

THE JOURNAL OF THE NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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EDITORIAL

Is this your last *Journal*? I sincerely hope not but, this is the last *Journal* of 1998, and if you haven't done so already, you should send your 1999 membership renewals to John Gordon, our Membership Secretary. It would certainly help John if you could send your cheque with the renewal form that was enclosed with the Autumn edition of the *Journal*.

Many thanks to those of you who responded to the Editorial Team's request for feed-back on the *Journal* style. Of those who wrote, the almost unanimous opinion was that you were happy with the way it was and that we shouldn't change too much. The general opinion seems to be "if it ain't broken, don't fix it!" That doesn't mean that we won't continue to look for improvements.

One of the problems of putting together a *Journal* is getting the balance right. Our membership ranges from very experienced family historians to absolute beginners. I think that sometimes we haven't always catered for the beginners and so I am delighted that this edition has the first part of what we hope will be an on-going series on how to trace your family tree.

A good journal needs to be informative and entertaining. I hope that you agree that this edition is both - you may even find some humour! And, of course, we need a balance of material covering both Northumberland and Durham. This

time I'm not so sure that we meet the criteria but we can only print what we received. Let's have some more County Durham material!

I know that many of our members will be saddened to hear of the disastrous fire that destroyed the 15th century parish church of St Brandon at Brancepeth in the early hours of 16th September. Although it is not yet known whether or not the church can be rebuilt, the interior woodwork, for which the church was famous, has certainly been lost.

John Cosin, who was Rector of Brancepeth 1626 to 1640 and later appointed Bishop of Durham in 1660, was responsible for the magnificent woodwork. In the County Durham edition of his *Buildings of England* series, Nikolaus Pevsner, the architectural historian, wrote: "There is hardly another [church] in the country so completely and splendidly furnished in the 17th century".

Finally, although it seems early to me now, writing this at the beginning of November, by the time you receive this *Journal* Christmas we will be almost upon us. May I therefore, on behalf of the NDFHS committee, take this opportunity in wishing all of our members and their families a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

NEWS FROM NORTHUMBERLAND RECORD OFFICE

from Sue Wood, Chief Archivist, Northumberland Record Office

Within the last three months a new archivist, Sarah Davis, has taken up a post at Melton Park. Sarah joins us straight from university - she has recently completed the archive course at Aberystwyth.

Volunteers continue to work in the Record Office on interesting projects. Irene Cooper has recently completed a transcript of Blyth Waterloo Presbyterian baptisms, 1786-1902. This register was previously thought to be lost and has only recently come to light. It contains many entries relating to families in the Blyth, Bedlington, Cowpen, Bebside, Newsham, Cambois and Earsdon areas. We hope to produce a microfiche copy of the transcript for sale in the near future.

Work also continues on the series of surrenders and admittances located amongst the Hexham manor court records. Information has now been extracted from several hundred mid-18th century documents. The series is an extensive one covering the period 1713-1866, with some

documents for 1613. They are an excellent source for family history in the Hexham and Allendale area. Some documents provide information about up to four generations of a family. Record Office staff are prepared to make a search of the transcripts prepared to date or original records for references to named individuals. However, such searches are likely to be very time-consuming.

Work on the photographic database is also continuing. Details of over 25,000 photographic images (approximately 20%) of our total holdings has now been inputted. We can provide a print-out by township, subject or personal name for a fee of £1 per 'topic'.

An interesting recent deposit is a report book of Rothbury Union Vaccination Officer, 1903-1920, (ref: NRO 5242/1). The volume records vaccinations in the Elsdon area. Information provided includes: name of the child, date of birth, address of parent, as well as information about the vaccination procedure.

'NEWS SNIPPETS'

Any recent visitors to Tyne & Wear Archives at Blandford House, Blandford Square, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4JA cannot have failed to notice that the Search Room has been refurbished and enlarged and that they have installed a reader printer. T&W Archives is the custodian of the Northern Regional Film & Television Archive and there is now also a dedicated office for the viewing of this material.

oooOOOooo

The Family History Society of Cheshire are to hold a *Family History Open Day* on Saturday 27th February 1999 at The Memorial Hall, Northwich, Cheshire from 10.00am to 4.30pm. Admission will be £1.00 with free car parking, refreshments and licensed bar available.

oooOOOooo

North West Kent FHS is to hold a *'Time and Tide' Conference* 3rd-5th September 1999 at The University of Greenwich (Avery Hill Campus, Eltham, London). It is to be a weekend of lectures for both experienced family historians and beginners with bookstalls, exhibitions, etc. Further details, and a booking form, may be obtained from Mrs L. Searle, 14 Links Road, West Wickham, Kent BR4 0QW.

oooOOOooo

Any member with the surname MacInnes, or one of its numerous variant spellings, may be interested in obtaining

more information about The Clan MacInnes Society from the Membership Secretary, Colin MacInnes, "Kinlochaline", 2 Knockard Crescent, Pitlochry, Perthshire PH16 5JG

oooOOOooo

Do you have an interesting family history story to tell? A North East television company is looking for particular stories that might include: a starting point in the research that involves a family heirloom, etc; a different research source; or, a particular quest to find out something about an object or a person connected to it. If your story and the research is North East based and you are willing for it to be used in a television programme, then contact Nick Oldham at A19 Films, 21 Foyle Street, Sunderland SR1 1LE

oooOOOooo

Do you have an interest in the surname Hetherington? Details of The Hetherington Society may be obtained from Peter Alwyn Hetherington, 15 Heather Croft, Brockfield Park, Huntingdon, York YO31 9EG

oooOOOooo

A day conference on the subject of "Late-Medieval Northumberland" is to be held at Hexham by the North East England History Institute in association with Hexham Local History Society 13th March 1999. Further details may be obtained from Helen Smith, Centre for Local Historical Research (NEEH), School of Law, University of Teeside, Middlesbrough TS1 3BA.

NEW BOOKS AND REVIEWS

Thomas Giordani Wright, edited by Alistair Johnson; *Diary of a Doctor: Surgeon's Assistant in Newcastle 1826-29*; 1998; ISBN 1 85795 014 3; Newcastle Libraries and Information Service in association with Tyne & Wear Archives; 96 pp; £6.99 plus 50p UK p&p.

This book is a series of extracts from the diary of "a lively young man in Newcastle 170 years ago". Thomas Giordani Wright was an assistant in an extensive colliery practice and his patients were mostly miners or their families in pit villages around Newcastle. He often describes the long horseback rides to visit an accident scene, the treatments he used – without the accoutrements of modern medicine – and the social conditions of the miners. But he also enjoyed his leisure at dances, theatres, card playing, race meetings and so on.

The diary itself has had an eventful life, turning up in 1985 in a cardboard box in a basement on Vancouver Island, Canada. It was passed to the Nanaimo Historical Society,

who, recognising its importance, donated it to Tyne & Wear Archives.

This is an 'interesting read' and a useful addition to our knowledge of the social history of 1820s Newcastle and of the miners in nearby areas. It is available from Publications, Newcastle City Library, Princess Square, Newcastle upon Tyne NE99 1DX.

William Richardson; *History of the Parish of Wallsend*; 1998; ISBN 1 85795 034 8; Newcastle Libraries and Information Service; £18.99 plus £3 UK p&p.

Although it is 75 years since Richard's *History* was originally published in 1923, it is still the definitive description of the history of Wallsend. This republished edition is a complete facsimile of the original and includes all the photographs, maps and plans.

The volume contains ten chapters each dealing with a different aspect, including the ecclesiastical and industrial history, local government and biographical notes on the local 'worthies'. From a family historian's point of view, of particular interest are the transcripts of MIs in the ruined,

original parish church of Holy Cross, most of which are no longer decipherable.

The production is to the high standard we have come to associate with Newcastle Libraries, and if you are put-off by the price, you can be assured that you will have to pay at least three to four times as much for an original copy!

Anthony J. Camp; *Sources for Irish Genealogy in the Library of the Society of Genealogists*; 2nd edition; 1998; ISBN 1 85951 501 0; Society of Genealogists, London; £4.00 plus £1.00 p&p.

This is the eagerly awaited second edition of this title, first published in 1990. The title lists the sources available for tracing Irish ancestry within the SoG's library, and along with the other guides in this series proves invaluable when planning that trip to the Society's library. The book contains references to the shelf marks, so researchers can quickly access titles. It is compiled by county, also with a section for general references, and national sources.

Peter Cook; *Index of Births, Deaths & Marriages Extracted From The Morpeth Herald, Vol.4 April 1863 - March 1864*; Felton & Swarland Local History Society; 1998; £3.50 plus 75p p&p inland and £1.20 overseas.

This is the fourth volume in an ongoing series. The births, marriages and deaths are in alphabetical order with the date of the newspaper edition in which the event is reported. Other information such as ages, occupations, etc. is also given. This volume and the other in the series are available from Mr Peter Cook, 23 Benlaw Grove, Felton, Morpeth, Northumberland NE65 9NG.

Dr George A. Goulty; *The Registers, Monuments and Other Miscellaneous Records of St Margaret's Church, Old Catton, Norfolk*; £13.50 including p&p from the author at: Stonecroft, 7A Fenbridge Road, Werrington, Peterborough, Cambs. PE4 6RD

Although this book is about a Norfolk parish, it will be of interest to our members whose ancestors moved from Norfolk to the north-east, or vice versa. The book gives a comprehensive transcript of the baptism, marriage and burial records of St Margaret's together with a short history of the records and a description of the church. It also includes the church memorials and the War Memorials. There is a good name index. Altogether a well researched and beautifully produced book.

The following new editions, reprints and a new title in the series of Guides by Jeremy Gibson have been published by the Federation of Family History Societies. They are available from our own Society's Bookstall at the prices shown plus 60p (UK) and 80p (Overseas) p&p. The address for our Bookstall is: Ms Sheila Senior, c/o 2nd Floor Bolbec Hall, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1SE

Record Offices: How to Find Them; 8th edition; 64 pp (over 100 maps); £3.50

The closure of the GRO at St Catherine's House and the Census searchrooms at the PRO in Chancery Lane, with the relocation of both at the Family Records Centre, in itself has made a new edition essential. Appropriately the cover now shows the new PRO at Kew.

