

# THE JOURNAL OF THE NORTHUMBERLAND & DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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

## EDITORIAL

If you live in Newcastle or North Tyneside, and you don't like travelling to exotic locations like South Shields, Pelaw or Blyth, then the good news is that it is hoped that a new Group can be formed which will meet at Bolbec Hall. The first gathering will be on October 7th at 2 p.m. This time should suit those people who do not like to go out on dark Winter evenings but the timings of subsequent meetings will be decided by those that turn up. It's up to you!

Meanwhile, our Members and friends in North Northumberland will be pleased to learn that a meeting of a new local Group has already taken place and a preliminary programme of meetings is being planned.

Groups can only survive if they get practical support, and the only people who can support them are you, the Members. That doesn't mean you have to organise speakers, or handle the accounts: it could be something as simple as arranging the chairs at the meetings, and clearing up afterwards. So if you think you may be able to assist in any way, then contact Olive Treweek, if you can help with the North Northumberland Group, or turn-up at the Bolbec Hall meeting if you are interested in the Newcastle Group.

It is probably fair to say that you only get out of a society what you are prepared to put in. Genealogy is a largely solitary subject, and many Members welcome regular contact with others who share their interests. Getting involved with the Society and its various projects can add a new dimension to your pastime, as well as providing you with all those little snippets of local information that will help you in your research. If you do not attend our Meetings, and you are not involved in any of our projects, then give it serious consideration.

The *Journal* may also be changing. In the last Editorial we asked for feed-back on the *Member's Interests* section. Although we weren't exactly inundated with responses, the letters we did receive seemed to indicate that Members thought that the section was an important part of the *Journal* and the format should be continued rather than change to a list of names. However, the Editorial Team is seriously considering a suggestion that we should completely change the style of the *Journal*. What do you think? What improvements to the layout would you like to see? We keep saying it, but it really is your *Journal* and 'the Team' will try to give you what you want.

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## SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

It's that time again! Time for you to renew your subscription for the year 1st November 1998 until 31st October 1999. This subscription will entitle you to use all the facilities of the Society as well as receiving the Spring to Winter 1999 Journals.

Thanks to your continued support through publications the membership subscriptions are unchanged for the eighth year running! The rates are as follows:

UK, including all BFPO's.....	£10
Overseas, (if paid in sterling).....	£12
Each additional member at the same address.....	£1
Institutions in Northumberland & Durham.....	£10
Other UK institutional members.....	£20
Overseas institutional members.....	£24

Unfortunately, the higher overseas rates are necessary to cover the high air mail postage rates for the *Journal*. If overseas members are unable to pay by sterling cheques, money orders or by credit card, they may pay by cheque in one of the following currencies at the rate shown:

US personal members.....	US \$28.00
Australian personal members.....	Aus \$45.00
Canadian personal members.....	Can \$42.00

These amounts include a sum to cover the very high cost of converting non-sterling cheques.

### PAYMENT INSTRUCTION

1. Complete the enclosed renewal form.
2. If paying by cheque, please make it payable to NDFHS and write your name, address and membership number on the back of it.
3. Send the renewal form and payment to Mr J.Gordon, 7 Craneshaugh Close, Hexham, Northumberland NE46 2PG

Please help by paying promptly and following the instructions on the renewal form.

### COVENANTS

If you are a UK taxpayer please seriously consider entering into a Deed of Covenant in favour of the Society. It really doesn't cost you anything except a couple of minutes of your time to fill out the form.

What it does mean is that you still pay exactly the same subscription but with the Deed the Society is able to claim back from the Revenue the tax you have already paid. This is an enormous benefit to the Society and has assisted, for example, in helping to purchase the first 100 years of the GRO Birth, Marriage and Death Indexes but maintain an unchanged subscription.

## NEWS 'SNIPPETS'

As from 1st April this year, the price of a birth, marriage or death certificates from the Office of National Statistics has increased to £6.50 (about US\$ 11.00) if applied for in person. If you know the full GRO references - the indexes 1837 to 1936 are held at Bolbec Hall - the cost is £9.00; without the references, the charge is £12. The cost of certificates from local Superintendent Registrars is also £6.50.

oooOOOooo

The Scottish Association of Family History Societies is preparing an index of deaths/burials in the Old Parish Registers (pre-1858) of Scotland. The Fife FHS has decided to extend their coverage to include Fife people who died pre-1858 elsewhere in the UK and abroad. If you have any 'in your tree', or come across any in your research, please send them to Mr A.J.Campbell, 30 Brown Street, Buckhaven, Fife KY8 1JW.

oooOOOooo

Despite the vast quantity of information that would be of help to family historians, especially pre-1858 wills and Bishop's transcripts, Durham University's Archives and Special Collections is probably the most under-used repository in our area. If you want an idea of their holdings, and have access to the Internet, they may be 'browsed' at:

<http://www.dur.ac.uk/library/asc/navidocs/content1.html>

oooOOOooo

The Society of Friends Library at Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ has new opening hours. They are Mon/Tues, Thurs/Fri 1pm - 5pm, Wed 10am - 5pm.

## NEW BOOKS AND REVIEWS

D. J. Anderson; *Hartley to Seaton Sluice, Vol. 1 1760 - 1960*; no details on price.

In his introduction to the book David Anderson describes the publication as being designed to fill the gaps left by previous published histories of Seaton Sluice.

The book starts with a short history of Hartley and how it grew into Seaton Sluice. It describes the development of the harbour and the bottle factory.

The first chapter is an interesting read but is of little relevance to the family historian as it deals with the myths and legends associated with Seaton Sluice.

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The Principal Registry Family Division have moved their search rooms from Somerset House to First Avenue House, 42-49 High Holborn, London WC1V 6NP

oooOOOooo

A *Computers in Family History Conference* is to be held at the University of Salford on Saturday 24th April 1999 hosted jointly by the Manchester & Lancashire FHS and the Society of Genealogists. There will be a programme of lectures, demonstrations of genealogical software and workshops, as well as stalls selling books, software and hardware.

The cost will be £18.50 which will include refreshment and a buffet lunch. An application form and further information may be obtained by sending a SAE to The Conference Manager, Manchester & Lancashire FHS, Clayton House, 59 Piccadilly, Manchester M1 1AQ.

oooOOOooo

The Hampshire Genealogical Society is to hold their 1999 Family History Conference 9th-11th April at Sparsholt Agricultural College, Winchester. The conference will incorporate the Federation of Family History Societies AGM and Council Meeting. A booking form and further information can be obtained by contacting Mrs J.Renton, 27 Lodge Road, Locks Heath, Hampshire SO31 6QY

oooOOOooo

The North West Group of Family History Societies is to hold a Family History Fair at Stockport Town Hall Saturday 10th October 10.00am - 4.30pm. Admission will be £1.50.

The three other sections are of more interest to the family historian. The first deals with the Seaton Sluice Volunteer Life Saving Company 1876 - 1980. There is an appendix associated with this chapter which gives a list of the enrolled volunteers for 22nd June 1922 and a second list gives the names, addresses and families of the Coastguards from 1841 until 1881.

William Coxon born and buried in Seaton Sluice was a hero from the South African War (1899 - 1902) and his story is told.

The third section deals with the history of Ginger Rogers, not the dancer but a professional boxer who was born in Old Hartley in 1917. He started boxing professionally in 1933 and continued a fairly successful career until 1951. He died in 1983. An appendix gives a full record of all his professional fights.

This book will probably not help anyone to advance their family history but it will certainly be of interest to anyone with ancestors in Hartley and Seaton Sluice.

Diana Chabot; *My Ancestors - Your Ancestors, (Vol.1 900-1215AD)*; 1998; ISBN 1 899374 06 X; Hemphill Publications, 16 Norman Road, Hove, East Sussex BN3 4LS; £4.50 plus p&p (UK 50p, overseas £1.50)

Some family histories begin in the present and work back as far as possible; others start off in the past and progress forwards. This one is of the latter variety, and I read the first part of this volume as an abridged history of England during the Dark/Middle Ages, with particular reference to Northumbria.

The writer claims descent from the earls of Northumbria, various barons, and other Saxon families of the period, and as the histories unfold we begin to see where she is heading.

The next volume should prove to be interesting from a genealogical standpoint, and a formidable list of family names is promised. Blackett, Hall, Lambton, Lumley, Place,

Ridley, Tempest and Whitfield are just some of the names familiar to me from the list of families quoted, many of whom may be "... Your Ancestors".

Anne Batchelor; *My Name is Frances*, available from the author at 34 Barncroft Heights, Leeds, Yorkshire LS14 1HP; £8.95 plus £1 p&p.

This is the story of Anne Batchelor's mother Frances. At the age of four she was sent to a Waifs and Strays Home in York and the book tells of her life there, and her subsequent years 'in service'. Also featured is the quest for what happened to Frances' little brother who was parted from her at the age of four.

Some members will recall Anne's talk at the 1996 Conference at Durham, and anyone who liked her second book, *My Gallant Hussar*, will enjoy this one.

The telling of the story entails an account of the many steps taken, and the extraordinary persistence of the writer in unearthing relevant information. No matter how humble one's origins may be, there is still a story to unfold, and once again Anne Batchelor shows how it can be done.

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## NEW NDFHS PUBLICATIONS

**Personal Names in Wills Proved at Durham 1801-1803;** 207 pages; ISBN 0 946594 45 7.

This is the latest in a series of five volumes which list all the names mentioned in all the wills proved in the Consistory Court of the Bishop of Durham within the relevant years. Mentioned are not only the testators but also the beneficiaries, executors, witnesses, etc. together with their occupations and places of abode when given. The names are fully indexed.

This important series of volumes now covers all the wills for Northumberland and Durham from 1787 to 1803 except those for Hexhamshire which were proved at York.

The book, and the others in the series, are available from Ms Sheila Senior, c/o 2nd Floor, Bolbec Hall, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1SE, price £7.00 including postage, £8.50 overseas.

New fiche published by the Society, and available from Neil Richardson, include:

**CD52, Bishopwearmouth South, part 1. Index to the 1851 Census.**

PRO piece HO/107/2386, folios 4 - 236; 2 fiche, £2.00 in UK and £2.40 overseas. Alphabetical index of surname, forename, age, occupation, birthplace and folio number.

**MS430. Index to the 1861 Census of part of Monkwearmouth Shore and Fulwell.**

PRO piece RG9/3784; 2 fiche, £2.00 in UK and £2.40 overseas. Alphabetical index of surname, forename, age, occupation, birthplace and folio number.

**MS431. Index to the 1871 Census of Wallsend, Northumberland.**

PRO piece RG10/5109; 2 fiche, £2.00 in UK and £2.90 overseas. Alphabetical index of surname, forename, age, occupation, birthplace and folio number.

**MS432. Index to the 1861 Census of part of Monkwearmouth Shore.**

PRO pieces RG9/3782 and RG9/3783; 3 fiche £2.50 in UK and £2.90 overseas. Alphabetical index of surname, forename, age, occupation, birthplace and folio number.

**PR216. Lamesley, Co Durham, Saint Andrew; Index to Burials, March 1730 - January 1798.**

Transcribed by R. Errington and T. Johnson from Durham County Record Office reference EP/LAM/1/2; 1 fiche UK £1.50 and overseas £1.90.

**PR217. Hood St. Chapel, Newcastle; Births and Baptisms 1798 - 1930, and Silver St. Chapel, Newcastle; Births and Baptisms 31 May 1824 - 23 July 1837.**

Hood St Chapel was first known as Bethel Chapel, then Salem Chapel (Methodist New Connection). Transcribed by M. and F. Furness from Tyne and Wear County Archive, microfilm No. 286 (PRO RG4/2916) Book 1, and original registers C/NC/23/5/1 for Book 2 and C/NC/23/5/2 Book 3. Silver St Chapel, Newcastle, Primitive Methodist,



transcribed by M. Furness from Tyne and Wear County Record Office, microfilm No. 286 (PRO RG4/2864). 2 fiche at £2.00 in UK and £2.40 overseas.

**PR218. Stanhope, Co.Durham, Saint Thomas; Burial Index 1854 - 1904.**

County Durham Record Office index reference EP/ST1/22. Indexed by Mrs M. Etherington; 1 fiche, £1.50 in UK and £1.90 overseas.

**PR219. New Road Chapel, Newcastle (Wesleyan Chapel - Methodist Connection); Births and Baptisms 1833 - 37 and 1838 - 1930.**

Transcribed by M Furness from Tyne and Wear County Archive, microfilm No. 286 (PRO RG4/2683) Book 1 and TWAS/433/55 Book 2; 2 fiche, UK £2.00 and overseas £2.40.

**PR220. Durham City, Saint Oswalds; Burials Index 1752 - 1800.**

Transcribed and typed by M Johnson. Durham County Record Office, reference EP/DUR/50/156, microfilm M42/332; 1 fiche, £1.50 in UK and £1.90 overseas.

**PR221. Bishopwearmouth, St Michael and All Angels; Marriage Index 1837 -1901.**

Prepared from Durham County Record Office reference EP/BIW 24 - 38. Transcribed and typed by Mr I. Applegarth; 12 fiche, £7.00 in UK and £7.75 overseas.

**PR222. Blenheim Street Chapel (later known as Rye Hill People's Hall), Newcastle; Births and Baptisms 1838 - 1930.**

Transcribed by Fred Furness from records held by Tyne and Wear Archives; 1 fiche, £1.50 in UK and £1.90 overseas.

**TD169. Lanchester, Co.Durham, All Saints; Monumental Inscriptions.**

Typed and indexed by M Johnson; 1 fiche, £1.50 in UK and £1.90 overseas.

**TD170. Hamsteels, Co.Durham, St John the Baptist; Monumental Inscriptions.**

Transcribed by B.Carr, K.Dalkin, J.Jewitt, M.Johnson, F.Kirby, O.Kirby, E.Perkins, J.T.Perkins, H.Walker and L.Wardle. Typed and indexed by O.Kirby; 1 fiche, £1.50 in UK and £1.90 overseas.

## **'THE OLD, THE NEW AND THE PLANNED' News From The Groups**

*Lucy Alexander reports from the South East Northumberland Group at Blyth:*

"The annual AGM in June was more like a glorified committee meeting, partly because of World Cup Football, and in spite of remarks made in the editorial of the Summer issue of the Society's journal! The existing committee and officers were re-elected. A review of last year's speakers and events showed the usual variety of content, from sword-makers to war memorials, tracing army ancestors to information on the records available at Tyne & Wear Archives, as well as reminiscing about "The Way We Wor".

Due to insufficient numbers the proposed bus trip to the York Family History Fair had to be abandoned, but the hope was expressed that a similar outing could be arranged in 1999.

In response to the Society's request for volunteers some Blyth members are now actively involved in helping at Bolbec Hall. Ideas for next year were discussed, and it was agreed that the Christmas Dinner should be arranged for 8th December 1998 at the Spartan Hotel, Blyth.

Meetings recommence on Tuesday, 15th September at the Cricket Club, Plessey Road, Blyth. The venue has easy car parking, a comfortable meeting room with bar facilities available. All visitors are most welcome."

*The newly elected Secretary of the Society's latest local Group, Sheila Pickin, writes:*

"The North Northumberland group of the NDFHS got off to a great start on Saturday 18th August. Olive Treweek planted the thought in peoples minds by sending out letters to all the members who live in this area. The response was marvellous and more than 20 people attended. We also had the expertise of several members from the main committee.

It was decided that we would meet every third Saturday in the month from 10.00 a.m. until 12.00 at Fenwick Village Hall. We haven't really fixed any sort of programme as yet but the next meeting (August) will be a 'get to know each other session' and if time permits we will have a short talk from our newly elected Chairperson, Olive Treweek, on the Catholic nuns of Ancroft. We are also hoping in the none too distant future to have a trip to Bolbec Hall.

May I extend a welcome to anyone living in the area, and especially those who may be on holiday in this part of the country, to call in to our Group meeting. All will be welcome".

*Finally, news of a new Newcastle Group:*

Members living in the Tyneside area are reminded that a meeting is to be held at Bolbec Hall 7th October at 2.00 p.m. It is hoped that this meeting can be developed into a new Newcastle Group, possibly meeting during the afternoon. The meeting is timed to coincide with the Wednesday evening opening so that members can stay-on and utilise the Bolbec Hall facilities.

The initial meeting is to evaluate interest and to plan how to proceed. Please come along and support it.

# WHO NEEDS A NATIONAL BURIALS INDEX?

by Peter N. Underwood and Carol A. McLee

Think what a boon it would be, if genealogists had access to an index which would do for burials what the International Genealogical Index does for baptisms and marriages! Most would agree that it would be an essential finding-aid and credit must go to the British Genealogical Record Users' Committee who first proposed the concept a couple of years ago. Since then, the proposal has been furthered by support from the Federation of Family History Societies and encouraged by an overwhelmingly favourable response to an exploratory questionnaire.

The project began in the spring of 1996, with attention focused at first on the 1813 - 1837 records, but records from all periods are now included. It is recommended that material post-1837 is recorded, to cover possible inconsistencies of the early days of civil registration in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland, and possibly up to the times when ages will be found in the civil death indexes. An unrestricted time span will also allow recorders to complete individual register books which contain a few years only post-1837 and they can index all entries for small parishes which have few entries post-1812. If using a computer for the storage of this information, there is no infringement of the Data Protection Act!

Initially, there was much debate about the inclusion of information from other sources, such as monumental inscriptions, wills, death duty registers, obituaries, etc. However, it was felt important to keep the collection of records as simple as possible in the early stages before contemplating further developments, so that societies and co-ordinators would be able to keep their source listings under strict control. The exception to this is Scotland where monumental inscriptions may form an essential addition to sparse burial register information.

It is hoped that most, if not all, family history societies will contribute their parish burial records to a National Burials Index (NBI) either by submitting their existing computerised databases or by using a computer program called SHROUD which, because it is sponsored by the Federation of Family History Societies, is available free of charge.

The amount of detail in the index is purposely limited so that the searcher is encouraged to approach the society or individual who transcribed the records to obtain further information, or refer back to the original parish record. The source of the attribution code is therefore all important, for it tells the searcher by whom the transcription was first generated.

In merging burial register records originating from many different societies and individuals, attention must be paid not only to how the data will be transferred, but also to ensuring that the transcribed records are presented in the standard style adopted by the NBI. The ideal is to produce an index, for the searcher, which appears to have been compiled by one typist using one set of instructions! To amplify this point, the NBI format stipulates that surnames are in capitals; dates are in text format; ages have standard units; illegible parts of words are represented by three dots (full stops); guessed names, due perhaps to illegibility, are entered more than once; aliases and ambiguous surnames are cross referenced, and so on. Fortunately, the actual technique of electronic data transfer is relatively straightforward - it is usually possible to write programs which will both convert society records and present them in standard NBI style at the same time.

We also need to be assured that the information presented for inclusion in the NBI has been thoroughly checked against the original records.

Almost paradoxically, those societies which have not yet computerised their burial records may be at an advantage as far as the NBI is concerned, because the SHROUD program not only enables county/regional co-ordinators and inputters to produce databases in standardised NBI format, but also allows the recording of almost all the items of information encountered in a typical parish burial register. After all, it would be absurd to expect transcribers to limit their attention solely to those details required by the NBI. In using this program, a society can publish its own burial records in a number of different styles, perform searches for names, and list individuals who are "stray" to the county.

The program aims, by minimising tedious keystrokes, to be user-friendly and simple. This is possible because it was written by a family history enthusiast (PNU) who has modified early versions, to incorporate suggestions for improvement made by co-ordinators, and inputters alike. No matter how the records are transcribed (although we do suggest standard formats) their computerisation has proved easy and intuitive.

However, those who are "old hands" at this sort of project work will point out that it is not the keying-in that presents problems - inputters are often only too pleased to spend long winter evenings glued to their computers rather than doing redecorating or housework, particularly if they are

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*"...do for burials  
what the  
International  
Genealogical Index  
does for baptisms  
and marriages."*

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working on a parish of personal interests. Societies do need people to work at home but, more than anything else, they need volunteers enthusiastic enough to spend fruitful hours, in any county record office, library, or Latter-day Saints' Family History Centre transcribing and checking records. Can you be one of them?

Since the IGI, covering baptisms and marriages from 1538 - 1837 and beyond, must be one of the most used genealogical tools, the omission of burials needs to be rectified. Our aim is to encourage and support societies and individuals to undertake burial indexing in order to produce county databases of a high standard, which will facilitate

the transfer, share, or merging of data. Hopefully, in the near future, our ancestors' burial records will be found in a national index.

We do hope you will make a contribution towards that goal.

