham.

George ARMSTRONG of Haltwhistle and Hannah WILLS of Burgh by Sands Cumberland 13 September 1846

William ARMSTRONG of Haltwhistle and Anne LEE of Lanercost Cumberland 8 November 1841

Joseph ASKEW of Kirkhaugh Northumberland and Isabella HUDSPETH of Haltwhistle Northumberland 17 June 1841

Thomas ATKINSON of Newcastle and Elizabeth COCKRANE of Gateshead Durham 6 September 1843

Christopher Henry BAINBRIDGE of Newcastle and Dorothy CROWDACE of Houghton le Spring Durham 22 December 1829

Isaac BARKER of Ludlow Salop and Jane Maxwell BARKER of Gateshead Durham 22 December 1848

Samuel Robert BARTON of Newcastle and Annie Elizabeth FRANCE of Norton Durham 7 November 1852

William D'Oyley BAYLEY and Frances Christopher both of Seaton Durham 14 December 1844

Wallace BELL and Elizabeth BYWELL both of Haltwhistle Northumberland 27 November 1848

John BELL and Elenor COULSON both of Haltwhistle. 15 September 1837

William BELL and Edith SUNLEY both of Wolsingham Durham 12 May 1845

William BELL and Ann HESLOP both of Haltwhistle Northumberland 23 September 1849

John BIRKETT and Mary JACKSON both of Haltwhistle Northumberland 24 March 1850

William BLACKETT and Matilda SHAFTO both of Newcastle 1 October 1850

William BLENKINSOP of Bedlington Durham and Ann BLAMIRE of Dalston Cumberland 3 January 1836

Christopher BRENNAN of Gateshead Durham and Mary RANDESON of St Cuthbert's Carlisle 9 January 1847

Matthew BRENNER of Kilkenny Ireland and Ellen NESBET of Newcastle 27 March 1851

John BROWN of Lambley Northumberland and Tamar GIBSON of Knaresdale Northumberland 5 June 1839

Thomas BROWN and Margaret TELFER both of Hexham Northumberland 12 December 1830

William HUNTER BURNE of Bishopwearmouth and CAROLINE Jane ALLAN of Houghton le Spring Durham 1 September 1831

John CARSS of Berwick upon Tweed and Margaret BOYD of St Mary's Carlisle 26 March 1837

William Howey CHARLTON of Hesleyside Northumberland and Barbara TASBURGH of Yorkshire 20 June 1839

Frederick Lord CLAY and Caroline Isabella SPENCER both of Bishopwearmouth Durham 6 December 1832

Charles COCKERILL and Margaret SANDERSON both of Tynemouth 15 April 1838

James COWBURN of Trimdon Durham and Agnes ROUTLEDGE of Old Cumnock Ayrshire 4 October 1853

Matthew COWING of Warden Northumberland and Jane BLACKLEY of Stanwix Cumberland 13 August 1848

Thomas COWING and Jane Elizabeth PORTER both of Haltwhistle 8 July 1848

Francis CRAIG of St John's Newcastle and Ann Errington ORMISTON of All Saints Newcastle 20 March 1842

Thomas DAVISON of St Oswald's Durham and Mary Ann FAIRBRIDGE of Ovingham Northumberland 3 July 1845

Nicholas DICKENSON and Frances COWING both of Warden Northumberland 9 August 1846

Thomas DICKENSON of Haltwhistle Northumberland and RUTH CLARK of Kirkbride Cumberland 19 August 1839

Robert RIDDICK DODDS of Ponteland Northumberland and Mary Ann HAYES of Newburn Northumberland 26 August 1852

Henry HETHERINGTON of Alston Cumberland and Margaret DOBSON of Haltwhistle Northumberland 12 November 1838

James HILL of St Oswald's Durham and Sarah CROFT of Hexham 18 November 1839

Thomas HINDMARCH of Gosforth Northumberland and Sarah WATSON of Ainstable Cumberland 5 April 1843

John Lionel HOOD of St Andrew's Newcastle and Mary PARKER of Boldon Durham 8 July 1829

Thomas Harrison HOPPER and Sarah HODGSON both of St John's Newcastle 29 September 1844

William HUDSPITH of Haltwhistle Northumberland and Sarah HODGSON of Brampton Cumberland 23 May 1849

Robert HUNTER of Hartlepool Durham and Sarah HARBRON of Seaton Durham 15 October 1840

John HUTCHINSON of Warden Northumberland and Margaret TAYLOR of Dalston Cumberland 17 February 1849

RICHARD JACKSON of Bromfield Cumberland and Mary LINTON of All Saints Newcastle 15 June 1843

William McKie JOHNSON of St John's Newcastle and Martha TELFORD of St Mary's Carlisle 3 November 1853

Lloyd JONES and Eleanor Ann WRIGHT both of St Peter's Newcastle 19 June 1850

John JUDE of St Andrew's Newcastle and Isabella Charlotte Augusta RODDAM of Tynemouth 16 September 1841

Walter KIRK of Henshaw Northumberland and Esther BARROW of Haltwhistle Northumberland 9 April 1853

George LAMB of Penrith and Jane WARDIE of Barnard Castle Durham 22 August 1845

Robert LIDDELL of Melkeridge Northumberland and Margaret BELL of Haltwhistle Northumberland 23 September 1850

Charles Vincent LORAINÉ of Kirkhale Northumberland and Mary HOLLAND of Woolwich Kent 6 November 1838

Nicholas LOWES and Elizabeth ERRINGTON both of Hexham Northumberland 27 July 1839

John LOWTHER of Wigton Cumberland and Margaret WADE of Barnard Castle Durham 29 March 1846

Archibald Kennedy McLEAN of St John's Glasgow and Georgina Priscilla Arabella SCAIFE of Haltwhistle Northumberland 28 November 1836

John McSOLAY of Enniskillen Fermanagh Ireland and Mary BAIRD of Barnard Castle Durham 14 February 1846

Robert MARSHALL of Winlaton Durham and Mary Jane CROWDACE of Houghton le Spring Durham 21 June 1842

John MARSTON and Sarah DAVISON both of Hexham Northumberland 19 June 1835

Jabez OLIVER of Houghton le Spring Durham and Jessie HUNTER of Newburn Northumberland 14 July 1838

Robert OLIVER and Isabella SHOTTON both of Bedlington Northumberland 22 October 1839

Joseph ORD and Elizabeth AINSLEY both of Hexham Northumberland 16 November 1847

John B PALMER of St Andrew's Newcastle and LEAH P DENT of Elvet Durham 15 April 1844

John PARKER of Hexham Northumberland and MARTHA HUNTER of Haltwhistle Northumberland 15 May 1841

John PARKER of Gretna Dumfriesshire and Hannah OXLEY of Hexham Northumberland 25 November 1842

James PATTERSON and Sarah PATTINSON both of Haltwhistle Northumberland 24 September 1848

Thomas PATTINSON of Stockton on Tees Durham and Elizabeth WHITE of Alston Cumberland 8 January 1849

William PEARSON and Nancy COULSON both of Hexham Northumberland 25 January 1844

Francis PORTER of St Mary's Carlisle and Ann NICHOLSON of Corbridge Northumberland 19 August 1832

George PICKERING and CATHERINE DITCHBURN both of Marrington Durham 7 October 1848

George EDMUND PIERCY of South Weald Essex and Mary DAY of Jarrow Durham 22 November 1848

Thomas PRATT and ALLICE HOWARD both of Haltwhistle Northumberland 14 November 1840

George REAY of Haltwhistle Northumberland and Ann HALL of Kirkwhelpington Northumberland 11 October 1846

George ROBINSON of Morpeth Northumberland and Ann McDERMACK of Whitehall Treconnel Ireland 4 May 1849

William ROBSON and Mary WOOD both of Sunderland 12 July 1848

John Thomas RUTH and Margaret VAIZEY both of St Nicholas Newcastle 30 August 1854

George SANDERSON of Longhoughton Northumberland and HELLEN McCORMICK of Dublin Ireland 13 July 1841

John SANDERSON of Alnwick Northumberland and Jane STEWART of High Hill Fermanagh Ireland 20 May 1840

George SCOTT of Kirkharle Northumberland and Annie ARMSTRONG of Rothbury Northumberland 2 April 1844

Slingsby Duncombe SHAFTO and Frances HUNTER both of Newburn Northumberland 19 June 1838

Hugh Martin SHORT of Norton Durham and Mary Anne BURRELL of Billingham Durham 1 July 1842

Charles SEPTIMUS SMITH and Julia Octavia Grace Duncan GUISE both of St Andrew's Newcastle 10 May 1848

Matthew SMITH and Maria BURN both of St John's Newcastle 25 August 1845

George SOWERBY and Hannah MURRAY both of Chester le Street Durham 19 June 1850

Thomas Henry SPENCE of All Saints Newcastle and Isabella Mary SLATER of Kendal or Appleby Westmorland 9 September 1840

Thomas STEWART of Halifax Yorkshire and Mary ROBSON of Tynemouth Northumberland 18 April 1840

John SWAN of Bishopwearmouth Durham and Sarah Hannah BAIRD of Kirkleatham Yorkshire 17 June 1851

Thomas TINNISWOOD of All Saints Newcastle and Margaret RENNISON of St Mary's Carlisle 13 November 1838

John VICKERS of Haltwhistle Northumberland and Mary WILLIAMSON of Kirklington Cumberland 8 November 1841

William WALKER and Margaret RAMSAY both of Corbridge Northumberland 13 April 1850

Anthony WALTON and Elenor WALTON both of Wolsingham Durham 21 September 1844

Joseph WATSON of Gateshead and Elinor MORRIS of Newcastle 24 January 1843

Ralph Lowes WATSON and Elizabeth STEPHENSON both of St John's Newcastle 24 September 1844



William WATSON of Woodhorn Northumberland and Catherine Georgina BERESFORD of Bolam Durham 24 January 1831

Alexander WAUGH of Belford Northumberland and Elizabeth GALLON of Wooler Northumberland 12 November 1847

William WELTON and Margaret WILKINSON both of Haltwhistle Northumberland 22 September 1838

George Francis WHITE of St Andrew's Newcastle and Anne GREENWELL of St Mary the Less Durham 6 February 1839

Anthony WILKINSON of Kelloe Durham and Mary Ann HALL of Washington Durham 12 May 1840

Hans WINGARD and Isabella DENT both of Gateshead Durham 15 April 1844

John WOODMAN and Hannah COWING both of Haltwhistle Northumberland 17 July 1848

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## IRREGULAR MARRIAGES AT LAMBERTON TOLL: THE STRANGE CASE OF THE REV. WILLIAM HALL AND GEORGE LAMB

*by Arthur Brack*

Berwick upon Tweed is unique in Britain, a Scottish town ruled, by right of conquest, as a part of England for centuries but still sufficiently Scottish today for the town football team to play in the Scottish League.

One of the consequences of this oddity, as Linda Bankier's excellent article in the Autumn 1997 issue of the *Journal* points out, was that for a long period in the 18th and early 19th centuries citizens of Berwick who were members of the several Scottish churches in the town were prevented from being married in their own church. Lord Hardwicke's famous marriage act which came into force in 1754 and lasted until 1837 laid down that in England a valid marriage required banns to be published on three occasions at morning service in the parish (i.e. Anglican) church where the parties lived and the marriage to be solemnised only in a parish where the banns had been read. Berwick Scots who objected to having to marry in the parish church had the alternative of crossing the boundary, four miles to the north, into Scotland where the marriage laws were more generous. A regular marriage could take place anywhere in Scotland, not necessarily in church, provided that a certificate was produced showing that banns had been proclaimed and that the marriage was celebrated by an ordained Minister. Scottish law also recognised a form of irregular marriage (sometimes called clandestine), a marriage by verbal declaration independent of the church. All that was required was that man and woman should declare their acceptance of each other as spouses. Such marriages had been common in Scotland for centuries and after 1754 centres began to be established just north of the border, notably at Gretna and Coldstream, for the benefit of those English who wished to escape the stringency imposed by Lord Hardwicke. The people of Berwick had to wait a little longer for their local centres, until the completion later in the century of the new turnpike roads which ran north and west from the town

and provided buildings well suited for the marriage trade which instantly grew up. These were the toll houses which marked the beginning of the Scottish stretches of the roads and whose keepers would allow them, in return for a small fee, to be used for the marriages. The most popular was the toll house at Lamberton on the coast road leading to Eyemouth and Edinburgh, now known as A1 but toll houses at Mordington and Paxton were used as well.

The organisers of the toll house marriages were Berwick men who went to the toll bar as requested by their customers to act as "priest" at the marriage and to provide witnesses and a form of marriage certificate. There was no need for a marriage service, the simple declaration alone being enough to constitute a valid marriage, but some kind of ceremony was invariably provided by the "priest" as a matter of course. In so doing he was breaking the law. Legislation in the 17th century had made it an offence, punishable by banishment from Scotland or imprisonment, for a marriage to be celebrated by a person who was not an ordained Minister but this law was broken regularly with little risk of retribution. The conditions which had given rise to the legislation had ceased to exist and the law officers no longer considered it important. They were well aware that marriages were celebrated every day by laymen but they turned a blind eye unless, very occasionally, they were compelled by a complaint to take proceedings.