In addition, with the creation of new local authority areas and uncertainty as to which former counties they relate, the Guide has been rearranged in a reversion to the historic counties - on the assumption that as yet few are researching post-1974 ancestors!

Fax and email numbers are now shown in addition to addresses and phone numbers. Woking appears for the first time, as the home of the new Surrey History Centre, to open later in 1998.

Marriage and Census Indexes for Family Historians; 7th edition; 48 pp; £3.50

More and more of these indexes continue to appear or expand, many of them published in some form, so constant revision is essential (especially as indexers and their addresses change disconcertingly often). This proliferation has made it necessary to omit the 'Specialist Indexes' from this publication. Instead these are now to be found in a new Guide:

Specialist Indexes for Family Historians; 64 pp; £3.50

This Guide includes up-to-date information on all the 'Specialist Indexes' formerly appearing in *Marriage, Census and Other Indexes*, and many new indexes too. It also incorporates those formerly listed in *Unpublished Personal Name Indexes in Record Offices and Libraries*, long out of print but constantly requested. Probably well over a thousand indexes are listed on an enormous range of subjects. Note that Marriage and Census Indexes are excluded.

Census Returns 1841-1881 in Microform: A Directory to Local Holdings in Great Britain, Channel Islands, Isle of Man; 6th edition; 1997 update; 56 pp; £3.50

In particular this reprint takes into account the opening of the Family Records Centre.

Local Census Listings 1522-1930: Holdings in the British Isles; 3rd edition; 52 pp; £2.95

Whilst not differing greatly from previous editions, details are given of a number of early censuses which have now been published, and other minor alterations and additions incorporated.

NEWS FROM TYNE & WEAR ARCHIVES: THE GREAT WAR REMEMBERED

November 1998 marks the eightieth anniversary of the end of the First World War. Perhaps it's worth recalling the older title given to the conflict, the Great War. The bloody years 1914-18 saw a slaughter of young men that marked almost every family in the country and led to post-war mourning for a 'lost generation'. Today many genealogists look back fondly and proudly on their ancestors who joined the forces - or indeed those who stood their ground as pacifists.

To mark this anniversary Tyne and Wear Archive Service has prepared *User Guide 20: World War I*. This brings to the attention of searchers a rich seam of source material for local and family history. A short but moving diary by William Falcus of the Canadian Expeditionary Force reinforces the horrors of the Western Front. Falcus was born in Newcastle in 1892. He had migrated to Canada, but returned to do his bit in Europe. In 1916 his unit moved up to the front line of the Ypres Salient. This short extract speaks for itself:

Every once in a while a shell bursts near us, and bullets sing overhead. The first dead man I saw was a young Canadian Scotty lying on his belly in the mud, a boy of 18 I guess. The stink is fierce as the ground has been fought over again and again. We can see the shells bursting over and in the trenches ahead of us, and see star shells lighting up the whole landscape.

The medical papers of Winlaton resident, Captain Peacock, give extensive details of his research into the uncomfortable problems of lice and trench foot. Along with his academic research are a set of hilarious cartoons and the following helpful recipe for an insecticide. The ingredients didn't poison the lice, they suffocated them:

Soft paraffin .. 2 parts; Crude mineral oil .. 1 part; Cresol .. 2% of above; Citronella oil in the proportion of ½ drachm to the pound of ointment.

Melt the paraffin, stir in the oil. When paraffin and oil are cool but still fluid stir in the cresol and then the citronella. Pour in lever-top tins to set.

Most of the documents however reflect the Home Front. In 1914, 70 year old August Lebrecht of St Peter's Road, Byker was in trouble. As you might guess, his name was the problem. August, now called George by his English mates, had been born in Prussia. Although he had worked for Hawthorn-Leslie for the past 40 years the police wanted him interned as a possible hostile enemy alien. The company vouched for his character and, as a key worker, were desperate to keep him. At the time they were struggling to meet urgent Admiralty orders. His detailed

case papers reflect the anti-German prejudice stirred up by contemporary propaganda.

More relevant for genealogists, the Archives Service holds details of many rolls of honour and war memorials. These records mark the deep grief and acts of remembrance in the years following the war. The brass commemorative plaque for Whitley Bay Congregational Church for example lists the 13 members of the church who died, from Lieut. J.R. Crawford to Private H.I. Weir. On a happier note there is also a roll of 62 members who served and returned. Similarly the Newcastle Constabulary roll of honour lists all members of the police and fire brigade who served in the war, not only those killed. One of the largest collections of memorials survives in what, at first, may seem an unusual business accession, Ralph Hedley Ltd, artistic and architectural carvers. In the years after 1918 the firms order books were kept busy with memorials across the region, from Alston Grammar School to Harrogate Gas Company to Stockton Parish Church. Photographs survive of each job.

To end this short article the verse chosen to decorate the Whitley Bay plaque mentioned above seems fitting. It was written by the poet Rupert Brooke, himself a victim of the war.

*Blow out, you bugles, over the rich Dead!
There's none of these so lonely and poor of old,
But, dying, has made us rarer gifts than gold,
These laid the world away: poured out the red
Sweet wine of youth: gave up the years to be
Of work and joy, and that un hoped, serene,
That men call age; and those who would have been,
Their sons, they gave away their immortality,
Blow, bugles, blow!*

Note: If you would like a copy of *User Guide 20: World War I*, or any other User Guides published by the Archives Service please send a sae (size: 6¼" x 9") to Tyne and Wear Archives Service, Blandford house, Blandford Square, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4JA, stating which Guides you would like. A list of these was published in the Autumn 1998 issue of the NDFHS Journal.

To tie in with Remembrance Day and the launch of the new User Guide, there will be a display at Tyne & Wear Archives featuring original sources. The display includes material relating to the Home Front, those in active service, and the Peace Celebrations. The exhibition will be on display from the 9th November until the New Year, and should be worth a visit by anyone with an interest in this important period of history.

SOME SOLDIERS OF THE GREAT WAR

by Geoff Nicholson

It ended about 80 years ago, and they called it the "Great War" because it was the War to end all Wars, or so they thought. That it was not is of course the Great Tragedy of the 20th century. At the time no-one could see what was to come, not out of the fighting, but out of the botched-together Peace. Those directly involved knew all about the tragedy, however. The tragedy, that is, of their own friends who died in their hundreds of thousands during the four years of hostilities.

There have been many accounts of the Generals who conducted the overall strategy of the War, and some of the ordinary soldiers who were caught up in it, but none about any of those I shall briefly deal with. They were not special - just ordinary north-eastern men who fought for their country, and whose stories I happen to know a little about. Men like them were to be found in most families. Perhaps one of these very different stories will strike a chord when dealing with those of your own family who fought in the Great War.

CHARLIE

Charlie was an old-timer. He had joined the Northumberland Fusiliers in his home town of Alnwick in 1899, lying about his age to do so. After initial training at Aldershot he had his first taste of foreign travel - to South Africa, where the Boer War was beginning, and where he was to have his baptism of fire. He was there until the end of that War, by which time he had risen from being a "boy soldier" to the dizzy heights of Sergeant. After the Boer War Charlie was shipped off to India, where there was trouble on the North-West Frontier (what's new?). He spent several years in India, some at least of which must have been pleasant ones. When he returned home in 1913 it was with a wife and three children. His wife was a Midlands girl who had been working as a nanny to the family of a District Judge.

Back home meant to a flat near Fenham Barracks, where Charlie, by now Company Sergeant-Major, would put new recruits through their square-bashing. At first the start of the War in 1914 meant little to Charlie. Work would be more intensive, as the Regiment recruited one new Battalion after another, but at least Charlie would know that life in Fenham Barracks was much to be preferred to that in the trenches. Eventually, such were the demands the Great War put upon the supply of men, even Charlie was sent overseas to France. There he fought alongside men whose military service was only a fraction of his own - and he fought well enough to earn himself a Military Medal and several others, including the Belgian Croix de Guerre (this was not for any particular feat of gallantry - each unit was given a number to distribute but at least it shows that his CO thought he should be the one to get it). He was wounded twice but they were both very minor flesh wounds,

not even "Blighty" ones as those requiring repatriation were called.

By the end of the War Charlie was a hero and a very seasoned soldier indeed. He remained in the Army for a couple of years then was discharged and did what he probably had dreamed about during those years in France - he took a pub on Newcastle Quayside. After that it was all downhill, beginning when the brewery threw him out because, as one of the regulars once said to his daughter "He sups mair then he sells". After that he joined the GPO and became a Head Postman a few miles out of town. The job entailed delivering mail to some large houses where hospitality in the form of cups of tea would be provided for the postman if he called at the servants' door. At one of them the hospitality ran to much more than a cup of tea and Charlie ended up eloping with one of the maids. That didn't exactly please his wife, who by now had twins to bring her children up to five. Poor Charlie. He went to York and became a County Court Bailiff but he died earlier than he might have done. Was his life ruined by the experiences of the War? I think so, otherwise he would not have had so much difficulty settling down to civilian life again.

TOMMY

Tommy thought he was set up for life when he got a job looking after the horses at the local Co-op as soon as he left school. It was not to be, however, for the Great War came and everyone joined up. Not to be left out, Tommy did the same, and soon found himself in the front line with a unit of the DLI. He had been trained as one of a team to operate a large gun - a three-man job. One day as he was going about this job, lying face-down behind a bank which was all they had for cover, a German shell landed beside him and his mates. His two comrades were both killed outright but Tommy was lucky enough to get away with a flesh wound. A piece of shrapnel had taken a left-to-right trajectory just a few inches above the ground, and had caught Tommy's backside as it went. "I've got an arse like a hot-cross bun!", Tommy confided to me when he told me his story over a pint in the local Working Men's Club.