*The above is an edited version of an article that first appeared in the December 1996 edition of Family Tree Magazine. It is with the permission of the Editor of that magazine, and the authors, that we are able to reproduce it as an introduction to this major project with which the NDFHS intends to become involved.*

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## THE NATIONAL BURIALS INDEX PROJECT AND THE NDFHS

*by Derek Cuthbert*

The article above describes the NBI project and its origins; this article is intended to update the information and describe the involvement of the NDFHS.

### **What is the purpose of the Project?**

It's aim is to complement the IGI which covers christenings and marriages. During the life of the project the NDFHS will publish the transcripts as they are completed then, starting in the year 2000, the FFHS will publish the National Index on a county by county basis. The National Index will be built up from the information the member societies submit.

### **How long has the Project been going and how long will it last?**

It's about three years since the work started and so far there are about 50 societies involved; the national database has around 1.5 million names. It's not possible to say how long the project will last - I suppose it will be finished when the last burial has been recorded!

### **What's the scope of the project?**

When it first started the aim was to index burials for the years 1813 to 1837 but now it's up to the individual societies to define what they will cover. We've decided to start with the parish registers without any date restrictions and then go on to the non-conformists, civil burials and cremations - a big project.

### **How is the work being carried out?**

This is where we need your help. We are looking for volunteers to do the following jobs:

- to transcribe the original burial registers
- to input the transcripts into the SHROUD computer programme either at home or at Bolbec Hall.
- to check the input either at home or at Bolbec Hall.

### **How much time will I have to commit?**

Just as much or as little time as you like. It is entirely up to you to how much work you are prepared to take on and how quickly you want to finish it.

### **What kind of computer do I need?**

Anything from a 286 upwards so long as it has a 3.5 inch floppy drive.

### **How can I get involved; I don't live in the North East?**

There are several ways we can get you involved, for example:

- We can send you photocopies of transcripts for you to input into your computer at home.
- We can do the same with the completed inputs for checking.
- If you would like to transcribe then you can probably arrange for your local Family History Centre to borrow film of burial registers from Salt Lake City - we will pay for the costs involved.
- We're looking at ways to send and receive the information via e-mail

Don't let where you live put you off. I'm sure we can find ways of involving anyone who wants to take part.

### **How do I get involved?**

It's very easy, just write to me as the co-ordinator and we'll sort it out from there.

*Editor's note: If you would like to help with this important national project, or would like more information, please write to Derek Cuthbert. His address is 16 Harton House Road, South Shields, Tyne and Wear NE34 6EE*

# THE DURHAM INDEX DATABASE

by Jennifer Gill, County Archivist

## Background

The County Record Office started using computers in 1981 when the Office began operating two systems which were main-frame based - a document location index (a housekeeping system which holds the location of each document in the Office and details of document closures, etc.) and a deed packet issuing system (to record the issue and return of County Council deeds which are in the safe-keeping of the Record Office). Both these systems replaced manual systems.

The Record Office obtained its first PC in August 1985 and began to produce word-processed catalogues. We used the IBM *Displaywrite* package and went through a number of different versions of that system in the next eight years. The PC was a stand-alone machine with a limited capacity and all the catalogues were held permanently on 5¼ inch floppy disks, of which we had over a hundred when the system was replaced.

The first stage of our present network was created in August 1993 when we acquired PC's which could be linked into the County Council network and switched to using *Word for Windows 2.0* as our word-processing package. The change-over entailed converting all the *Displaywrite* files into a form which was readable on the new system and moving them from the floppy disks onto the network into a series of structured directories. We currently operate eight PC's, two lap-tops, four laser printers, one black and white/colour *Inkjet* printer and one scanner all linked to a central file server.

In addition to the PC network, the main-frame based applications are being replaced by UNIX-based systems which can be accessed through our PCs.

## Database Project

The Database project was established in September 1994 following internal Record Office discussions about the long-term viability of the existing card indexes to the catalogues of documents held in the Office. A number of problems existed: the card indexes were not complete, even for collections that were notionally indexed; they were created as the last stage in the cataloguing process and pressure of work often meant that they were not completed; they were in a variety of different handwritings and typescripts, sometimes on paper slips and not cards; and no security copy of the index existed. For all these reasons an alternative solution to the problem of indexing was sought.

In conjunction with the County Council's Information Technology and Reprographic Services Unit various alternative computer-based systems were considered and the *BRS Search* package, a free-text retrieval database system which was already in use in the County Council,

was eventually adopted, largely as a result of its ability to take data in a variety of electronic forms.

In 1994 the Record Office's catalogues were in three forms:

- (1) Those typed on the variety of different typewriters possessed by the Record Office between the Office's creation in 1961 and August 1985, when the word-processing of catalogues began.
- (2) Those created between August 1985 and August 1993 using the different versions of the *Displaywrite* software, which had subsequently been copied from the 5¼ inch floppy disks, and were now held on the central file server as '.RFT' files.
- (3) Those created since August 1993 using *Word for Windows 2.0*, and which were held on the file server as '.DOC' files.

In December 1994 we began the copying of our catalogue files into the *BRS Search* system. Since that date the copying and editing has continued using such spare capacity as can be spared from the Record Office permanent staff, primarily the two Records Assistants. Any additional income which the Record Office has been able to generate since that date has been used to employ temporary staff to copy and edit the files.

Catalogue files in category (3) above needed only a limited amount of editing, and this was usually achieved automatically, by running macros written by the County Council's Information Technology Unit against the files. This resulted in the files being converted into a form and type acceptable for transfer into the BRS Database (headers, footers, page and section breaks were removed; type-faces, margins and tab-settings were standardised, and 'head' or 'intro' tags were inserted alongside headings and introductory paragraphs respectively). After the automatic editing each file is checked to see whether any manual editing is required.

Catalogue files in category (2) above were held on the file server as '.RFT' files and needed to be converted to '.DOC' files. They were then edited automatically by macros to set-up the Record Office standard page size, type-face and justification, and to insert our standard headers and footers which give the catalogue marks, file references and dates and times of amendment. They were thus brought into line with the files in category (3), which would have been necessary in due course irrespective of the database needs, and were then edited as above for transfer into the BRS database.

Catalogues in category (1) needed the most work. These were only held in typescript, but, although the copies in use in the public searchroom were showing their age, fortunately it was the Record Office policy to retain the top



copy of the typescript as a master copy and hold it in a strong-room, and use carbon copies in the searchroom. Thus a complete set of unused top-copy catalogues was available. These catalogues were scanned using an Epson scanner and *Textbridge*, optical character recognition software, which created a text version of the scanned image. The text was then converted to a '.DOC' file and thereafter went through the process outlined above for files in category (2).

After three years of work the Durham Index Database is now available for use by members of the public, and the card index has been withdrawn. The Database holds copies of the catalogues of our archival holdings (which in hard copy occupy 11 metres of shelfspace) in 2,694 catalogue files and the BRS Search package permits the searching of all those catalogues for any word or words of interest. On 1st April 1998 there were 91,100 unique words held on the database and 3,651,153 occurrences of each of those words. Three dedicated PC's are available in the public searchroom, the access routines have been made as straightforward as possible and instruction leaflets have been produced.

#### Operating Instructions:

- Type the word(s) you wish to find in the section of the DURHAM RECORD OFFICE DATABASE screen headed **Full Document Search**.  
The system will automatically search for plurals of the words you enter.  
You can enter the words in upper-case (CAPITALS) or lower-case or a mixture, and the computer will look for all occurrences of those words irrespective of the case of the letters.  
The computer will look for all occurrences of the word you have entered, exactly as you have spelt it.
- Once you have entered the words you wish to find, press the **F1** key at the top of the keyboard.
- The computer will display a message towards the bottom of the screen with the number of documents (i.e. catalogues) which have been found containing the required words and the number of occurrences of the words within those catalogues. Press the **F1** key to continue.
- You will then be shown a list of all the catalogues which contain the required words. The catalogues (or **Results** of the search) are numbered, and the first part of the catalogue reference and the title of the record group (i.e. the collection of documents) are shown. Pressing the **F3** key will take you on to the next page, if there is one, where pressing the **F2** key will take you back.
- To display the catalogue entries containing **Hits** (i.e. the words which match your search request) press the **F7** key. You will be prompted to enter the number(s) of the

catalogue(s) you wish to look at and then to press the **Return** key.

- When the catalogues are displayed the hits will be highlighted in blue. To go to the next catalogue press the **F8** key, and to go backwards press the **F7** key. To go to the next page within a catalogue press the **F3** key, and to go backwards press the **F2** key.
- To search for another word you must return to the list of **Results** by pressing the **F4** key. Then press the **F5** key which will bring up the screen with your original enquiry for amendment or additions.
- To leave the system at any time press the **F4** key a number of times until you return to the DURHAM RECORD OFFICE DATABASE screen.
- The **F** key commands are displayed at the bottom of the screen at all times.
- To request a document you should always quote the full reference number. This consists of two elements: firstly the **Reference** which appears in the blue band at the top of the screen, and secondly the document number which appears in the left-hand column of the main part of the screen.

The advantages to the Record Office's users of access to the Database are obvious, but an additional advantage to the Office was that from having catalogues in three different forms we now hold them all as *Word* files on the file server. In addition to the indexes to the catalogues of documents, the old card-index system also contained other indexes and these are now being incorporated into the Database, thus enabling access to all these indexes in one search.

One difficulty which resulted from the new system, sprang from the fact that the Database can only index words that appear in the catalogues. In the past archivists indexing the catalogues could decide that a reference was needed to a broad concept in addition to the specific subject or place referred to in the catalogue, thus a catalogue entry for a document concerning a waggonway running to a limekiln in Stanhope, in addition to the obvious index references to "waggonway", "limekiln" and "Stanhope", might also have index cards for "railway", "mineral extraction" and "Weardale". Since these last words do not appear in the catalogue the Database will not generate references to them, but to get round this difficulty a glossary will be created within the Database which will link related subjects, names and places. When the glossary is in place, a request for all the "railway" references will also give all the "waggonway" and "waggonway" references.

Looking to the future we would hope that remote access to the system will be available via the Internet as soon as possible. We would also hope to incorporate images of photographs on the Database, thus permitting easy and cheap copying of these photographs.

# GOING ASTRAY

by Roger G. Woodhouse

Strays are interesting as well as providing all sorts of frustrations. Which of these it is depends on whether you've found one which opens up a previous 'dead end', or maybe you've simply potentially solved a problem for some other family historian, now or in the future. Strays are also interesting in much more than the technical sense of a traced individual as they represent the element of a population which was mobile and either involuntarily or deliberately provided an event away from 'home'.

The title of this article is intended to convey that it is about some of those individuals who deliberately choose to go 'astray'. Probably the biggest single group to have done this throughout history are migrants and, perhaps, for many of us it is those who have done this in the last 200 years who are of most immediate interest. For example the North East of England coupled with Yorkshire and Lincolnshire were one of the largest providers of emigrants to Upper Canada (Ontario) during the period from 1770 to 1830. That is before the mass migrations of the mid to late 19th century and the early years of this century. Strangely, relatively little is known about this exodus, even from the Canadian end where most of the research has taken place. The 'typical' English migrant often had expertise and money to take and invest in new enterprises as opposed to many of the Scots and Southern Irish who went somewhat later and were more often forced by clearances and famine. Research has tended to concentrate on these latter two groups along with the American Loyalists who moved north after 1777. For even limited information of relevance to the North East one has to look south to Yorkshire for published data<sup>(1)(2)</sup>, and to Canada where a number of academics have begun to study the topic

The value of such studies to family and Canadian historians is that if the surviving archives and records can be identified and brought together then both can benefit. The family historian can identify names, places, and routes to the new country while the academics gain a fuller understanding of the background from which migrants came and the resources they brought with them. This can be illustrated by reference to a branch of my own family who left the North East at various dates from 1775 onward, though the detail referred to below primarily covers Robert Wade and his family who left Sunderland in 1819.

Robert and his wife Mary (nee Hodgson) and his children set sail in the late spring of 1819 on board the brig *'William and Mathew'* of some 236 tons built in 1815. Typically in 1819, ships from the North East were trading to the Maritimes and Quebec for shipbuilding timber. It was often difficult to obtain worthwhile outward cargoes of manufactured goods and coal so passengers were constantly sought by the agents. Robert's ship was full of coal bound

for Quebec, which may in turn have provided fuel for the early steamboat which took him on, up river, to Montreal. There were some 40 passengers and the voyage gave Robert the opportunity to write a diary including descriptions of his fellow passengers. At this time ships sailed from many North East ports ranging from Newcastle, Sunderland, and Whitby to Stockton and Berwick taking a route around the north of Scotland. The tearful farewells at railway stations and at Liverpool docksides of later in the century was not for them, just a long trudge or wagon ride to start the journey into the unknown.

Robert, his wife and their eight children, the youngest of whom died in Canada while they were travelling to Upper Canada, were almost the largest group on board. The largest was a Richard Oughtred, his wife and nine children plus a servant all of whom may have come from Stockton but this remains to be confirmed. We know that Robert was a farmer but what Richard Oughtred was is not recorded and while various details of others were noted there is a degree of incompleteness about the data which probably reflected what Robert gleaned during the first weeks of the voyage. For example 'a man from Ellerneck' is recorded but no other details whereas William Bulison (shoemaker) and John Dunn (mason) appeared to be travelling together and were both hoping to go on the United States on arrival. They had left their families behind until they had become 'established' at which time they would send home for them. Robert noted that before half the voyage was over they were 'regretting this decision'.

There was also a Mr Taylor (gardener) and his wife, and a John Brannar (countryman) but no further details are given. A miller, one George Richardson, was also travelling alone however two young men - not named - from 'Shields', one a ships carpenter and the other a shoemaker were accompanied by their sisters. The one other family aboard consisted of George Thompson, his wife, and two sons from Broughton presumably in North Yorkshire. Finally there was Stephen Medd (joiner) and his wife.

From what background these people came, and what their experiences and assets were, is often unknown in any detail yet the rapid expansion of Upper Canada suggests they were considerable. Family records have not always survived on the Canadian side yet may have done so in the UK as with this example. Robert's letters and others written by family members, which largely comprise the archive, languished here until 1969 before becoming available for general use. We have to remember that for many of them, particularly farmers, they would be taking at least a year out with all the costs that this implies and yet Robert and Mary found the time to write extensive letters home. It would seem likely that there were many other such voyagers

though only a few had 'chroniclers' among them. What we would like to do is to trace as many such travellers as is possible, whether they kept journals or not, to ascertain the background of emigrants during this period. For example if any of the above are known to readers who are prepared to let me have additional details I and Canadian colleagues would be grateful. In the case of Robert we know he was a substantial farmer from North Yorkshire whose family came from South Durham where both his father and grandfather (both yeoman) left wills which can be read in Durham University Library. We also know that the catalyst for his emigration may have been an aunt who emigrated in the 1770's to New Brunswick<sup>(3)</sup>, and he in turn provided an incentive for his sister-in-law and her family, his brother, as well as other friends. Some of the families they married into in Canada were also from the north and they continued to travel as they turn up on burial sites and in marriage records all across the continent, including the USA. Robert's family were subsequently to develop Upper Canada agriculture probably based on what was almost certainly an involvement in the Cleveland improvement movement of the latter 18th century and early 19th. Later the family left farming and became prominent members of the Canadian business and government establishment,

though at least one managed get himself killed by a bear in British Columbia between the two world wars! Certainly these strays were what might be called 'risk takers' but they also say something about the state of the country from which they departed as well as how they contributed to the socio-economic development of the countries to which they went.

#### References

1. Hastings, R.P.; *Essays in North Riding History*; North Yorkshire County Record Office; 1981.
2. Jones, S.K.; *The Maritime History of the Port of Whitby 1700-1914*; Unpublished Ph.D.; University College, London, 1982.
3. Two very interesting books about the emigration activity in the 1770's are: Bailyn, Bernard; *Voyagers to the West*; Tauris; 1986 and, Cashin, Edward J.; *The Kings Ranger*; University of Georgia Press; 1989. Both have numerous references to emigrants from the north.

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## YOUR HERALDRY GROUP

*by Geoff Nicholson*

In the Spring edition of the *Journal*, we announced the formation of a Heraldry Group to work on various aspects of cataloguing and recording the Heraldry of Northumberland and Co.Durham. The purpose of that was partly to see what amount of support such a group would get from members. Now we know - very little indeed! In spite of the *Journal* announcement, and further publicity at meetings, in Bolbec Hall and on the Society's Internet page, hardly any enquiries have been received.

Most of the few responses that there were fell into two categories. First there was the "my name is Smith, please send me the Smith Arms" type of response (some omitted the "please"). It was never intended that the group should be simply a supplier of Arms to anyone. That would reduce us to the level of the barely-legal bucket shops. Anyone wanting to know what Arms exist for any one surname, or, more importantly, whether he or she is entitled to use any of them, should direct their enquiries to the proper place - and the College of Arms is the only proper place in England for that purpose. The second category is that of those who asked for photographs of Arms known to exist, on gravestones and elsewhere. If any of those enquirers had ever seen any of my photographic efforts, they would not have asked! Again, photography is not a service I had thought of offering and neither I personally, nor the Society in general, is equipped to do so.

There were also sympathetic letters from those who said "I would love to be able to help but unfortunately I live at too great a distance to be able". Fair enough, though should this Group ever get off the ground, those at a distance may yet be called on to do some of the routine clerical chores. Not very glamorous, but just as important as the work of those who do similar work from a distance, transcribing and indexing parish registers and census material.

Eliminating for now all those types of replies, I am left with just one person who (a) lives locally, (b) is genuinely interested in all local Heraldry and not solely interested in finding Arms for herself (yes, it's a lady!), and (c) is otherwise able to visit sites around the region. As she lives in Northumberland and I in (what was originally) Co.Durham, that might seem a reasonable division of labour as far as the field work is concerned, but I am most reluctant to say that we have an operating Group when (a) such a vast proportion of the membership is obviously apathetic and (b) there are only two of us in it. At present, all I am saying is that I am still open to receive volunteers and that a Group may yet be formed, if there are ever enough of them.

*Editor's note. Anyone interested in this Group should contact Geoff at 57 Manor Park, Washington, Tyne & Wear NE37 2BU*



# HALF-TRUTHS AND FALSE LEADS....

## Eureka and The Gold Mine!

by Geoff Crossley

I first dipped my toes into the muddied waters of family history some twenty years ago, many times wading out of my depth and never getting beyond the breakers until ... Well, let's go back to the beginning.

It all stemmed from a childhood legend that there was Greek blood in the family: high-ranking British soldier, high-born lady. But apart from me the family gave it little credence. Yet it was as plain as the Grecian nose on my father's face, matching black hair and occasional propensity for plate-smashing. Q.E.D....

And, coupled with that auspicious start my great grandfather was Squire Crossley no less. Living near Halifax ergo he was Crossley Carpets. Sadly, however, Squire turned out to be not his title but his name. And far from being Lord of the Manor he was the village blacksmith. No matter. I was still convinced the legend was more fact than fiction.

Undeterred I began again, this time calculating grandmother Ellen's age and obtaining her birth certificate: her father, John Sargeant, dock labourer of Whitstable, Kent. That I knew of no ancestors there didn't bother me, but I was nonplussed at Charlotte's "mark" in the mother's signature column. So no high-ranking soldier here. And a high-born lady who couldn't write? Another come-down but I wasn't beaten yet. I recalled father telling me grandma Ellen was a gifted pianist. Yet her mother was illiterate? Possible, but as nothing else in the birth certificate tied up once more I thought again.

What about *The Mikado* score in mother's piano stool then? Autographed "M. Sargent." So that's where my love of music came from. Descendant of Sir Malcolm Sargent who was known to love Gilbert and Sullivan and had discovered that Sargent goes right back to the French "Sergaunt" - 1066 and all that! I'd conquered it this time all right. French being my best school subject, I rest my case. What an easy game, genealogy ...until my sister's chance remark, 'By the way, Geoff, you know the *Mikado* score you were going on about. It belonged to old aunt Minnie.'

Some things are better left unsaid. But truth will out ... Condemned in a sentence from medieval knight to 20th century dressmaker! Well, what else but pick up the stitches.

Once more I dredged the ancient memory, eventually finding that whilst Minnie might never have seen the light of day outside her native Ilkley she would become my beacon, all the way to the New World and back. Just over the horizon lay a menage of households and alphabet of

occupations from agricultural labourers, blockmakers, butlers and butchers through shipyard managers and stagecoach drivers all the way to prospective zoologist - including DFC Group Captain and Military Medal Corporal - but still no Soldier X.