As Linda Bankier indicates, the marriage registers of the Berwick churches, both Anglican and Scottish, record marriages of Berwick people which had taken place in Scotland at the toll houses and it is evident that not all were celebrated by the Berwick "priests". Scottish Ministers were in the habit of celebrating marriages at the toll houses too and in so doing they also broke the law although in a different way. As ordained Ministers they were entitled to celebrate marriages anywhere in Scotland

but they offended by marrying people without prior proclamation of banns. The records of Shaw's Lane Chapel in Berwick suggest that as early as 1785 a Minister was marrying at the toll houses and the practice seems to have continued unhindered until a complaint was made in 1813. The Berwick "priests" were uneducated, semi-literate men acting on the fringe of the law and the marriages they conducted were downmarket affairs which gave the toll houses a disreputable atmosphere. It is at first sight surprising that Ministers of the Scottish churches should have lowered themselves to be associated with such places but no doubt they found it convenient to take advantage of the fact that the toll house keepers were amenable to their houses being used for marriages and that the nature of the toll business meant that the houses were readily available without notice at any hour.

The complaint is to be found in a bundle of papers in the Scottish Record Office (AD14/13/36) in the form of a letter sent by the Rev Mr Bainbridge of the parish church of Tweedmouth, the parish adjoining Berwick on the south bank of the River Tweed.

*"Tweedmouth, Berwick upon Tweed 10 August 1813  
To William Murray, Esq., Agent to the General Assembly  
of the Church of Scotland, Edinburgh*

*Sir,*

*In consequence of the clandestine marriages between parties resident in England solemnised in the county of Berwickshire I take the liberty of addressing you on that head. I have just received information that the Rev William Hall of this place, a Minister of the Church of Scotland chapel at Tweedmouth solemnised a marriage yesterday evening between Robert Lane of Longridge, gardener in the parish of Norham county of Durham and Agnes Gibson of this parish in the county of Durham at Lamberton in Scotland. I this day enquired of Mr Hall who told me he married them and that he has as much right to solemnise marriages as I had. There is also a George Lamb of Berwick who I am credibly informed almost daily solemnises marriages in Scotland without publication of banns. I beg leave to mention that the father of Agnes Gibson told me she has resided here since Whit Sunday and I do assure you that no banns of marriage between Robert Lane and Agnes Gibson have been published in Tweedmouth Church. As I do not wish a prosecution should be commenced against Mr Hall which would perhaps be expensive to me will you Sir be so good as to address him on that head and persuade him to leave off such practices. As for George Lamb he is not a Minister at all. If the expense was not much I would prosecute him but perhaps the Church of Scotland will prosecute Mr Hall and Mr Lamb. If so I would endeavour to procure the proofs wanted which I can very easily obtain. Will you be so good as to favour me with a line on this head which will highly oblige Sir*

*Your most obedient servant*

*R. Bainbridge, Minister of the Parochial Chapelries of  
Tweedmouth and Ancroft*

*NB. If these gentlemen are licensed to marry parties in Scotland I have nothing to say more but if not these things ought to be done away as not less than 30 couples are annually married in Scotland who reside in these chapelries".*

This letter brought into play the full machinery of the Scottish law, the Lord Advocate, the Crown Agent and Crown Counsel in Edinburgh, the Procurator Fiscal in Duns and the Sheriff of Berwickshire, who expressed their intention of prosecuting both Mr Hall and George Lamb. Mr Hall was aware of this and wrote to the Procurator Fiscal explaining the difficulty the Anglican clergy had caused him by refusing to allow the issue of a certificate that banns had been proclaimed in the parish church (which certificate would have allowed him to celebrate a regular marriage in Scotland without offending against Scottish law). He also promised not to do it again.

*"Tweedmouth 23 August 1813 To George Peat, Writer in  
Dunse*

*Sir,*

*Having heard that an information has been lodged against me for marrying people in Scotland and that you as Procurator Fiscal for the county of Berwick having been instructed to prosecute me for the same I have always conducted myself in a loyal manner and in strict obedience to the laws of my country and instructed these upon my people. It has been the invariable practice from time immemorial for dissenting clergymen to marry their own people but never did it unless all parties on both sides were agreeable. I assure you that I never derived any emolument for celebrating a marriage but did it merely as a matter of favour to those who requested me. I always wished my people to be proclaimed in the parish church here previous to the marriage but even when they did so they were refused an extract of the proclamation of banns. Mr Barns did so. Therefore think it extremely hard that I should be made an example when so situated. I pledge myself that for the future I shall comply with the laws of the land and marry none without producing an extract of proclamation of banns.*

*I am Sir*

*Yours with respect,*

*William Hall "*

This letter brought second thoughts to the lawyers. The Procurator Fiscal reported that other dissenting clergy were in the habit of marrying their own church members in Scotland, particularly one of the name of Thomson who was much worse than Hall. (This was the Rev Andrew Thomson, Minister of the Relief Congregation at Shaw's Lane in Berwick). Since Mr Hall had undertaken to cease marrying without proclamation and since he was known as "a very respectable Minister" it was decided to drop the prosecution and send him a warning. A warning was also to be sent to Thomson, against whom there was not at that time any evidence on which to prosecute.

The case against Lamb was different. Crown Counsel reported "The case against Lamb is in point of evidence very compleat if it should be tried. I think myself it is nonsense but as the Church are troublesome as to the crime and a conviction of Mr Lamb may keep him on the English side I shall keep the precognition (i.e. the witness's statements) till I hear from the Lord Advocate."

Lamb appears to have got wind of the intent to prosecute him. The Prosecutor Fiscal wrote "Lamb has not been seen in the county (i.e. Berwickshire) for these 14 days past so could not have been apprehended even if we had been on watch. He might be decoyed but would that be fair?". In the end doubts about the legality of a warrant issued by a Sheriff in Scotland being executed on accused and witnesses in England caused Lamb's case also to be dropped and he escaped without even a warning.

There is some interesting information in the precognitions. Hannah Kerr, wife of the toll keeper at Lamberton said that she had lived there for 20 years and that George Lamb had been in the habit of marrying people there during that time and before. He prayed both before and after the marriage and signed the certificate as Minister. His usual fee was 5/- or 7/6 but he was sometimes obliged to accept less "when they cannot pay more". George Bathgate, a weaver in Ayton, said that Lamb came from the Selkirk area where he was a preacher about 20 years ago. He had celebrated marriages for many years in the form of the Church of Scotland. Bathgate also said that William Kerr had been at the tollbar at Lamberton for 25 years. Kerr was constantly employed in attending to a farm in the neighbourhood and left the management of the toll and the house to his wife. The house mentioned was the adjacent small beerhouse known as the Lamberton Inn which was

also used for marriages. For many years the foundations of these two buildings were to be seen on the roadside immediately north of the boundary line but they were obliterated when the A1 was widened a few years ago.

Below are the details of the marriages which would have been used in evidence.

Married by George Lamb:

24 August 1811 at Paxton Toll William Strachen and Elizabeth Brown both of Tweedmouth. Witnesses James Smith and Sarah Smith his wife of Gatherick, Lowick.

November 1811 at Lamberton Toll John Rutherford weaver and Ann Mein both of Mordington. Witnesses Thomas Horns and William Winlaw both of Berwick.

4 June 1812 at Lamberton Inn John Carstairs hairdresser and Elizabeth Thompson both of Spittal. Witnesses Henry Tully chaisedriver at Denovans Berwick upon Tweed and Hannah Kerr of the Lamberton Inn.

25 December 1812 at Lamberton Inn Thomas Redding and Margaret Home both of Tweedmouth. Witnesses George Giles butcher Tweedmouth and Cicely Giles his wife.

23 March 1813 at Lamberton Toll Matthew Johnston shoemaker and Isobell Bruce both of Ayton. Witnesses George Bathgate weaver in Ayton and Hannah Kerr wife of William Kerr keeper of the Tollbar. Fee 5/-.

Married by the Rev William Hall, Minister of the Church of Scotland, Tweedmouth:

20 August 1813 at Lamberton Toll Robert Lane of Longridge, Norham, gardener, and Agnes Gibson of Tweedmouth.

## HOW MANY MARRIAGES?

The following comments are extracted from the *Berwick Advertiser* of 16th June 1849.

"Our attention has been drawn to the statement made by the Rev Mr Blair of Mordington in the General Assembly last week on the subject of irregular marriages in which that gentleman says that there were on average 2,000 marriages of that character celebrated each year. It is plain that Mr Blair does not limit himself to the district in which he resides in stating the number to be so immense, but to what extent of Scotland his remark applies, whether to the whole or merely to the borders, we are at a loss to decide. A fourth part of the number stated will, we think, be nearer the average of "Toll" or "irregular" marriages that

take place annually on the border extending from this town to Coldstream. We are credibly informed that the annual average of marriages at Lamberton, which is the most popular place, is about 300 & that Mordington & the other tolls together do not exceed 200 - in all 500. If Coldstream be included & the entire border hence to the neighbourhood of Carlisle, the number may perhaps be brought to somewhere near 2,000. This however is making a very large allowance for the number of marriages at Gretna Green, as in the district which stretches between the Tweed & the Esk the custom is scarcely known & though known could seldom be practised, as in the adjoining part of England the country is so wild and thinly populated that there is scarcely anybody to get married."



# ISSUERS OF TRADING TOKENS IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

by Tim Everson

Due to a shortage of small change in the middle of the 17th century (1649-1672), many boroughs, towns and individual tradesmen issued farthing and halfpenny tokens in brass. Not very many were issued in Northumberland and Durham compared to some other counties but they can be a useful genealogical source. I list here the various traders using the spellings they themselves use on the tokens.

## DURHAM

ALDERSON, MICHAELL Barnard Castle, 1666, 1  
ALDERSON, MICAELL Barnard Castle, None, 2  
BEDFORD, IOHN Gateshead, None, 46  
BOWEY, IOHN Durham, 1666, 23  
BVLL, THOMAS Barnard Castle, 1666, 3  
BVRFEY, CHRISTOPHER Barnard Castle, None, 4  
CHAPMAN, RICHARD Billingham, 1666, 15  
CHILTON, R. Durham, None, 25  
COARSON, ROBERT Darlington, 1666, 18  
COMYNT, GEORGE Durham, 1666, 26  
COOPER, GEORGE Durham, 1666, 26  
CRADOCK, WILLIAM Bishop Auckland, 1666, 16  
DENT, WILLIAM Durham, 1666, 27  
DIXON, WILL Durham, 1663, 28  
DOBSON, ROGER Hartlepool, 1662, 47  
FAWCET, WILLIAM Sunderland, None, 51  
GOLIGHTLY, IOHN Barnard Castle, None, 5 & 6  
GREEVESON, WILLIAM Durham, None, 29 & 30  
HETCHINSON, CVTHBERT Durham, 1664, 32  
HODSHON, GEORGE Durham, None, 31  
HVTCHESON, WILL Durham, None, 33  
HVTCHINSON, WILL Barnard Castle, None, 7  
IAKSON, ROBERT Stockton, None, 48  
IORDAN, WILLIAM Durham, None, 34  
MARKENDAILE, ANTHONY Barnard Castle, 1666, 8  
MARKENDAILL, ANTHONY Barnard Castle, None, 9  
MIDDLETON, MICHAELL Darlington, None, 19 & 20  
NICHOLSON, RALPH Durham, None, 35  
PEACOCK, JOHN Durham, 1662 36  
PINKNEY, CHRISTOPHER Barnard Castle, 1666, 10  
RICHARDSON, IOHN Durham, 1664, 37  
RICHARDSON, NIC Durham, 1661, 38  
ROPER, WILLIAM Durham, None, 39  
SANDERSON, GEORGE Barnard Castle, 1665, 11  
SCAIFE, RICHARD Darlington, 1666, 21  
SHAW, HENRY Darlington, 1667, 22  
SHIERS, GEORGE Durham, 1666, 40  
SOWERBY, MATHIAS Barnard Castle, None, 13 & 14  
SOWERBY, MATTHIAS Barnard Castle, 1666, 12  
STOBART, MICHAELL Bishop Auckland None, 17  
STOKELD, JOHN Durham, 1661, 41

WARDELL, LANCELOTT Sunderland 1659, 51A  
WELLS, IOHN Stockton, 1666, 49  
WELS, IOHN Stockton, 1666, 50  
WILKENSOM, WILLIAM Durham, 1661, 42-5  
WILKESON, WILLIAM Durham, 1661, 42-5  
WILKINSON, RALPH Darlington, None, 22A  
WILKINSON, WILLIAM Durham, 1661 42-5

## NORTHUMBERLAND

BARKER, CHARLES Newcastle, None, 1  
BLACKETT, WILLIAM Newcastle, None, 2  
DOBSON, ANTHONY Newcastle, None, 3  
FVLTHORP, GABRILL Newcastle, None, 1  
GAVSTELL, IOHN Newcastle, None, 4  
HVTCHINSON, WILLIAM Newcastle, 1660, 5  
LONDON, WILL Newcastle, None, 6  
SLINGER, HENRY Newcastle, 1664, 7  
SPENCER, EDWARD Newcastle, None, 8  
THOMAS, IOHN Newcastle, 1659, 10  
TOMPSON, HENRY Newcastle None, 9

The reference numbers refer to Michael Dickinson's book: *Seventeenth Century Tokens of the British Isles and Their Values*, Seaby, 1986. Some biographical detail may be found in George C. Williamson's book: *Trade Tokens Issued in the Seventeenth Century*, Spink, 1967 reprint. The tokens themselves sometimes help with a person's trade or location. Most issuers were fairly important men in the town and so often feature in other local documents such as the Hearth Tax. Durham tokens today cost between £20 and £100 at coin dealers. If you can find a Newcastle/Northumberland token you would probably have to part with £200 or more; they are very rare. As a dealer in 17th century tokens I am most happy to give advice or help to members concerning 17th century tokens of any county in England, Wales or Ireland.