That wound definitely was a "Blighty one" and Tommy was shipped back home. When he was taken off the ship in Dover, he and hundreds of other wounded soldiers were taken to the railway station to be put on a train to take them to hospital "somewhere in England". Slowly, the queue moved forward and when he was near the head Tommy asked a railway official where the train was going. "Sunderland" was the answer. "Great", thought Tommy, whose home was on Wearside, "I'll be close to home and I'll get lots of visitors". Eventually he was at the head of the queue and that was when a Guard stepped forward and said "That's all; the train's full". Tommy had missed the Sunderland train by only a couple of places.

The next train took Tommy to Rochdale in Lancashire, where his wound received attention and where he slowly convalesced in the local hospital. As he recovered Tommy joined the group of patients who were allowed to go out for nights on the town, and after one such night in the Rochdale flesh-pots he found himself on the packed last tram back to the hospital. At one stop a group of strapping Lancashire mill-girls got on. Now Tommy had been brought up to be a gentleman and he knew what he had to do. Without a second's hesitation he stood and offered his seat to one of the girls. "Nay, Tommy", she said ("How on earth did she know my name?" he asked me), "You're all reet - you just stay there" she said, and with that she pushed down on his shoulder, forcing him back into the hard wooden tram seat. "I'm sure she meant well", Tommy said, "But she burst all my stitches and set me back another six weeks!" - I sympathised with him, and thought it best not to mention that those six weeks were ones in which he might otherwise have been killed when back in the trenches,

ISAAC

Isaac had managed to stay out of the War for what turned out to be most of it. His job on the colliery railway probably meant that the pressures on him to join up were not as great as for other men, but eventually even he found himself in uniform and a member of the Durham Light Infantry. After training at a camp at Hornsea, East Yorkshire, Isaac was shipped out to France, where he was involved in only one action, and that was the one in which he was captured.

Isaac's unit were trying to slow an expected German advance across a canal, and their Officer, knowing that all his men were ex-miners (or like Isaac, at least ex-colliery workers), sent Isaac and two others into the end house of a terrace which led down to a bridge over the canal. It was obviously far too dangerous to approach the canal along the road, but Isaac and his companion were told to make a hole in the wall and so get into the next house and then keep repeating that until they were at the far end of the terrace. They had a light machine gun with them and were to use it as soon as the Germans advanced. Of course, the enemy knew very well what our side were up to and their first action when they crossed the canal was to lob a gas canister into the room where Isaac was. He passed out and when he came to he was lying on the floor with only the bottoms of a pair of German boots to be seen.

He was taken to a special PoW hospital where he managed to make a reasonable recovery (he wheezed a lot thereafter, but lived to be 95, so the experience could hardly be said to have shortened his life). Once he was no longer a patient he could have been expected to have been sent to an "ordinary" PoW camp, but ever one to turn awkward situations to his own advantage, Isaac became one of the prisoners who were kept on to act as orderlies in the hospital. One of his duties was to tour the Wards each morning and remove the bodies of those who had died in the night. They had to be taken to a mortuary which was far too small for its purpose. "The only thing to do" said Isaac, in a matter-of-fact way, "was to wait a while until they were

all good and stiff, then they could be stacked against the wall in a standing position".

As the fortunes of War changed the hospital was frequently moved and, every time, Isaac went along with it. Once, when telling me about it, he pulled a battered old photograph out of his pocket. "These are the people I was in the First World War with", he said, quite proudly, as he showed me the postcard sized photo. I expected to see a group of British soldiers, but no, it was a group photograph, taken on a railway station, with a hospital train as the background. Apart from Isaac, every one was a German soldier!

Eventually, I must add, Isaac was transferred to one of the usual kind of PoW camps, where he didn't have to stay long before the War ended. On return home he was not demobbed straight away but instead was sent to Devon. His job - to be a guard at one of our own PoW camps full of Germans! When he finally was demobbed, Isaac went back to his old job on the colliery railway where he remained until he retired.

JACKIE

Jackie was a sad case. He was never the brightest of boys, but when he left school his parents arranged for him to be apprenticed to a good job. Not a high-flying, well-paid one, but one he could keep for life provided he didn't do anything silly. He was training to be the local Council lamp-lighter, a job which meant touring his district every night at dusk, lighting all the old gas-lights and, presumably, going round again first thing each morning extinguishing them all. "There'll always be street lights" I can almost hear his parents saying, "And so there'll always need to be people to light them and put them out".

When War came, Jackie was promised his old job back at the end of hostilities, so he had no hesitation in joining up. Although I don't know the details, Jackie obviously had a rough War. At the end of it he was badly shell-shocked and his mind, never his strongest point, was in a delicate state to say the least. What really sent him over the edge, however, was that while he was away, the rascally Council had replaced all the old gas lights with new ones, which had automatic lighting mechanisms. Jackie was redundant!

Persistent to the end, he signed on at the Labour Exchange as an unemployed lamp-lighter until his death in the 1960s. That was his trade and he wasn't going to learn any other. He spent much of his time waging a guerrilla war against modern street lamps. He had a stout stick and whenever he passed a lamp-post he would whack it with his stick. As time went on and perhaps he forgot why he was doing it he transferred his attention to anything to be found on a pole in the street: poles for street lamps, whether gas or electric, for telephone wires, for electricity cables, for road signs, bus stop signs, anything at all: even metal railings got a whack with Jackie's stick. He could be heard coming up the street from a long way off, his stick going "thwack, thwack", as he went along.

MURDER AT MUGGLESWICK

by Muriel E. Sobo

In 1843, over 150 years ago a young bachelor farmer, living on a remote farm in the parish of Muggleswick was battered to death. How did this happen and why? The first part of this article is an account of the events and the second part fills in the family background as far as it was possible.

William Lawson, who was 37 years old, lived on his own with one servant girl who helped in the house and milked the cows but on this Saturday evening in May, Willy had done the milking himself as Ann Pattison had left about noon to walk the 12 miles home to see her mother. It was her weekend off. She had lived on the farm, Lamb Shields, for over a year. About 9 o'clock on this spring evening William Walton, a game keeper living nearby at Edmundbyers, passed the lonely farmhouse where he found Willy Lawson about the byre and he stopped 'to crack' for about an hour. Willy was dressed in his usual fustian clothes, was in good health and was at home on his own. A peaceful rural scene, little changed over centuries.

At the neighbouring farm Cote (or Coat) House lived Willy's eldest brother Thomas Lawson aged 50, his wife Ann and their 5 year old daughter Mary. Thomas too was a small farmer, running about four score sheep on the fells and up till his marriage in 1837 he had lived at the family home of Lamb Shields. Thomas married Ann Wigham in 1837 when she was a servant at Cote House and moved in.

On Sunday morning 7 May 1843, Tommy Lawson woke early and got up at dawn. He had many things on his mind and was weighed down with financial worries because he was being pressed for repayments of loans which he couldn't pay and his younger brother Willy owed him money. Besides, he thought, Willy was a bachelor with no family commitments, unlike himself, and he should be able to help him.

Tommy checked the sheep and lambs and then about 6 o'clock he went to see Willy with the intention of getting some money from him. He met him in the house and explained his parlous situation but Willy got up to go and milk the cows. Tommy followed. In the byre he pressed his case asking three or four times for money but Willy told him he had received a letter from the attorney for Tommy, about money he owed to Henry Ritson. Tommy wanted Willy to pay him the money his mother had left him and some which he was owed from some sheep that they had sold together. Would Willy pay him or speak to the attorney to give him more time? But Willy only made game of him and Tommy was so vexed that he grabbed Willy. Willy kicked back and down they went together. Tommy thought that he had done so much for Willy and that he had done nothing in return to help him so that he went mad and picked up a stone from the byre floor and hit him on the

head several times. They got up and Tommy went off to the moor where he fell in with Tommy Anderson and another fellow looking for a galloway. Anderson was later to testify that he had known Tommy about 40 years and that he had lived with him about 17 years ago and he had always been a peace-loving man. Thomas Lawson returned home but said nothing about the quarrel with his brother.

On Sunday afternoon Willy Bainbridge and Thomas Ritson went to Lamb Shields to call on bachelor Willy Lawson. Tommy's children were there, the cottage door was open but there was no sign of Willy. The fire had been lit in the morning, the bed was slept in but no sign of the occupant nor a reason for his being missing. Everyone was puzzled and concern was growing. They searched about for Willy and went down to Joseph Whaley's house. His wife, Tamar, went up to Lamb Shields in the evening to milk the cows and Joseph said they should all be up early next morning to make a proper search. The weather turned rough and wet.

The next morning, Monday, John Bainbridge, another neighbour, who had heard about Willy's disappearance was up and about early and on his way to Lamb Shields when he found Willy Lawson, battered and bloody and still alive, lying in a quarry nearly half a mile from his home and unable to speak. He went to Whaley's house to seek help and they brought Willy back to his home. He had no coat or waistcoat on and had been outside overnight in bad weather. Willy's servant girl arrived back on Monday afternoon and took care of him but he died on Wednesday afternoon.

The local policeman, John Pringle, visited Lamb Shields on Monday after Willy Lawson was found in such a bloodied state. Tommy Lawson came by and the policeman noticed his clothes were dry, unlike everyone else's which were very wet. Tommy was taken to Shotley Bridge lockup on Monday to be brought before the magistrate on Wednesday but the news of Willy's death reached them and he was now charged with murder and remanded. Tommy Lawson was a very frightened man. Everything had gone quite wrong and he was concerned about his wife and children. Had years of frustration and envy finally boiled over on provocation and had he reacted quite out of character which his friends said was quiet and peaceable? He was described by more than one neighbour as honest and industrious.

The inquest was held at the Punch Bowl Inn at Edmundbyers on Friday and although Thomas Lawson had initially denied any knowledge of the attack he confessed in custody on Thursday evening that he was the man. The coroner's verdict was wilful murder and Lawson was sent to Durham Goal to await trial at the next Assizes. The case came up on July 31, 1843. At least a dozen of the inhabitants of Muggleswick were called upon to testify and

many more no doubt came out of curiosity. The prisoner was not called upon to give evidence and his lawyer eloquently agreed that he could not deny a life had been lost but he argued that the charge should be reduced from murder to manslaughter. The jury took only 33 minutes to bring a guilty verdict to manslaughter and His Lordship sentenced Thomas Lawson to transportation for the term of his natural life. Two brothers removed from their parish within the space of three months! We can only imagine the turmoil of Thomas Lawson and the devastation caused to his wife and children.