I hotfooted it to Ilkley library, but with each eye-straining hour hope faded. Until, on the point of defeat, the census entry leapt off the page:

Thomas Sargeant, farmer/innkeeper/cab proprietor. Brook Street, Ilkley.

Wife: Hellener Sargeant born... CORFU ISLAND!!

"Eureka," I shouted, manfully resisting Archimedes' "Full Monty" along the High Street.

Thus my true ancestor Hellener. There at last, THE GREEK CONNECTION proving illiterate Charlotte another false trail. But whither the soldier? And where now?

Years of fruitless exploration followed until further deduction and lengthy searches obtained Thomas and Hellener's marriage certificate. Only for my ship of hopes once more to founder in the rocks. This time groom Thomas turned out to be an under-butler: father, William Sargeant, a sawyer, Eleanor's father, William Nichol, a carpenter. Greek ancestry may be but Army connection decidedly NO! Still I now had her father's names.

Now myself a Geordie, born almost within sound of Lawson-Batey's tugs, and bred seventy-five years ago in pretty little Monkseaton, I always had the innate belief that my heritage lay deep in Northumbrian soil. Therefore, my soldier ancestor could only have been a Northumberland Fusilier. Their Curator came up with exciting details of the Regiment's early 19th century tour in Corfu and the Ionian Islands under British administration, actually uncovering a James Nichol. High-ranking, no doubt. Well not exactly. One-time corporal reduced to the ranks ... Ne'er-do-well brother perhaps?

Now more than ready for any old port in a storm I approached Newcastle Local Studies Library, their ray of hope akin to St Mary's lighthouse guiding this lost soul into harbour. The census revealed my grandmother Ellen, born 1867 at 1 Park Place, Newcastle, occupier Mary Neale, who turned out to be her sister, also born Corfu Island. This was the key that would open the family casket, but still the Army connection eluded me.

My final fling was to join the NDFHS, requesting information on William Nichol. Within days a wonderful letter from Mr Bill Ricalton of Longhorsley popped through



my letter-box. And this time it wasn't simply "Eureka" but "Bonanza." Treasure Island at last. And not just any old treasure trove, but as Bill himself said: "For a family historian a veritable gold mine!"

One of his interests along with genealogy is Local History, and coincidence was to flower in all its glory. Had Bill not disinterred a fellow Longhorsleyan's documents I could well have gone to my own grave with the mystery unsolved.

At Northumberland County Records Office, Gosforth, he had unearthed "The William Nichol Transcripts." Not only my carpenter great great grandfather but a soldier of distinction. Thirty colourful pages about him with 45 pages of William's memoirs entitled: "A small account of William Nichol of the 8th or King's Regt. of Foot."

It begins: "I was born on the 7th November 1784 in the Parish of Longhorsley of decent parents both native of the county. My father drove one of the common stage wagons which travelled between Newcastle and Glasgow in which place he had lived about 19 years and 6 months. Unfortunately for me and the rest of my brothers and sisters as well as my mother he was killed at about the beginning of November 1796 in North Britain at a place called Huntslow a small country village near Greenlaw then my mother was left with 2 sisters and brothers besides myself and the oldest about 14 years a boy and the youngest a boy about 6 months old.

I was taken by the old master of my father to learn my trade after my father's death I was bound to him for 6 years one of my uncles was my bondsman. Bound in the early part of 1796 in the month of March to learn to be a Wheelwright or Carpenter..."

The fascinating document goes on to relate how he volunteered for the Cheviot Legion in 1800, all 6' 3½", brown hair, hazel eyes and fair complexion, to counter the threat of Napoleon. He tells of marching from Alnwick to Sunderland and back again up to Berwick on "dirty wet roads" and "a bounty of seven pounds twelve and sixpence which raised a spree of drinking." Then back to North Shields to board the transport brigg *The Arm of London* for Gravesend, one of his officers giving him permission to travel via Wooler and Longhorsley to see his mother. His mother then went with him to Morpeth to bid him farewell. It would be 11 years before he would see her again.

In all he served 21 years, in Germany, Denmark and America, wounded at the Battle of Chippawa "with a sore leg requiring mercury treatment for 7 weeks in hospital" and where the American Indians scalped the dead and wounded. (So that's why I always wanted to be a cowboy?) Then Canada (where I also wanted to be a Mountie) at Quebec, Fort George, where they lost 210 men, suffering incredible injuries and hardship. Then on to Stoney Creek, Black Pool and Buffalo, West Indies, Portugal, Spain, Malta and the Ionian Islands before resigning from the army as Colour Sergeant, a new rank bestowed for

meritorious service by an officer in the regiment, later Lt. Gen. Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington.

And much, much more...

1829. Completes 3 year contract with Ionian Government as Master Cartwright instructing local youth. Excellent testimonial from General and other officers.

1844. Had worked another 15 years as civilian for Royal Engineers Office in Corfu, departing with kind references for England. At Albanian port his daughters, warned not to go ashore, are surrounded by local bandits. The sailors and their father rescue them with drawn cutlasses. Back in Longhorsley, aged 60, he sets up in business as a wheelwright.

1848. Receives Military General Service Medal. Of the 998 men of the 8th of Foot entitled to receive it only 113 survived.

Also included are testimonials from the Ionian Government civil department; Lord High Commissioner and Lt. Col. Robt. Thomson, Royal Engineers Office. In addition a letter granting him a pension (as a Chelsea Hospital out pensioner) of one shilling and tenpence per diem.

1868. November 20th dies at Longhorsley at the age of 84 and believed buried in the churchyard there.

But what of his wife, the Greek lady, you ask? Well, according to the Army Chaplains register No. 103 bachelor William Nichol, aged 41 years, late Colour Sergeant, was married at Corfu Mediterranean this 6th day of April 1826 to (wait for it...) Augusta Eleanor Healey aged 30 years spinster lately residing in Malta. Governess to an officer's family. Born St. Pancras, London.

So what price now the family's Grecian noses, jet-black hair and plate-smashing characteristics? And the high-born lady? Nil desperandum. Her mother? To this end I have scrutinised Lord Healey's autobiography. But to no avail.

Instead, does the answer lie in Scotland, for yet another coincidence, my wife is nee Nicolson, part of the Nichol clan? And as William lived next door to the Rose & Thistle, symbolising the union of England and Scotland, I'd settle for that.

But, finally, as the original Transcripts and William's tunic and framed medal and battle honour bars, must have been in the ownership of R.S. Robinson, late of 7 Swarland Avenue, Newcastle, as he deposited the copies in the NRO, I assume he (or she) was a member of the Nichol family. Sadly not located. So, if any connected member would get in touch I feel sure they would hold the answer to Augusta Eleanor's lineage, their life together in the Ionian Islands and my final quest could be achieved.

In the meantime, what was that again about Prince Philip's family hailing from Corfu...

*Editor's note: Mr Crossley's address is 18 Trinity Close, Burstwick, Hull HU12 9HQ*

# BLYTH HARBOUR COMMISSION ARCHIVES

*by Bob Balmer and Neil Richardson*

When invited to browse through the Blyth Harbour Commission Archive we were not sure what aspects of the vast amount of information needed to be recorded first. One part of the work needing to be done was to list the main archives; if nothing else, such a list of books and documents would be a useful research tool in itself. The documents and Parliamentary Acts cover the formation of the "Blyth Harbour and Dock Company" in 1854, through the change over to the "Blyth Harbour Commission" in 1882, and up to the present day.

One thing that the chronological list of Deeds, Agreements and Leases shows, is an interesting picture of the development of the fishing industry at Blyth between 1907 and the First World War. There is a good sample of the leases relating to the Herring Trade for Curing Stations, a large number of the leases being with the Scottish fish curers that followed the herring fleet around the coast from northern Scotland to Great Yarmouth.

In 1910 as the herring industry developed there are leases for Smoke-Houses on land behind Wensleydale Terrace, near the South Harbour. During the same period, with the development of the Fish Quay in the South Harbour, there were leases for shops and offices near the fish quay, and offices in the Fish Market for Marine Store Dealers, Fish Salesmen, Butchers, a Bank, a Telegraph Office and other associated trades. The South Harbour becoming a submarine base during the 1914 -18 War put an end to the fish trade and after the War North Shields had overtaken Blyth as the local white fish port.

As Blyth was a coal port throughout its history it is understandable that there is a vast amount of information with regard to the coal trade from Blyth. What is interesting about this information are the places it lists as Colliery or Coal Companies that were shipping out of Blyth, along with the tonnage shipped.

Four of the old General Ledgers of the Blyth Harbour and Dock Company (1854 - 1882) have survived. These books give, from 1863, the name of the colliery and the monthly tonnage of coal exported. During 1863 a total of 223,970 tons of coal were exported and for June of that year 22,841 tons were shipped, the largest amount, 13,137 tons, being shipped from Cowpen Colliery.

Coal trucks at most carried only five tons and the sailing vessels they loaded would carry anything between 150 tons and 300 tons. The port must have been a hive of industry.

The Annual Reports from 1910 until 1970 give the name of the colliery or the coal company and the total annual tons shipped. This is all recorded, and all that needs to be done

now is to give the locations of the collieries or coal companies. It is surprising how far away from Blyth some of these were.

There is still a lot of work to be done but I hope time is on our side.

While Bob was tackling the historical records Neil searched for the genealogical records. The first found was the employment cards for the work force from about 1911. Sorting these was a massive task and took some months. Recorded were the name, address, place of birth, date of birth, date commenced, occupation, rate of pay, when finished and why, and any previous employment with the Harbour Commission.

The records are interesting in themselves as they give the names of some employees working for the harbour from about 1880. There was also the social side of employment, women were employed during the First World War but their employment was terminated straight afterwards, when it was stated that women were not required. Times of depression could also be followed as almost all of the work force were laid off; this happened many times. Then, in times of boom, as the wages would rise appreciably.

Now that all the cards have been recorded they still need to be entered into a data base - a job for the future!

Also found were the records of some of the workers when the East Breakwater was repaired in 1862. There are not many names on the sheets but details are given of where they were employed, what their employment was, and the rate of pay.

There are also a lot of miscellaneous lists of names, some of which are reproduced below. A number of lists were found referring to both the staff and workers detailing who were eligible to go to war, or who were unfit, giving name, age and employment. Staff lists survive stating when they were on holiday and who was covering their work while away. There was also a list of who was going to the Staff Office Party and the amount they paid, along with the menu for the event with prices of food and drinks. Also found was a report from the special constables during the First World War years, the arrests they had made and the offences committed.

There is much work still to be done and many more papers to be examined. In the history of the port we will find more details of the dredgers and other vessels belonging to the port, as well as cases in law brought against the Harbour Commission. Hopefully this will yield further lists of names of people who worked at and were connected with it.

## Blyth Harbour Commissioners - Officials and Staff on the 16th November 1915

\*Those of Military age are under-lined. M.U. = Medically unfit.

Staff: Married 3; Single 4; Total 7.

Workmen: " 56; " 28; " 84.

Names	Age last Birthday	Married or single	Position and Remarks.
C. E. Baldwin.	42	M	General Manager & Secretary
Captain Wilkinson	42	M	Harbour Master & Chief Examination Officer
T. C. Blackburn	51	Widower	Collector of Dues.
P. Grayson.	45	M	Traffic & Quay Master.
W. Dobson	47	M	Wages Clerk. At present in charge of Costs Office
*T. Penfold	31	M	Chief Clerk. M.U.
E. Joblin	31	S	Temporary Store Keeper. Discharged from the Army as unfit.
*J. R. Lee	26	S	Accounts Clerk. M. U.
*J. Jewels	20	S	Cash Clerk. M. U.
J Sheldon	43	M	Asst Bookkeeper . Jewel's work and of Bates.
J. R. Bowden	16	S	Costs Office.
*W. Dunn	18	S	Costs Office. M. U.
B. Kinnair	17	S	Traffic Office.
J. J. Short	42	M	Time Clerk. Short also assists Wages Clerk.
F. J. Taylor	14	S	Costs Office Also Engineers Office when necessary.
*G. D. McGlashan	38	M	Resident Engineer
F. Robson	43	M	Night and Dredging Superintendent.
*J. Nivison	30	S	Engineer at New Staiths
*T. Bell	30	M	Draughtsman.
G. Hill	59	M	Repair Superintendent.
T. Penfold	65	M	Forman of Works.
[ - Jown	63	M	Berthing Master.

## Blyth Harbour Commission - Crews 11th December 1911

### Dredger Blyth

No.	Name	Grade	Born	Birthplace
223	H.B. Garrod	Captain	1870	Ipswich
40	G. Gibson	"	1844	Aldborough
75	J. Nicholson	Chief Engineer	1882	Blyth
106	J. Gibson	"	1876	Blyth
73	R. Robinson	2nd Engineer	1877	Alnmouth
411	T. Stewart	"	1882	Seaton Delaval
400	W. Barton	Fireman	1869	Folkestone
85	J. Clark	"	1885	Blyth
168	A. Smith	"	1880	"
259	B. Stafford,jnr."	"	1891	"
45	G. Boyce	Mate	1858	Lowestoft
170	G. Dunn	"	1841	Bedlington
169	J. Henderson	Ladderman	1882	Blyth
92	P. Hanson	"	1854	Denmark
185	J. Dixon	Deckhand	1870	Blyth
152	J. Tate	"	1847	"
199	T. Bonner	"	1890	"
70	J. Smith	"	1842	Sweden
143	P. Keenan	"	1883	Blyth
174	J. Carse	"	1880	Newton
209	P. Nicholson	"	1857	Cullercoats
62	C. Abrahamson "	"	1857	Sweden
4	H. Lansdale	"	1858	London
157	J. Rose	"	1869	Norfolk
182	R. Redford	"	1877	Blyth
54	T. Gibson	"	1882	"

172 J. Chalmers Cook

1839 Childword

### Dredger ViscountRidley

No.	Name	Grade	Born	Birthplace
220	G. Epsley	Captain	1860	Deal, Kent
32	E. Wilson	"	1859	Seaton Sluice
59	J. Bowen	Ladderman	1855	Blyth
47	T. Proud	"	1875	"
145	A. Shiel	Chief Engineer	1871	Berwick
159	J. Ryan	"	1878	Blyth
177	B. Rowell	Greaser	1877	"
43	F. Dixon	"	1874	"
221	J. Charlton	Fireman	1850	Monkwearmouth
86	W. Fairhurst	"	1859	Morpeth
184	J. Tate	Hopperman	1879	Blyth
268	F. Pearman	"	1865	Colchester,
				Essex
218	G. Downie	"	1882	Blyth
464	R. Armstrong	"	1872	Hauxley,
				Northumberland
214	H. Tweedy	"	1888	Blyth
288	W. Brown	"	1886	"
280	W.G. Macfarlane	Deckhand	1887	"
153	J. Solberg	"	1857	Oscarshamn,
				Sweden
81	R. Morton	"	1873	Boldon, Durham
326	J. Chilvers	"	1855	Hull
361	C. Winship	"	1882	Blyth

24	T. Simpson	"	1857	"
146	A. Noble	"	1869	Manchester
425	R. Menin	"	1888	Gateshead
161	R. Fairhurst	"	1855	Blyth
129	W. Hall	"	1867	"

### Dredger Cambois

No.	Name	Grade	Born	Birthplace
82	W. Warfell	Captain	1862	Swinemunde, Germany
76	J. Wakefield sn.	"	1862	Blyth
195	A. Smith	Chief Engineer	1859	"
34	W. Robinson	"	1871	Alnmouth
189	J.W. Penfold	2nd Engineer	1891	Blyth
67	H. Brown	"	1882	"
222	W. Briggs	Fireman	1891	"
123	W. Hanson	"	1888	"
338	T. Crawford	"	1888	Percy Main
6	T. Worfell	"	1891	Blyth
9	W. Stephens	Mate	1871	Aberdeen
148	T. Hunton	"	1843	Lowestoft
11	A. Salverson	Ladderman	1870	Gracars
74	T. Stephenson	"	1874	Blyth
91	T. Wilson	Deckhand	1856	"
46	A. Henderson	"	1867	"
207	R. Hunton	"	1846	Lowestoft
116	M. Sadd	"	1850	Bungay, Suffolk
42	W. Lee	"	1843	Tweedmouth
262	J. Jurus	"	1859	Rostock

204	C. Hansen	"	1856	Tonsberg
147	W. Guy	"	1869	Rochford, Essex
103	A. Chapman	"	1866	Ferryhill
463	J. Fulbeck	"	1852	Blyth
233	J. Boyd	"	1856	"
228	H. Berg	"	1854	Copenhagen
60	C. Hurst	Cook	1848	Kiel

### Tug Stag

No.	Name	Grade	Born	Birthplace
7	B. Stafford snr.	Captain	1857	Blyth
17	T. Smith	"	1855	"
178	J. Lambert	Engineman	1862	North Shields
113	J. Gibson	"	1866	Blyth
44	S. Fisher	Fireman	1840	Belfast, Ireland
165	J. Cullum	"	1878	Blyth
269	R. Crawford	Deckhand	1885	Percy Main
345	R. Carr	"	1886	Blyth

### Ferry JohnDent

No.	Name	Grade	Born	Birthplace
90	S. Wilkins	Captain	1858	Tuttington, Norfolk
429	J. Worcester	"	1863	Gravesend
229	C. Nicholson	Fireman	1885	Blyth
236	R. Winter	Fireman	1886	Walker on Tyne
428	H. Brodie	Deckhand	1892	Blyth
410	G. Sadd	"	1891	"

## 'LIGHT DUTIES'

by Sheila Shewell

During and after the Second World War my mother, Ethel Cummings, was the station mistress at Brinkburn Station on the LNER line between Rothbury and Morpeth via Scotsgap. Early in the war the army (presumably Royal Engineers) built a searchlight station at the top of the hill behind Brinkburn Station and the men were billeted in the station buildings.

The soldiers told my mother that we would be safe now that the searchlight station was there but she took that with a pinch of salt as she felt sure the searchlight would be a target. It never was attacked and the positions of the two round bases can still be clearly seen.

Recently I came across a postcard on which my mother had written the names of some of the soldiers on the base and I thought some relatives may be interested to know where they spent part of their war.

Emmerson and Stewart Sheppard, Low Fell  
Hugh Gibson, Earsdon  
Denis Barff, Wylam  
Alf Austin, Monkseaton  
Ernie Bowey  
Sid Elliot, Wylam  
Tom Hodgson, Gosforth

Tom Weightman, Gosforth  
Jack Smith, Wylam  
J Clark  
Harry Gofton.

Tom Weightman, who was designated to do the cooking, used to bring my mother large joints of meat to roast in her oven. She willingly did the cooking but sometimes had a bit of a job to fit the joints into our small oven. I suspect there might have been a bit of a spin-off for us - I'm sure we got a share in the end product as a joint of meat rarely appeared on the dinner table in the war years and probably made a welcome change from the rabbits my father used to catch!

I'm told that various presents of sweets came my way from the soldiers, although I was only three years old and don't remember.

Some of the men found life on the searchlight station too tame and transferred themselves to the RAF 'for a bit of excitement'. This saddened my mother who had grown fond of them during their stay at the station. She must have corresponded with some of them when they moved on and I suspect she heard from their families. Several of them were killed after they joined the RAF and she certainly heard from the family of Sid Elliot who lived at Wylam. Sid was killed and I believe is buried in Wylam Churchyard, I have a large photograph of him.

*Editor's note: Mrs Shewell's address is 3 Navenby Close, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 5LH*



# THOMAS BINNEY, 1798-1874, "Head of the Dissenters"

by Sheila Senior

Thomas Binney was born the fifth child of six children to John Binney and Jane Greaves at Pandon Newcastle upon Tyne. His father was in the building trade and was a poor but respectable man, an elder of the Presbyterian Church which assembled at The Wall Knoll Chapel.

At the age of twelve he was apprenticed to Mr Angus, the bookseller, on The Side Newcastle where he worked long hours from seven in the morning until eight at night after which he went home and studied by candlelight grammar and Latin. This he described in a letter to his grandson Thomas on his twelfth birthday; *"What I did for myself in the odd hours between the age of twelve and twenty laid the foundation stone for all I have done in life ever since and helped me to write all the books that I have written"*.

After his apprenticeship Thomas was taken under the wing of Reverend Turner, a Unitarian minister, and through this was he became a student at the Unitarian College at York. This was to prove a disaster as his opinions differed greatly from those of the Church. From there he moved to Morpeth, Northumberland under the care of Reverend George Atkin, a Presbyterian minister, and then to Wymondley College, a Congregational training school for ministers. There, he became great friends with the head of the college's son, Stephen Morrell, and, when he died unexpectedly, he preached, and later published, a very moving sermon.