Alphabetical lists of issuers by county are not generally available. Dickinson and Williamson have them alphabetically by town (or street in the case of London) but Spinks (publishers) are gradually publishing the Norweb collection of tokens (5 volumes so far since 1984) which has more useful indexes and some notes. Both Durham and Northumberland are published and if any member would like more information about any of the names above, I will check to see if their researchers have found anything.

*Editor's note: Mr Everson is a numismatist and member of the NDFHS. His address is 40 Woodlands Avenue, New Malden, Surrey KT3 3UQ*

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF  
NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st October 1997 which are set out on pages 2 - 4.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43 (7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act: and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act
 have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Ribchester  
Chartered Accountants  
67 Sadler Street,  
Durham DH1 3NP

11 February 1998

**NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST OCTOBER 1997**

	Note	1997 £	1996 £
<b>INCOME RESOURCES</b>			
Subscriptions and Donations	1.	30271	27324
Income Tax refunds on Covenants		1531	1219
Surplus on Journal and Publication sales	2.	9916	8783
Donations		305	116
Bank Interest Received (Gross)		<u>2247</u>	<u>2309</u>
		44270	39751

**RESOURCES EXPENDED**

Direct Charitable Expenditure	16391	16408
Printing and Distribution of Journals	3540	2132
Printing Postage and Stationery	308	1074
Telephone and Travel	1204	1124
Meeting Expenses	-	907
Deficit on conference	-	410
Professional Fees	428	400
FFHS Affiliation	12138	11521
Bolbec Hall Costs (Net)	-	1022
Equipment Repairs and Maintenance	363	941
Sundry	400	68
Bank Charges	802	884
Accountancy	<u>6158</u>	<u>4676</u>
Depreciation	41732	41567
	2538	( 1816)

**NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR**

**TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM  
LAST YEAR'S BALANCE SHEET**

**TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD TO THIS  
YEAR'S BALANCE SHEET**

51285

51285

£ 51285

£ 51285

NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST OCTOBER 1997

	Note	1997 £	1996 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible Assets			
As at 1st November 1996	4.	17614	1500
Additions		<u>9927</u>	<u>16264</u>
		27541	17764
Less Disposals		10834	150
Depreciation		<u>16707</u>	<u>4676</u>
Investments	5.		12938
At cost			<u>12938</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Stock		7643	6681
Cash at Bank		42685	44538
Group Accounts		51	406
Officers Accounts		525	715
Bolbec Hall Account		498	228
Sundry Debtors		<u>1072</u>	<u>1798</u>
		52474	54366
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Subscriptions in Advance		10188	7973
Accruals		<u>5170</u>	<u>8046</u>
		15358	16019
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		37116	38347
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		£53823	£51285
Represented by:			
<b>UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUND</b>		£53823	£51285

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

- that for the year in question the Society was entitled to exemption from audit under the Charities Act 1993;
- that we acknowledge our responsibilities for:
  - ensuring that the Society keeps accounting records which:-
    - disclose at any time, with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Society at that time, and
    - enable annual statements of accounts to be prepared under the requirements of the Charities Act 1993.

The Notes on page 4 form part of these accounts.

NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST OCTOBER 1997

1. Statement of Financial Activities

All incoming resources of the Society were unrestricted as to their use, subject to the charitable objects of the Society.

2. Surplus on Journals and Publication Sales

	1997 £	1996 £
Sale of publications	6681	6711
Opening stock	9920	7154
Cost of publications	<u>16601</u>	<u>13865</u>
	7643	6681
Less: closing stock	8900	8233
Surplus on publication sales	220	87
Sales of back journals	782	281
Journal advertising	14	182
Tape library receipts	<u>£9916</u>	<u>£8783</u>

3. Bolbec Hall Costs

	1997 £	1996 £
Rent, rates, water & service charge	7687	6396
Insurance	410	303
Telephone	236	301
Heat & light	399	384
Volunteers expenses	1116	875
Legal charges (re lease negotiation)	-	941
Start up costs	2707	3298
Postage and stationery	712	-
Maintenance	15075	12498
Sundries	<u>2937</u>	<u>977</u>
	£12138	£11521

Less: sundry income raised

4. Fixed Assets

	Equipment	Furnishings	Library	Total
Written down value b/fwd	4795	2307	5836	12938
Additions during year	1356	1633	6938	9927
Depreciation	<u>(1538)</u>	<u>(788)</u>	<u>(3832)</u>	<u>(6158)</u>
	4613	3152	8942	16707

Depreciation policy:

- Equipment - 25% p.a. on reducing balance
- Furnishings - 20% p.a. on reducing balance
- Library - 30% p.a. on reducing balance

5. Investments

Quoted Investment

500 ordinary shares in Northern Rock plc issued without cost upon conversion of the Northern Rock Building Society. Market value at 31st October 1997 £2,405.



# TITHE MAPS AND FAMILY HISTORY

*by Magnus Carter*

Old George lived in Alnmouth in 1843 and I found his house on a Tithe Map.

Boring and mundane? Maybe so, because it often isn't too difficult to trace where your great grandfather lived. You'll have an address from a birth, marriage or death certificate and you've probably also found him, with his family, on a census return. If he lived in a Victorian terrace on Tyneside or Wearside, you might be able to go to see the very house, still standing, and take a photograph. If the house has vanished, you ought to be able to find a map or plan which shows the street even if you can't identify the particular house on it.

But the further back you go, the more difficult it becomes. A map of the area which interests you will probably be small scale, with not a lot of detail.

Unless it is a Tithe Map! A little less mundane and more unusual, perhaps. And, believe me, a lot of detail.

What is a Tithe Map? What will it tell you and where can you see it? Are there any shortcuts?

Tithe Maps, and some related documents, were produced in the period 1837 to about 1850. They are very large scale, they may well include a quite detailed plan of the village or hamlet where your ancestor lived, and he or she might be named in the documents. Even if the Tithe papers themselves do not name your forebear, you might be able to find an address from the census of 1841 or 1851 and then trace the house on the Tithe Map.

Do not think that everyone is named - this is not a census! And you have to realise that your chances are slim if your quarry lived in the big conurbations on the Tyne or the Wear, or even in towns like Durham or Morpeth or Alnwick. You are more likely to be successful if your man or woman lived in the country, in a small village or hamlet - like Alnmouth where my ancestor George lived and died. And you are unlikely to find a name if your man was an "ag lab" or a hind on some remote farm, although the farm itself should be on the plan in some detail.

So you do need a bit of luck, but over 11,000 people were named on the Tithe documents for Northumberland, for example, so do not give up too easily!

Let's have a quick look at the historical background - so skip the next three paragraphs if you don't want a potted history!

What was a "Tithe"? My dictionary says it was "the tenth of the produce of land and stock allotted originally for

church purposes." That sums it up. One-tenth of all the produce - corn, milk and eggs, cattle, wood and so on had to be given every year to the tithe owner, originally the Church, for the upkeep of its buildings and its priests.

The system dates back to before the Norman Conquest and over the centuries it had become chaotic - difficult to calculate, to administer, to collect, and understandably unpopular with our farmer or yeoman ancestors. Nonconformists - and there were many in our region - resented having to pay to support a church other than their own. Farmers and smallholders objected to paying a levy which was not imposed on workers in the towns. There was plenty of scope for evasion and for argument.

The right to receive payment of tithes came to be owned, not only by the Church, but also by some lay people, usually landed gentry or squirearchy - the "impropriators" - and in many cases there was a "modus", an agreement to pay in money rather than in crops or livestock. The problem for the tithe-owner was to collect his due from usually reluctant owners of land, many of whom saw the tithe as a "tax on yield" for the more they produced, the more they paid. It was a clear disincentive to agricultural improvement.

Discontent on all sides and pressure for reform eventually resulted in the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836. This abolished the right to tithe in kind, replacing it with a money payment, called a "rent charge", calculated by reference to the price of wheat, barley and oats. It is under this Act that the Tithe Maps arose.

Tithe Commissioners were appointed. Their first task was to find who owned the tithes, what areas were titheable and so on. They established Tithe Districts - 14,829 of them throughout the country - and for most of them large scale plans were drawn up, the "Tithe Maps."

In County Durham and Northumberland, the unit for each map was usually a township within a parish. Northumberland boasted the largest Tithe District in the country - the 75,000 acres of Elsdon.

The number of townships within a particular parish could vary quite a lot. In County Durham, the parish of Hurworth had only two - Hurworth itself and Neasham - whilst Houghton-le-Spring had 18, covering Biddick, Eppleton, Rainton and Herrington, as well as Hetton-le-Hole and Houghton-le-Spring itself.

The process of tithe commutation involved three series of documents - the Tithe Maps, the Tithe Apportionments and the Tithe files.

For our purposes, we can ignore the Tithe files. Where they survive (and they were heavily weeded earlier this century), they contain correspondence of the Tithe Commissioners, minutes of meetings and so on. They are now in the Public Record Office at Kew.

The Tithe Maps were prepared by local surveyors between 1837 and 1850. The Public Record Office at Kew has 293 maps for County Durham and 492 for Northumberland, with only a handful later than 1849. They are "large scale"; the Northumberland maps vary from two chains to one inch (a chain is 22 yards or 66 feet) to 30 chains to an inch. In Durham, the scales range from two chains to 20 chains per inch.

The maps are big - five or six feet wide in some cases and not at all easy to handle. A few were compiled from other earlier maps. Haydon, for example, was "Copied and Reduced from Various Plans"; Greystead was partly "laid down from old Surveys". The absolute accuracy of many of them is therefore open to question and in neither county was there a single map which was deemed worthy of "first class" status, which would have made it acceptable as evidence of tenure and rights in legal proceedings.

Despite these failings, and despite the absence of maps for a few townships for which tithe surveys were not required, the maps for Northumberland and for Durham represent the first large scale surveys ever produced for most areas.

The maps show each "holding" i.e. each individual area in one ownership. It is a pity that in our two counties individual fields are not usually shown, nor are details given of the particular use to which the land was being put. In some areas, only the titheable parts are shown, whilst in towns, mapping might be incomplete. In Alnwick, the built up area is not shown in any detail; in Morpeth, much of the town area is not mapped. For most rural areas, however, all buildings are included and for several of the smaller towns, there is the valuable addition of a larger scale plan. Alnmouth for example has a plan on a two chains to one inch basis; Rothbury town is on a 4 chains basis, twice the scale of the rest of the map; Warkworth has a particularly good larger plan. (See note)

Accompanying the map was the Tithe Apportionment. This is a hand written series of pages giving the extent of the acreage liable to tithe, the names of all tithe owners, and - particularly valuable for us as family historians - a list of all the individual holdings with the names of owners and occupiers of each piece of land, including many "gardens" attached to the cottages and houses.

Each building or holding which is separately identified in the apportionment is given a reference number linking it to a number on the map, and it is this feature which allowed me to find my ancestor George's house, in Alnmouth, using the larger scale map for that town.

### Three sets of Documents

Where are the documents? Three sets of maps and their accompanying apportionments were made. One was for the Tithe Commission. A second went to the Diocesan Registry. For Northumberland and County Durham, this Registry was at Durham. The third copy went to the incumbent of the particular parish.

The Tithe Commission copies are now in the Public Record Office at Kew under references IR 29 and IR 30. The apportionments and most of the maps have been microfilmed, in black and white, and are available for viewing on microfiche in the Map Room at Kew. The original maps etc. will not normally be produced.

The Durham Diocesan Registry copies of maps for County Durham were transferred in 1969 to what is now Durham University Library, Archives and Special Collections at Palace Green in Durham City. Those for Northumberland, including Newcastle, are held by Northumberland Record Office at their Melton Park site.

The parish copies, where they survive, will probably be with the "Parish Chest" documents for the appropriate parish in either Durham County Record Office or Northumberland Record Office (Morpeth Records Centre).

### Listings and Finding Aids

#### (a) Public Record Office.

*The Tithe Maps of England & Wales: a Cartographic Analysis and County-by-County Catalogue*, by Roger J Kain and Richard R Oliver; Cambridge University Press; 1995; ISBN 0521 44191 9 is the result of a 4-year Exeter University project. It lists every map held by the PRO, separately for each county, and there is also a map of the tithe districts for each county. Notes on individual maps include the date and scale, an outline of the features included and sometimes details of any larger scale plans of particular areas or villages on the main map. For instance, the entry for the Northumbrian township of Longhoughton tells us that the apportionment is dated 1842, that the 1844 map is to a scale of 8 chains, is in two parts and is by Thomas Bell and Sons, that it includes "village separately at 8 chains", and that it shows "hill drawing, foot/bridleway, waterbodies, woods, rock outcrops, building names, road names, landowners, quarries, old quarries, limekiln, vicarage, stiles, holding boundaries, tithe ownerships."

Kain and Oliver's book is a very valuable listing but for a family historian looking for a particular building or a named ancestor, it is only a starting point. There is no index of the very many names appearing on the maps or in the apportionments.

#### (b) County Durham.

Durham University Library, Archives and Special Collections, Palace Green, Durham has a catalogue of its holdings of the diocesan copies for County Durham, listed

alphabetically by township. The catalogue is available for purchase at £2.50. There is a copy in the NDFHS Library at Bolbec Hall.

The surviving parish copies for Durham are normally held, as noted earlier, with the Parish Chest documents at Durham County Record Office and will be listed in the appropriate catalogue, usually in the "EP" series. There is however a separate eight page leaflet - *Subject Guide 5: Tithe Records* - which shows for which townships there are plans and/or apportionments, and whether there is any other "miscellaneous tithe material". This leaflet is available free from Durham County Record Office, County Hall, Durham DH1 5UL. If you write for a copy, you should include a stamped addressed envelope.