The prisoner was later taken from Durham Gaol with others and shipped to the hulks on the Thames at Woolwich to await transportation. He was kept on the *Justitia*, one of the oldest which had previously been a warship. The conditions on board were described as hell on earth and those in charge were generally corrupt and they made illegal profits from selling the prisoners clothes and giving them reduced rations. The prisoners were often chained and those who were fit worked on construction projects on the dock side. The filthy state of the hulks and the lack of suitable food resulted in many deaths before the journey to Australia could start. Thomas Lawson died in the cold of winter on 23 January 1844, very likely a broken man deprived of his outdoor life and knowing that he left behind a wife and child without means of support. The death was recorded in the quarterly return of prisoners and the body was probably tipped over the side of the hulk into the Thames for disposal. No other record exists of his death.

The first part related how William Lawson was murdered by his eldest brother Thomas and the subsequent trial at Durham and death of Thomas on the hulks of the Thames. This second part fills in some family details.

The brothers' mother Dorothy Lawson, had died in 1839 at the venerable age of 81. She had married a William Lawson in May 1791 at Lanchester parish church but she herself was a native of Sedgely. The Lawsons lived first at Healeyfield on the eastern boundary of Muggleswick parish and William and Dorothy had 4 sons and a daughter Mary. Thomas the eldest was baptised at Lanchester in 1792 and William the youngest was baptised at Edmundbyers in 1806. This suggests that the family moved from Healeyfield to Lamb Shields, where new fields had been enclosed from the fell and a new farmhouse built, after the turn of the century. The Dean and Chapter of Durham were the landlords of a vast acreage of fell and field in the Healeyfield, Muggleswick and Edmundbyers area. Although Lamb Shields is in the Muggleswick parish the church at Edmundbyers is nearer and therefore often used for baptisms and burials for those people at the further reaches of the parish. Family historians will be well aware of overlap between adjacent parishes!

The father William died in 1814 only 54 years old. He had not written a will and his widow did not apply for administration orders until 1826 when the estate was said to be worth £280. No doubt with five offspring with ages from 22 to 8 years and a farm to run she was well occupied.

Dorothy herself made a will in 1837, just days before her eldest son Thomas married and to late twentieth century eyes it seems quite extraordinary in its bequests. She died about 2 years later in 1839 aged 81. She left five shillings for her son John, £1 for her daughter Mary, now Mrs Wood, £5 for grandson Joseph Lawson and £1 for grandson William Lawson - all to be paid 5 years after her death. Her eldest son Thomas received £10 to be paid in yearly instalments of £1 and the farm, the land and all the chattels were left to her youngest son William, who was also the executor. We cannot at this distance know the family feelings and emotions which prompted this extraordinary distribution but we cannot help thinking that seeds of later discord and trouble were sown because of it.

Is the fact that Dorothy's will was made only days before her eldest son married significant? He married Ann Wigham who had borne illegitimate twin sons when she was 25 years old and these boys would now be 11 years old. But who was bringing them up? They haven't yet been found in the records. Perhaps Dorothy disapproved of this liaison. She certainly wasn't going to fund it! It must have irked Thomas after his mother's death to ask his youngest brother William, the executor of the will, for his annual payment.

The family tree has been drawn up after extensive research in the IGI, the parish registers and the census returns for a number of localities. Probate records at Durham University Library, Palace Green, were also pursued and gave help with family relationships. Lamb Shield farm was recorded in the 1841 census but there was no record of it in the 1851 census which would have helped to understand the inheritance of the estate of William Lawson. In 1861 we find a Septimus Thompson and his family there and again in 1871 but by 1881 there is a Jonathan Lawson and his family residing at Lamb Shield. This Jonathan, born at Wolsingham, was a nephew of both Thomas and William Lawson. Four children are recorded in the family and the last member was Joseph William who died in Newcastle but was buried in Muggleswick in 1949. There was over a hundred year association of the Lawsons with Lamb Shield farm.

The newspaper accounts were very full and informative of both the murder, the inquest and the trial. As anyone who has searched nineteenth century newspapers for information knows it is a slow, careful operation searching pages of newsprint without any headlines to find the relevant piece. The date used to start from was the burial of William at Muggleswick in May 1843 and the Newcastle Courant was searched immediately before this for the account of the murder. The *Durham Advertiser* had an account of the inquest and the full confession of Thomas Lawson. Assize dates were more difficult and the only clue was that the trial would be at the Summer Assizes. Routine search brought this up and on the front page of the *Durham Advertiser* were three columns recounting in detail the witness statements from which the first part of this account was written. Newspaper search is very time consuming not only because of the lack of headlines but because it is so

interesting to read about other events, local and national, which may catch the eye.

The prison records for Durham Gaol for this period, the mid nineteenth century, have not been found either in the county record office or the PRO. Prison records where they exist can be very informative with descriptions of prisoners and details of their movements. The PRO does have records of prisoners held on the hulks and this was the last chance to find out what happened to Thomas Lawson. The returns were made every quarter detailing prisoners by name, age, the offence committed, where they were tried and their sentence. The returns for the 'Justitia' for the quarter ended March 1844 record that Thomas Lawson died on 23

January 1844, just five months after his trial. A researcher was used to find this information at the PRO as this was a lot cheaper than making the journey to London myself.

I have read other accounts of the Lawson murder at Muggleswick but find that there are many inconsistencies and that these get copied by different authors. The statements made in these two articles are all verifiable from written sources, many of them original, and it has been compiled to record as far as is possible the facts.

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ANCESTRAL RESEARCH - THE BOTTOMLESS PIT?

by George Heaviside

I often sit and ponder the question: "*At what age do the majority of people 'come to' ancestral research?*" Do you ever wonder also? For me the starting point was probably the tales told to me "at my father's knee" - to which I paid little attention. I just get the feeling that when I really got bitten I was getting a bit long in the tooth! But perhaps that doesn't matter - it's never too late, or so they say! And at least I'm getting it down in print for anyone else who's interested!

One of these tales he told me '*at his knee*' revolved around the possibility that we were related to Oliver Heaviside (1850-1925), the well-known physicist - and Dad had plenty of clippings from national newspapers and those in South West England, as well as articles written about Oliver.

Another was that an ancestor had been a stowaway in a butter barrel from Denmark who landed in County Durham! And of course he was always trying to shock company by suggesting that - on his mother's side of the family - there was a relative who married into the James family and who therefore were related to (or became?) the mother of the infamous Jesse!

The latter two were just taken to be 'fun' ramblings, whilst the former appeared to have some substance and was worthy of further investigation. But I was too young - and not sufficiently interested to do anything about it.

And then in 1946, during my 3rd year at Whitley Bay County Grammar School, we had an exchange teacher - a German-born, naturalised American who taught us English! She set us the task of writing about our families. (My mother thought she was just being 'nebbly'!) So this really meant asking questions, drawing trees, gathering together and mounting old photographs and writing it all

up chronologically. (Whatever did happen to it? Probably went back to America with Miss Schweizer!)

After this my interest lay dormant for about thirty years, by which time my father was 'getting on' towards retirement. When he came to stay with us in the Midlands, he would talk for hours about his childhood and relatives and I would make notes. (He did the same with my sister, with whom he lived until his death in 1991). I recall taking him from where we lived in Warwickshire to stay with his sister in Whitley Bay. We detoured off the A1(M) in County Durham to visit the village in which he was born and the hamlets he had lived in and where numerous Heaviside's were to be found! On one of these annual journeys he never stopped talking from Leamington Spa to the Tyne Tunnel!

So at least I had plenty of anecdotal information from his memories. Sadly, by this time his parents had died and the opportunity to talk to them had been missed - other than the odd conversations I recollect having with them in my teens.

I suppose my first serious bout of interest was about 25 years ago when I had a little cash to spare and asked Achievements Limited of Canterbury, to see if they could trace any connection between Oliver's side of the family and our own. This was for my father's interest and benefit as much as my own. They did some useful work and provided a lot of articles about Oliver and interesting information about our direct ancestral line in the West Auckland area.

But the money ran out before they got down to seeing whether or not Oliver's father -born in Stockton - was in some way related to my ancestors born a few miles away!

So things quietened down for a while until one day, 'out of the blue', a direct female descendant on Oliver's side of the

family, wrote to ask for information. This was about three years ago just after I had passed into my sixties. And my interest has been sustained ever since. This lady had a tree going back to the mid-13th century suggesting not only that there was a de Heaviside who was a signatory to the establishment of Kelso Abbey but that the family also had a coat of arms! But on the family tree the links from William to about the 17th century had been omitted! Her relatives who had undertaken much of the research had been unable to complete the detail and were no longer alive. On checking with the various authorities in Scotland, I was unable to confirm either the 13th Century link with Kelso Abbey or the authenticity of the Coat of Arms.

About this time my sister, who lives in Scotland, also did some researching around Kelso and put forward a romantic possibility. We knew that there had been a hamlet called Heavyside south of Kelso and just off the Roman Dere Street. My sister suggested that some of our ancestors, who were probably notorious Border reivers, fled from around Morebattle, down Dere Street, through Northumberland and ended up in the West Auckland area, through which Dere Street runs! When asked who they were, instead of giving their family name, which might well have been recognised and perhaps marked them as villains, they replied, Heaviside - the name of the hamlet where they had lived!

After this, my researches went a little quiet for a while - although our Oliver connection kept providing snippets of information from time to time and putting me in touch with other Heaviside's whom she had contacted.

And then about a year ago, an enquiry was received by my son from someone in Holland who was researching his Heaviside connections. (So perhaps the butter barrel story had some element of truth in it after all!). This stimulated more work and eventually led to my placing an advertisement in the SAGA Magazine asking if there were any Heavisides out there who were interested in their County Durham roots.