After graduating from college he moved to St James' Street Chapel, Newport, Isle of Wight. It was the Isle of Wight address that was on his marriage certificate when he married Isabella Barbara Nixon at St Margaret's, Westminster, London on 23rd April 1828 by licence, Isabella being the daughter of Captain Thomas Nixon and Isabella Nixon (nee Capper) of Holburn, London.

Thomas was very highly thought of by his parish on the Isle of Wight and the chapel, as a result, was very well attended. He would appear to have been conscious of his talents in speaking and this resulted in him making frequent visits to London to speak. In March of 1829 Thomas turned down an offer made by The King's Weigh House Chapel to move to London but it would appear the committee for the chapel were determined that he would join them as their minister. After preaching at the chapel for three Sundays he accepted their invitation to move to London.

Thomas moved to Trinity Square, Southwark, now Trinity Church Square, as it was said that he *"walked along Borough High Street & over London Bridge to his Chapel"*. From that home, five boys were born in a very short space of time: one son John died in infancy. It was not long before the family moved to a larger house at Addington Square, Camberwell. Sadly at the age of 45 Isabella died of dropsy,

her youngest son was only five. Within three years Thomas married Elizabeth Piper, the daughter of a deacon of Thomas's chapel. Elizabeth seems to have been a very caring and loving stepmother as she still kept in touch with her stepsons long after they had left England.

A new Weigh House Chapel was constructed in 1834, in Fish Street Hill, as the old chapel in Eastcheap was demolished to make way for the new London Bridge.

By now his congregations were increasing in numbers so this chapel was built considerably larger and it was not long before it was the leading place for non-conformist to worship in the city. The seating in the chapel was for 800 persons in pews and 200 persons in free sitting, and for 300 children in daily and Sabbath schools, plus a vestry for social meetings a vestry for the minister and a schoolroom capable of holding three hundred children. Thomas composed many hymns, the most famous, still sung today, *Eternal Light*. Thomas's work load also involved Derby Street Mission. He was one of the founders of "the Ragged Schools" as well as day schools for both boys and girls. He knew and admired Mr Gladstone and was interested in reforms that would help to relieve the suffering of the poor.

Thomas visited both Australia and America and was awarded a D.D. by an American university as well as LL.D. by the University of Aberdeen.

Thomas preached his last sermon in November of 1873 at Westminster Chapel, dying at his home, Doric Lodge, Stamford Hill, London on Tuesday, February 24th 1874. It was one o'clock on the following Monday when the hearse drawn by four plumed horses, followed by nine mourning coaches and pair, twenty two private coaches and pair, and a procession that extended for at least half a mile, left for Stamford Hill Chapel. Admission was by invitation only but the church had been filled to overflowing an hour and a half before the arrival of the hearse. Among those present was the Very Reverend Dean of Westminster, the Earl of Shaftesbury and many Members of Parliament.

The coffin was taken in procession to Abney Park Cemetery where at least another 5,000 friends waited and even when the burial service had been completed not everyone had entered the cemetery.

Thomas lies to the right of the main gate with a simple red granite obelisk marking his grave the inscription saying: *In loving memory of Thomas Binney, born at Newcastle 30th April 1798, died at Upper Clapton 24th February 1874. "I shall be satisfied when I awake with thy likeness"*.

Editor's note: Sheila Senior's address is 30 The Drive, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4AH

# HOT OFF THE PRESS AT TYNE & WEAR ARCHIVES

Tyne & Wear Archives Service has a collection of leaflets designed to help researchers to use the different types of records held by the Service.

Two new titles have been added to the series which will introduce genealogists to useful sources of information which are sometimes neglected, and which will also be of use to those interested in economic history. User Guide 17 looks at Voting Records, and User Guide 18 lists Rate Books held by the Service.

For free copies of any of the User Guides currently available, please send a stamped addressed envelope to:  
Tyne & Wear Archives Service, Blandford House,  
Blandford Square, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 4JA.  
Tel: (0191) 232 6789 ext. 407; Fax (0191) 230 2614.

Titles and brief descriptions of the User Guides available:

## **User Guide 1 - Cemeteries and Crematoria**

While it may seem a bit morbid, records from cemeteries and crematoria are very useful for family historians. This user guide outlines those cemetery records held which give information about individual persons. Such records include burial registers, grave books and monumental inscriptions. This guide also includes registers of cremations at some local crematoria, but please note that there is a 75 year closure period on some of these records. The Archives Service holds records for cemeteries in Newcastle, North Tyneside, South Tyneside and Sunderland, and for crematoria in Newcastle and Whitley Bay.

## **User Guide 2 - Parish Registers on Microfilm**

The Service holds no original Church of England registers, but has microfilm copies of registers for most parishes now within Tyne & Wear. As with all records which we hold on microfilm, it is advisable to telephone in advance of your visit to reserve a microfilm reader.

## **User Guide 3 - Methodist Registers**

This User Guide lists the registers of baptisms and marriages from Methodist Circuits and individual Methodist churches.

## **User Guide 4 - Registers: Other Denominations**

This guide covers the records which we hold for many Baptist, German Lutheran, Independent Evangelical, Jehovah's Witness', Jewish, Quaker, Swedenborgian, Unitarian and United Reformed (Presbyterian and Congregational) churches in Tyne & Wear. These records usually comprise registers of baptism, marriage and death, but also often relate to the running of a church.

## **User Guide 5 - Shipbuilding, Outfitting, Registration and Repair**

Shipbuilding is a very important part of the history of the region, and the records held at the Service provide valuable

information about the ships built on the Tyne and the Wear and, in some cases, the employees who built them. The records include those concerning shipbuilding at different yards in the region, marine engineering, ships outfitting, ship repairing, ship registration and professional and employers Associations.

## **User Guide 6 - Maritime Trade and Navigation**

This User Guide lists the more important records relating to shipping, tugs and ferries, pilotage, navigation, river control, the coal trade, trade regulations and insurance. While important for maritime historians, these records can also provide some information on persons employed in shipping.

## **User Guide 7 - Guild Records**

Records of trade guilds of the City of Newcastle and the Borough of Gateshead, covering trades including Bakers and Brewers, Blacksmiths, Cabinet Makers, Coopers, Grocers and Spicers, Joiners, Masons, Plumbers and Glaziers, Scriveners, Tailors and Tanners. The members of any of the City of Newcastle guilds were Freemen, and as such could be elected to the Common Council where they were able to monopolise town government before 1835. The trade guilds of Gateshead were set-up to protect individuals from the power of the Newcastle Guilds across the river. Order and Minute Books contain information about the regulation of the companies and their members. When used with Admission and Apprenticeship Books and Lists of Freemen, these records can be very useful to the family historian. Many of these records date back to the 18th century.

## **User Guide 8 - Acknowledgement and Reference**

To assist those wishing to use quotations from, or make references to, documents from the Archives Service. In cases of publications, reproduction charges may be payable, and staff will be able to advise further.

## **User Guide 9 - Medicine**

Looking at the more important administrative, financial and clinical records of local hospitals, sanatoria and specialised medical institutions. The Archive Service holds records from hospitals and institutions throughout the region, which can be used to research a particular institution or developments in health-care, as well as for information on individual patients. Clinical records, which give a high degree of personal and medical information about patients, are closed for 100 years unless authorisation is obtained.

## **User Guide 10 - World War II**

A summary of records which relate to events in Tyne & Wear during the Second World War, 1939-45. Includes records relating to Air Raid Precautions and the Home Guard, Civil Defence, War Damage and Casualties, Evacuation and the Home Front.

### **User Guide 11 - Transcripts and Indexes**

A list of finding aids which can help to speed-up the long process of hunting through church registers and census returns for missing ancestors.

### **User Guide 12 - Records of the Roman Catholic Church**

Records of baptism and marriage are usually closed for a period of 75 years, although access will be given if you obtain written permission from the relevant priest. Many of these records are written in Latin, and this User Guide includes helpful information on understanding entries, and searchroom staff are available to help.

### **User Guide 13 - Building Control**

This User Guide details local authority building control plans now housed at Tyne & Wear Archives. Local Government Acts from 1858 onwards gave local authorities powers to control buildings and streets. Plans for new buildings, or for extensions to existing property, had to be submitted to the authority for approval. Plans include property built before the 1850's if structural alterations were made after the introduction of building control. Only structural work is recorded, not water, gas and electricity supply. The service holds building control plans from councils and local authorities throughout Tyne & Wear.

### **User Guide 14 - Law and Order**

Records relating to the enforcement and administration of law and order in Tyne and Wear. There are records from Assize Courts, Crown Courts, Quarter Sessions, Petty Sessions, Magistrates Courts, Civil Courts, Manorial Courts and Coroners Courts. The User Guide gives information on the types of cases heard by each type of court, to help researchers identify the most useful records. The Service also holds records from the Constabularies of Durham County, Gateshead Borough, Newcastle Borough, Northumberland County, South Shields Borough, Sunderland Borough and Tynemouth Borough. These records are mostly from the late 19th century onwards. In addition, there are records from the Borough Gaol and House of Correction in Newcastle, covering the 19th century, and some records for Newcastle Reform School in Axwell Park, covering 1847-1969. In most cases these records are closed to access for 30 years, although Coroners' Court records are closed for 75 years unless permission is obtained. Searchroom staff will be able to advise.

### **User Guides 15A to 15E - Schools**

There are 5 User Guides under this title, each looking at records relating to individual schools within a certain district (Newcastle, Sunderland, Gateshead, North Tyneside and South Tyneside). While information about schools can also be gained from other sources, such as Education Committee minutes, these User Guides look at log books (a diary of day-to-day happenings or events), punishment books, admissions registers, Managers/ Governors minutes, photographs and also indicate whether other records (for example, school magazines) may be held. Records less than 30 years old are not normally available for consultation without permission.

### **User Guide 16 - Trade Unions, Employers' and Professional Associations**

Collections connected with trade unions and related organisations. The Service holds records relating to areas such as the Building Trade, Engineering, Food and Drink, Health, Insurance, Mining, Printing, Shipping, Teaching and Transport. These records date mostly from the mid-19th century.

### **User Guide 17 - Voting Records**

This details land tax assessments, electoral registers and poll books, all of which can be used to locate individuals and get an idea about their economic situation. The Land Tax was a tax on the land people owned, and again was collected by parish or town authorities. The assessments are a record of all taxpayers in each parish or town and were used to record voters until 1832, when electoral registers were introduced. These registers give the name, address and voting qualification of the voter. The Service also holds less detailed Poll Books dating from the 1740's, which are records of the poll in county and later borough elections. It is mainly Newcastle electoral registers and poll books which are held by the Service.

### **User Guide 18 - Rate Books**

The 1601 Relief of the Poor Act introduced the idea of compulsory rating throughout the country, and these rates were collected by the parish or town authorities. The rate books themselves contain lists of householders or owners, the value of their property and the amount collected from them. The Service holds rate books mostly from the 18th to the 20th centuries, and covering many parts of Tyne & Wear.

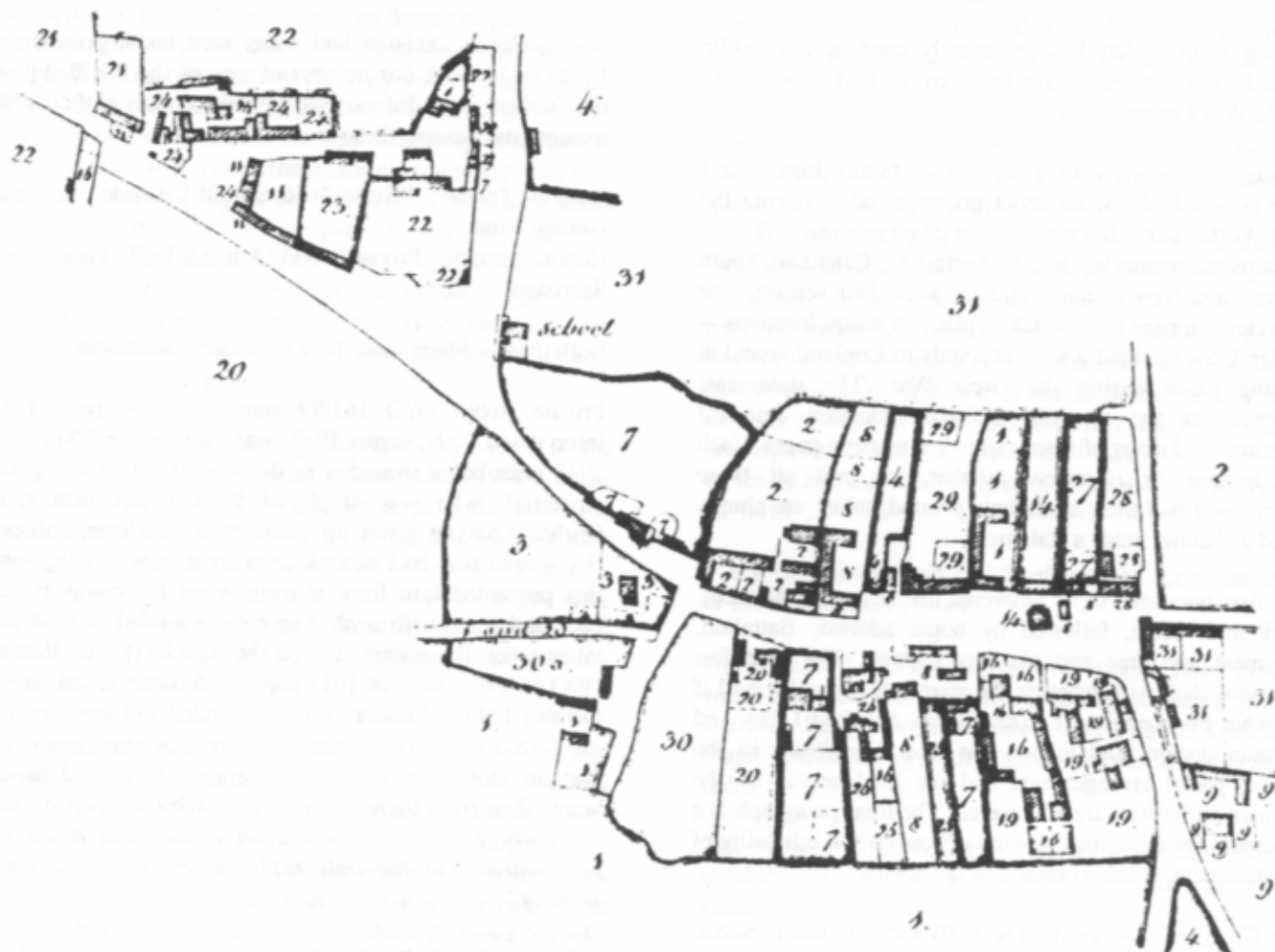
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## **SOME EXTRACTS FROM THE NEWCASTLE COURANT**

29th April 1826. On Sunday se'nnight, at Bamburgh church, two children were christened, both boys and each a ninth child; their mothers were married from the same house, and their maiden names both Mary Dixon (not related); their fathers, by trade, both masons; and their grandfather's, by their mother's side, both priests.

21st May 1825. Joseph Gardiner, a pitman, belonging to Jarrow, was, on Wednesday last, fully committed for trial at the next Newcastle assizes, on two separate charges of bigamy. He, in 1814 lawfully, married Barbara Lightfoot, a young woman belonging to Jarrow. In 1822, he unlawfully married Sarah Langlands, belonging to this town; and in February last, he unlawfully married a widow, named Isabella Scott, belonging to Jarrow. All the woman are living; and Barbara, the lawful wife, has been committed for trial at the same assizes for bigamy, in lawfully marrying a sailor, belonging to Shields, who sometimes passes by the name of George Smith, and sometimes by the name of George Straights, which latter is his real name.

# TITHE MAP OF OVINGTON



## KEY TO THE PLAN OF OVINGTON (NRO REFERENCE DT/371)

OCCUPIERS of the numbered areas on the plan, with descriptions of the areas, are as follows: 1. James BURNETT, Ovington South Farm; 2. Thomas REED, Ovington South Farm; 3. John HENDERSON, cottage & lands in Ovington; 4. Thomas EMERSON, Ovington Hall Farm; 7. Walter SMITH, lands & premises in Ovington; 8. John DOBSON & others, lands & premises in Ovington; 9. Margaret WINSHIP, Winships Farm and land in Ovington; 11. Thomas REED & others, premises in Ovington; 14. Thomas BELL & others, premises in Ovington; 16. James BURNETT, lands & premises; 19. Henry HIND & others, premises; 20. in hand, lands & premises; 21. Thomas DAVISON, lands & premises; 22. James BURNETT, lands & premises; 23. George DIXON & others, premises; 24. James BURNETT, brewery & other buildings; 25. John WEATHERLEY & others, buildings & garths; 26. George LAWS, buildings & garths; 27. in hand, buildings & garths; 28. Robert PROUD & Jane HENDERSON, buildings & garths; 29. William HEDLEY & others,

buildings & garths; 30. Matthew BELL & others, buildings & garths; 30a. Thomas HENDERSON & others, buildings & garths; 31a. Messrs HEWISON & others, Ovington & Dean Head farms & bleach grounds.

The owner of areas 1., 2. and 3. was Robert SURTEES Esq; 4. and 7. John Hodgson HINDE Esq; 8. John DOBSON Esq; 9. Representatives of the late Mr Collinson WINSHIP; 11. Lady Isabella KINLOCH & Mrs MINSTER 14. William BELL Esq; 16. and 19. Henry HIND Esq; 20. Mr George HUNTER; 21. Reps. of late George DAVISON; 22. James BURNETT Esq; 24. Heirs of late George BURNETT Esq; 25. Heirs of late Edward MOOR; 26. Thomas EMERSON; 27. Margaret WINSHIP; 28., 29., 30., and 31a. Charles William BIGGE's representatives; 30a. as last or L BIRKETT's representatives.

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# WO 161: MORE RECORDS WORTH A LOOK

by John Sheen

Among records that I have recently used at the Public Record Office, at Kew, are those in WO161, relating to World War I prisoners of war.

During discussions with a number of family historians I have been asked, "What about prisoners taken during the First World War?" If a relative was taken prisoner, WO 161 contains statements by British, Australian, Canadian, South African and New Zealand soldiers after their release. The interviews appear to have taken place in many locations -- Holland, Switzerland and at hospitals in England -- and at varying times during the Great War. The statements comprise of the answers to about fourteen standard questions and many of them run to ten or more pages. Each has a case or interview number, but not all those interviewed had their statements printed; many are simply listed as having made a statement.

The first questions to be answered are of course, Number, Rank and Name, followed by home address, Battalion, Regiment and date and place of capture. The next few questions deal with whether the man was wounded and if so, what his treatment by the guards, the Red Cross and German doctors and nurses was like. Conditions in the camps, postal arrangements and the food served by the German authorities are all covered. The final paragraph is a statement from the interviewing officer on the reliability of the statement, with his opinion of the soldier.

The Class WO 161 relating to POW's covers seven pieces: WO 161/95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100 and 101. WO 161/101 is listed as an index but I found the arrangement difficult to use. There are various indexing arrangements, Place, Hospital, British Names, German Names etc. and they appear to be indexed by month. The file containing the bound up index volumes was more than three inches thick and in poor condition.

On consulting the index I found a four-figure number beside each name. I thought that this was the man's service number, but it turned out to be the case or interview number and in some cases the page number. The fact that a name is in the index doesn't mean that he made a statement as the soldier who is giving the statement may have only mentioned him. Thus we find that Sergeant Huitson of the 19th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers is in the index, but it is his death in hospital, following a wound in the spine, that is recorded in statement 2556.

Pieces 95 and 96 cover statements by officers with piece 97 being statements from Medical Officers. I have not yet examined these.

Pieces 98, 99 and 100 are statements from Other Ranks and I found many local men had made statements. The

Northumbrian Division had many men taken prisoner at Ypres in 1915. A fair number of men of the 8th Battalion the Durham Light Infantry gave good accounts of their time in captivity. Among these are:

Robson, Thomas, Private 3050 8th DLI, Gardeners Yard, Grange Villa.

Hobin, Patrick, Private 2343 8th DLI, 2 Poplar St., Sacriston

Both these soldiers made long interesting statements.

Private Hobin (WO 161/99 statement 923, page 1718 interviewed 10th August 1917) was captured on 25th April 1915 after being wounded in the knee. He was a pre-war territorial, who was employed in a motor factory in Durham, having given up working at Sacriston Colliery. His wound was bad enough to prevent him walking, and this prevented him from retiring when his company fell back and along with several severely wounded men he was taken when the enemy entered the trench. Private Robson (WO 161/99 statement 1011 page 1956, interviewed on 8th October 1917 in London) was unwounded and was captured on 26th April 1915, when the Germans surrounded his platoon. Both men were searched and knives and papers were taken from them, with Private Robson reporting that his party were *"taken before an officer and asked for information, but the only reply he got was 'We know nothing'"*.