There is no index of names appearing on Durham maps or apportionments, except for those for the City of Durham, where there is a Durham County Local History Society publication (now out of print) - *Tithe Apportionments and Maps of the City of Durham*, edited by David Butler; 1988; ISBN 0 902958 12 7 - which has maps and a detailed listing, with index, of the names of landowners and occupiers appearing on the apportionments for the townships of Crossgate, Elvet, Framwellgate, St Giles and St Mary Magdalene.

There is also *The Parish of Heighington - The Commutation of Tithes 1837-44* by Hilary Jackson; ISBN 0948566 043, which contains field plans for Heighington, Redworth, Middridge Grange, School Aycliffe, Coatsay Moor, Walworth and Killerby and lists of farmers and landowners. There is a copy of this volume at Durham Record Office.

#### (c) Northumberland.

As in County Durham, the Northumberland Parish Chest material includes the surviving parish copies and they are included in the detailed listing of material for each parish. This parish material is at Northumberland Record Office (Morpeth Records Centre).

The Diocesan copies for Northumberland are at the Melton Park site of the Record Office and are listed in a separate catalogue, which has some valuable features for the family historian. There is not only a listing of the maps held but also an alphabetical index of all the personal names appearing on all the apportionments for the whole county, including Newcastle, indicating on which apportionment the name appears and whether the person is an owner or a tenant. My Alnmouth ancestor George appeared in this list and this led me to the apportionment on which his name appeared, to the map showing Alnmouth in a large scale and to his house shown on it. There are over 11,000 names in this index; obviously, the use of it could save lengthy and possibly fruitless searches of the apportionment documents for a particular individual. This catalogue, including the name index, has been produced on microfiche available from Northumberland Record Office, Melton Park, North

Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 5QX price £4.95 plus 50p postage (overseas postage £1).

#### A few miscellaneous points.

(a) Some maps are wholly in black and white; others are partly coloured.

(b) Don't expect to find an ancestor named if he or she lived in Newcastle. I saw an apportionment there with less than half a dozen names on it! Do not expect to find him if, for instance, he was a farm labourer - he would be living rent free in a cottage in which, technically, the farmer would be the occupier. Moreover, sometimes only one of a group of people is named; my Alnmouth ancestor George was shown as "George Johnson and others", so I was lucky! You are unlikely to be so fortunate in the larger towns.

(c) You cannot buy photocopies of the locally held maps or apportionments; they are far too large for that. However, Northumberland Record Office has a photographic service and will supply prints, either in colour or in black and white, of parts of maps, after preparing a negative for which you pay £3. They then produce a print, at rates which vary according to the size required. A print 7" by 5" would cost £4, either in colour or black and white, A4 size would be £13, A3 size £17 and so on. Some of the coloured maps would look well, framed and on a study wall! (Check with NRO as the prices may be changing in April).

(c) Kain and Oliver's book on the PRO maps lists some Northumberland maps under County Durham. This is because Northam and Islandshire and Bedlingtonshire - the parishes of Ancroft, Northam, Kyoee, Cornhill, Tweedmouth, Holy Island and Bedlington - were detached parts of County Durham until 1844. The locally held maps are however in the "right place."

(d) If you want to read more, *The Contentious Tithe, the Tithe Problem and English Agriculture 1750-1850* by Eric J Evans (Routledge & Kegan Paul; 1976) is a comprehensive overview. A shorter work by the same author is *Tithes - Maps, Apportionments and the 1836 Act* (Phillimore; 1993). A straightforward short guide is in the PRO publication *Maps for Family History*. A local item is *Using the Tithe Files: a County Durham Study in The Local Historian*, Vol. VII, No. 4 (November 1986).

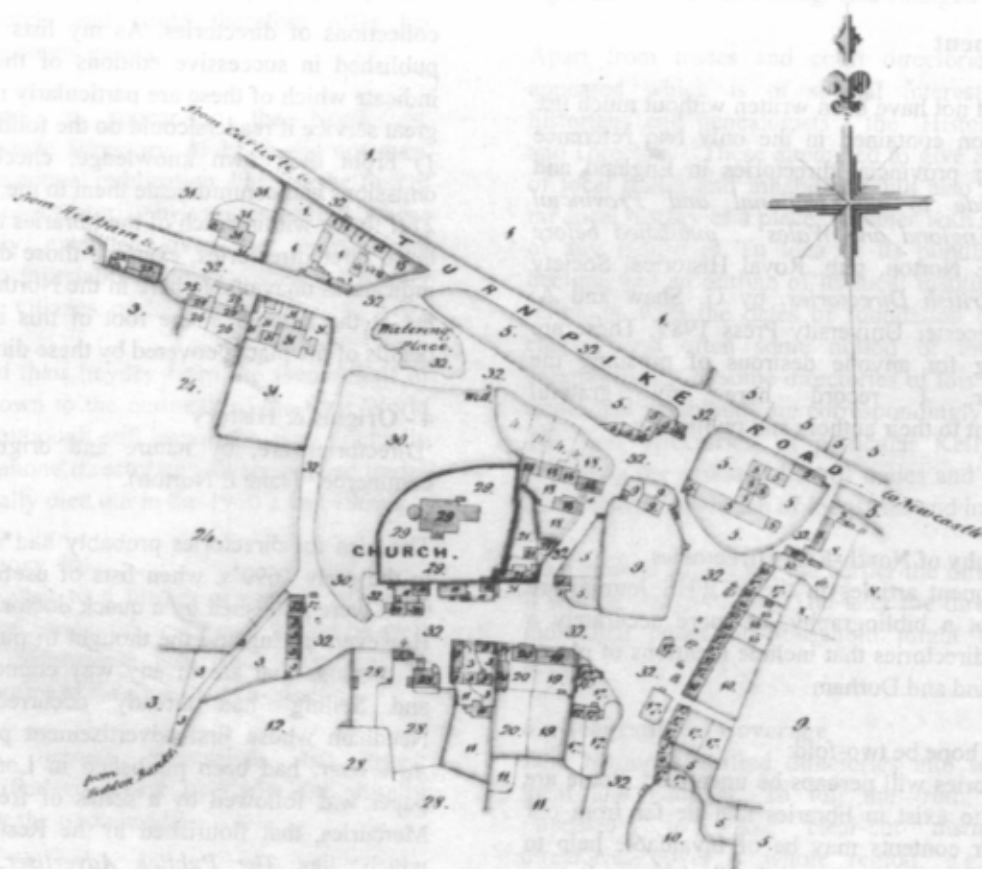
#### FOOTNOTE

Kain and Oliver's book lists the following enlargements of Northumberland villages on the appropriate maps: Alnmouth, Bamburgh, Bavington (Great), Bellingham, Birtley, Boulmer, Corbridge, Dinnington, Felton, Heddon-on-the-Wall, Humbleton, Lesbury, Longhoughton, Lucker, Newburn, Newham, Ovington, Rennington, Rothbury, Walbottle, Wark, Warkworth. For County Durham, the book lists Auckland (West).

I have not seen all these maps and therefore cannot comment on the amount of detail which may be shown. There are others where an enlargement is indicated but no precise details are given.



## 1848 TITHE MAP OF HEDDON ON THE WALL



### KEY TO THE PLAN OF HEDDON-ON-THE-WALL (NRO reference DT/229/M)

OCCUPIERS of the numbered areas on the plan, with the description of the area, are as follows: 1. George ARMSTRONG, Baysleap Farm, premises & roads; 3. George ARMSTRONG, Heddon Bank Farm, premises & roads; 4. (no name given) Heddon, houses, farm premises & plantation; 5. John & Charles LAWSON Heddon East Farm & premises; 6. GUARDIANS OF THE POOR OF THE PONTELAND UNION, Poor Houses & premises; 7. John & Charles LAWSON, Heddon Mill Farm & premises; 8. Ann WILKINSON, cottages & cottage lands; 9. Thomas CHARLTON, cottages & cottage lands; 10. Jane ROBSON, cottages & cottage lands; 11. Robert HARRISON, cottages & cottage lands; 12. William GILHESPY, cottage lands; 13. William LAWS, cottage lands; 14. Thomas HOGG, cottage lands & smiths shop; 15. Jane HOGG, public house & garden; 16. George BATES Esq., Cottages & garden; 17. Anthony TOWNS, Edward TUBMAN & others, cottages & garden; 18. William LAWS, buildings & gardens or garths; 19. John CHARLTON, buildings & gardens or garths; 20. William GILHESPY, buildings & gardens or garths; 21. William ELSDEN, Jane ROBSON & others, buildings & gardens; 22. Margaret BEWICKE & others, lands & premises formerly part of Heddon Common; 23. Thomas DINNING Jnr & others Dwelling house etc; 25. Isabella MASON, cottage & cottage lands; 26. Thomas ALLONBY, cottage & cottage lands; 27. Hannah JOHNSON, cottage; 28. William CHARLTON, buildings & gardens or garths.

Areas 2 and 24 were "in hand", 29 30 and 31 were church lands & buildings and 32 was "land held in common road & waste ground not included in the admeasurement of the several farms."

The owners of areas 1,2,3 and 8 to 17 were Nathaniel CLAYTON & John CLAYTON Esq and the Executors of the late Michael CLAYTON Esq. Other owners were Revd Leonard Shafto ORD, Edward COLLINGWOOD Esq, Thomas DUTTON, George BATES, Matthew BELL, John WHITFIELD (area 28), Watson CHARLTON, Thomas DINNING (area 23), Exors of late William JOHNSON (area 27) and Margaret BEWICKE (areas 21 and 22).

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# DIRECTORIES IN NORTH-EAST ENGLAND

by Adam Bunting

## Acknowledgement

This article could not have been written without much use of the information contained in the only two reference books that cover provincial directories in England and Wales: 1) *Guide to the National and Provincial Directories of England and Wales ... published before 1856*, by Jane E Norton, pub. Royal Historical Society 1950, and 2) *British Directories*, by G. Shaw and A. Tipper, pub. Leicester University Press 1989. These are essential reading for anyone desirous of pursuing the subject further. I record here my grateful acknowledgement to their authors and publishers.

## Introduction

### 1 - A Bibliography of North-East Directories

This and subsequent articles in the NDFHS Journal are intended to pilot a bibliography, or more accurately a calendar, of all directories that include mentions of places in Northumberland and Durham.

The result will I hope be two-fold:

- 1) Rarer directories will perhaps be unearthed. Some are already known to exist in libraries that lie far from our region, but their contents may be of invaluable help to researchers in business, local and family history. It may prove possible to obtain copies of these.
- 2) Researchers will eventually have a complete list of directories as an aid to their research planning.

### 2 - Plan

If all goes to plan, I hope to publish a basic list of directories in four parts over the next one or (at most) two years:

- 1) - following this introductory article: the 18th century
- 2) - 1800 - 1849
- 3) - 1850 - 1899
- 4) - 1900 onwards

The basic list will naturally be open to amendments and additions from readers with access to libraries outside the North-East Region. These additions will go towards the final Bibliography which I will in due course make available for consultation at Bolbec Hall and other repositories.

### 3 - An Appeal to Readers

The Bibliography will not succeed without help from readers with access to our major national libraries, and important provincial libraries outside the North-East Region. The British Museum, Bodleian, Guildhall, and National Library of Scotland in particular, have major

collections of directories. As my lists of directories are published in successive editions of the Journal, I shall indicate which of these are particularly rare. It would be a great service if readers could do the following:

- 1) From their own knowledge, check for errors and omissions and communicate them to me, and,
- 2) If living within reach of the libraries that hold copies of these rarer directories, examine those directories which I indicate as unavailable here in the North-East and write to me at the address at the foot of this article, giving full details of the places covered by these directories.

### 4 - Origins & History

'Directories are, by nature and origin, instruments of commerce,' (Jane E Norton).

The idea for directories probably had its origins in Paris in the early 1690's, when lists of useful addresses about town were published by a quack doctor, Nicholas Blegny. However, in England the thought of publishing basic lists of 'persons that are in any way connected with Buying and Selling' had already occurred to Marchmont Needham whose first advertisement paper, *The Publick Advertiser*, had been published in London in 1650. His paper was followed by a series of free papers, the *City Mercuries*, that flourished in the Restoration years, and which, like *The Publick Advertiser*, were essentially advertisement papers without properly organised lists of names.

Such lists were to make their first appearance in this country in 1694 when John Houghton started to print, in rotation, lists of various classes of persons across the country in his weekly paper *A Collection for Improvement of Husbandry and Trade*. Houghton's first list was of London doctors, to be followed by counsellors and attorneys, woodmongers, schools and brokers, and finally coaches and carriers. Unfortunately for us in the North-East, he did not cast his net any further north than York, and the lists died a death in 1695. Nevertheless, it had been an admirable effort for its time and is the earliest example of the types of lists of professional people which characterise all subsequent directories.

Lists of tradespeople provide the second major source of content for early directories. London merchants had long kept private lists of correspondents and agents. Such a list was first put into published book form in 1677 by Samuel Lee whose *Collection of the Names of the Merchants ... in ... London*, containing nearly 2,000 names, was directed at visitors to London seeking business connections. This initiative was not repeated until 1734, from which year directories of London appeared annually, at first largely modelled on Lee's original.

London was followed by Dublin in 1751, then Liverpool (1766), Manchester (1772), and Bristol (1775). All of these cities conducted much international trade, and their directories were, like London's, aimed at helping visiting businessmen find their feet. The first Manchester directory was, for example, published by an enterprising lady who ran two large hotels and could therefore offer her directories to her business guests.