This produced some interesting contacts both by phone and letter. The outcome is that I now probably have very distant cousins scattered around the country with whom I share ancestors going back to the late 18th and early 19th centuries! But I still haven't established the Oliver connection yet - if there is one!

So my interest has blossomed and been stimulated in many ways by these several contacts. What stands out most clearly is that we seem to leave it too late to collect personal memories. Some relatives are reluctant to discuss what their generation believe to be taboos - illegitimate members of the family with touches of incest thrown in. Or their memories have faded or become all jumbled up. But then these memories are what dreams are made of and are basic grist for the researcher's mill. Living more than 200 miles away from the real source of information - Durham Records Office - means having to rely upon those fellow-Heavisides who live closer. My occasional sallies to visit friends and

relatives on Tyneside or in Northumberland - are too short other than quickly to call in and look around some of the churchyards around Bishop Auckland or get copies of microfiches to work my way through - at some cost to my failing vision!

But the rewards are great. Shotguns marriages? First World War casualties and a VC. Children born so very close to the normal nine months after the wedding! Cousins marrying? Great great great grandfather being cut out of his father's will with no more than 10/- when his brothers and sisters received land, goods and chattels, animals, farm machinery and substantial sums of money. Three brothers of my great great, grandfather all dying within six months of each other and between the ages of 2 and 9. (What was 'going around' in West Auckland in 1833 - must get a copy of the local paper for that time!) A whole saga of family life and insight into the social and economic conditions of the time. Extended families living together. The children of one marriage living with aunts and uncles. Parents living apart. Widowed daughters returning to live with parents. Children who didn't know who their real fathers were. Twenty different spellings of the name in County Durham within a period of 300 years. Children dying at birth. Some people reaching their 70's and 80's! Brothers and sisters living together and being interred in the same graves. Branches of the family which died out. Others with as many as seven children. Transgenerational use of Christian names. Occupations clustered around coal mining and farming. Differences of dates between records. Wondering which to accept as being 'most likely' true!?

Then again, out of the blue, another Heaviside produces some more tangible evidence that in the mid 13th century there was a William de Heviside living in the Kelso area. So this has to be explored. To confirm or refute!

When the bug bites it is difficult not to scratch. And yet we only scratch the surface! The many books written for the benefit of people wishing to research their ancestors are helpful and excellent starting points. But their words and wisdom are cold compared with the fascinating, infuriating reality of the hunt. How much credence should we put on IGI? How accurate are any of the records - even those of the Registrars? Why do we get so many variations of spelling of one name in such short periods of time! As we push back the boundaries of knowledge we increase our ignorance.

So sometimes I sit back and wonder: "Why am I doing it?" My son is the last male in our part of the tree. But perhaps my granddaughters will be interested? And besides, what else have retired folk got to do? It's infuriating, but its fun and has its rewards.

But we really ought to start sooner in life! Carry on canny hinnies and good luck with your researches!

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HOLY CROSS, WALLSEND: THE TOMBSTONES ...

Holy Cross Church, Wallsend is now nothing more than a ruin.

It had a long working life, being probably built about 1150, and used until 1797, and then its troubles began. The roof came off. Its condition got worse and worse and by 1869, only the porch and the west gable remained, with a number of tombstones in the adjoining churchyard.



Ruins of Holy Cross Church, Wallsend

In the autumn of 1909, the site was excavated and the surviving tombstones were collected and preserved within an enclosed area. Although the church itself had ceased to be used in the late 18th century, burials continued in the churchyard until 1842. The last recorded burial was of an "elderly lady called Cavers, who died in a self-contained house adjoining the old Red Lion Inn at Willington Quay".

Did anyone bother to record the inscriptions on the tombstones and in the church itself? If so, are they available today? The answer to both questions, fortunately, is "Yes". A number of attempts were made to record them, and lists have been printed in local volumes.

As long ago as 20th November, 1813, Mr Robert R. Dees listed the inscriptions on 50 gravestones and two tablets, and in the early 20th century there were three listings in volumes of the Newcastle Society of Antiquities.

In 1907, unaware of Dees' efforts, John Crawford Hodgson compiled a list of 38 stones, which were all that he could decipher on the "tombstones lingering in a decaying condition in the ancient but very neglected graveyard or cemetery." (*Proceedings of Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle*, 3rd Series, vol iii, page 58 et seq, which also includes some biographical notes on some of the families).

In 1910, following the excavations, Mr W.H. Knowles read a paper to the Newcastle Society of Antiquaries on the

history of the church and mentioned some of the inscriptions, noting that some of them were of the descendants of persecuted Huguenots who settled on Tyneside in 1620 -- the Tyzacks and the Henzells, who became well known in the local glass industry. Knowles was able to add a handful of inscriptions to J.C. Hodgson's list. (*Archaeologia Aeliana*, 3rd Series, vol VI pp 200-202). Also in 1910, William Richardson of Willington read another paper to the Society of Antiquaries, updating Hodgson's list by reference to the century old Dees' list, which had by then been rediscovered, and also including inscriptions uncovered during the 1909 excavations.

The worthy Mr Richardson wrote a fine, comprehensive, 500 page book, entitled *History of the Parish of Wallsend*. In 1923, it was published (by Northumberland Press, Newcastle). It has just been republished, in facsimile, by Newcastle Library (see *New Books and Reviews*). In this book, Richardson published a complete list of the inscriptions in the church and churchyard (pages 509-516 with a few more on pages 118-122), consolidating the work of his predecessors, and including details of many inscriptions which by 1923 had long since vanished.



"The Burial Place of John Smith, Maltster and Mariner, of Howdon Pans. Sarah, his Wife, departed this life, January the 27th 1789 in the 47th year of her age...."

Space will not allow us to print the inscriptions in full -- you could buy the "new" volume of Richardson, or you could look at details of the inscriptions at the NDFHS Bolbec Hall library (reference TN 14), or you could use the Society Research Service. Here is a list of the family names. The numbers in brackets give the earliest and latest dates on each stone:

Aitchison (1731), Alder (1792 -1796), Alder (1792-1813), Bell (1775-1797), Barrow - see Pate, Bonner (1740-1762) with Swan (1780), Bunn (1689), Cavers - see Jopling, Cook (1802-1816), Davidson (1785), Elliot (1796-1797), English (1742-1786), Gotherie (no date), Hailson (1781-1791), Hall (1801), Hedley (1805), Henzell (1686-1734/5), Henzell (1698-1721), Henzell (1739-1781), Hewebank (1710), Hindmarsh (1667-1707), Jamson (1795-1827), Jopling (1781-1819) with Cavers (1841), McKenney (1790-1791), Mann (1806), Mann (1732-1793), Marshall (1790), Metcalfe (1769-1770), Moffitt (1797-1803), Morton (1798-1838), Nesbit (1795), Newton (1778-1795), Parker (1793), Pate (1739) with Barrow (1740-1746), Pattison (1807-1811), Pelham (1763-1780), Pye (1762-1810), Raine (1625-1626), Readhead (1758-1781), Rennison (1813-1820), Richardson (1777-1799), Richardson (1726-1736), Robinson (1791-1803), Rous (1778), Scott (1793-1808), Shepherd (1754-1778), Simpson (1802-1817), Smith (1789), Spours (1675), Story (1802), Swan (1780-1818), Swan - see Bonner, Taylor (1780), Thompson (1775-1783), Waddell (1808), Watson (1768-1778), Waugh (1786), Willens (1790-1803), Wilson (1803), Young (1802).



Ruins of Holy Cross Church, Wallsend

A couple of the stones included "deaths abroad", which will not appear in the Wallsend Parish Register. Here they are:

John Robinson died at Norfolk, Virginia aged 33, 12th September 1801

Jacob Jemson, master mariner, died 16 July 1802 "on his passage home from Daviss Straights" aged 43, and his son William died at "Montevideo, South America" on 23rd June 1826 aged 39.

One entry particularly intrigues. The family of one Albinus Pelham, a shipwright of Howdon Pans, included a 16 year old daughter, buried in 1771, with the odd name of Kerenhappach. What kind of name is that, I wonder? And why was another daughter, baptised in 1774, named Thankful? Maybe someone out there can enlighten me!

....AND THE MARRIAGES

The church of Holy Cross caused quite a storm in a Wallsend teacup! By the late 1790s, it "had fallen into such decay that the village schoolroom had to be used for the few religious services" and for the marriages!

Many meetings were held and at last a new church was planned, but the idea was opposed by the Dean and Chapter of Durham. Who was going to pay? More delay, more squabbling ... 44 meetings, preparing plans and changing decisions. At long last, an Act of Parliament, passed on 8th August 1807, authorised the disuse of Holy Cross and the building of a new church, St Peters,

But what about all the marriages which had taken place in the village schoolroom? That building, it was discovered with horror, was not licensed for marriages! Were the

"weddings" which had been celebrated there valid, or not? Was the Minister liable to penalties ...transportation, no less! ... for breaching Hardwicke's Marriage Act of 1754?

Common sense prevailed. The Act, as well as sanctioning a new church, validated the marriages retrospectively... and let the Minister off the hook!

So if your ancestor married at Wallsend in the late 1790's or early 1800's, before August 1807, he probably thought he was married, then discovered he wasn't, and then found that all was well again! And the kids? Well, I suppose they'd be illegitimate, born out of wedlock, until the Act remedied the status of their Mums and Dads. There's a thought!

READ ALL ABOUT IT!

by Moira Furness

Newspapers can be a rich source of information for the family historian and can lead on to other areas of research. If your time is not limited - and who has unlimited time? - you could just browse the local newspapers, choosing a time when your ancestors were living, and hope for results, but it is better to study what you know already and look for clues which will give you rough dates to work with.

Because the originals of many newspapers are preserved you will probably have to view them on film. If the machine is suitable you will be able to photocopy items of interest, but bound copies of actual newspapers can not usually be photocopied. Should the original newspaper be available, care is needed when turning pages, and of course no self respecting genealogist would dream of trying to steal an article by cutting it out. Mutilation of valuable archive material like this is not unknown! A word of warning - if you have photocopies from older papers, or modern pieces you have kept, do label them with the name and date of the newspaper. It will annoy if later you have to look for it again.