After two days in Roulers the two men were transported, by separate trains, to Munster in Westphalia, and were sent to Lager II, Munster Rennbahn (Racecourse), where they were quartered in Block 4, Private Hobin commenting that, *"I was with Private H W Tustin of my battalion, I also knew very well Private Charles Brown of my battalion and saw him after he was wounded, I did not know he expected to be sent to Switzerland. As a matter of fact he made an unsuccessful attempt to escape, with a Canadian named Weston and before I left he was transferred to Lager III"*.

Of the guards Private Robson states: *"The camp guards were very rough and used to knock the men about with the butt-ends of their rifles and kick them if the prisoners were not quick enough to please them"*.

Patrick Hobin said: *"The military guard pushed us about rather roughly but nothing worse than that"*. But by September 1915 the treatment was changing and he was to add later in his statement: *"Three Canadians who had escaped and been recaptured were very severely beaten with sections of thin piping made of lead"*.

As the war progressed more and more men were captured, the Battles of the Somme, and then Arras, added to the haul

of men held in Germany. Among those taken prisoner at Arras was 23/520 Lance Corporal Simpson Wallace of the 23rd Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers (4th Tyneside Scottish), from Baker Street, Leadgate. Like the majority of the men who enlisted in the Tyneside Brigades, Simpson was a miner. But he would never go down the pit again for on 29th April 1917 he was hit in the ankle by an explosive bullet. His first operation in captivity was at Douai on 1st May, when the chloroform did not take effect and he felt the pain of the operation. He was eventually evacuated to the Lazerette at Bergkaserne Munster, a journey that took two days and two nights on the train. It was here under chloroform that the lower part of his left leg was amputated. He stated that: *"The operation was well performed and under chloroform. During the first few days my wound was dressed every day, then every two days only, but eventually the dressings were not changed for as long as eight or nine days"*.

Lance Corporal Simpson Wallace was interviewed at the King George Military Hospital on 2nd March 1918 after he had been repatriated. The interviewer gave the following impression of him: *"He appeared to me to be of ordinary intelligence and gave his answers to the questions which I put to him freely, and so far as I am able to judge, quite truthfully and accurately, and I think his statements as to his treatment by the Sister at the Bergkaserne, may be regarded as quite reliable"*.

A question that was asked of the returning prisoners was about the mental condition of the men. Private Robson had this to say: *"With regard to insanity among the prisoners caused by confinement, I saw a Frenchman at Burgsteinfurt try to hang himself. He was insane and had been sent back from a working commando. There was also a Private of the London Regiment at Burgsteinfurt, about 19 years old who was there when I left. He was allowed to remain there, but was under no control. He used to think he was going to be shot, and also that he was being poisoned, and wrote letters saying so. I saw these two cases myself and heard of many others, but cannot speak of them from first hand knowledge"*.

Private Thomas Robson escaped on 12th September 1917, crossed the Dutch border on 16th September and was interviewed at London on 8th October 1917 and the examiner said of him: *"He was typical of the mining classes, somewhat rough but quite intelligent and full of common sense"*. His statement runs to seven pages and is full of observations of his time in captivity.

Another question put to returning prisoners was about the "Irish Brigade" which the Germans tried to form (from captured soldiers of Irish Regiments or from an Irish background) to fight against the English. This was put to Patrick Hobin but he replied that: *"I heard nothing definite about the Irish Brigade, but at Oberhausen we were asked on parade if there were any Irish Catholics among us. I am a Catholic but I saw nothing to be gained by saying so and no one else answered"*.

Private Patrick Hobin, who used a home made compass, escaped also, by making off in thick fog, and although the sentry fired at him, he missed. He waded into a canal and doubled back heading east to throw the dogs off his track. Walking for two days and nights he twice met German soldiers, and one of them fired at him but his luck held and he crossed the border into Holland on Saturday 28th July 1917.

The examiner said of Patrick Hobin: *"I examined this most enterprising witness yesterday. Although not particularly quick to grasp the effect of questions put to him, he undoubtedly possesses a high standard of intelligence combined with an alert power of observation and great physical courage. As to his veracity, I examined the compass which he claims to have made himself. It consists of nothing but the usual two pointers, each about half an inch long, and riveted on to a small convex piece of metal. In order to show its use he balanced it on the point of a pin, although oscillating a great deal one of the pointers certainly showed a tendency to come to rest in the direction of North"*.

Many Northumberland and Durham men gave statements or are mentioned by others.

8th Durham Light Infantry (Ypres 1915). Issac Janefroy and Arthur Leggett, both from Chester le Street, privates Warnett, Slee, Ramshaw, Stuart and Thomas Dickinson. Major Ritson along with Captain Sloper are also in the index.

2nd Durham Light Infantry. Thomas Kelly captured 20th October 1914, a regular reservist who was employed at Palmers Yard, Jarrow.

From 7th Battalion Durham Light Infantry, which recruited in the Sunderland District are, Privates Robert Usher of 15 Burleigh Street, J. Blanchflower, Isaac White of 3 Taylor Street, Ryhope and Thomas Gedling of Hudson Street, Tyne Dock.

Captured during the retreat of March 1918, 22nd Battalion Durham Light Infantry, soldiers included 73167 Private William Archer of Felling (was captured at Fresnoy on 25th March) and 30152 Private Edward Herdman from Bishop Auckland, taken at St Quentin.

From the Northumberland Fusiliers, statements there are:

38537 Private J. O. Purves of the 21st Battalion, 40878 Private E. Greenwood of the 27th, 16/1397 Private G. Slater of the 16th, and 28/144 Private J. H. Robinson of the 13th Battalions.

One way to use the records would be to look for information from men held in the same camps as a relative or served in the same battalion and was captured at the same time.

So once again the moral of the story is, if your ancestor was a prisoner go and look.

# GOOD WILL HUNTING

## A Beginners Guide to Tracing Northumberland and Durham Wills

How can you find out whether your Northumberland or Durham ancestor left a will? What indexes are available to help you in your search?

A comprehensive set of articles on wills in general, and Durham and Northumberland wills in particular, was published in the NDFHS Journals of Summer and Autumn 1994 but we have recruited many new members since then, so an updated summary might help.

First, you need to consider when your ancestor died. Was it before January 1858, or after? There are different indexes for each type. From 12th January 1858, the state, through Probate Registries, took over what had formerly been an ecclesiastical function, the "proving" of a will. So, wills of people dying after 12th January 1858 will be among state records and wills of people dying before that date will be in the Church of England records, but since it takes time, sometimes years, to prove a will, the state will have been responsible in some cases where death was before 1858. It is the date of proving the will, and not the death date, which is the important factor. For example, Robert Rain Young of Bishopwearmouth died in 1854 but his will was not proved until April 1858 and hence is among the state records. Be alert to the possibility of "late" probate, especially in the 1850's.

What indexes are available?

### Pre-1858 Wills

(1) By far the majority of wills of Durham and Northumberland people were proved in the Consistory Court of the Bishop of Durham as his Diocese covered the whole of County Durham, and the whole of Northumberland except Hexhamshire and Thockrington (see 2 below).

All the Consistory Court records, including the wills themselves and the indexes to them, are now held by Durham University Library, Archives and Special Collections, Palace Green, Durham

There is no "master index" covering the entire period, from the Middle Ages to 1857, during which the Durham Court had jurisdiction. But there are five large volumes of manuscript indexes, covering the years 1540 to 1599, 1600 to 1660, 1661 to 1786, 1787 to 1831 and 1832 to 1857. These indexes are not modern; they include some wills which are now "Missing", and you need some palaeographic skill to read the earlier ones. There are however modern alphabetical card indexes covering 1540 to 1660 and 1832 to 1857.

You can examine the indexes, and the wills, at Durham University Library, free of charge, although donations are

welcomed. Although this is a University Department, access is open to everyone. The staff do not undertake searches. There are microfilms of the indexes, but not of the wills themselves, in a few places, including Newcastle Library, the Society of Genealogists in London, and local Record Offices. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints also has copies, which can be viewed at Family History Centres of the Church.

A few local books contain details of wills; these were listed in the 1994 articles.

(2) Hexhamshire -- the parishes of Allendale, Allenheads or Allendale St Peter, Bingfield St Mary, Carrshields or High West Allen, Hexham, Ninebanks or Low West Allen, St John Lee, St Oswald in Lee and Whitley Chapel -- was in York Diocese until 1837.

So was the Northumbrian parish of Thockrington. You will find wills of people from these areas at York, at Borthwick Institute of Historical Research, St Anthony's Hall, York YO1 2PW.

Printed indexes up to 1688 were published in *Yorkshire Archaeological Society, Record Series*, Volumes 4, 6, 11, 14, 19, 22, 24, 26, 28, 32, 35, 38, 49, 60, 68, 73, 89 and 93 but it is generally thought that few Hexhamshire wills exist for this period. However, Volume 60 is an index to the names mentioned in a Probate Act Book for Hexhamshire 1593 to 1602. For 1688 to 1731 there are typed indexes at York (also available through Mormon Family History Centres) and a manuscript list from 1732. Particularly relevant is a publication of this Society compiled by the late Dr Kenneth Mitchell, an index covering 1688 to 1799 of Hexhamshire wills which he was able to identify from the York indexes. There are bound copies of this index at Newcastle Library and at Durham University, Archives and Special Collections, but a microfiche of it, published by NDFHS, is available (see the NDFHS publications list).

Northumberland Record Office, in the Allendale Mss and elsewhere, has some relevant material (see NDFHS Journal, Autumn 1994).

Note also that, in addition to Hexhamshire and Thockrington, York Diocese proved wills for people who had goods etc. worth £5 or more in both York and Durham Dioceses.

(3) Some Northumberland and Durham wills, particularly those of seafarers, were proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) and are at the Public Record Office. Canterbury also had sole jurisdiction over probates during the Commonwealth period. Gateshead Library has an index compiled by Mrs C.E.B. Trentham.

## NDFHS Books

If you find that your ancestor left a will, you will of course want to have a look at it. Wills, especially of your own ancestors, are fascinating documents in themselves and commonly give a great deal of genealogically valuable detail. But what if he (or less commonly she) left no will. Could it be that he (or she) might have merited mention in someone else's will? Perhaps a relative left a legacy, maybe he was a servant or a neighbour or a partner or a tenant of a "will-maker." How can you trace this? NDFHS can come to the rescue to a limited extent. We have published five volumes which list not only the testators but also all the people mentioned in the wills, showing relationship to deceased, address, occupation etc. They are titled "*Personal Names in Durham Wills*" and the five volumes cover the years 1787 to 1791, 1792 to 1794, 1795 to 1797, 1798 to 1800 and, hot off the press, 1801 to 1803. They are all fully indexed.

## Post-1858 Wills

There were two local Probate Registries -- Durham and Newcastle -- covering our two counties. The Durham Registry was closed in 1969 and its records, in the main, were transferred to York. The Durham Registry had responsibility for the whole of Durham County (except, from 1926, some areas on the south bank of the Tyne) and Newcastle's jurisdiction extended over the whole of Northumberland.

The present index position is that the Newcastle Registry has national indexes from 1929 only, and holds the original wills proved at Newcastle since 1929. These post-1929 indexes can be searched, free of charge, at the Registry (Plummer House, Croft Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 6ND), but requests for other searches should be sent to York (Duncombe Place, York YO1 2EA). A small fee is payable. Alternatively, the national indexes can be searched, free of charge, at the Principal Probate Registry in London. Until recently, the wills were kept at Somerset House, but since June the new address is: 1st Avenue House, 42-49 High Holborn, London WC1V 6NP.

Copies of wills can be obtained from York.

In the last year or two, the national indexes from 1858 have been made available on microfiche. There is a set (1858-1943) at the NDFHS Library at Bolbec Hall. If you cannot get there in person, the NDFHS Research Service will check it for you. This is a very valuable record, as the indexes themselves contain much genealogical information. It includes Administrations (where no Will was left) as well as cases where there was a will. Here is an 1874 entry: ADAMSON, Mary Ann (effects under £600). Proved 29 April. Administration of the effects of Mary Ann Adamson late of Fulwell in the Parish of Monkwearmouth in the County of Durham, Widow, who died 23 June 1873 at Fulwell was granted at Durham to John Hutchinson of the Borough of Sunderland in the said County, Gentleman, the Brother and only Next of Kin.

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## BOLBEC HALL UPDATE

The library continues to grow with almost daily additions being made to the available research material. The latest 'large' acquisition has been the GRO Indexes of Birth, Marriages and Deaths for the years 1887 to 1936. The Society now has available for consultation the first 100 years of the civil registration indexes for England and Wales.

One important item on order, which we hope to add to the library during September, is *Soldiers Died in the Great War*. Originally, this publication was published in 80 volumes and unless a soldier's regiment and battalion were known, searches could be lengthy. This latest publication is on CD-ROM and will enable fast searches to be made by name.

There appears to be some confusion regarding the 'two libraries'. By way of explanation, Doreen Tait, Postal Librarian writes:

*Prior to the Library being in Bolbec Hall it was housed in my home and items loaned on request. However, when we moved to Bolbec Hall, it was decided that the library should be reference only. Realising that our out-of-town members were losing a facility, I offered to organise a*

*postal service. This is dependent on being able to photocopy items from the library.*

*We now have a much enlarged library in Bolbec Hall for the use of members and the Postal Library for those members who cannot avail themselves of our wonderful library and research facilities.*

*There is a printed Postal Catalogue, price £1.50 including postage, listing available material and notes on how to use this service.*

One of the major facilities at Bolbec Hall is the computerised NDFHS Database being co-ordinated by Kevin Dolan. This database contains many combined indexes that have been created by members, mainly parish register transcripts and census indexes, and may be searched by name.

We hope to publish in a future edition of the *Journal* a fuller account of the database but in the meantime, if you have any computerised indexes that could be added into it, please send them to Kevin at Bolbec Hall.

Just a reminder of the Bolbec Hall opening hours:

Monday to Friday 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

1st Saturday of the month 11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

1st Wednesday evening of the month by appointment.



# QUAKER ANCESTORS IN ENGLAND 1650-1750

by Michael Gandy, BA, FSG,

Editor of *Quaker Connexions* and Founding Chairman of the Quaker Family History Society

## Background

The Religious Society of Friends (often called Quakers) took off in 1650 when George Fox's spiritual insights began to be shared by others. For the first few years Quakers were part of the great religious upheaval which expected the world to end almost immediately and they acted very much like later Revivalists or Pentecostals. However after the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660 they settled down to a long-term existence and were known in particular for the following beliefs (which have important consequences for the type of social class they came from and the type of records they kept).

Quakers believed that God's messages are given directly to the individual concerned. Thus no-one can give anyone else a religious command; the most we can do is share our experience but our experience cannot ever be binding on others. Moreover God gives new messages whenever he wants to so that even the Bible or the words of Jesus in the Gospels are only the message for that time and do not bind us today. However, clearly at any time God cannot be giving contradictory messages and therefore when a message has been properly understood everybody will be in complete agreement as to what it is.

Thus Quakers believed in the complete equality of all human beings, and accepted the spiritual independence not only of all men (including servants and slaves), who are never subject to any authority against their conscience, but of all women who are never subject to their husbands, and even of children. They rejected the concept of any form of church organisation, any liturgy or any sacraments and the early Quakers would not even agree to plan a meeting since if God wishes Christians to meet he will inspire each of them to go and find others. They wholly rejected democracy in which the minority agrees to do what the majority wishes and would not vote on any matter, taking the line that if one person present is not happy with the decision then the decision is wrong.

Since they rejected any form of church they would not attend any services and - sometimes more important - would not pay church taxes (known as tithes). In the days when men always wore hats, they would not take theirs off as a mark of respect ('hat honour'), nor would they use special respectful forms of words (such as Mr and Mrs, let alone Your Honour) but addressed everybody equally as 'Friend' and continued to use the 'Thou' and 'Thee' forms of address long after these had gone out of use in general. They would not attend courts and would not swear oaths but earned a reputation for always speaking the simple truth.

Their own meetings were held in absolute silence unless some individual felt that a message had been received and they refused to use the heathen names for the months and days of the week but referred to them as 1st day, 3rd month etc. (until 1752 the English New Year began in March so 3rd month would be May).

However, strangely the complete freedom of the individual eventually produced complete consensus about the will of God in various areas and Quakers soon became completely convinced and therefore very strict on a number of questions of behaviour. Their meetings were run by committees (men's and women's committees working separately) and individual Quakers had to toe the party line on items such as having nothing to do with the church, or the army, or the courts, on complete honesty in business and avoiding bankruptcy as a disgrace, on plain dress and general 'orderly walking'. If necessary members of the meeting would visit and try to convince the individual that (s)he was going wrong. Quakers never bullied, or forced, or punished but if the individual was not convinced he would be 'disowned' though that only meant he was no longer in good standing and many people who had been disowned continued to attend the meeting and were eventually accepted back into membership. Whenever someone wanted to move (or, later, to emigrate) they would be given a letter about their spiritual standing to present to the Quaker meeting in the place they were going to.

Quakers also accepted that although no-one could have authority, in practice certain people seemed to have insightful things to say and a body of elders arose who were known as ministers. Sometimes elders would want to go round the country and their own meeting would give them a letter of recommendation.

Although Quakers shared their insights equally with everyone in practice almost all members were drawn from the small farmer/shop-keeper/tradesman class. There were no upper-class converts (since they could not swallow the doctrine of equality) and there were no poor labourers either. Being almost entirely the same type of person made it fairly easy for Quakers to agree since they had the same basic outlook as each other on most things before the discussion even started!

Quakers (as well as other nonconformists) were excluded by law from a lot of areas of public life and concentrated very much on their business and home lives. They prospered financially and saw this as the natural fruit of their godliness. In the mid 1700s there was a crisis - a sort of battle of the generations - where the traditionalists won and, over a period of time, a great many of the younger generation was disowned and drifted away. Between 1650

and 1750 Quakers were a large group - maybe as much as 1% of the population - but after 1750 Quakers were a small, separate group. However despite their small numbers they were extremely active and influential and in the forefront of every 'progressive' social movement of the 19th century.

The fact that so many families came into the movement and left it after a couple of generations means that you are very likely indeed to have Quaker ancestors on some lines for up to 100 years and that it is not surprising if there is no family tradition of this when you begin to trace your ancestors.

### Quaker Organisation

Quakers were very literate people used to keeping good records of their business lives and in general they kept very good records of their meetings as well. They had a hierarchy for organising themselves nationally and minutes and reports passed up and down the chain as they would in any well-run business. It was a chain but it was emphatically never a chain of command. Quakers never said they were right and anybody else was wrong: the most they would say, even as a group, is that they were 'under conviction' on some question and therefore declared themselves 'out of unity' with so-and-so who did not share their insight.

At local level the meeting every 1st day (i.e. Sunday) was known as a Preparative Meeting. These were usually in someone's house in the early days but eventually a meeting house would be built or hired.

The area meeting was known as Monthly Meeting, and next up in the pyramid, Quarterly Meeting brought together representatives of the Monthly Meetings on a countywide basis (sometimes an even larger area where there were not many local Quakers). Quarterly Meeting sent representatives to the London Yearly Meeting which brought Quakers together to discuss national matters whether internal or external.

### Quaker Records

For the family historian the records of the Preparative Meeting are likely to be the most fruitful but Quakers expected to be active and therefore a great many people took part in Quaker affairs on the wider stage. This emphatically means women as well. Quaker men expected to manage the business and the family on their own if their wives were travelling round the country or attending national or area meetings.

Each Preparative Meeting is likely to have kept the following sorts of record (that doesn't mean they can always be traced):

#### Membership Records

The fact that Quakers did not believe in baptism and religious burial meant that they soon settled into recording the births and deaths of their members. In some meetings

they began by registering the birth of the adults and therefore some registers have entries relating to before Quakerism was founded (the oldest date known is 1575).

Many meetings established a burial ground but Quakers felt strongly against grave markers. In the early 1700s it was decided that if any stones had been erected they were to be taken down and no further grave stones were permitted until 1859 - even after that they were extremely simple.

Quakers held firm to the general Protestant view that marriage is not a sacrament and that man and woman simply marry each other and do not need a third party to do that. However they valued the presence of witnesses and the custom quickly arose of Quakers marrying in the presence of the whole meeting. Everyone would then sign a certificate stating that a marriage had taken place. These lists of witnesses are often the primary evidence that a given family were members of the meeting and the certificates sometimes have the added bonus of dividing the signatures between 'relatives' and 'friends' - pure gold from the family historian's point of view.

The registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths kept by each meeting were almost all handed in to the Courts about 1840 and are now in the Public Record office in London. At the time they were handed in simple abstracts of the entries were made and drawn up, usually on a county basis, in 'Digests'. These are at Friends House Library, Euston Road, in London but they have been microfilmed and are available through Mormon family history libraries. Births, marriages and deaths are arranged separately by first letter and roughly in chronological order so it is not a long job to discover whether anybody with your ancestral surnames appears. You really should try this for every missing ancestral line in England 1650-1750 just in case.

Other membership records include certificates of removal, disownment registers and simple lists of members.

### Minutes

Each Preparative meeting had a Men's Meeting and a Women's Meeting of which minutes may have survived. They dealt with all the business of the meeting and any matter may appear there. Purchase and sale of land, arrangements for the meeting house, reports to and from Monthly, Quarterly or Yearly Meetings, views on national or religious matters may be recorded from time to time but the week-to-week business is likely to involve just those very personal matters which the family historian wants to know about. Discussions with individuals who were having problems took place all the time; difficulties in business, 'disorderly walking', failure to observe the peace testimony (by, for example, serving in the army or the local militia), 'running to steeple houses', 'marriage by a priest' (by which the Quakers meant any form of minister at all), all come up time and time again at either Men's or Women's Meeting according to what was most suitable on each occasion.

One particularly important area is 'clearness for marriage'. Before Quakers could marry their situation had to be investigated. Parents and other relatives had to have given their permission but above all it had to be certain that the couple had not engaged themselves to anyone else. To Quakers as to most other Puritans (who did not believe in church marriage either) engagement/betrothal was utterly binding. The Committee meetings give a lot of background to the marriages which appear in the registers and in fact research is showing that a great many marriages or firm intentions to marry - never got into the registers at all.

## Sufferings

Quakers were very severely persecuted since all the other church groups agreed in hating people who didn't believe in churches at all. In the 1650s they were looked on as wild and dangerous radicals and indeed many of them caused trouble in church services or 'quaked' in ways which made non-Quakers uneasy. Later their steadfast refusal to obey their betters meant that at times of crisis their meetings were broken up and they were often imprisoned. However the majority of the problems were with the non-payment of tithes. This was a standard tax paid by everybody for hundreds of years and the Vicars who lived on the money simply took Quakers to court, got an order to distrain their goods and sent the bailiffs in. In many parishes this happened regularly decade after decade.

However although Quakers were prepared to worship in silence they were not prepared to suffer in silence and it was decided very early that all sufferings should be recorded in detail and the information reported to London Yearly Meeting. There are thus local books of sufferings, kept in principal by each meeting, but there are also the Great Books of Sufferings, arranged by county, kept at Friends House in London. An abstract of the most interesting material was published by Joseph Besse in 1753 and is a first port of call for any family historian.

A lot of other business material has survived from the 19th century but, for the early period with which we are concerned the above are the categories which should survive. Apart from the registers of births, marriages and deaths material should be either with the meeting itself if it still survives, or at the County Record Office, or at Friends House Library in London. Friends House Library has the best information available on what meetings there were, what material survives and where it is.

At the level of London Yearly Meeting the most interesting records for family historians are those relating to Ministers whose deaths were reported each year and about whom there is nearly always an obituary. The specialist Quaker periodicals flourished in the 19th century; earlier material tends to be religious and without much family history interest.

By the late 18th century a number of Quaker schools had been established and there are excellent records of these but they fall outside our period. Naturally Quakers appear in

both State and church records. Their burials may be in the parish register since in many places there was nowhere else established for burials; their births may be registered under the Act of 1696 which instructed Vicars to record the births of nonconformists (and which was almost totally ignored after about 1704); their baptisms will be registered when they give up being Quakers (the Vicars often used the general term Anabaptists) and marriages too often appear in the parish registers though it is important to remember that their separation from Friends may not be permanent. In the 1670s and 80s they are often cited before Quarter Sessions for refusing to attend church but this dies away after 1690 when they are only likely to be cited for non-payment of tithes. In national records they appear as a worrying group but only very prominent individuals are likely to be mentioned by name. After the 1650s no-one ever thought Quakers were a serious threat to the State. Whatever their religious reservations they were always loyal and they were known for their respectability and peacefulness. However many of the Quakers themselves were not happy under a persecuting government and there was enormous emigration to Pennsylvania once the possibility offered. Soon there were far more Quakers in America than in England (outside the scope of this article).

Quakers also appear in many records which are not about their spiritual lives: for example, their wills are proved in the same way as anyone else's. Above all they farmed and traded and therefore they appear in all the relevant records for that type of person. However they are never going to be found in army or navy material and they were not happy about going to court though from time to time they had to.

Quakers have always been letter-writers and biographers and there has always been a steady stream of Quaker biographies witnessing to the influence of 'Truth'. The 19th century English Quakers had become a fairly small endlessly interrelated network of families who, though they had no respect at all for noble lineage, nevertheless respected their own background. Probably no comparable group has published more Family Histories, Biographies, Collections of letters etc. and this, combined with the enormously detailed personal record of early Quakers, means that if you can tie in to your Quaker ancestry you are probably going to find the sort of detail which people with other kinds of ancestry can only dream of. You locate all this material primarily though Friends House Library in London and there is now a Quaker Family History Society to keep researchers in touch with each other.

## Summary

1. You've probably got Quaker ancestry sometime between 1650 and 1750 on some line. This is especially true in London, the East Midlands and the North. In America it's true in Pennsylvania but not elsewhere.
2. Start by checking the *Digests of Births, Marriages and Deaths* for the counties in which you have ancestral surnames. If you find likely entries go to the original registers (at the Public Record Office, London, Class RG 6) and then ask at Friends House Library about any other



records relating to the meeting which your ancestors attended. They will know whether there exist any histories of the meeting or of prominent families connected with it.

3. If you don't find anything in the Digests (or don't know which counties to look in) try the *Dictionary of Quaker Biography* and Besse's *Sufferings*. If you still draw a blank you probably haven't got prominent Quaker ancestry and it may not be worth going on browsing unless you get a firm lead from some other source.

4. In America check the indexed volumes of William Wade Hinshaw's *Encyclopaedia of American Quaker Necrology*. If you draw a blank there too then early American Quaker ancestry is looking less and less likely.

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*For those fortunate enough to trace Quaker ancestors and wishing to join The Quaker Family History Society, further details of the society may be obtained through: Membership Secretary, Katherine Slay, The Smoke Hole, Rumbolds Close, Chichester, West Sussex P019 2JJ.*

## ARE YOU A FRIEND?

*By Doug Smith*

Of all the MSS collections compiled by Corder and held in Sunderland Reference Library, none cover the complicated web of relationships quite so much as his volume entitled *Friends Pedigrees*. This was due to a couple of reasons: the fact that the Corder family was itself connected to the Quaker movement in Sunderland where it had been of considerable strength in the early nineteenth century; and also the tendency of Quaker families for intermarriage. Hence Corder was able to construct quite full pedigrees for these families, many whose later members he undoubtedly knew personally.

His sources, he tells us in the introduction, were culled from Register lists, Minute Books, Church references and Church Cess lists, Lists of the Subscriptions to Nile Street Meeting House and from burials in the graveyard there. Meeting House deeds, Bishopwearmouth Rate Book for 1803, burials at the plot in High Street, Sunderland together with abstracts from announcements in the *Newcastle Courant* all played their part in the compilation.

The original volume is no longer available for consultation by the public in Sunderland Library, but there is a photocopy facsimile which is on the open shelves.

*Editor's note: The Corder Manuscripts held by Sunderland Central Library consist of 36 volumes of pedigrees compiled by James Watson Corder (died 1953) during the first half of the present century. The pedigrees are mainly compiled from the register entries of Monkwearmouth, Bishopwearmouth and Sunderland parishes as well as some non-conformist sources.*



## 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 30th September. Please include your membership number with any correspondence and print names to avoid errors.

There is no restriction on how often you may submit items but please try to be brief, as, the shorter the items, the more we can print.

Please note that it is hoped that, as a matter of courtesy, members will acknowledge any communication they receive as a result of their entry in this column.

### 0783 Mrs ANNE ENGLISH, 3 Braid Mount Rise, Edinburgh EH10 6JW

Looking for descendants of four of the children of Richard DAWES and his wife Sarah nee CROSSMAN, all believed to have gone to Australia: 1) William Crossman Dawes, born 1825 Sea Palling, Norfolk; believed married 1867 and died 1905 Australia. 2) George Dawes born 1829 Sheringham, Norfolk; married Mary Ann BRYSON 1854 Berwick upon Tweed. Emigrated after 1859, possibly with two children, including Margaret. 3) Robert Alexander Dawes, born 1839 Whitstable, Kent. 4) Anne Mary Dawes, born 1842 Holy Island; believed married to William LAURIE and died 1922 Australia. William died there 1914 aged 98.

### 0880 Mrs WENDY BENNETT, 16 Grayshott Laurels, Lindford, Hampshire GU35 0QB

William ROBSON died January 1914. The funeral report in the local Sunderland newspaper lists his nephews as: John Robson, John T. JAMESON, A. Jameson, John SANDERSON, Charles COLLINS, S.L. Robson, John FENWICK, John KENNEDY and Geo. HADAWAY. Should appreciate contact with any descendants.

### 1234 Mrs K. HARTMAN, 106 High Street, Hinderwell, North Yorkshire TS13 5ES

Seeking: 1) Parents of Mary VEST born c1782. She had an illegitimate son William, baptised 1825, to John - John who? Mary later married ROBINSON at Morpeth 1827, children: Mary (1828), Sarah (1830), Tom (1832?), Jane (1832), Margaret (1834) and Nicholas (1837). 2) Marriage of Peter LOCK and Emily PRESSLEY, possibly in the north east, or Portsea Island area. Son Thomas Peter was born 1862 at Portsea.

### 1305 Mrs P. PINKNEY, 2 The Old Common, Fumeux Pelham, Buntingford, Hertfordshire SG9 0LQ

William SHILLAW married Phyllis WAKE, both of Seahouses, in 1798 at Bamburgh. Where did William come from? Thomas JOHNSON married Margaret BARNFATHER at Heworth 1834 and they had a son Thomas born Haswell. Looking for the parents of Thomas and Margaret, and any other children. Robert WELSH married Isabella TATE 1836. Robert was born at Ene Hill and Isabella at Lumley Thick according to the Census: does anyone know these places?. Any information on these families would be appreciated. [Editor's note: Lumley Thicks is just east of Chester-le-Street].

### 1493 Mrs ANN BROOKER, 1 Westview, Embleton, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 3XZ

Searching for: 1) James TURNER in the 1891 Census: aged 21, born Howick, possibly in the Chester-le-Street area. 2) Marriage, after 1851 of James Turner, widower, to Jane. James lived at Boulmer in 1851 and he and Jane were at Howick in 1861. 3) Birth of David JEFFREY (JAFFRAY) c1805, possibly Selkirk or Roxburgh. He married Isabella HOGARTH at Makerstoun, Roxburgh in 1832. Searching for the family in the 1851 Census.

A son, David, was born at Swinton c1852. 4) Any information regarding the children of James Jeffery and Agnes. James and David were born in Scotland; Isabella and Nancy at Chevington 1866-68; Catherine, Ellen, Alice and Eliza at Embleton 1870-79. The family lived at Newstead in 1881.

### 2295 Mr BRIAN JOHNSON, 2 Bamburgh Drive, Roschill, Wallsend Tyne & Wear NE28 6JX (email: johnson.family@virgin.net)

Seeking information on Thomas COOK (1842-1894) who lived and worked at Bewicke Main near Birtley Co. Durham, pit deputy and a founder member and President (for 18 years) of the Durham Deputies Association.; he was also a Primitive Methodist lay preacher., born Scotland - but where? Also interested in information on his offspring (he had 12 children) especially Fred (born 1886) and James (born 1872) who both emigrated to Australia, and David (born 1879) who became a Primitive Methodist preacher and served in many places throughout Britain before eventually retiring to Southport.

### 2296 Mrs LINDA JOHNSON, 2 Bamburgh Drive, Roschill, Wallsend Tyne & Wear NE28 6JX (email: johnson.family@virgin.net)

Seeking the parents and birthplace of George BRUNTON possibly born c1740-1745 in Great Barrington, Middelrig or Blyth area of Northumberland. George married Sarah HARRISON, daughter of William from South Blyth. They married in Earsdon on 1762, where they lived and had 5 children (Isabella, Margaret, James, John and William). George was married three times. His second wife was Jane SMITH (married Earsdon 1776) and they had 5 children (Jane, Mary, Mary Saboun, Archibald and John). His third wife was Elizabeth ROBSON (married 1793) and they had one child, Robert. George was a 'carrier' and lived all his married life in Earsdon (unless someone can tell me otherwise!).

### 2609 Mr J.R. BRADSHAW, 10 Astral Avenue, Hipperholme, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX3 8NN

Seeks the marriage of Thomas BROWN (bapt. 1831 Belford, West Street Presbyterian Church) and Ellen (Helen/Eleanor) WANLESS (born 1829 Scotland); not found in GRO Indexes but thought to be c.1851. Children: Janet, Isabella Jane, Thomas and Richard, born and baptised 1851-60. Richard spent most of his working life as a police officer in Durham City. Thomas Brown senior's parents were Isabella WALES and Thomas Brown and they had three daughters and another son, all born Holy Island parish.

### 3076 FRANK PEARSON 5 Beverley Road, Whitley Bay, North Tyneside NE25 8JH

The altar rail of the Lady Chapel at St Paul's, Whitley Bay bears the inscription "A.M.D.G. and In Memory of Isabella QUINLAN R.I.P." There is no mention of this lady in any of the church records. Can anyone throw any light on who she was?

3326 LYNNE TOCHER, Kalamunda, 144 Lower Valley Road, Hazelbrook, New South Wales 2779, Australia

Interested in making contact with anyone who information on the following or their descendants: 1) Andrew HUTCH(N)SON and his wife Ann HENDERSON who married at All Saints, Newcastle 1839. 2) Robert DAVISON, master mariner drew up his will 24th April 1849 aboard his ship *Posthumous* whilst sailing from London to Port Phillip. His named executors were his wife Mary (Henderson) and Andrew Hutchi(n)son, carrier of Newcastle. Andrew and Ann could have been sister and brother in law of Mary Davison.

4427 CHRISTINE BLACK, 13 Ashdown Court, Harts Lane, Barking IG11 8LE

Would welcome hearing from anyone researching the following: 1) Ann VEITCH who married Thomas RULE c1835. The 1851 Census for Tweedmouth/East Ord gives her birthplace as Hetton Law. 2) James OLIPHANT and Elizabeth who had two sons, David born 1849 and Andrew in 1855, and a daughter Ann born 1853 in South Shields. 3) Jane DUXFIELD (daughter of John?) who married John BURN, pilot, in 1836 at Christ Church, Tynemouth. On 1841 Census, family living at Ropery Stairs, South Shields. 4) Any RAMSHAW's living in Jarrow in 1800/1900s, or anyone connected with Georgie Ramshaw, the jockey.

4525 Mrs TESSA LIDDY, 3 High Street, Whitwell, Hitchin, Hertfordshire SG4 8AJ

Has anyone any knowledge of regiments stationed at Berwick upon Tweed 1800-23? Priscilla HUNTER, born Colchester, Essex 1801, married (SKELLY) Berwick 1824. Military family bible indicates father, Charles Hunter, may have been in the Army. Some available baptism records for Colchester have been checked without success.

4687 Mr BEV BAGNALL, 18 Haddricks Mill Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 1QL

Seeking contact with descendants of Isaac John GREENWELL who married Janet HENRY at Gateshead 1901, and Richard Oswald Greenwell who married Sarah Ann Rose AUSTIN at Leeds 1907, or their brothers Thomas Anthony and Robert Sanders. Their father Thomas Greenwell married, secondly, Elizabeth Isabella BAGNALL, widow, in 1895.

5210 Mr PETER BURNS, 5 Henry Street, North Shields, Tyne & Wear NE29 6SH

Does anyone have any information on the name WASGATE, originally from Cumberland. James and Eleanor Wasgate had two children: James, baptised 1867 and Ann baptised 1864, both at Whitehaven, Cumberland. Sometime, early this century, the family moved to Wallsend.

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

Still seeking any information on Capt. Joseph Ralph DIXON, born c1828, All Saints, Newcastle, son of George Dixon. On 1861 Census, at Shield Street aged 33, "M.M." but no trace after that. Not listed in Lloyds Captains Register. Married 1854 to Ann Nixon BROWN of Newcastle. Would welcome any details of ships, *Cairndhu(s)* and *S/S Chester*. Capt. Dixon's youngest son, also Joseph Ralph Dixon, born 1860, served on the above mentioned ships and died 1891 when serving as Chief Officer on the *Chester*, death certificate was issued by the Vice Consul at Rouen, France.

5562 Mrs E.M. REDHEAD (nee SCOTT), 10 Park Drive, Forest Hall, Newcastle upon Tyne NE12 9JP

Joseph HUNTER, born Catherine Street, Hartlepool 1856/7, only son of Peter and Grace Hunter. 1871 Census shows him at Grace Street, a sawyer. What happened to him? Siblings and descendants: Annie GREAVES, Mary Jane NODDINGS, Nellie EDMUNDS/ERICKSON, Elizabeth (lived Hull) and Dorothy Grace Scott. Edmunds/GIBSON (Broomhill, NBL); CHIRGWIN (Liverpool); COLEMAN and PALMER (Hartlepool), and GERE (Shetland Islands). In WW I, their cousins Lawrence Hunter Edmunds

and Alf Edmunds came to this country. Alf was later murdered in Australia in 1920s.

5592 Mrs L. BARROW, 29 Lockhart Avenue, Palmerston North 5301, New Zealand

Seeking information on descendants of William MILLER born 1850 Newbottle who married Ann CARLTON 1874 at Newbottle. Their children: Jane Hudson born 1876 married Timothy CLARK 1900; James Carlton born 1877 married Mary Beckwith WILSON 1901; Sarah born 1879 married Ralph Henderson WELCH 1901; George SCOTT born 1882 married 1909; Robert Clough born 1884 married Mary Hannah Wilson 1907; Isabella born 1886 and John William born 1896. All were born and married at Newbottle except George Scott Miller who married at Sunderland. Father William was son of John and Jane nee HUDSON of Newbottle and brother of Michael Thompson Miller who emigrated to New Zealand in early 1880s.

5789 Mrs C.M. TAYLOR, 117 Littlefield Lane, Grimsby, Lincolnshire DN34 4PN

William Wailes ATKINSON was an innkeeper at Cullercoats in 1843. Which pub was it? He married Elizabeth BOLTON at Tynemouth in 1824. Another innkeeper was Johannes VISSINGER, in North Shields 1881. Is anyone researching this name, or ANTWISS and McLANE.

5862 GEOFF FYNES, 8 Alcotts Green, Sandhurst, Gloucester GL2 9PE (email: Geoff\_Fynes@compuserve.com)

Thomas FYNES is listed in the 1905 Kelly's Directory as keeping the shop, formerly known as Purvis Buildings, Camperdown, Burradon. Does anyone have any information about the village shops and the shopkeepers in Camperdown at or around this time? Furthermore, can anyone suggest a source of old photographs of Camperdown that may show the village shops? Thomas Fynes died on 1912 in Station Road, Camperdown. Can anyone suggest the most likely cemetery where he might have been buried? Any information gratefully received. [Editor's note: Try the photographic collection at Northumberland RO - see NDFHS Journal, Autumn 1997].

5982 BILL SMITH, 7 Saxon Road, Hawley, Dartford, Kent DA2 7SH

Jane VART married John SMITH 1822 at St Mary's, Trimdon. Unable to find any reference to her before the birth of her daughter Ann in 1820. Where did she come from? William DRYDEN (aged 22) married Mary Marshall ROBINSON 1843 at the Relief Meeting House, Alnwick. The 1851 Census for Warkworth shows him to be aged 29, a tailor, born Whittingham. The 1871 Census gives his birthplace as Linbottle [sic], Northumberland. His marriage certificate gives his father as James Dryden, husbandman. Searched parishes around Whittingham but unable to find William's baptism or the family.