The first directory to appear in the North-East, *Whitehead's Newcastle Directory*, of 1778, did not mark the beginning of an annual publication, but was the first of an irregular series of directories by various authors whose coverage gradually extended over the years, from Newcastle (almost invariably with Gateshead) to other towns, and then the villages, of the region.

The directories had their heyday from the second half of the 19th century down to the outbreak of the First World War. From 1919, although still important, they gradually lost ground to telephone directories and specialised trades directories, and finally died out in the 1950's and 1960's.

### 5 - Types of Directory

Before planning a visit to a library or records office in order to consult directories, the researcher would be well advised to check beforehand just what categories of information are on offer in the directories available.

Early directories limited themselves to listing tradespeople, classified of course by trade, and usually alphabetically under the trade heading.

The notion of listing private individuals, in a so-called 'court directory', did not develop until later. With the rapid growth of population, and increased ease of travel and communications, post-masters found that their work was increasing and being made more difficult by a tendency to address mail incorrectly or insufficiently; so a number of initiatives were started, often by post office officials, to compile court directories containing the correct addresses of those persons most likely to receive mail, i.e. the gentry, professional and middle classes generally. Frederick Kelly, a chief inspector for the inland letter-carriers, is the best-known, but is far from being the only example of a compiler of Post Office Directories. He had started to compile directories with the help of Post Office staff in the late 1830's, but was forbidden to use their help from 1847 onwards. Nevertheless, his famous series of directories continued to use the name '*Post Office Directory*', a title which however he failed to retain for his company's exclusive use.

Most directories in the 19th century in our region combine together a trades and a court directory for each of the towns covered. Often a tradesman will be found listed in both sections. As the century progressed, and particularly once the mid-century depression was over, there was a steady increase in the number of streets covered so that the court directory for a town, which in the 1830's might only

have included the gentry and professional classes, could well have included virtually every street in the 1890's - so much had the purchasing power of the working classes grown. One only has to compare a *White's Directory of Newcastle* for the early 1850's with its late 1890's equivalent to see how things had changed.

Apart from trades and court directories, a third type appeared which is of special interest to both local historians and genealogists - the 'History, Topography, and Directory'. These attempted to give not only a listing of local trades and inhabitants, but also an indication of the local history of a place, together with the development of any industries, an idea of its population growth or decline, and an outline of its local institutions, especially religious, with the dates of foundation of churches and chapels and often some notion of the size of their congregations. In some directories of this type, the lists of trades and inhabitants are correspondingly less exhaustive. The best directories, in particular Kelly's, succeed in providing the essential lists of trades and inhabitants with also a useful indication of industries and institutions.

As a general rule, then, the earlier the directory, the more it will be trades-biased. The later the directory, the more individual heads of household might be expected to appear.

### 6 - Geographical Coverage

Jane Norton classified directories into two main types: local and national. To tell the truth, it is virtually impossible to make clear-cut distinctions. Some directories cover a whole region, e.g. the Northern Counties. Others cover a single county, town or city. Often the titles are misleading, or have been abbreviated at the time of rebinding, and it is wise to check on the contents' index to see what is on offer.

The same directory might be published more than once in a year, with addenda and corrections in subsequent editions. Other directories were often published both as a whole and also in sections - for instance, Kelly's editions for a particular year might cover Northumberland with special, smaller editions covering North Shields, or Newcastle, separately. If you find a Kelly's Newcastle in one library, you might find the same Newcastle edition tucked into a much larger Northumberland edition in another.

Your local library or records office might well have made an effort to borrow a directory from elsewhere and copy, and then bind, the section that refers to the local area. Sunderland library has a fine collection of such copies covering the Sunderland area.

In earlier years, many directories covered places across the whole country. Some of these directories are particularly rare; for example, Jane Norton lists only one known copy of James Bisset's *Grand National Directory* for 1800, covering some 30 towns, at Birmingham City Library. The

first directory that mentioned places in our region outside Newcastle was the *Universal British Directory* of various years 1790 -1798, This was published in parts, mainly alphabetically by name of town, and again, the originals are very rare, though a reprint is now available.

## CALENDAR OF DIRECTORIES

### 1 - the 18th century

Note: I have indicated some places where these may be seen in our region. These lists of repositories are by no means intended to be complete.

NCL = Newcastle Central Library; NRO = Northumberland Records Office; TWA= Tyne & Wear Archives.

1778 *Whitehead's Newcastle Directory for 1778*; 60pp. Reprinted by J R Boyle (1889), now in microfiche by North Fife; NCL, NRO, TWA ...

1781 *Bailey's Northern Directory for 1781 Containing every principal Town from the River Trent to Berwick ...* Norton lists two copies, at Rochdale and the Guildhall Libraries. More information needed, please,

1782-4 *Whitehead's Newcastle & Gateshead Directory for 1782, 1783, 1784*; NCL

(1787) *Bailey's General Directory of England, Wales, etc.* Only the Bristol section is known to have survived - unless someone among you knows better!

1787-9 *An Account of Newcastle upon Tyne ...* W Whitehead; NCL

1790 *Whitehead's Newcastle & Gateshead Directory for 1790*. Reprinted by R Ward (1902); NCL, NRO, TWA

1793 *The Universal British Directory, Vol 2 Part 1 A - B* Facsimile text for this and successive volumes by Michael Winton, 5 Lynn Road, Castle Rising, King's Lynn. Available at Sunderland Library. Please notify if available in other local libraries. Includes Alnmouth ('Alemouth'), Alnwick, Belford, Berwick, Blyth. There is a compilation of the original in Newcastle Library covering some places in Northumberland & Durham.

1793 *The U.B.D., Vol 2 Part 2 C-D*. Includes Darlington and Durham.

1794 *The U.B.D., Vol 3 Part 1 E-K*. Includes Felton, Hartlepool and Hexham.

1794 *The U.B.D., Vol 3 Part 2 L-M*. Includes Morpeth.

1795 *Newcastle & Gateshead Directory for 1795*; Hilton. NCL, TWA

1798 *The U.B.D., Vol 4 Part 1 N-S*. Includes Newcastle, Stockton, Shields (sic) and Sunderland. (Part 2 T - Y does not seem to have any N.E. towns.)

1798 *The U.B.D., Vol 5 Appendix*. Includes Allendale Town, Bellingham, and descriptions (only) of six other towns.

*Editor's note: Adam Buntings address is 17 Moor Place, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4AL. Please contact him if you able to add to the information above.*

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## THE ECCENTRIC ETTRICKS

*In the Autumn 1997 Journal we printed a note about the 'odd' will of William Ettrick of Barnes, Sunderland who died in 1808 describing how he wanted to be buried at home, at midnight, and carried on a dung cart before being put in the ground by four paupers. Doug Smith responds:*

The burial of William Ettrick at Bishopwearmouth Church did not follow the exact plan laid down during his lifetime. His son, the Rev. William, fearing disgrace upon the family name, disregarded a midnight burial with the coffin carried on a dung cart. Rather, it took place on a Sunday afternoon and followed by coaches and his tenantry on horseback. Despite wishing to have no inscription on the coffin, a brass plate recorded the date and age. When presented with the bill for the coffin, the Rev. Ettrick at first desired to have the vault re-opened so that a second opinion as to its value might be had. This seems to typify the contentious trait of the whole family.

The Monument, costing £1,000 in 1808, was originally designated for the church. When unpacked there, it was found to be too big so was re-packed and dispatched to stand in the grounds of the Ettrick estate at Barnes.

They were indeed an eccentric lot. An earlier William Ettrick, friend of the old gossip John Aubrey, so quarrelled with the inhabitants of Wimbourne in Dorset, that he swore an oath never to be buried in either their church or churchyard. Later he regretted this, so compromised by building a tomb in an arched recess of church wall. Hence he was not quite in and not quite out of the church and churchyard.



# 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 can be sent to Phil Thirkell, 100 Stuart Court, Kingston Park, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 2SG, or via email address: 106146.2460@compuserve.com

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 31st March. 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.

**0079 Mr F.S. HINDMARSH**, 12 Roy Street, Tawa 6006, Wellington, New Zealand

Seeking descendants of the following: 1) Mary **HINDMARSH**, born Middleton in Teesdale 1782, married John **WATSON** 1817 at St Mary Aldermar, London. On the 1851 Census she was a widow living at Middleton in Teesdale aged 69. They had a daughter married to a veterinary surgeon in Carlisle. 2) Jane Hindmarsh, sister of Mary Watson, bapt. 1803 at Middleton in Teesdale, married Thomas **TEGG** the younger, bookseller at St Mary Aldermar, London 1829. Also looking for the Hindmarsh family bible.

**0489 Mr Wm. ROSS**, 29 Hill Crest Drive, Beverley, East Yorkshire HU17 7JL

Lewis **BROADBENT**, son of Dr Lewis G. Broadbent of Bamburgh, died 1866 when only in his 18th year. Can anyone shed any light on the circumstances surrounding this early demise?

**0516 NORMAN J. BOWMAKER**, 523 Nottingham Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21229, U.S.A.

Trying to locate the family of James **BOWMAKER**, born England 1817, first appears on the US Census in 1860 with wife Barbara born 1827 and three children. In later Censuses Barbara states she first emigrated to the US in 1850. James and Barbara married in Canada in 1858. James died 1882 and Barbara in 1909, both being interred at Oakville, New York. Could he be the James Bowmaker on the 1841 Census at Pasture Hall, Elford, Northumberland?

**0797 Miss WINNIE DICKSON**, 9 Braeside, Bedford MK41 9BL

Researching the **ROWNTREE** family of Monkwearmouth. John Rowntree, native of Hartlepool, mariner married Mary Ann **BROWN**, native of St James, Bristol. Where did they marry? Where did they live? Where were they buried? Daughter Amelia born 1802 and son John born 1805 were baptised at the Scotch Presbyterian Church, Monkwearmouth; were there any other children? John, born 1805, became a master mariner and lived at Hallgarth Square. Where might there be any information about this place? Looking for information about his family John (1838), Robert (1840), Ann (1844), Elizabeth (1846) and George (1849) - all born in Monkwearmouth.

**0852 Mrs JENNY WEARS**, 2 Highfield Villas, East Mill, Halstead, Essex CO9 2EL

Searching for the baptism of William **WEARS** born c1744 (died 1826 aged 82); banns and marriage entries state that he was of Wolsingham when he married Elizabeth **WATSON** at Wolsingham in 1786. Would like any help

with the Wear family of Weardale 1700-1786; I have the complete family from 1786. Strong possibility that a Mary Wears who married John **RUTTER** was a sister, or close relative, of William.

**1085 Mrs DOREEN MORRIS**, 32 Stockport Road, Gee Cross, Hyde, Cheshire SK14 5QG

Joseph **COOK** was born Sunderland 1797 to Joseph and Mary nee **ANNISON** who married 1796 at Sunderland. Joseph had moved to Sunderland from Brough-under-Stainmore, Westmoreland where he was born in 1768. Joseph and Mary had six children but so far have only traced two - the above Joseph, a keelman and later a water collector on the docks, and John (1809-1881), a pilot. The other siblings were Sarah (1799), Mary (1802), Thomas (1804) and Frances (1807). Their births were recorded in the family bible but no more is known about them. Where did they go, did they marry, and when did they die?

**1235 Mrs P.A. THURSTON**, 6 Hestercombe Road, Headley Park, Bristol BS13 7PR

Does anyone have a picture or drawing of Northgate Street, Hartlepool in the 1850s, preferably showing the Greyhound Inn which belonged to great great grandfather Bartholomew **WETHERELL**. Happy to reimburse any expenses.

**1598 Mrs NANCY McKINNA**, PO Box 232, Cooktown, Queensland 4871, Australia

Looking for descendants of Captain John **HAWKINS**, Pilot and Captain Edward **COULSON**, and Master Mates Robert **COOPER**. Edward Coulson married Ann Cooper at Whitby 1814 and they had at least one daughter Elizabeth (born 1816) who married John Hawkins 1836 at Monkwearmouth and had two children: John born 1841 and Elizabeth Ann born 1837. Captain Hawkins died in the Battle of the China Seas before 1865. Elizabeth Ann Hawkins married Henry **HENDERSON**, a shipwright of Sunderland. Did her brother John marry?

**1795 & 1796 Mrs ANGELA HIGGINS & Mrs C. YOUNG**, 86 Devon Crescent, Birtley, Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham DH3 1HP

Researching **FULLER** of Cranford, New Jersey, U.S.A. Margaret Fuller born Byker 1867 married a Mr **SCHINDLER**. Catherine Fuller born Byker 1870 emigrated to the U.S.A. Robert Fuller born Byker 1879 emigrated to Cranford after 1908. He married Edna A. **PETERSON** at St Michael's in Cranford in 1922. Would welcome any information about the above. Also looking for the marriage c.1860 of Edward Robert Fuller and Catherine **DAVITT**, both born Ireland.

**1799 Mrs MARY QUEALY**, 32 Albatross Pass, Willetton, Western Australia 6155, Australia

Seeking information on the family of Marshall DAVIS of the Morpeth area. Ann Davis, his daughter, married William HEATLEY 1848 and they had a son Marshall Davis Heatley.

**2118 Mrs BERYL HOWARD**, Chestnuts, Abington Pigotts, Nr. Royston, Hertfordshire SG8 0SB

Looking for descendants or connections of: 1) Robert FERRY and Mary Ann BRANSON who lived in Sans Street, Sunderland and died in 1939 and 1944 respectively. 2) Thomas LAIDLAW and Margaret CHERRY who lived at Green Terrace, Sunderland where Thomas died in 1885 and Margaret in 1893.