The main collection of Newspapers since 1800 can be found at the British Library Newspaper Library in Colindale Avenue in London. A card index can be consulted to find what is available for your area of interest. Ignore the small car park and travel by underground to Colindale Station. Opening hours are Monday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., but go early.

In our local area there are excellent collections of newspapers in Newcastle Central Library, Northumberland Record Office at Melton Park, Durham Record Office and Gateshead Library. The Libraries of Sunderland, North Tyneside, South Shields and Blyth have collections of their local papers too, and other local libraries often have films of their local newspapers. Newcastle Central Library has 1,500 volumes of local newspapers and 1,000 reels of microfilm. Among their earliest newspapers are *Newcastle Gazette* (1710-1752), *Newcastle Courant* (1711-1909) and *Newcastle Chronicle* (1764-1953). They hold newspapers for Durham too, including *Durham Advertiser* (1820-1862) and *Durham Chronicle* (1814-1837) which can also be seen at Durham Record Office and at Durham City Library together with papers like *Auckland Chronicle* (1868-1970), *South Durham & Cleveland Mercury* (1870-1906) and *Spennymoor Times* (1875-1897). Gateshead Library holds many of these, in addition to papers for Gateshead, Chester-le-Street, Blaydon and Tyneside. For Northumberland, the Record Office at Melton Park, Gosforth, holds *Alnwick Mercury* (1859-1883), *Berwick Advertiser* (1808-1918), *Blyth Weekly News* (1875-1897) and *Hexham Courant* (1864 - to date). This is not a full

list, but just a selection to whet your appetite. Please remember that many of these collections are incomplete. When you make a visit for research it is best to ask for the catalogue to see the range that is available. Some lists are available at Bolbec Hall.

The earliest papers have closely packed type with foreign and national news. Births, deaths and marriages do not appear in these early newspapers. The only sections to mention local people are the advertisements. These are at the end of the paper perhaps to fill up the last space. If only they were indexed we might make some interesting finds - any volunteers? They include sales of houses, shops and inns, deserters from the Army, runaway servants, lost or stolen horses, and rewards for information about crimes

Newcastle Courant Wed. Feb. 13th to Sat. Feb. 16th 1711/12. *The Dwelling House and the two Shops under it, Situate at the Sand-hill corner in Newcastle, tenanted by Mr. Henry Dalston, are to be lett against May-Day next: Also another Shop, Situate under the said House, now Tenanted by Thomas Monkhouse, Tin-Plate Worker, is to be Lett against Lamas-Day next. Enquire of Mark Browell in Newcastle.*

Newcastle Courant Mon. Nov. 12th to Wed. Nov. 14th 1711. *William Hawdon, (a young man about 18 or 19 years of age, of a very good complexion, short curl'd Hair, has a grey Coat with Block-Tin buttons, and is about 5 Foot high), broke out of the Correction-house in Durham on Wednesday the 7th Instant. He came from about Stanhope in Weardale. Whoever shall give notice of him to Anthony Alinson, Master of the House of Correction in Durham aforesaid shall be well satisfied for their trouble. (I wonder why he was there in the first place?)*

Newcastle Courant Wed. Jan. 30th to Sat. Feb. 2nd 1711/12. *Whereas several Persons unknown, did in the night between the 25th and 26th of this instant January, break into the House of Cuthbert Alder at Weetsted in the County of Northumberland and beat and abused the said Cuthbert Alder and bound him and the rest of his Family and took out of the said House £200 in money and the several goods here after mentioned, viz. 3 pair of Linen Sheets, 2 pair of Linen Sheets unmade up, 1 dozen Napkins, 1 Saddle Cloth, 1 Mantua and Petticoat, 2 Head Suits, 12 yards of All-jersey, 14 yards of Half-Jersey and half Linen, several Neckpieces and Neck cloths for men, a Cane with an Ivory Head, studded with Silver with a Silver Hoop and a split at the Linall end, two Swords, one a Flaming sword and the other a Two edged Rapier with an Iron or Steel Hilt, 2 Hats, one Velvet Cap, one pair of Shoes, a blew Camlet Coat and Waist-Coat both Lined*

with Red stuff. If therefore any such Goods shall be exposed to sale, all persons are desired stop the same and secure the Persons who shall offer them to sale, and forthwith give Notice thereof to the said Cuthbert Alder or to Thomas Potts, Attorney at Law in Pilgrim Street; or if any Person concerned in the robbery, shall discover one or more of his Accomplices so they may be convicted, shall not only be freed from any Prosecution, but shall receive Forty pounds reward; or if any other person shall discover or apprehend one or more of those who committed the said Robbery, so as they may be brought to Justice, shall have the like Reward of Forty Pound or a suitable Reward for any part of the said Money or Goods which shall be discovered. NB That amongst those Fellows that Committed this robbery was one that is a course strong middle sized Man, Pox-broke, black Visag'd, short black Curled Hair, the balls of his legs very thick.

Having been caught, two of the above criminals were reported as having escaped:

Newcastle Courant Mon. Feb. 11th to Wed. Feb. 13th 1711/12. Whereas Isaac Craswell and John Brady (which was Two of those Fellows who broke Cuthbert Alder's House) with Six Faws, alias Bailys, on the 9th of this Instant February 1711-1712 broke out of Morpeth Gaol betwixt Eleven and Two in the Morning: Isaac Craswell is a Tall Man, with lank black Hair, a Mole on his right Cheek and Squints with his right Eye; John Brady is a short Man, round Fac'd, brown bushy Hair, had (when he made his escape) a blew Waist-coat and Breeches. Whoever can give Notice of them or either of them to Mr Edward Grey, Gaoler of Morpeth so as they may be had again, shall have for each Man Five Pounds Reward.

There were also various advertisements which give an idea of the lives of our more prosperous ancestors. Books and fine wine were often advertised, and silks, fans and ribbons for the ladies. For their entertainment there were rather high minded lectures, contrasting with cockfights and racing.

Newcastle Courant Wed. Feb. 6th to Sat. Feb. 9th 1711/12. At Shrove Tuesday next (1711) a Plate of 12 pounds Value is to be run for at Newburn-haugh in Northumberland by any Horse, Mare or gelding not exceeding Forty pounds price. Three heats, 10 stone weight with saddle and bridle.

For the Encouragement of Mirth & Diversion. On Thursday next; at the Town of Elswick, there is a Silk Hood given to be Run for by Women.

Later, notices of births, marriages and deaths appeared. They were printed as newsworthy items of upper class families, but gradually more affluent merchants and business men were included. Don't expect to find ordinary mortals in the earliest newspapers unless they died in accidents or were in trouble. Even so, in one report a servant girl's dress caught fire while attending to

her work. She was dragged screaming from the house on fire and later died, but being merely a servant her name was not thought worth mentioning. An excellent aid to study are the two sets of fiche published by NDFHS: *Family Notices from Newcastle Courant 1723-1800* and *1801-1820*.

Baptism entries were sparse at first and sometimes do not give Christian names of either the child or the mother - presumably the father did it all by himself! Marriages gave slightly more, including the fathers' names and sometimes the lady's fortune. Sometimes marriages showed one of the participants from another part of the country, but deaths notices give the best information. Many items could, however, give rise to opportunity for further research.

Newcastle Courant 22nd Sept. 1744. They write from Heighington in the county of Durham that Mary, the wife of William Dixon of that place, age 53 was lately delivered of her first son after being nigh 20 years married, to the great joy of her husband who is now in the 70th year of his age.

Newcastle Courant Sat 1st Feb. 1806. On Tuesday last, at Longbenton, Mrs Clarke wife of Wm. Clarke, Esq. of Wall's End of a son.

Newcastle Courant 14th Jan. 1744. Last week was married at Durham, Mr James Smithson of Monkwearmouth to widow Legg of Durham, sister to Michael Coatsworth of Hermitage in the County of Northumberland, Esq. A Lady of good sense and great merit, with a fortune of £5000.

Newcastle Courant Sat. 23rd April 1806. The 14th inst. At St. Andrews Auckland, Mr William Atkinson of Bishop Auckland, grocer, to Miss Brown of the same place.

Newcastle Courant 1st Dec. 1744. Wed. last at his house in this town, Francis Nichols Esq. In the 85th year of his age. He was formerly an officer in Lord Windsor's Regiment of Horse.

Newcastle Courant 4th May 1805. Lately at North Shields in her 31st year Mrs. Stones, wife of Mr William Stones, hardwareman, much regretted.

Another useful set of indexes is *Index to Births Deaths & Marriages from Morpeth Herald*, published by the Felton & Swarland Local History Society. This includes the announcements from 1861 to 1863 in three volumes and is part of an ongoing project. There is also an *Index of Monumental Inscriptions from Alnwick St Michael's* which were printed in *Alnwick Journal* (1872-1882). In this I found the inscription of a tombstone erected to the memory of the Non-commissioned Officers of the Old Northumberland Light Infantry Regiment of the Militia which includes 31 names. There were also instructions on where to find the graves. Unfortunately time has taken its

toll but, although it didn't photograph well, most names could still be read, including the one I wanted.

From the Morpeth Herald Index:

Birth 10 Aug. 1861 Blyth & Tyne Station, Morpeth, 3rd inst. w. o. Robert Ker, station master, a son.

Marriage 10 Nov 1860 Edinburgh, St John the Evangelist Episcopal Church, 6th inst. by Rev James McLachlan, Benjamin Plummer, Jun, Esq. of Newcastle, to Mary Hippolyta, only daughter of the late B. J. Wetherell Esq. of Walk Mill, Osmotherley, Yorkshire.

Marriage 11 Jan 1862 Alnwick, St. James' Church, 8th inst. James Hunter, tailor of Hockett House, Rennington to Mary Ann, daughter of John Mattison, painter of Alnwick.

Death 22 Dec 1860 Alnwick, 16th inst. aged 75, Jane, widow of the late William Kay, shoemaker.