6060 SHEILA FRIZZLE, 174 Westgarth, Westerhope, Newcastle upon Tyne NE5 4PJ

Thomas WAUGH married South Shields 1854 to Jane MORGAN (nee MELVILLE). Have traced the family on the 1881 Census to Warwick Street, Gateshead and would like to know what happened to Thomas, Jane and their children: Thomas (born 1860, cabinet maker), Melville (born 1862, painter) and Elizabeth (born 1864). Also, Thomas SLATER who won the D.C.M. in the Boer War and married Jane Melville Waugh, having seven children including Thomas Waugh Slater, born 1905.

6256 Mrs A. PYLE, "Hillside", Rockwood Hill Road, Greenside, Ryton, Tyne & Wear NE40 4AX

1) Has any historian information about *The Bombardment of Alexandria* 11th July 1884? Have a poem in a letter from Seaman John PILE, a sailor aboard H.M.S. *Temeraire*. 2) Any information about *The Royal National Repeal Association of Ireland*. Have a membership card dated 12th August 1844 for Matthew PYLE. 3) Any information about John Pyle who married Elizabeth GRUNDY c1804 at Bywell, and Edward Pyle who married Mary CARR of Horsheope at Muggleswick c1774. 4) Any existing records of Stella Hall where Edward Pyle and John Pyle were gardeners early 19th C.

**6864 JOAN VEAZEY**, 92 Southfieds, Letchworth, Hertfordshire SG6 4NA

Seeking descendants of father's half brothers: Robert Augustine **BIBBY**, born 1883, married Wilhemina **BROWN** 1907, both registered Newcastle. Albert Edward Bibby, born 1885, married Elizabeth **WILLIAMS** 1905, both registered Newcastle. Thomas William Bibby, born 1887 South Shields, married Dora Jane **JOHNSON** 1909 at Burnhopefield, Co.Durham.

**6865 SHIRLEY WRIGHT**, 8 Laughton Street, Taupo 2730, New Zealand

Would like to contact the compilers, or obtain copies of, *Whitfield of Whitfield* by Ralph G.V. Whitfield, *Whitfield, Bryan, Smith - Related Families* by Theodore M. Whitfield, and *M.S.S. Whitfield Family* by Jesse G. Whitfield. Does anyone have information about the Whitfields who went to America c1700s, especially George **WHITEFIELD**, an English religious reformer, one of the founders of Methodism?

**6878 Mrs DOROTHY PROUD**, 66 Toftshaw Lane, Tong, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD4 6QT

When William Beaumont **WATSON** and Ann **HEDLEY** married at St Mary's, Gateshead in 1845 they were both minors. Their marriage certificate states that they were married "by Superintendent Registrar's Certificate Without Licence". What does this phrase mean?

**6924/6925 FAYE ROBINSON and JOHN BALL**, PO Box 98, Clayfield, Queensland 4011, Australia

Researching family of father John **ROBINSON**, born 1904 Walker, son of John Robinson, a miner, and his second wife Mary Jane **MASON** whom he married 1885 at Venerable Bede Church, Monkwearmouth. John was the second youngest of 12 children, the eldest Jane Ann born 1873 Wheatley Hill and Mary Hannah born 1879 at South Hetton and married Alfred William **HAWKINS**. Grandfather John died in 1910 shortly after marrying his third wife Marion **BEATON** at Newcastle 1910. His first marriage had been to Mary Ann **NEWTON** at St Peter's, Monkwearmouth in 1872. Also looking for information on: 1) Robert **DICKSON**, farmer, born 1816 Tweedmouth, married Jane **HANN**. 2) Thomas Scott **AITCHISON**, born Belford c1827, married Margaret **GREEN**. 3) Michael **FORSTER**, born Hamsterley c1805, married Mary Ann **MOORE**. 4) William **RIDLEY**, born 1813 Sunderland, mariner, married Elizabeth **GRAYDON**. 5) John **BOWHILL**, born 1810 Embleton, married, firstly, Ann **THOMPSON**, and secondly, Mary Ann **LABELLA**.

**6981 ROBERT WEALLEANS**, 2 South View, Main Rd., Gilberdyke, Brough, East Yorkshire, HU15 2SG (email: raw@mcm.com)

Looking for information on: 1) John **WEALLEANS**, born 1793 Wooler area. Believed he married Mary **MATHER** in 1814, his name being recorded as **WHILLANS**. He was a farmer and may have lived in the Thranton Lowfield area of Whittingham. 2) Andrew Wealleans, son of John, born c.1835 Whittingham and may have married in Newcastle in 1862. 3) Robert Wealleans, born c1835 and his brother Abraham Wealleans, born c1842. They married Joan and Jane **YOUNG** 1867 Rothbury. 4) James Edward Wealleans, born 1867 Morpeth who married Hannah **ARDLE**. 5) William Wealleans born c1872, possibly in the Lucker/Belford area; worked as a farm worker before becoming a groom for the Duke of Northumberland. He married Anne **TAIT** c1914. 6) Robert Wealleans, shepherd, born 1839 Alnwick area; married Ann **BROWN** 1868. On the 1881 census Robert and his three children appear to be living in the Bothal area with his father-in-law, John Brown. His wife Ann must have died. 7) Robert **ANDERSON** who owned Banks Colliery c1860.

**6997 Mr STAN GAWLER**, 29a Seddon Street, Rotorua 3201 New Zealand. (email: stanley.gawler@xtra.co.nz)

Seeking information on: 1) A farm or district called **WHITELEA** located either in north Northumberland or in Roxburgh. Robert **TULLY**, farmer, recorded this place as being where his daughter died. Robert and his wife Isabella (nee **CARSTON**) lived in and around Cheviot Hills until they migrated to New Zealand. The name Whitelea also applied to a farm at Warepa, in South Otago, NZ, owned by Robert **ROBSON**. The Robsons were also from Northumberland and the Tullys and Robsons intermarried back in the UK prior to the 1860s. 2) The Carston (or **CARSON**) family. Isabella,

daughter of William Carston and Agnes (nee **SCOTT**) born c1830. On the 1851 Census returns for Sprouston, Roxburgh she, as well as her parents and all but the last child, were born in England.

**7013 Mrs VIVIENNE SMITH**, 6 Dryburn Hill, Durham DH1 5AE

Seeking information on Thomas **DAVISON** of Bradley Cottages, Leadgate who served in *HMS Superb* or *HMS Victory*, possibly during WW I. I have a photograph of him with other crew members entitled "Tyneside Buoys". Does anyone else have the same photograph, or information?

**7106 Mr P.B. WYLY**, 8 Burnham Close, Culcheth, Cheshire WA3 4LJ

John George Brook **MASON** was born Wallsend July 1869, son of Ann Mason, presumed to be a single woman. His father wasn't named but thought to be a **BROUGHAM**. Could anyone please check the Wallsend parish registers for a mention of the father's name? Willing to pay any reasonable costs or carry out limited research in the Liverpool/Manchester area.

**7129 COLIN ROBINSON**, 12 Hilton Crescent, Prestwich, Manchester, M25 9NQ (email: colinr@mcm.com)

Any info about **TULLEY/TULLY, SHORT, HEDLEY** and **PAUL** families in the Blyth/North Blyth/Bedlington and Warkworth areas c1800. Particularly interested in John Tulley, baptised Bedlington 1808 (son of John Tulley and Elizabeth Short), died of asiatic cholera Blyth 1853. John was a cabinet maker and publican, and had a son, also John, in Farrington, Hampshire c1835. Why was he there? Was he in the Army? Who was his wife?

**7169 Mrs B.J. HAMILTON**, 18 Glendown Road, Abbeywood, London SE2 0RJ

The IGI indicates that William **SHORT** and his wife Jean (**MITCHELL**?) of Wooler had, possibly, eight children, but on the 1841 and 1851 Censuses only three are shown, the eldest being James Mitchell Short born c1826. Is anyone researching the Short family with a connection to the name James Mitchell?

**7255 RHONDA GLOFCHESKI**, P.O.Box 1561, Sioux Lookout, Ontario, P8T 1C3, Canada (email: alglofch@sl.lakeheadu.ca)

1) Isabella **UNTHANK**, born c1795 married George **GILCHRIST** 1819 Norham. Isabella and George and children emigrated to Canada in 1833. Who were Isabella's parents and siblings? 2) Searching for any information about William Gilchrist, baker, and his wife Jane **FLUKER**. First child baptised in 1794 at Berwick-upon-Tweed, next four at Holy Island, then next four back in Berwick. William referred to as native of Norham and Jane as native of Berwick. 3) **GILCHRIST-HOLMES** connections sought. Jane (possible surname of Gilchrist) born in Berwick in 1822, went to Canada in 1840, married a Holmes c1845. He died and she next married a **McDONALD**. Holmes children on census with Gilchrists and **IRONSIDES** near Hamilton, Ontario Canada. Were they related? Who is Jane?

**7333 Mrs K. ROBERTSON**, 147a Wetherby Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 7AA

Seeking information on: 1) **GORDON** of Monkwearmouth Shore from 1830 onwards, and Hebburn on Tyne from c1890. The men were shipwrights. 2) **BOWMAN** and **OGLE** of Sunderland, 1800 onwards. Has any member information on Monkwearmouth Shore - old postcards, written sources, etc.

**7366 GILL SWAN**, 23 Sidlaw Avenue, Preston Grange, North Shields, Tyne & Wear NE29 9EA

Looking for the birth of Sarah **BUCKHAM** c1792 who married Matthew **MORROW** at Ryton in 1813. They had at least seven children, the first, Elizabeth, born at Ryton 1814. Sarah died 1833 at North Shields shortly after giving birth to her last child, also Sarah. Also looking for the birth of Mary **APPLEBY** c1837 who married James **KERR** at All Saints, Newcastle in 1854. Her father was Robert, a mason, and her mother is thought to have been Elizabeth **PATTISON**.

7368 Mrs SUSAN CORCORAN HAYES, 3806 West Armour Street, Seattle, WA 98199, U.S.A. (email address: Shayer7693@aol.com)

Seeking descendants of Thomas SALTER who settled in Durham city in 1816 with second wife Ann WOOD and children (by first wife Sarah), Ann (1796-?), Thomas (1798-1818), William (1800-?), and James Henry (1802-1833); family was Quaker at time of arrival in Durham. Son William married Mary Ann (d.1832) and had surviving children, born Felling Shore: Thomas Prichett (1824-1892), Sarah Ann (1827-?), and Ellen Jefferson (b. 1830-?). James Henry married Fanny McDOUGALL and had two children who died young.

7391 Mr G.E. CROSSLEY, 18 Trinity Close, Burstwick, East Riding, Yorkshire HU12 9HQ

Researching the NICHOL family. Anxious to locate R.S. ROBINSON, formerly of Swarland Avenue, Newcastle, who deposited William Nichol transcript copies at NRO, or anyone with knowledge of original documents, medal, photos, etc.

7462 RON BROWN, 1 Broadlands Rise, Lichfield, Staffordshire WS14 9SF

Information sought on the following: WILSON (1800-1870 Monkwearmouth and Penshaw, and 1700-1900 N.Yorkshire); COWLEY (1750-1900) Heworth and Penshaw; HOYE (1725-1850 Heworth and Penshaw); RAINE (1700-1850 N.Yorkshire); OLIVER (1800-1900 Staindrop, Neasham and N.Yorkshire); RUTTER (1750-1850 N.Yorkshire).

7518 SHERRI DORTCH, 547 Avenida Faro, Anaheim Hills, California 92807 U.S.A. (email address: SDortch825@aol.com)

Looking for the parents of William Edwards KINDRED, born c1690 in Haltwhistle, married April 1710 at Bywell, St Andrews, to Jane COULSON. He lived in Broomhaugh and died sometime after 1728. I believe that his parents came from the Isle of Man but this hasn't been verified.

7528 Mrs M.O. BROWN, 60 Station Avenue North, Fencehouses, Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne & Wear DH4 6HT

Looking for descendants of George BLACK (born Bowes) and Anne FREAK (born Stanhope) who married 1786 at Brancepeth. Found in Heworth c1818, Haswell c1840 and then Hetton, Chester-le-Street and Fencehouses. Also, CRADDUCK and IRVING of Whitehaven, late 19th C and Hetton early 20th C; JENNINGS and JANE family of Murton.

7529 Mr K. BROWN, 60 Station Avenue North, Fencehouses, Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne & Wear DH4 6HT

Looking for descendants of: Thomas GARGETT (born Crook) who married Annie (born Shildon) c1880; George HARRIS of Shildon and Bishop Auckland and son John Robert born 1897. Also, John Edward BROWN married Mary HETHERINGTON early 20th C, possibly Shieldfield/Fawdon/Gosforth area; known siblings: Brown - Harry, Fred, Bill, Joe and Jenny, Hotherington - John, Tommy, George and Arthur.

7530 KEITH VENN, 38 Kenmoor Way, Chapel Park, Newcastle upon Tyne NE5 1TU

Researching: MAWSON, MYRES and COPELAND of Coxhoe, Escomb, Bishop Auckland, Phoenix Row, Etherley Moor, South Church and Newfield; THOMPSON and GARGETT of Rainton, Penshaw and Oakenshaw; VENN, ROBINSON, YOUNG and NOBLE of Devon, Wellington and Stanley Somerset, Hampshire, Yorkshire, Easington, South Hetton and Willington; JOHNSON, HALL and EARSDON of Cowpen, Elsdon, Bolam, Berwick Hill, Felton, Dissington, Shilvington and Dalton.

7535 DORIS STREET, 37 Ethelbert Avenue, Bassett Green, Southampton. SO16 3DG (email: 106723.3711@compuserve.com)

Searching for ancestors and descendants of John PAYNE born Sunderland c1853 (parents: John Payne and Ellen SOUTER) and Mary Anne WAUGH born North Shields 1854 (parents: Joseph Grant Waugh and Mary PRICE)

who moved south in the 1870s. John and Ellen Payne died in 1899 and were living at 22 Railway Terrace, Hebburn - informant was their youngest son William Payne, also at that address. Joseph Grant Waugh died at Woodbine Street, South Shields in 1909. Joseph had other children, Robert b.1857 and William b.1858 (both in North Shields) George Grant b. 1860 and Byron b.1861 (both in Westoe) and Maria b. 1864 in N. Shields and Joseph Grant b. 1971 in S. Shields (and died 1897). The Payne family were employed in ship-building trades (mostly shipwrights) whereas Joseph Grant Waugh (senior) was a joiner (his father was Robert Waugh a clock-maker and his mother was Maria Grant). Any relevant trades or local history information would be welcome.

7536 Miss B. WRIGHT, 10 Mullroy Road, Hartlepool, Cleveland TS25 3RG

Looking for information on the LAZENBY family. Grandmother Hannah WRIGHT (nee Lazenby) was born 1880, had a brother Joe who emigrated to Denver and a brother Jim, a miner living at Spennymoor. Also, two sisters: Ada who had a chip shop in Stanhope c.1940 (may have married a ROE), and Jennie who lived at Boldon Colliery. There may have been a family connection to Stan ANDERSON, former manager of Middlesbrough Football Club.

7539 MARK HENRY BELL, 1224A Seventh Avenue, North Nashville, Tennessee 37208 U.S.A. (email: mhvarpas@aol.com)

Searching for George BELL born 1835 and his wife Jane JOBSON born c1830. They married c1856 and had children: Thomas (c.1861), George (1864), Jane (1866) and Susan (1869). The family emigrated to US in the early 1870's. George may have had a brother Robert. Thomas says he was from Co. Durham. Children born in US: Joseph (1873), Mary/Polly (1874) and Margaret (1877). Mary married Ralph NICHOLSON in Kansas and returned to England c. late 1880's.

7563 Mrs JANICE DONALD, 4 Weydale Avenue, Oakes, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD3 3PY

Researching Mark YOUNG, mason, of Norham, born 1799, son of Edward, married Ann LIDDELL, born Hartburn 1825, daughter of George Liddell. Their children: Isabella, Margaret, George Liddell and Mark Robert.

7565 RICHARD CURRY, 11 Whickham Close, Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne & Wear DH4 5QP

Researching the ROBINSON family of Lartington, in particular John Robinson, born c1796, married Anne HUMPHREYS in 1820. Who were their parents? John was a cabinet maker and Roman Catholic. One of his sons George Peter Robinson is alleged to have had 21 children by two wives.

7566 Mr EDWARD JONES, 52 Ing Head Terrace, Shelf, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX3 7LB

Seeking information on the CARR family of Lanchester and South Shields. James Edward Carr, born 1883 Lanchester, married Ethel YOUNGER; Robert Carr married Betsy JACKSON 1906; and William Carr, born 1877 - any connection to James MILLENCH. Also, the PATTERSON family of Amble and Berwick upon Tweed.

7575 Mrs P. AKERS, 49 Williams Crescent, Chadderton, Oldham, Greater Manchester OL9 8BH

Norman Edwin VINCENT was born in 1909 in Aldwood Terrace, Tudhoe Colliery. A current street map only shows an Attwood Terrace; are they the same place? His father, William John (born 1875), as was his grandfather John, was described as a 'cab proprietor' when he moved from Cornwall where he had previously been a miner. There is supposed to have been a livery stable at the end of Aldwood Terrace; where could I obtain maps for the beginning of this century to confirm this? Does Tudhoe have a local history society? If so, I would appreciate the address.



**7576 STAN BURNUP**, 11 Poltondale, Covingham Park, Swindon, Wiltshire SN3 5BN

Would like to contact anyone researching **BURNUP** of Newcastle. Also information of memorial plaque to William Burnup, who died 1819, situated inside St John's, Newcastle.

**7584 KEN SPARNON**, 238 Sulgrave Road, Washington, Tyne & Wear NE37 3DE

Does anyone have information of the following names: **FORSYTH** (Washington); **DIXON** (Sunderland); **GREENER** (Castle Eden); **KIRTLEY** (Broomside); **NEASHAM** (Lumley) and **McKENNA** (Monkwearmouth). Also, **PALMER** and **FRIEND** of South Shields. Does anyone have any unwanted *NDFHS Journals*, *Family History* or *Family Tree Magazines*?

**7591 Mrs ANNE SCOTT**, 44 Holly Grove, Prudhoe, Tyne & Wear NE42 6PS

Researching family name of **CARDEN**, especially grandfather Herbert Carden, born 1883 Ramsgate, Kent, married 1911 Newcastle to Hannah **MATTHEWS**, born 1884 Walker. Trying to trace Walter and Annie Carden known to be in the Ryhope area 1938-45.

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

Is researching George **HANCOCK** who married Margaret **GLEGHORN** at Colliery in 1876. Also, the **SURTEES** family of Heworth: William married Elizabeth **RIDLEY** in 1835; the **GREENSWORD** family of Kirk Merrington 1800's, **FAWCETT** of Barnard Castle, early 1800's and **OLIVER** of North Shields 1830's. Does anyone know anything about the sinking of H.M.S. *Keith* at Dunkirk in 1940 on which Thomas **HANCOCK** died?

**7610 Mrs VAL GEDGE** (nee **HOOD**), 41 Worcester Avenue, Bowerham, Lancaster LA1 3PZ

Seeking information about John **HOOD** born c1807/8 who kept the Blue Bell Inn at Alnwick - Census returns give his place of birth variously as, Eglington, Old Bewick and Bewick but he doesn't appear in the registers for Eglington, Edlington, Ellington, Whittingham or Alnwick. Was he son of William Hood who married Ann **DIXON** at Eglington 1804? Was he brother to William and Adam Hood who appear on the 1841 Census for Alnwick? Adam is also on the 1851 Census and gives his birthplace as Whittingham but isn't in the registers.

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

Help - I'm stuck! Michael **LYONS** married Jane **RAINE** 1864 at St Mary's R.C. Church, Sunderland. He was born Ireland c1842, son of James Lyons; she was born c1843, daughter of John Raine, waggonman. They lived in Wreathquay Road, Monkwearmouth from 1881 until Michael's death in 1894. May have been related to the **STRUTT** and **Raine** families of Monkwearmouth. The Lyons lived in Stobart Street from the 1890's. Also looking for a connection between the following families: 1) John Alexander **SAWYER** married Elizabeth **WHITFIELD** 1832 Chester-le-Street. 2) Walter Sawyer married Elizabeth **FERGUSON** 1807 St Andrew's, Newcastle. 3) Thomas Sawyer married Margaret **CROW** 1812 St Andrew's, Newcastle. 4) Lewis Cage Sawyer married Isabella Simpson Crow 1869 St Thomas', Bishopwearmouth.