**2523 KEN LILLEY**, 5 Kristin Avenue, Jarrow, Tyne & Wear NE32 5TR

Help wanted re LILLEY/LILLY. Adam Lilly, sailor, father of Abraham, married at Holy Trinity, Berwick in 1820 to Isabel MARSHALL. They had several children to 1837 but no Abraham found. Abraham married Jane NEWMAN 1858 at All Saints, Monkwearmouth and died Ryhope 1895 aged 65. Also, Millison Jane BLACK who married John GREENWELL at Heworth 1881. Her birth certificate shows her born 1862 Heworth Shore, daughter of William and Elizabeth, formerly SMETHIM.

**3645 Mrs M. REARDON**, 12 Wentworth Court, Downview Road, West Worthing, Sussex BN11 4RJ

William LITTLE, a blacksmith, married Jane GRAHAM in 1867 in Carlisle, then the family moved to West Hartlepool. Seeking more information about this family. Jane's mother was Elizabeth nee DOYLE and came from Dumfries.

**4001 RAYMOND SAMPSON**, 42 Acacia Gardens, Crook, Co. Durham DL15 9NA

Seeking parentage of Robert BURT born 1808 Longbenton who married Mary PRATT of Hetton-le-Hole at Sunderland 1837. Also John DOBSON of Winlaton who married Jane WHITFIELD at St John's, Newcastle 1835. Also seeking the parents of William OLIVER who married Elizabeth HENDERSON - born 1804 and 1805 and living at Winlaton in 1847.

**4262 Mrs D. THWAITES**, 6 Kinloch Drive, Bolton BL1 4LZ  
(email: 101737.1253@compuserve.com)

Has anyone found members of the CHARLTON family of Allendale, Alston Moor and Stanhope? Looking for ancestors of my ancestor Joseph Charlton who married Margaret TEASDALE at Allendale in 1770. Also seek information on HEDWORTH family. Looking for the parents of James Hedworth and Jane STOKOE who were married at Stella, Co. Durham in 1826. Does anyone have information on the ancestors of Thomas HASWELL, born 1887 in North Shields who emigrated to the U.S.A. in the first years of this century?

**4286 Mrs S. DARROCH**, 21 Bainbridge Holme Road, Sunderland SR3 1YP

Interests: 1) BENNETT - Dorothy had a son Walter 1827 at Shincliffe and married William WALLACE 1829. No other siblings found. Where did they move to? 2) DODDS - Thomas and Barbara nee DOUGLASS came from Scotland to Jarrow. By 1871 Thomas was a coal miner; are there any mining records which would give personal details? 3) ELLISON - John born c1721, possibly Hassocks near Heddon on the Wall. 4) LEWIS - Elizabeth born c1807 Sunderland. Which one of two baptisms found? 5) MIDGLEY - John in Sunderland 1920. 6) SCOTT - Ann born c1833 Wrekenton. 7) WALTON - John born c1816 Sunderland. He was a shoemaker; are there any apprentice's records?

**4292 Mrs E.M.HUMES**, Meadowfield, Chilton Moor, Houghton-le-Spring DH4 6LU

Seeking: 1) Birth and parents of Robert TURNER of Chester-le-Street c1761. Entry of marriage to Mary Cooper at Chester-le-Street in 1781 and subsequent entries of children describe him as 'Cordwainer, native of Chester-le-Street'. 2) Marriage of John TAILFORD, born Chollerton 1827, son of Ralph and Jane CARR who was born Longhorsley 1823, daughter of Aaron Carr, probably 1853-1856. 3) Origins of Robert Ross WANLESS, born Houghton 1881 and his wife Sarah Hannah WAUGH born Mickley 1880, daughter of Andrew Waugh of Wooler.

**4344 Mrs OLIVE M. DICKINSON** (nee Fleck), 72 Raumanga Heights Drive, Whangarei, New Zealand

William Cuthbertson FLECK died intestate 1930 and an admon. left his estate to Sydney Victor Fleck and Edith Emily de POITIERS, wife of Alfred Eugene Lambrecht de Poitiers, photographer of Princes Street, North Shields. Interested in the de Poitier family and wonder if there are any photographs taken by him of GREEN, CUTHBERTSON, ARMSTRONG, TWEDDLE, WHEATLEY, WAUGHMAN, CURRY, MELDRUM and BROWN relatives. The log of Captain Cook records the death of an officer named LAMBRECHT on one of his famous voyages. William Armstrong of Matfen died intestate in 1894 and his estate passed to his son James, a quarryman of Matfen. A surety was Robert Armstrong, joiner of Campbell Street, Newcastle. Does anyone know of this family?

**4448 BOB JOHNSON**, 9 Throble Nest Drive, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 9PB

Seeking descendants of George TAYLOR and Georgina (nee DAWSON) who married Hendon, Sunderland 1913. Also require any details relating to Ralph JOHNSON who was living at Pitlington c1860.

**4519 Mrs F. EASSON**, 4 Monkridge, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear NE26 3EQ

Descendants and information sought on: Walter E. and William Henry YOUNG, sons of William of Lily Crescent, Jesmond, Newcastle. Walter was at Balmoral Terrace, Gosforth in 1911, and William lived in Forsyth Road, Jesmond c1914 - 1927.

**4537 Mrs K. ANGELL**, 6 Hallfields Lane, Rothley, Leicester LE7 7NF

Looking for any information on: 1) William ARMSTRONG, butcher of Morpeth, married Mary STOKOE but where? Children baptised Morpeth: John 1742, Mary 1743 and Elizabeth 1749. 2) John CHIPCHASE aged 28 and wife Mary on 1851 Census; children born South Shields. 3) Other interests: HIPSON of South Shields and DAVISON of Wooler.

**4551 ELIZABETH McMURDY**, 13 Willow Street, Kippa Ring, Queensland 4021, Australia  
(email: mcmurdy@petrie.starway.net.au)

Who were the parents of John ALEXANDER who married Mary GILLANDER in 1787 at Bishopwearmouth? One record states he was a native of Ipswich. His occupation was listed as soldier in 1798, mariner in 1801 and Lieutenant, Royal Navy 1809. Most of his children seem to have been born at Swalwell Factory and baptised at Whickham. His daughter Sarah Alexander married Thomas Friend BENNETT 1807. I cannot find John Alexander's birth or death.

**4883 Mr H. MOORE**, 30 Meadow Rise, Dawlish, Devon EX7 9AZ  
(email: harrym@argonet.co.uk)

Trying to find birth of grandfather - George Edward MOORE c.1872 in Crook, according to 1871, 81 and 91 Census. Parents were Edward Moore and Mary (formerly DOWSON). No trace in GRO indexes or parish registers, also no trace of Edward and Mary's marriage c.1860. Other children were - Elizabeth, John, Isabel, Emily and Mary in Brancepeth, Willington and Esh areas. Edward born Haswell 1837 or possibly Sunderland according to 1891 census.

4939 Miss M. PERCY, 19 Sycamore Avenue, Guide Post, Choppington, Northumberland NE62 5NU

Researching: ATHEY of Newburn; BELL of Alwinton and Rothbury; BIRKLEY of Newcastle; CHARLTON of Ponteland, DAVISON of Tynemouth, Stannington and Ashington; FLANIGAN of Co.Tyrone, Berwick and Alnwick; GRAY of Newburn, Seghill and Alnwick; GRIEVE of Stannington; LAWS of Ovingham, Earsdon and Cramlington; MURRAY of Ireland, Berwick and Edinburgh; NICHOLSON of Ponteland, Whittingham and Bedlington; NORRIS of Cramlington and Hazelrigg; PATTERSON and PERCY of Berwick; PURVIS of Rothbury, and, TUCKER of Co.Mayo.

5210 PETER BURNS, 5 Henry Street, North Shields NE29 6SH

Looking for information on the following families: 1) Charles RENNEY and Hannah Storey ROBSON married 1898. 2) James John WILLIAMS and Susan Robson married 1895. 3) Robert Edward HALL and Mary Jane Robson married 1897. 4) George FIELDING and Elizabeth Robson married 1907.

5222 Mrs P. GIBSON, 8 Brunton Avenue, Fawdon, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 2PT

Seeking information regarding Richard Bernard DOWLING born c1882 North Dublin, son of James Dowling (or DOOLAN) and Mary Ann HUGHES.

5308 Mrs MARJORIE HANSON, 2 Eleventh Avenue, Anglesea, Victoria 3230, Australia

Seeks information on great grandmother's family. Hannah BELL married John BAINBRIDGE 1851 Newcastle. Hannah is described as a minor on the certificate but thought to be 20 years, daughter of John Bell, mason, and Hannah. Family rumour indicates Hexham as her early home.

5354 HOWARD JAMES DAVIS, 16 New Road, Ryhall, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 4HL

Seeking Robert James DAVIS, a widower who married widow Matilda Jane MORGAN nee DICKINSON in 1891, and had two daughters Lily Porter and Matilda Jane, stepchildren Henrietta, Charles, Luisa, Mary, Ellen and Louisa. All lived Southey Street, Sunderland Road, Gateshead. Robert James 1913 at Hylton Street. His father was Sampson Davis. Also, James SMITH, engine fitter, who married Dorothy Ann NIXON 1896; children: Thomas, William, Anthony, Edward, Septimus and James.

5365 JOE DIXON, 126 Brooklands Grove, Menston, Ilkley, West Yorkshire LS29 6PN

Frustrated by inability to trace the marriage of Joseph EMMERSON of High Spen and Isabella HETHERINGTON of Prudhoe in the early 1860s. Also researching: DIXON of Hensingham, Cumberland, West Rainton and High Spen; ROBSON of Co.Down, Northern Ireland and West Rainton; ARMSTRONG of High Spen and Northumberland, and WHITFIELD of Burnopfield.

5412 ERNEST COWELL, 80 The Avenue, Deneside, Seaham, Co.Durham SR7 8NT

Information wanted on parents and siblings of William COWELL born 1830 Lumley, Lambton. He was married twice, firstly to Ann PAISLEY 1854 Houghton-le-Spring, and secondly to Mary NICHOLSON (formerly BROWN) of Leeds, at Herrington Chapel in 1878. William's father given as Robert.

5428 Mrs M. ZISSLER (nee DIXON), 34 Wicklow Avenue, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 2HQ

Seeking the deaths/burials of: 1) Mary Ann Brown STUART, born 1881, daughter of Capt. W.R. Stuart and Mary Jane FERGUSON of North

Shields. 2) Her husband, Charles Frank DIXON, born 1880, son of John Dixon and Jane CLARK of West Willington. They married 1911 Howard Street Church, North Shields and had one known daughter, Mary, in 1913. They lived in Wallsend 1913-1946 and may have moved to Whitley Bay. No trace in Preston Cemetery.

5645 Mrs HELEN PEARSON, The Chapel Manor, Browney, Co.Durham DH7 8HU

Searching for the baptism of John CHARLTON son of John Charlton born around 1738 or 1742. He is buried at Lambley, Northumberland where he farmed at "Waffold holm" (farm still there but spelling has changed!) His father (also called John) farmed at Whitehall (near Rowley), parish of Lanchester for many years. John's younger siblings were baptised in Lanchester but not John. Cuthbert Charlton, a younger brother, had two daughters Ann and Martha. Ann born at Middles and Martha at Cold Knuckles Lanchester. Does anyone know where Cold Knuckles is? [*'Durham Places in the Mid-19th Century'* published by Durham Record Office and reviewed in the Summer 1997 NDFHS Journal lists four places called 'Cold Knuckles' - Ed.]

5741 Mrs D. BANTOFT, 34 Lady Edith's Park, Newby, Scarborough, North Yorkshire YO12 5PD

Seeking the birth and death of Mary BENNET (nee HENRY/HENSY), (father - Cuthbert). She was first wife of Robert Bennett (1817-1876), married at St Mary's, Whitburn 1843 and had a son Robert 1842. Also looking for the birth of Mary Jane Bennett (nee LODGE) c.1829 (father - Thomas) of Houghton le Spring; 2nd wife of Robert Bennett, also at St Mary's, Whitburn 1848. Mary Jane died Hartlepool 1886. She had a sister whose married name was Dorothy WATKINS.

5760 Mrs W. COUSANS, 28 Endsleigh Drive, Acklam, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS5 4RG

Has anyone seen in the 1841 or 1851 Censuses Robert GRANT and his wife Eleanor, born c1787? They brought up a family in Berwick but not found in that area. Seeking the birth/baptism of William Grant born c1825 Sheffield; William and his family were living in Jarrow in 1881. Looking for details of James CAIRNS and Martha STEWART who married in Norham in 1836. Their children: Eleanor (1836), Robert (1838), Isabella (1840) and Jemima (1843) who may have married a William BROUGH. Also looking for information on William CLEMMET and Mary FAWCETT who married at Stockton 1795; he was born Cornforth c1776 and she at Sockburn/Dinsdale about the same time.

5823 Mr MIKE FORSTER, 31 Nount Street, Dorking, Surrey RH4 3HX

John Connell DAWSON (1881-1977), known as Jack, was a slotter at Vickers Armstrong for 47 years. He played football for Heaton Rovers and trained Walker Celtic. His Dawson ancestors come from Spittal, Northumberland. His 'cousin' Matt SCOTT got a county cap playing for Northumberland in 1888. William HOLMES of Alnwick (born 1749) brought up a family in Embleton and Howick. His grandson Robert Holmes (born 1811) was a tailor in Alnwick employing 6 men. Grateful for any information on the above.