As more people began to emigrate, letters were sent home and some of these were printed in the newspapers. Though it is unlikely your ancestor was mentioned, they give a good insight into conditions in their new homes and their feelings when so far from home. There were also newspaper reports of special send-off celebrations for groups going abroad, with perhaps a presentation or a report when miners left their places of work before the end of their bonds, to join the Australian gold rush. The following are from yet another index: *Australian Births Deaths Marriages. Letters from Home & News in Newcastle Courant* on fiche from "Original Indexes" and available for research at Bolbec Hall.

23/10/1857(8c) The friends of Mr John Jackson, Walker, presented that gentleman, on the 17th inst. with a valuable silver snuff box, on his leaving this country for America.

3 Feb 1860 Death at Sea on passage to New Zealand, on board the "Cashmere" on 29 Oct 1859, Isabella Atkinson, wife of Robert Atkinson, late of Sunderland, furniture broker.

Eventually it became fashionable to announce Births Deaths and Marriages in newspapers, and they are still popular items today, but it must be remembered that not everyone put an announcement in the newspaper. Perhaps the family couldn't afford to buy the paper or afford to pay for the entry; also it wasn't worth putting an announcement in the newspaper if all the family lived in the immediate neighbourhood anyway. Items from the *Shields Daily News* can often be found in North Tyneside Library's excellent card index. They also have cuttings arranged in files under family names and subject headings. It was more usual to put a death in the newspaper and use it to invite friends and neighbours to the funeral. The announcement below confirmed the wife's name, gave the address, age, occupation. and the names of his mother and father. It also gave the date and

place of burial so that the grave could be found and also led to the discovery of the will.

Evening Chronicle Wed. 9th Aug.

MARK, 91 Normount Road, Newcastle, Aug 8th, aged 53yrs. James Bell (Dairyman). Dearly beloved husband of Hannah Mark and beloved son of the late Thomas & Martha Mark of this city. Interment Elswick Cemetery, Friday, leaving residence 2.45. Friends accept this, the only intimation.

Having found a death in the newspaper it is worth looking for an obituary or account of the funeral. If the person was a local hero or a prominent member of local society, you could strike gold. For Aldermen William Atkinson Furness there was not only an account of the funeral with a useful list of family mourners, but also a potted history of his life. A warning here - not everything in the history was correct, but it did give rise to more research. Some deaths were more dramatic and might lead to an inquest which was reported in the newspaper. This is not always the case though, as we are still looking out for a report about Thomas Furness, who, according to his burial entry in Darlington Parish Register, was killed on the railway in June 1837.

In the Society Library at Bolbec Hall there is an *Index of Reports of Inquests in the Alnwick Mercury 1865-1880*, plus *Extracts of Reports in Alnwick Journal 1865-1868* which may just help you. A mourning card gave us the information that George Waterston was killed in a boiler explosion on 3rd November 1851. This led to the *Newcastle Chronicle* Friday November 7th 1851 which reported in full the inquest on the accident which killed George, a 31 year old boiler smith. It also mentioned his brother James Waterston, and his wife and one child. Several newspapers reported the accident.

Disasters were fully covered by the newspapers too. For colliery disasters, for example, there was news of the rescue attempts, lists of survivors and of those killed. The accounts would probably be in several newspapers and each may have given different details. The fiche *North of England Mining Accident Victims 1859-1899* sold by "Original Indexes" and available for research at Bolbec Hall, could be useful in pinpointing the date of an accident.

On a happier note - look out for announcements of Golden Weddings, or 100th birthday celebrations in more modern newspapers. Have you someone in your family tree who lived to a good old age? Family tradition had it that a photograph of James Carse with his faithful dog Tiny, had been in the newspaper. It was found in 1932 entitled "Craster's Oldest Inhabitant - Mr James Carse celebrating his 93rd birthday". His photograph was there, but best of all was the list of his many relations and friends who celebrated with him. There was also a history of his life and his family. His 94th birthday was also reported in the paper, followed by his death in 1935 aged 96. The account of the funeral gave not only his birth, his

father's name, his marriage, and his life as a fisherman, but also a list of all the mourners, many of whom were family. This was reported in the *Newcastle Chronicle*, *North Mail* and *Newcastle Journal* and supplied a vast amount of material for his family history including mention that two of his sons were killed in the first world war. The family had kept a copy of *The Illustrated Chronicle* for Friday March 15 1918. On the front page were 30 photographs of "Sons of the North Who Trod the Ways of Glory". Two of those photographs are of Pte. W. Carss, Canadians, Craster (killed) and AB D. Carss, Craster (lost at sea). This led to research into William Carss' service in the Canadian Army, and the drowning of Daniel Carss on "The Mary Rose".

The war years have many occurrences of items useful to family historians, lists of injured, killed, receiving medals, or simply being sadly remembered by their families. On April 12th 1918 *Shields Daily News* printed information that Mrs Playford of 79 Elsdon Terrace, Percy Main, had received word that her husband, Private W.A. Playford, was killed in action on March 19th. He was a painter by trade, and on March 19th 1921 she placed an item in the "In Memoriam" section of the newspaper in his remembrance, which mentioned children, father-in-law and mother-in-law. Men who received medals were sometimes included in news items. The death notice in 1934 of ex-Sergeant Henry Clasper Wilson gives the information that he was decorated with the Military Medal by Col. Innes Hopkins at a gathering held at Newcastle Empire Theatre. It also gives the information that he was one of six brothers serving in the war, one of whom was killed. and that he had five daughters and two sons.

Finally, have you lost track of one of your ancestors? Having searched unsuccessfully for George Wilson, in the 1841, 1851 and 1861 Census Returns, a break through was made when a bankruptcy notice in *Newcastle Journal* 17th June 1837 was found. Thinking that perhaps he would be taken to court, a search was made in the accounts of Court proceedings. They showed him not as a bankrupt but as a forger, sentenced to transportation for life, with full reports of the trial in several newspapers. This led to the tracing of his life as a convict in Australia, then to a notice in *Newcastle Courant* on 30th August 1861 of his free pardon and return home after 25 years, and finally to his death notice in *Hexham Courant* on Saturday 11th November 1882.

Both Quarter Sessions and Assizes are printed in the newspapers, but sometimes lesser cases are missed out when important cases take up all the space. Occasionally the reports are continued in the next edition. There are a selection of fiche available in the Bolbec Hall Library with indexes of Quarter Sessions and Assize Courts which may be of use to you.

Nobody can promise that you will find anything in newspapers, but with a lot of patience and looking for

clues in you family tree you may find that you can indeed "Read all about it". Good Luck.

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Most of the following are available for research at Bolbec Hall:

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Fiche

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Northumberland Quarter Session Indictments 1580-1630 and 1771-1807 by North Fiche

Durham Quarter Session & Assize Prisoners 1861-1871 by NDFHS.

Quarter Session and Assize Courts Newspaper Index 1782-1851 by Original Indexes

Index to Newcastle Quarter Sessions 1744-1777, 1818-1855 and 1867-1876 by NDFHS.

Bankrupt Directory 1774-1786 and 1820-1843.

North of England Mining Accident Victims 1859-1899 by Original Indexes

Australian Births, Deaths and Marriages, Letters From Home and News from Newcastle Courant 1840-1864 by Original Indexes.

Monumental Inscription from Alnwick St Michael's from Alnwick Journal 1872-1882 by North Fiche.

EDUCATION FOR DISSENT IN 19TH CENTURY NORTHUMBERLAND

by Dr Charles Hoy, Director, Centre for Adult and Higher Education, University of Manchester

The Revd. Thomas Binney⁽¹⁾ was not the only contact Northumberland had with dissenters. A far closer and more intimate relationship was with Revd. Alexander Hoy (1795-1869) of Felton, Northumberland, a great friend of Binney since their days at college together. It was at Wymondley Academy in Hertfordshire, where they both came under the influence of Philip Dodderidge's method of teaching, including note taking in the form of shorthand⁽²⁾. Alex Hoy was an important member of the Northumberland Presbytery, journeying between Edinburgh and London in that cause by stage coach in the 1820s and 1830s.

In the days when the Act of Uniformity still held sway, dissenting clergy could not attend University to train, so the dissenting academies were established. The oldest ministry was later seen as originally Presbyterian, passing through that of John Barker (d.1731) whose followers were "declaimed Calvinists" while other worshippers were "accounted Arminians". Later the group were described as Congregationalist or Independents. Barker, a friend of Philip Dodderidge, was suspicious of the Methodist upsurge inspired by George Whitefield who preached on Hackney Marshes to crowds of 2,000 to 10,000 in 1739. John Wesley preached there in 1741.

Homerton College, in Clapton, East London, was the longest lived of the institutions; its trustees remained strict Calvinists and so avoided what in the 1790's might have proved to be the fatal taint of Unitarianism. Other academies merged with it, so that in 1819 the year Binney and Hoy graduated, the house held masters, students, and a large library, and three other houses were let. Twelve of the 18 students were supported by the Homerton Academy Society, and six by the Congregational Fund Board. The name was changed to Homerton College in 1823, graduates qualifying for degrees from London University from 1840, and an amalgamation with Highbury and Howard Colleges formed the purely theological New College Hampstead in 1852. The Homerton premises were later transferred to the Congregational Board of Education for trainee teachers and a model school. In 1893 they moved to the former Cavendish College, Cambridge, where the name Homerton College, University of Cambridge was retained.

The most famous pastor in those religious establishments in the late 18th century was the theologian and scientist Joseph Priestly (d.1804). He and many other dissenters were active not only in pastoral work; they made East London noteworthy for Academies, which while offering a

general education, pioneered the work of the later theological colleges.

Family received oral tradition is that the Academy Principal counted Binney his best preacher and Hoy his best scholar at Wymondley. They were great friends, with Binney visiting Felton regularly, and baptising a number of Revd. Alex Hoy's children, whose fifth son was named Thomas Binney Hoy (born May 20th 1849 died February 13th 1883).

They kept in touch very regularly, and I have the last letter Binney wrote on 28 December 1869 to my great great grandfather, W.G. Hoy, from Clapton, East London, in which he refers to a cheque for £4 he had lately sent to Revd. Alex Hoy⁽³⁾. For many years children of dissenting families attended Hoy's private school - he even married one of his pupils.