**7632 Mrs J. TRAPP**, 3 Seacash Avenue, Crumlin, Co. Antrim BT294FA

Researching the following lines: **ASHBURN**, **NEWTON** and **SHELL** of Alnwick c1800; **JORDAN** of Newcastle 1840; **BASTON** and **THOMPSON** c1840 at Whittingham, Glanton and Netherton; **HENDERSON** of Chatton and Carham c1840; **WINTRIP** of Shilbottle and Wooler; **LILLIE** c1850 at Lucker and Bowsden; **BROWN**, **PARK** and **ROUGH** of Glanton, Eglington and Leamington. Also looking for information about the Middlesex Militia based in Alnwick c1795.

**7636 Mrs LEE CLARKE**, 17926 Los Pesos Circle, Fountain Valley, California 92708, U.S.A. (email: leebob.c@juno.com)

Would like to contact any descendants of William **DUNN**, born Old Bewick c1781, died Titlington Mount 1873 aged 92, wife Mary **BICKERTON**?. They had eight children: Jane (b.1803, m. William **YOUNG**), George (b.1805), William (b.1808, m. Alice **GIBB**), Thomas (b.1810), Robert (b.1812? m. Agnes Ann), Mary (b.1814? m. George **SHORT**), Eleanor (b.1819 m. firstly Thomas **WARDHAUGH**, then Andrew **ROBINSON**), Margaret (b.1820? m. George **BALMBRO**). Records show the families living in the Eglington, Edlington, Whittingham, Alnwick and Morpeth areas, except for son William who emigrated to Canada in 1835. Also searching for the marriage (c.1824) of George **WOOD** and Mary **GIBB**. Mary was born 1801 at Farnham, daughter of John Gibb and Beatrice **NESBITT**. Their first child, James was born at Twizelhouse and baptised at Rothbury in 1825. Two other children, Robert (1828) and Beatrice (1830) were born at Ryehill and baptised at Rothbury. The family was Presbyterian.

**7642 MAUREEN METCALF**, 87, Black Bull Lane, Fulwood, Preston, Lancashire PR2 3QA

Has anyone come across the name **HIGGINGSWAKE** in their researches in the north east, especially in Sunderland in the 19C? Also, has anyone any information about the Irish community generally in Sunderland 1840's to 1900? And specifically, a **HIGGINS** family? I know about the family that lived at Cross St. in 1851. Information regarding their whereabouts according on the 1861 Census would be particularly helpful.

**7765 Mrs C. ELSENDER**, 55 Woodlands Grange, Forest Hall, Newcastle upon Tyne NE12 9DG

Researching **STOREY** and **MATTISON** families. Thomas Storey, shipwright, born c1834 Tynemouth, married Janet Ann Mattison 1858. Their known children: George Mattison, Eliz. G., Georgina, Joseph, Elizabeth Mattison, Ellen Guthrie, Isabella and Thomas. Thomas' parents were Joseph Storey, born c1809 Rothbury, and Jane **HILLS**, born c1811 Embleton. Janet Ann was the daughter of George Mattison born c1797 Longhorsley, and Ann, born North Shields c1796. Also, Joseph **WILKINS**, born 1796 Rowington, Warwickshire, gunner in the R.A. at Cliffords Fort, North Shields and later started a school for boys at Cliffords Fort. In 1859 he was a schoolmaster at Monkseaton. He married Jane **CAMPBELL** from Scotland. Their children: Joseph James, Elizabeth M., Mary and Jane Hannah. After he had been widowed, Joseph married Margaret **CRASS** from Tynemouth.

**7825 Mr P.H. EATON**, Bermicourt House, Heath Close, Bovington Camp, Wareham, Dorset BH20 6JR

Seeking information about the following families in the Sunderland/Bishopwearmouth/Monkwearmouth area: **BUDDLE**, **CAIRN(E)S**, **GILBY**, **MASON**, **MORLEY**, **NORMAN** and **SPENCE**, late 1700s to late 1800s. Especially keen to find descendants and parents of John Cairn(e)s who lived in Sunderland and may have been born at Hexham c1854/58 to father Patrick. Family tradition has family originating from Maybole, Ayrshire. Also seeking parents of John's wife Mary **CARLTON**, born c1858, daughter of George.

**7833 Mr KEITH MAITLAND**, 10 Roselawn Place NW, Calgary, Alberta T2K 1K8, Canada (e-mail: keith.maitland@bbs.logiconet.com)

Seeking information on John **BELL** and Ann **CAIRNS** and family, most of whom emigrated from Greystead parish to Canada 1830 and 1835. The emigrants included members of the Bell and **SHIPLEY** families who were related by marriage. Bell family members included: John Bell (c.1777) & his wife Ann Cairns (c.1777); their children: Elizabeth (c.1804) and her husband George Shipley (c.1803) with two young sons Lionel & John; Ann Bell (c.1808); John Bell (c.1811) and his wife Mary Ann **HINDMARSH** (c.1811); and James S. Bell (c.1813).

**7885 Mrs MARGARET CARNEY**, 3 Hallgate Close, Hartburn, Stockton on Tees TS18 5NT

Researching **STOREY** of South Shields. Trying to verify that Joseph Storey, born 1813 Whickham and married Elizabeth **NELSON** at St Paul's, Jarrow 1836, was the third son of George Storey of Whickham and Elizabeth nee

**GARDINER** of Gateshead. Also seeking the parents of Thomas **POLLARD** and Mary **WILKINSON** who married at St Paul's, Jarrow 1824.

**7911 Mrs STEPHANIE STEPHENSON**, 19 St Nicholas Road, Littlestone, New Romney, Kent TN28 8PT (email: RSStephenson@clara.net)

Seeking information on the ancestors of Thomas Cunningham **STEPHENSON** and Letitia **WADHAM**, who married 1908 St Mary's, South Shields. Thomas' father, a freemason and manager of the CWS also managed a pub called *Eureka*.

**7912 Mrs MARGARET BOONE**, 32 Springfield Park, Twyford, Reading, Berkshire RG10 9JH

Information sought on Frederick Dixon **BECKWITH**, baptised 1809 at St Saviourgate, York, fifth son of John Beckwith and Mary nee **ROGERS** of Blyth. His grandfather was James Beckwith of Clifton, York. In 1830, Frederick Dixon Beckwith and Betsy **WALKER** had a illegitimate son, William Beckwith Walker, baptised at Darlington. Betsy's father was Thomas R. Walker, a druggist/chemist in Darlington until 1841+. Information sought on him.

**7932 RICHARD S. ARMSTRONG**, 9 West End Gardens, Yarm, Stockton on Tees, Cleveland TS15 9QX

Searching for information on William **ARMSTRONG** born c1785, father of Thomas Swan Armstrong born in Newcastle c1821 who married Hannah **WESTGARTH** 1842. Also seeking connections with **SWAN**, **PLAYFAIR**, **ARMOUR**, **CHRISP**, **COULSON** and **BOGGON** families residing in the Newcastle, Gateshead and Sunderland areas.

**7945 Mr ANTHONY SMITH**, 62 Brynmore, North Bretton, Peterborough PE3 8JG

Seeking information on the following: 1) John **SMITH** bootmaker and Ann **DRUMMOND** living at Seaham Street Newcastle in 1875 at birth of their son Henry Edward. House missing from 1881 Census. 2) **WALKER** of Shildon 1870's to date. 3) **POTTER** of North Durham 1870's to date; Alice married James Walker, brother Herbert. 4) **STOREY** of Southwick near Sunderland 1800 to date. Is anybody researching these families?

**7948 Mr GEOFF HUNTER**, 55 Oakwood Avenue, Dandenong, Victoria 3175, Australia (email: oakwood@fhillis.hotkey.net.au)

Seeking information on Edward **HUNTER** (born 1728 at Earsdon died 1801 at Low Weatslade) who married Mary **GARRETT** (b. and d. unknown) 1758 at Horton. They had four known (maybe more) children (Margaret, John, Edward and Robert, all born at Low Weatslade). Also any further ancestors would be appreciated. Able to provide all Australian born descendants from 1853 to current date.

**7949 JOHN L. HARBRON**, Sep-Ruf-Weg 8, Pasing, Munich 81241, Germany (email: JJobby@aol.com)

John **HARBURN** married Mary **TENNICK** 1763 at Staindrop. Any information about the origins or ancestors of these two would be greatly appreciated.

**7988 PAUL KERRIGAN**, 6 Guernsey Gardens, Wickford, Essex SS11 7BA

Seeking information on the parents/siblings of James **HALPIN**, coalminer, and Catherine **CLOSE**, both born c1880. They married at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Newhouse, Esh 1901 and were living at Ushaw Moor. In the 1st WW, James served in the 14th Battalion D.L.I. and was awarded the M.M. A photograph taken at the studio of Geo. Gifford, Esh New Winning probably dates from about 1900-14. What happened to this firms archive material?

**7996 Mrs JUNE DENNIS**, 921 Grandview, Hilltop, Huntsville, Ontario P1H 2J5, Canada

Researching John **BLACK** who married Margaret **HUSH** 1807 at Norham; both described as 'of this parish'. He married a second time in 1823 to Elizabeth **HENRY**, but where? And, where did Margaret die? John and Elizabeth emigrated to Canada in 1834 where they died in 1870 and 1874.

**8015 VAL GARNETT**, 25 Peel Street, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 4QJ

Lily **RICHARDSON** was born 2 Feb 1897, but where? She, and siblings Richard, Annie and Mary Jane, were children of Richard and Ann Richardson. Lily married William H. **NICHOLS** 1917 at South Shields. William was a shopkeeper, but where?

**8020 Mrs IRENE LEE**, 56 Cavendish Drive, Birkenhead L42 6RQ

Seeking information on paternal **LEIGHTON** ancestors: Thomas born Berwick upon Tweed c1822, died Preston 1877 aged 55. John born born Whitehaven, Cumbria c1829, died 1893 aged 64. Both brother were nailmakers, Thomas having his own business. Thomas didn't marry but had a son Thomas Henry whom he brought up.

**8040 BILL ERRINGTON**, Preswylfa, Alexandra Park, Penmaenmawr, Gwynedd LL34 6YH (email: Billyvikki.Pen@btinternet.com.uk)

Seeking information about Jane **DAWSON**, born Longbenton, daughter of Thomas, married 1841 to Thomas **ERRINGTON**. Information also needed on parents of John **STAFFORD**, born 1858 East Jarrow/Westoe; certificate states father as Patrick Stafford (but Peter on his marriage certificate in 1877, deceased) and mother as Ann **CORNELIAN**. Unable to find the mother's maiden name on any IGI searches or the family on any census return in 1861, 1871. Patrick's trade was sawyer. Also looking for John **BRANNEN**, father of Bridget Brannen; the 1881 Census says that he is 42 and from Ireland/Armagh but I have been unable to find him in the 1861 census. Also looking for father, Christopher, of Jane **URWIN** (born Benwell) who married Robert **BLACKBURN** (born Byker) 1848 at Chester le Street.

**8041 Mrs. KATHLEEN BARR**, Quay Street, Moville, Co. Donegal, Ireland. (e-mail: 077kbb@iol.ie)

Searching for information on great-grandparents: Peter **DIXON**, born 1858 Spennymoor and Emma Louise **STEPHENSON**, born 1866 Easington. Peter's parents were Nicholas Dixon and Elizabeth **CRESSWELL**. Peter and Emma emigrated to Pennsylvania, USA about 1892/3. Interested in any information on Peter's marriage, brothers, sisters and any of their descendants. Also, any information on his above-mentioned parents.

**8045 VERONICA MCKENZIE**, 57 Claremont, Malpas, Newport, Gwent NP9 6PL

Seeking descendants and forebears of: 1) Thomas and Ann (nee **BURN**) **MCKENZIE**, master mariner of Ropery Banks, North Shields. They had children including: George Burn (1837), later Customs Officer who married Susan(nah) **BRYSON/BRAYSON** in 1855. George and Susannah had six children in Tynemouth including Ann **WATSON** who died 1967 aged 100 years, Elizabeth (1863) and James Brayson (1872-1954). The McKenzie family may have originated from Aberdeen. 2) Luther and Elizabeth Jane (nee **TWEEDY** in Tynemouth) **LAMB**, painter and decorator of North Shields. Their thirteen children included Margaret (1872-1954) who married James McKenzie and moved to Newport, Mary, George, Isabella and Mitford.

**8048 Mrs V. TAYLOR**, 117 Tennyson Avenue, Sprotborough, Doncaster, Yorkshire DN5 8EU

Researching the name **WANLESS**, in particular Thomas Wanless of Warendon. Also, the name **TAYLOR** of Thornaby. Grandfather was born at Harewood Cottages in 1876. On his birth certificate father's name is given as Richard but on his marriage certificate in 1898 it is given as Thomas.

**8050 Mr L.S. PETHERICK**, 4 Colney Drive, Cringleford, Norwich NR4 7RH

Information sought on **HARRISON, COLPITTS** and **SWAINSTON** families in the Barnard Castle area pre-1820. In particular, the origins of Mary (possibly nee Colpitts), wife of Swainston Harrison, buried at Barnard Castle 1792.

**8058 Mrs V.R. RESCH**, 20 Grafton Street, Greystanes, New South Wales 2145, Australia

Looking for descendants of Thomas **GREENHOW** and Elizabeth **NICHOLSON** who married in Teesdale in 1870. They were the parents of William Greenhow, born 1875, who married Annie Ellen **HESLOP**, born 1879 Thirsk, daughter of William Heslop, a signalman, and his wife Esther.

**8071 Mrs M. HORKAN**, 45 Clevegate, Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS7 0LN

Searching for the marriage c1850 of Robert **PEARS**, born 1831 South Shields, and Hannah **NEILDS**, born Hull. One of their sons was James Samuel Pears, born 1852 in Sunderland.

**8075 Mrs HAZEL JACKSON**, 13 Ludlow Court, Kingston Park, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 2YN (email: fenwick.jackson@virgin.net)

Seeking information on: 1) Nicholas Vulliamy **DOUGHERTY**, born 1919 Munitions Cottage, Benwell, son of Nicholas and Catherine (nee **McGOUGH**), originally from Washington. Catherine was widowed in 1926 and had four more children: Freddie, Dawn, John and Hilary, surnames not known. 2) Peter Dougherty who lived in Backworth, son James born there c1848. Peter in on the 1881 Census living with his son in law John **CASSIDY** at Hetton-le-Hole. 3) Michael Dougherty, eldest son of Patrick and Mary (nee **HOBIN**), born 1892 at Chester-le-Street.

**8078 MANDY LEE**, 98 Greenside, Slough, Berkshire SL2 1ST

Seeking information on: 1) William **HUDSPITH**, married Isabella (born 1825) Hartburn. Children: Andrew R. (1856), William (1856), Hannah (1859), Robert (c1862), all born Morpeth. Family at York on 1881 Census. 2) John **HANDS** (1835 Birmingham) married Agnes (Rotherham). Children: James (1860), Elizabeth (1873), both born Lemington, John W. (1875), Thomas (1878), both born Sunderland. Living Bishopwearmouth in 1881. In 1883, James married Margaret **DOWSON** (1863), daughter of John. 3) Thomas **WHEATLEY** (1819 Bishopwearmouth) married Anne Meggison **ROBSON** (1840 South Shields). Children: William (1865), Lawrence (1868), Ralph (1870), James (1872), Burton (1875), Sarah Ann (1877), all born Hylton. In 1895, Ralph married Margaret Jane McIntosh **WATSON**, daughter of Thomas John and Mary Watson. Known siblings of Margaret: Eleanor Hannah (1877) and Thomas J. (1880).

**8082 MARIE H. STEPHENSON**, 5 Pond View Road, Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107, U.S.A. (E-mail: mastep@ime.net)

Would like to contact descendants of John S. **STEPHENSON** who married Frances **BURN** 1830 in Newcastle. John was born Ryton 1806; do not know where Frances was born. Children were Joseph b Newcastle 1836; John b Eglington 1838; Thomas b Chatton 1840; Jane b Chatton 1842; Edward b Chatton 1845, and Ann b 1848. Frances died after Ann's birth buried in Chatton 1848 aged 42. Husband's line is through Edward who married Susannah **BARNARD** 1867 at Leigh, Essex. Children: George b Essex 1868; Edward b Camberwell 1870; James b Camberwell 1873; Joseph b Camberwell 1876. Joseph married Alice **ERRINGTON** 1900 at Camberwell, Surrey, emigrated to US via Canada 1907 with three children Alice, Rose and Edward and had five more children in US.

**8093 Mrs MARY FEUERHELM** (nee **GOLDSMITH**), 1 Peashorn Cottages, Scarborough, North Yorkshire YO12TL

Trying to locate the family of Alexander **SMITH**, ship's rivetter, married Catherine **GIBLIN** at St Dominic's R.C. Church, Newcastle c. late 1880's; four children: Elizabeth (died young), James, Catherine (born 1893 Shipley Street, Byker) and Mary (born 1894 Arondale Road, Byker). Catherine

married Edward **GOLDSMITH** at London 1914 and they had four children. She died 1931 and Mary later married Edward Goldsmith in London in 1936. She died in Scarborough in 1992 and was in touch with her niece Iris, nee Smith, youngest daughter of James, but have no information regarding her married name or address.

**8096 Mrs T. HINCKLEY**, Sunnyside, The Wash, Chapel-en-le-Frith, High Peak, Derbyshire SK23 0QW

Seeking identity of great grandfather William **CAMERON**, probably born c1881. He was engaged to, but didn't marry, great grandmother Dorothy **GORDON** of Ashington (born Blaydon). He was working as a waiter somewhere in Ashington, but moved before the birth of grandmother in 1903. Had a brother John who lived in Washington. His name is not recorded on the birth certificate, so the above is anecdotal.

**8117 JOY JOHNSON**, 45 The Broadway, Wahroonga, 2076, Australia. (email: joyj@ozemail.com.au)

Matthew **JOHNSON** married Mary Ann **KNOX** in 1868 at Holywell, and they had three children, Thomas, John William and Annie. Matthew went to America and had a second family. What happened to John William and Annie? Mary Ann may have remarried to someone called **WALTON**. Information sought. Thomas married Catherine Reid/Reed/Read, daughter of Thomas **REED** (born 1847) and Elizabeth **RAWLING**.

**8120 Mrs JANE STARK**, 105-150 15th Street E., North Vancouver, British Columbia V7L 4N9

Seeking the births and marriage of John **CLEWES**, born Rainton c1836, and his wife Sarah, born c1838 Bigges Main. Also the birth of George Clewes c1864 Trimdon and marriage to Sarah Jane **BURROW**, born c1869 Felling; marriage of George and Mary Ann Burrow; and the marriage of John **WILKINSON** and Hannah Louise **THAXTER**.

**8137 Mrs A.M. TREMAIN**, 5 Cobb Close, Rochester, Kent ME2 3TY

Interests include: **RICHARDSON** of Ryton area 1870, Usworth 1829 and Winlaton 1840; **BOWMAN** of Winlaton 1830; **WAGGET(T)** of Coxhoe 1845 and New Coundon, Bishop Auckland and Witton le Wear 1904; **HALL** of Cassop Moor and Elwick 1846; **THOMPSON** of New Shildon 1879.

**8141 DEIRDRE HANCOCK** (nee **BATTISTA**), 5 Coachmaker Court, Neath Hill, Milton Keynes MK14 6JR

Would welcome information on the name **BATTISTA**. Vincenzo, and brother Antonio sailed from Naples to Liverpool c1873. Vincenzo arrived Newcastle, married Sarah Jane **ARMSTRONG** and had an ice cream parlour in Gallowgate. For 25 years he worked for the Italian Consulate and died in 1900.

**8142 Dr B.R. THOMPSON**, 8 School Lane, Menstrie, Clackmannanshire, Scotland FK11 7BB

Joseph **LITTLEFAIR** was an English soldier in Canada c1815-1820. He married Janet **WILSON**, possibly of Scots descent, and they had two sons born in Upper Canada - Robert (c1822) and Joseph (c1825). Both sons grew up and settled in Scotland, Robert in Edinburgh and Joseph in Glasgow, and both worked as tailors. Can anyone help with the family origins of Joseph Littlefair?

**8195 Miss J.E. SHAW**, 61 Inglemire Lane, Cottingham, East Yorkshire HU16 4PE

Information sought regarding: 1) Isabella **PROUD** whose illegitimate son James was baptised at Knaresdale 1808. James (1808-1879) married Jane **MUSE** (1810-1889) at Haltwhistle in 1832. He was a lead miner at Caldbeck and Matteredale, Cumberland where their children were born. 2) Jane was daughter of Thomas Muse (1786-), miner, and Ann **PEAT** (1781-). Thomas had a brother Richard (1788-1868) and three sons - Thomas (1815-1878), William (1818-1878) and John (1821-1899). John was a leadmine agent and Wesleyan preacher. Jane and her brothers were all born at Alston.