5937 Mrs FREDa MacDONALD, 17 Gerrard Place, Arbroath, Angus DD11 2LL

The following information appears on the back of a school photograph taken about 1900: "A&G Taylor (Photographers to the Queen) 'The Largest Photographers in the World', at 4 St Nicholas Buildings, Newcastle; 106 High Street, Stockton; 18 Bank Street, Carlisle; 68 Newgate Street, Bishop Auckland". Can anyone tell me if the firm still exists, or anything about it?

5943 MARK DOCTOR, 1 Cloverland, Hatfield, Hertfordshire AL10 9ED

1) Seeking descendants of Ralph HUNTER and Jane nee ATKINSON who married 1768 Boldon. Children included: Isabella (married John CREIGHTON 1796 Monkwearmouth), William (married Sally PELHAM), Luke, Robert and Thomas. 2) Baptisms of John



**COCKBURN** and Elizabeth **COXON** who married 1784 Monkwearmouth. 3) Baptism of Elizabeth **MANN** who married John **EDEN** 1811 Sunderland. 4) Researching Creighton of Monkwearmouth, Washington, Bolam, Whalton and Ponteland.

**5989 Mrs D.V. HICKS**, Berrington House, Moor Lane, Strensall, York YO3 5UG

Thomas **AINSLEY**, born c1889 in Newcastle or Gateshead, son of a blacksmith also named Thomas Ainsley. Thomas, on his marriage certificate to Jessie **FEENEY** in 1912 gives his occupation as 'Hotel Boots' at The Norfolk Hotel, Grey Street, Newcastle. Thomas and Jessie had two daughters, Doris and Lilian; the couple separated soon after. Thomas is thought to have been alive in 1929.

**6070 MARGARET GILHESPY**, West Neuk, Humshaugh, Northumberland NE46 4AG

Seeking information on the ancestors of John **AYRE** of Tanfield, Co.Durham whose son William Thomas Ayre emigrated to the U.S.A. in 1819. Thomas' wife Marie is believed to have been related to George **STEPHENSON** the railway engineer. The Ayre family, also spelt **AIR**, **AYRIS** and **EYRE** may have been in Newcastle before Tanfield. Also, William Gilhespy & Son Ltd, boot and shoe merchant of High Street, Gateshead; believed to have ceased trading c1950.

**6081 KEN PUNSHON**, 24 Newcombe Road, Holcombe Brook, Bury, Lancashire BL0 9UT (email: Ken.Punshon@digital.com)

Would welcome any information on **PUNSHON** (**PUNCHEON**, **PUNCHEN**, etc). Of particular interest are: 1) Arthur Punshon, his wife Jane and son Arthur William (born 1904) who emigrated to Canada c.1906. 2) Kathleen Catherine **STANTON** born c.1840 (Ireland?), married (?) Richard Punshon c1861. 3) **BAINES** family (Robert and Mary) in London 1800-1830, or the Wolsingham area during the same period.

**6151 and 6252 PATSY and IAN PATTERSON**, 3 Pool Road, Hadnall, Shrewsbury SY4 4BG

Would like to hear from anyone researching, or has information, on the following: 1) **BESFORD** family of Bolam. Dorothy born c1814 married John **RAMSAY** at Gosforth 1834. 2) **HEDLEY** family of Black Callerton. Elizabeth born c1807 married Henry **SINGLETON** at Newcastle 1829. 3) **JOHNSON** family of stonemasons of Stamfordham who worked at Alnwick during the mid 1700s.

**6187 PHYLLIS J. WRIGHT**, 2 Tyldesley Square, Thorney Close, Sunderland SR3 4PG

Seeking information on George Herring **WRIGHT**. On 1881 Census a coachman aged 20, living Brougham Street, Sunderland with mother Mary **SVENSON**, born Chester-le-Street c1839, and siblings Joseph aged 18, Jane 17, Elizabeth 15 and Thomas W. 12.

**6382 SUE HORSMAN**, 61 Campion Hill, Castle Donnington, Derby DE74 2XH

Trying to find a connection between the **TRAINER** family of The Parade, Berwick upon Tweed and the **SHORT** family. Did great great grandfather Elijah Short have a daughter by his first marriage to Jane **HARRISON**, and did she marry into the Trainer family? This daughter would have been born c1857/8, probably in Co.Durham. I have a postcard of a house on a square in Berwick and a note on the back refers to great grandfather's step-sister living there.

**6404 TIM EVERSON**, 40 Woodlands Avenue, New Malden, Surrey KT3 3UQ

Seeking any information on **EVERSON** in South Shields or Jarrow, particularly births, baptisms of Thomas, Margaret, John, Elizabeth, Robert, James, William and Jane who were all born in the 1820s and 30s but not

baptised in the local parish churches: probably (Primitive) Methodist. Their grandfather Thomas Everson married Mary **DIXON** in 1765 at Jarrow but where did he come from and what did he do? Most descendants were shipwrights/mariners, etc.

**6625 Mrs MARGARET R. HAMILL**, West End Farm, Great North Road, Scrooby, Doncaster DN10 6BW

Can anyone tell me anything about Dene Gardens, North Hylton, Sunderland where Patrick **McKENNA** was born in 1879. Also Barnett Buildings, Southwick, Sunderland, his mother Ann's address. Barnett Buildings does not seem to have been enumerated on the 1881 Census. Is this so?

**6720 DEREK GIBBON**, 1 Humberdale Drive, Ferriby High Road, North Ferriby, East Yorkshire HU14 3LB

Researching the **GIBBON** family of Hamsterley, West Auckland and Whorlton in Co.Durham, and Kirby Ravensworth and Newsham in N.Yorks. Seeking information regarding William Gibbon who married Katherine **ROSE** at Hamsterley 1604. Also, Stephen Gibbon who married Mary **LANGENBY** at Kirby Ravensworth in 1845. Did the latter emigrate to Australia?

**6749 Mrs MOIRA GREEN**, 40 Woodville Crescent, High Barnes, Sunderland SR4 8QY

Seeking information on Eleanor **KNOX**, daughter of Peter Knox, and, according to census born Durham Spittal but not recorded in baptisms. She married William **WILSON** 1847 in Sunderland and had children: Eleanor 1850, Robert 1852, Sarah 1854, William 1858 and James 1859. Also seeking information on Eleanor's brother William, born 1815, lived in Salt Lake City in 1887 having crossed the Salt Lake Desert in 1855. Trying to trace the birth of John **DODDS** c1745 who married Jane **RAMSEY** 1771 Sunderland and had a son Moses in 1775.

**6791 Mrs P.A. SWANSTON**, Apartado de Correos 39, Gaucin, Malaga, Spain

Searching for the whereabouts of Richard **BRADSHAW**. He was on the Newcastle Census of 1871 and 1891 aged 12 and 32 years; where was he in 1881? Also, Thomas Bradshaw born Newcastle 27th Sep 1893 on baptismal record but not on GRO indexes. Would also appreciate any information regarding **NUSENBAUM & Sons**, Westgate Road, Newcastle. Did the firm operate in other areas of the country?

**6804 Mr M. HUMES**, Meadowfield, Chilton Moor, Houghton-le-Spring DH4 6LU

Researching origins of Mary **KYLE**, born Wallsend c1819. She had children James and George baptised Shadforth 1847, and subsequently married Thomas **WHITTINGHAM** at Crookhall in 1850; died Quarrington Hill 1869.

**6817 JOHN O'KEEFE**, 205 North Franklin Avenue, Madison, WI 53705, U.S.A.

Would appreciate any help with ancestry of George **PIGG** and Elizabeth **BURDIS** married 1833 Durham. (Records from Dalton-le-Dale show her name to be Elizabeth **FELTON**?). The families lived in the Hetton-le-Hole area but also resided at Kirkwhelpington, Thockrington and Hexham prior to emigrating to the U.S.A. in 1846. George Pigg was first married 1826 at Houghton-le-Spring to Margaret **HAY** who died 1828.

**6854 JOAN VEAZEY**, 92 Southfields, Letchworth, Hertfordshire SG6 4NA

Searching for descendants of great aunts and uncles, all born and married in Newcastle: 1) Elizabeth Lee **BIBBY** married Ralph Roger **LAIDLER** 1883. 2) Alice Patterson Bibby married Selby Morton **WATSON** 1884. 3) David Houghton Bibby married Louisa Tuddenham **BAXTER** 1888. 4)



John Braid Bibby married Catherine Grey **SCOTT** 1895. 5) Mary Houghton **BIBBY** married John Walter **ELLIS** 1897.

**6923 SALLY BYATT**, Monks Park House, Southmead Hospital, Bristol BS10 5NB

Seeking information on the family of Thomas and Susan **STERLING**, originally from Armagh, Ireland. In 1851 the family were at Harraton and consisted of Thomas (a labourer), Susan and children Mary, Margaret (m. John **SELAY** 1861 Washington), Elizabeth (m. William **HENDERSON** 1866 Washington), Thomas, Susan, Ann (m. William **MILLSOP** 1867, also at Washington). Thomas' brother also lived with them and he may have married Elizabeth Jane and raised a family at Heworth. On the 1881 Census, Thomas was a fireman and with wife Susan and son Thomas, a cooper, lived at School Cottage, Washington.

**6963 DON MORRISON**, 7 Beechwood Road, Fishburn, Co. Durham TS21 4EP

(email: Don.Morrison@onyxnet.co.uk)

The baptismal record for an ancestor c1840 names the father and adds "deserter from the 42nd Regiment". Where would I find details of any subsequent action taken against the individual? I believe the 42nd Regiment was the Black Watch.

**7104 Mrs MARGARET E. WRIGHT**, 4 Doxford Avenue, Hetton-le-Hole, Tyne & Wear DH5 9PX

Looking for: 1) Births of John **FALLOW** 1799 at Greenlaw Walls and his wife Susan(na) nee **BROWN** 1805 at Norham Mains; married 1823 at Norham. Also any family born after the marriage but before Mary Jane 1838, Andrew 1839, James 1842, John and Susan 1845. The family were at Felton 1851-1861. 2) Birth of George **HALL** 1810 New York married Francis Isabella **GLENN** 1832 at Earsdon. She was born 1815 at Ovingham, daughter of William and Ann Glenn (**GLYN**). Family born at Seghill according to 1851 Census for Houghton, Co. Durham - Ann 1835, John 1839, Jane 1841, Margaret 1843, Thomas 1845 - but not found at Seghill. Alice 1847, Mary 1849 and Matthew 1851 found at Hetton-le-Hole.

**7133 ROBERT GRIERSON**, 21 Balcombe Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex BN10 7RE

Seeking descendants of: Robert **GRIERSON**, shipbroker/commercial clerk, born 1856, died 1962 Benwell; Thomas Moore Grierson, master printer, born 1858, died 1934 Longbenton; and Joseph Robinson Grierson, painter master, born 1871, died Newcastle. Also seeking descendants of Septimus Albert **WIGHT**, brewer, married 1887 Bath Lane, Newcastle to Frances Grierson, born 1855.

**7152 Mrs A.J. McPHILLIPS**, 851 Field End Road, South Ruislip, Middlesex HA4 0QN

Could anyone supply a list of second-hand book shops in the Durham area? Alternatively, does anyone have a copy of *History of Durham Constabulary 1840-1990* by Alan S. Watts and Derek Harrison that I could purchase?

**7173 Mrs KAY O'BRIEN**, 2 Sheldon Drive, Maryborough, Queensland 4650, Australia

(email: patrobri@cyberlink.com.au)

Researching Christopher **ROUTLEDGE** and Margaret **ARNETT**, married St John's, Newcastle 1816, and their children Ann Isabella (1816), John Arnett (1818-20), Edward (1820-92), Christopher (1822), Margaret (1824), Mary (1826), Elizabeth (1829-30), George Harrison (1831), Maria Margaret (1833-34), Emma Robertson (1835), all baptised St Nicholas, Newcastle. Edward married Juliana **GARLAND** in London in 1841 and they emigrated to Australia. Pigot's Directory of 1834 lists Christopher Routledge as painter and glazier of Collingwood Street, and Christopher Routledge, tailor, at the same address. Willing to research in Australia for similar assistance in Northumberland.

**7174 LIONEL HOVEY**, 55 Farm View, Yateley, Hampshire GU46 6HU  
(email: lionel.hovey@dial.pipex.com)

Seeking information about James **BORTHWICK** (1800-1873), fisherman and innkeeper of Berwick upon Tweed, and his wife Elizabeth (nee **GORDON**); date and place of marriage not known. Also, **JAGO**, **HUDSON** and **FRY** of South Shields before 1900.

**7177 JUNE E. CARTHEW**, PO Box 997, Aitkenvale, Townsville, Queensland 4814, Australia  
(email: jcarthew@ozemail.com.au)

Looking for information/descendants of Roger **DOUGLAS** born c1832 Rothbury and Euphemia **TAIT**, born c1832 Scotland; Roger is said to have operated a ferry at Blyth. They had at least seven children, the last three being born at Bedlington. Two sons are thought to have emigrated to the USA, one to South Africa, and Walter born 1866 travelled to Australia.

**7183 Mr BARRY HUMPHREY**, 16 Trevor Drive, Maidstone, Kent ME16 0QW

Looking for further information on: Sarah Allason Lawton **FURNESS** born 1855 Carlisle to Thomas Allason Furness (bapt. 1813 Ponteland) and Sarah **LAWTON** (born c1826 Ebchester). Thomas Allason Furness was son of Rev. John Furness (son of John Furness of Scaleby, Cumberland and Jane **GRAHAM** who married c1723) and Mary **ROBSON** who married 1791 Heddon-on-the-Wall.

**7231 Mrs. KAREN THOMPSON WIEL**, 985 Euclid Avenue, Berkeley, California 94708, U.S.A.  
(email: karen@wiel.com)

Seeking information on the **THOMPSON** family of High Green, Northumberland in the late 1700s and early 1800s, and Ramshope and Cottonshope in the mid 1800s. These Thompsons were farmers. The Birdhopecraig Presbyterian Church baptism records show that Henry Thompson and wife Sarah had five children: Thomas (born 1781), William (1783), Ann (1786), Hannah (1787), and Henry (1791). Henry and Sarah Thompson's oldest son Thomas married Eleanor **BROWN** and had nine children. The first three were born at High Green: Ann (born 1810), Henry (1812), Eleanor (1814). The next six were born at Cottonshope: Margaret (1824), Elizabeth (1826), Jane (1827), Barbara (1829), Michael (1830), and Mary Hope (1832). Thomas and Eleanor Thompson's second child, Henry, married Sarah **ERRINGTON** in 1837 at Warden and are found living in Ramshope in the 1841 census and onward. Henry and Sarah had five children at Ramshope: Thomas Errington (born 1839), Henry (1843), Hannah (1845), John (1846), Sarah (1848), and Eleanor (1851). The oldest, Thomas Errington Thompson, moved to live with the Erringtons at Sewing Shields as a farmer in the 1850s.

**7238 Mrs LYNN HUMPHRIES**, 38 Goulburn Street, Yarraville, Victoria 3013, Australia

Researching: 1) George **SANSOM**, born c1807 Sunderland to George Sansom and Ann **EDMONDS**. Unable to locate any family in that area but copies of his convict record in Tasmania indicate that George was convicted of stealing a leg of mutton in 1829 in London and sent to Van Dieman's Land in 1830; his convict papers also state he was from Sunderland. George married Anne **McLEOD** (born 1812 in Dyke, Morayshire, Scotland to Hugh McLeod and Ann **CLARKE**) 1834 in Hobart, Van Dieman's Land. Their daughters Jane (born 1837 Hobart) and Ann (born 1835 Hobart) together with their parents, spouses and children all had moved to Ballarat, Victoria by 1856. George died in Ballarat, Victoria, Australia 1889 and is buried in Ballarat Cemetery. Does anyone have further information on the Sansom family of Sunderland?

**7332 Mrs FRANCES COX**, East Lodge, The Parade, Hartlepool TS26 0DY

Seeking information on: 1) George **HERRON** and Elizabeth, nee **BROWN** of Wingate (Station Town) and their descendants from 1865. 2) Roger **ROBSON** and Mary, nee **DAVENPORT** of Quarrington Hill and Ferryhill from 1873. 3) William **PARKIN** and Hannah, nee **TURNBULL**.

of Haswell from 1878. 4) Thomas **HETHERINGTON**, medicine vendor in Newcastle, after 1840.

**7392 GEOFFREY E. CROSSLEY**, 18 Trinity Close, Burstwick, Yorkshire HU12 9HQ

Looking for information on William and Hellener (or Elinor) **NICHOL**, last known on Corfu with daughter Elinor (or Hellener/Ellen) who later married Thomas **SARGEANT**, at Leeds 1866. Their first child, Ellen, was born Newcastle 1867; other children were born at Ilkley. William was a carpenter in 1866 but may have had earlier Army connections on Corfu. Other interests: **ELLIS** and **CLOUGH** of South Shields, Westoe and Seaham Harbour.

**7422 Mrs CHRIS PRINGLE**, 75 West End Avenue R14A, New York 10023, U.S.A.  
(email: pringle@injersey.com)

Wishes to contact anyone with information about parents/siblings of Christopher **WALKER**, b.1893, coal miner at Harton Colliery, and Margaret Jane **MARCH**. They married at South Shields in 1914 and she died 1919. He had a brother Billy ("played football") and sister Annie ("married a Mr **SHAW**"), and other siblings. Margaret had a sister Hannah - information welcomed on both sides. Possible link from 1891 census to a Christopher Walker (born N. America c.1869) married to Isabella **HANSON** (born 1870) with daughter Ann B. and living with Isabella's family in Harton, at Halder Buildings. Christopher Walker remarried c.1927 to Lucy Winskell **JONES** - her family ran a pub on the road out of South Shields towards Boldon. There were 13 children, of which Lucy was the eldest.

**7439 Mr G. PALMER**, 22 Hillmeads, Nettlesworth, Chester-le-Street, Co.Durham DH2 3PU

Information required on Mary Elizabeth **MARSHALL** born c1845/47 Lambeth, Surrey and her father George, the family possibly using St John the Evangelist church Pancras, Middlesex. Mary married Henry Carnell **PALMER** and had daughters Elizabeth Mathilda (born London c1872 and married **LUKE**) and Sarah Ann (born 1876 West Auckland, married John **PURVIS**). Also, Louisa Palmer born c1877, married **HARRISON**; Lilley Palmer born Ingleby/West Ardsley, Yorkshire 1878, married **BARRON**. Also, Edward H. **DAVIES** (adopted son of Henry and Mary Palmer) born Castle Eden c1883. Also, William **FALLON** married Mary **RIDLEY**, both of Dudley, Staffordshire, migrated to Crook.

**7446 Mrs MARGARET MANCHESTER**, 81 Front Street, Sunnyside, Bishop Auckland, Co.Durham DL13 4LW

Seeking: 1) Whereabouts of Robert **ADAMSON** and his wife Ann nee **EGGLESTONE** between 1806 and 1819. They lived at Rookhope in Weardale before and after these dates. 2) Baptism and parents of Edward **FORSTER** born c1738 who married Jane **HARRISON**, and later Ann **JENNINGS** at Stanhope. Also interested in **BATY**, **DALTON**, **ELLIOTT**, **FEATHERSTON(E)**, **FLEMING**, **HALL**, **LAMBERT**, **PEART** and **TROTTER**, all in Weardale.

**7450 LEN MOODY**, 13 Richardson Terrace, Concord, Washington, Tyne & Wear NE37 2QJ

Would like to contact anyone researching the families of: 1) William **MOODY** and Sarah **MORLAND**, married St Anne's, Newcastle 1813. 2) Catherine **TAIT (TATE)**, at Osborne Road, Newcastle on 1881 Census. 3) John (Jonathan) **TROTTER** and Isabella **WILSON**, married Newcastle 1849. 4) Joseph **PHILLIPSON** born 1847 St John Lee, son of Robert and Mary.

**7452 Mrs P.J. BOUCHER**, 33 Buttermere Avenue, Nuneaton, Warwickshire CV11 6ET

Particularly interested in **ROBSON** of the Gateshead area pre-1860 and **ROSEBY**, especially from the Tynemouth area.

**7455 MARY THORBURN**, 9 Bellfield Lane, Edinburgh EH15 2BL

Seeking information and descendants/ancestors of: 1) Alexander **YOUNG** born 1906 Haddington, son of John Young and Phyllis **TOWNSLEY**. Grandparents Robert Townsley and Jane **McLEAN** were from the Borders area. 2) Alison Dickson **ARMSTRONG** born c1913 Eyemouth. 3) **BLYTH(E)** family connected to **FAA**.

**7460 Mrs MARY SLATER**, Grange Farmhouse, Geddington, Kettering, Northamptonshire NN14 1AL

Researching Robert **ROWELL** of Laverock Hall, Horton, born c1737. He married Elizabeth **TURNBULL** of Bothal 1767; she was born c1742. Their children were: Ann, John, Robert and Edward, all baptised at Horton. Also, **PATTERSON** of Low Park, Acklington. A younger daughter of the above, Dorothy Rowell, married Thomas Patterson at Warkworth 1806. She was described as 'Of Woodhorn'; marriage bond gives her age as 21.

**7480 Mr G. RONEY**, 6 Southampton Road, Fareham, Hampshire PO16 7DY

Seeking information on paternal ancestors: **RONEY**, **ALDER**, **CLARK** and **HARRIS**, all of the Newcastle/Gateshead area 1855-1910. Especially Patrick Roney, born Ireland c1845, died Newcastle 1897, and Richard Roney, born Whitehaven, Cumbria 1885.

**7533 Mr J.E. RANGLES**, 22 Grassmere Road, Henderson, Waitakere, New Zealand

Local interests include: **CARNES/CAIRNES** of Barnard Castle, Newcastle and Durham City; **TUGBY**, **MYERS**, **RENNISON**, **HOGGET** and **WINKUP** of Co.Durham and North Yorkshire. Also **DENHAM** of Newcastle, **TENNET** of Tynemouth and **THWAITES** and **WOOTTON** of Durham City.

**7587 J.E. RIDDLE**, Wembley Cottage, Sunnymede Terrace, Askern, Doncaster DN6 0NA

Seeking John Thomas **RIDDLE**, on 1881 Census for Middlesbrough, a railway clerk, aged 24, born Stanhope, Co.Durham, lodging at Nelson Street, South Bank. When he married Mary Jane **HARRISON** in 1881, his father was given as John Riddle, mines foreman, deceased.

**7595 Mrs HEATHER ROY**, "Southclose", King James Road, Knaresborough, North Yorkshire HG5 8EB

Seeking descendants/information on James **MOFFETT** born c1823 Newcastle, married Isabella **BOWMAN** in 1846. Their children: William, Jane, Margaret, George, Hannah Ann, James and Robert (born 1862). Also, an illegitimate son to James - John Moffett born 1845. Robert Moffett married Margaret **GREENSWOOD** in 1885. Also, Matthew **LAMB** born c1841 Allendale, married Jane **Craggs** and living at High Pit Farm, Byker. Their children: James, Elizabeth, Jane and Annie (Hudspeth) Lamb who married John Robert **LAVERICK** in 1903. His father was Eli Laverick who married Mary Isabelle **OLIVER**.

**7596 TOM JOHNSON**, 5 Ruscombe Gardens, Datchet, Slough, Berkshire SL3 9BG

Seeking information on Thomas **GREY** and Elizabeth **BURNET**, married at Eglington 1788, later lived at Broomhouse, Eglington and had six children baptised at Branton Presbyterian Church. Also interested in Mary **SCOUAR** born 1805 at Lowick, Alexander **JOHNSTON** born 1807 Thornton Mains, Norham and Jane **HAMILTON** born 1803 Kirknewton.

**7598 Mr J.B. SPARK**, 82 Longfields, Marden Ash, Ongar, Essex CM5 9DE

John **SPARK**, son of Matthew Spark and Sarah **SPENCE**, was born Wolviston 1841 and married Martha **HOGG** of Aldbrough St John in 1864 at Stockton Registry Office. Matthew's parents were Matthew (born 1777)

and Ann. This Matthew, and his known siblings, John, William and Jane, were children of "Matthew Spark of Barmpton". Looking for any information on these families.

7602 Mrs MARY BARBER, 1 Warmans Close, Wantage, Oxfordshire OX12 9XS

Seeking descendants of Alexander GRAY born 1880 Montgarrie, Aberdeenshire; living in Sunderland c1929. Also seeking descendants of John and Barbara (nee SOUTER) MCGREGOR. John, a shipwright died 1891 at Hebburn. Their children: John (born 1867, emigrated to Australia), Sarah Wallace (1869), Ann Grant (1871), Barbara (1874), all born Lossiemouth, Jane (1877), Katie and William (1890), the last three born Hebburn.

7628 LORNA SCOTT, 9 Egton Drive, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool TS25 2AT

Researching: 1) SANDERSON of Sunderland and Seaton Sluice. Married MURRAY of Shildon and Barnard Castle; BURNETT/BONNET of Seaton Sluice; NEWLANDS of Seaton Sluice and South Shields. 2) SAWYER of Sunderland, London and Kent. Married ROBSON of Bishopwearmouth and St Helens; BYRNE of London and Cork; FIELDER of Walton on Thames and Kent; CURTEIS of Kent; LUCKHURST of Stone and Isle of Oxney; CAGE, COKE and HALES of Kent. 3) SPENDLEY of Sunderland, Rowhedge and Manningtree. Married FORCER of Sunderland and Newcastle; CAMPBELL of Sunderland; WORTHINGTON of Sunderland and Eastbourne; COLE of Rowhedge; CRACKNELL of Manningtree. 4) DALE of Sunderland and Norway. Married LYONS of Sunderland and Ireland; RAINE of Sunderland; HIPSON of Monkwearmouth and Hylton; ALLISON of Monkwearmouth; PURDO/PRUDOE of Willington; DAVISON of Kent and Sunderland; HALLIWELL of Sunderland and Ovingham; COCK, THOMPSON and ELLIOTT of Ovingham.

7644 Mr S. THORNTON, 3519 Cosbey Avenue, Baldwin Park, Los Angeles, California 91706, U.S.A.

Local interests include FORSTER, THORNTON, REED and MOORE.

7664 ADAM CROMARTY, c/o 40 Portland Road, East Grinstead, Sussex RH19 4EA

Seeks the origins of Janet Cornwell NICHOLSON, born c1837; John and Mary TAIT who died 1872 and 1880 and were buried at Ford. Jean LUMSDEN who married William CROMARTY of Holy Island in 1724. Also, Mary Cromarty who married Robert NESBIT in 1697, Bamburg.

7665 ELWYN PALMER, 15 Lowther Street, Maldon, Victoria 3463, Australia

Interests include CLARK/CLARKE of Greatham and Aycliffe, FRANKLIN, YOUNG, SCOTT and BROWN of Greatham, and BROUGH of Cumberland, Berwick upon Tweed and the Borders.

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