He is buried in the churchyard at Felton with his wife Henrietta, who died aged 49 (not much older than Thomas Binney's wife). The tablet to her quotes Jeremiah 20, v 18 "Her sun is gone down while it was yet day". On his jubilee, and again at his retirement, Revd. Alex Hoy received a purse of gold at a soiree at Felton, first in 1848 and then in 1868. His fourth son, R.J. Hoy J.P., became an elder of the Presbyterian Church in Northumberland, and was at the laying of the foundation stone of the present Church in 1920. The church rooms built by Revd. Alex Hoy now form two private homes overlooking the beautiful river Coquet bridge in Felton⁽⁴⁾.

References

1. Sheila Senior; *Thomas Binney 1798-1874 "Head of Dissenters"*; NDFHS Journal, Vol 23, No 3, Autumn 1998.
2. Copies of Revd. Alex Hoy's sermons in my possession are currently being studied to try to read this pre-Pitman's short-handwriting.
3. Revd. Alexander Hoy, my great great great grandfather, died on 26th December 1869 after being Presbyterian Minister at Felton for 50 years.
4. Mention should be made of founder member Ms. Rita Brown a great granddaughter of Revd. Alex Hoy who responded to my query in NDFHS Journal of Autumn 1997 when I was searching for descendants of the Minister. We had never met though each of us had family photographs in common; I joined in 1997.

Editor's note: This article is a "follow-up" to an item in the Autumn 1998 edition of the NDFHS Journal. Dr Hoy may be contacted through the Centre of Adult & Higher Education, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL

A CURMUDGEON'S DICTIONARY OF GENEALOGY

This curious document has been made up out of scraps of paper found lying around in our local repositories. The contents are clearly incomplete and have been rearranged into alphabetical order. Should readers come across any similar items, the Editor would be very grateful for the additions.

ANGEL Any employee of Northumberland County Council working in *Morpeth Records Centre*.

ANORAK Warm winter garment, indispensable for genealogists trekking in the lunch-hour from *Morpeth Records Centre* to Northumberland County Hall. Has come to refer also to the wearer so observed.

ARCHIVE Document left over after a *clear-out*; normally of no use.

BINGO Highly audible exclamation of genealogical triumph.

BOLBEC HALL Coffee-house, used also as a *repository*.

CLEAR-OUT Process of getting rid of most useful archives.

CONVERSATION Entertainment for busy researchers in any *repository*.

ELUSIVE Describes person on the family tree who led an ordinary, quiet life like most people, and so is impossible to *find*.

ENVELOPE-BACK Vital research tool.

EUREKA As *Bingo*, but from classically educated genealogists.

FAMILY HISTORY Lengthy tale recounted in *conversation*, of interest only to the teller.

FILING CABINET DRAWER Device used by weak genealogists for supporting heavy reference volumes.

FIND Verb, can be ambiguous, as in: "I have *found* my grandmother." Ambiguity quickly resolved by checking whether the speaker has been searching through *archives*, or under the furniture.

GAP Essential feature of any family tree.

GENEALOGIST Eternal optimist.

GRO INDEX (Newcastle City Library) Rarely attainable resource, someone else always having the required box.

IGI Large index, useful source of *gaps* in one's family tree, hence the expression: "It's not in the IGI".

INDEX Alphabetical list of names, none of which is relevant to the enquirer's needs.

LIBRARY A building dedicated to *conversation*.

MICROFICHE Device for displaying ink-blots.

MICROFILM READER Device designed by osteopaths and opticians as a means of furthering their employment prospects.

MICROFILM THREADER Amusing puzzle.

MULTI-TASKING Ability to handle *conversation*, ignore cries of *Bingo*, see through ink-blots, block out *susurrus* and continue with research all at the same time.

MUST Verb, commonly used, as in "He *must* be there somewhere"; in genealogy, implies a hopeless dream.

NOTES Collection of *envelope-backs*.

PEN Instrument for putting ink-blots on *microfiches*.

PENCIL Implement sold at a profit by *repositories*.

PENCIL-SHARPENER Profit-generating device supplied by *repositories* for consuming pencils as rapidly as possible.

PHOTOCOPY Expensive, illegible sheet of paper supplied by a *repository*.

REPOSITORY Institution which never quite succeeds in providing all records required for research.

SHOPPING-BAG Plastic filing-system for *notes*.

SILENCE Obsolete term; once found in *repositories*, but now replaced by *conversation*, *whispers*, *susurrus*, *Bingo*, etc.

SUSURRUS Annoying sound produced when rummaging for *notes* in *shopping-bag*.

TIME Commodity that always runs out at vital moment in research.

MORPETH RECORDS CENTRE *Repository* where *time* runs out quickest.

WHISPER Softer than *conversation*, but when performed by experts, clearly audible throughout *repository*.

INDEX TO VOLUME 22

Once again, this index has been prepared by Miss O. Trewick, Mr A. Gofton and Mrs G. de Jong. The Society is very grateful to them for their efforts.

Page numbers refer to Volume 22; 1 - 36 (Spring 1997), 37 - 72 (Summer 1997), 73 - 108 (Autumn 1997) and 109 - 144 (Winter 1997). Please remember that a name may occur several times on a page.

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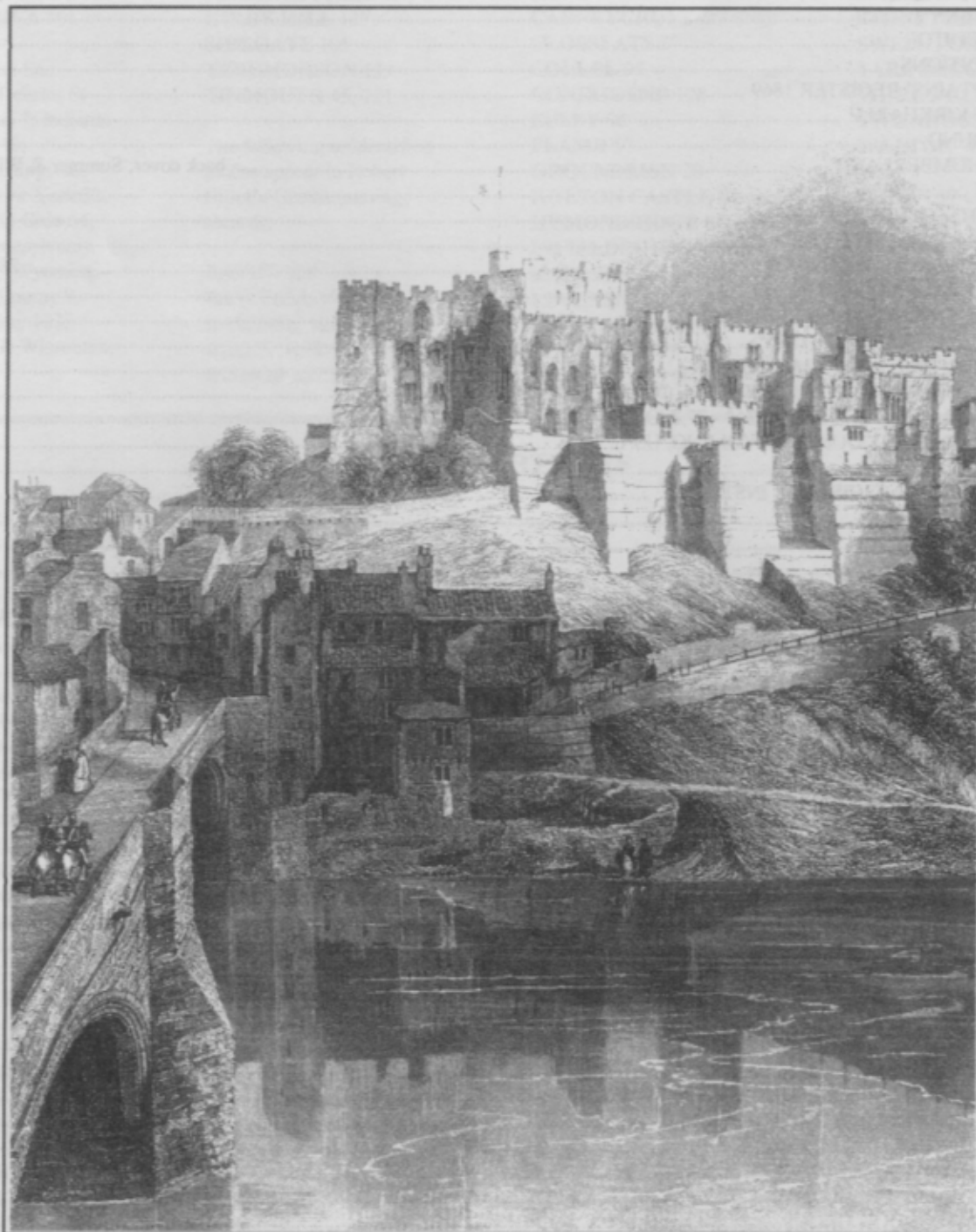
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DURHAM CASTLE & FRAMWELLGATE BRIDGE

Durham, Published by George Andrews & R.W. Billings, Jan 1st 1844

BEGINNERS GUIDE TO TRACING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY IN NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM

by Geoff Nicholson

Part 1: First Steps – Information From Yourself and From Your Present-Day Family

The popular image of a Family Historian is of someone who spends a lot of time visiting Reference Libraries and Record Offices to look at dry old reference books and microfilms of even more ancient records. That, however, is not the place to start. Don't worry - your days in Reference Libraries and Record Offices will surely come but the best place to start is with yourself. What do you know to begin with? Without consulting anyone else, or even looking at anything you may already have in a tin box under the bed or wherever you keep your family papers, it is a good idea to write down everything you yourself actually know about your own immediate ancestors and their descendants.

When you do that, be sure to make two lists of information, "A" and "B". List "A" should contain only things you are absolutely certain of - what you would be willing to swear to in a Court of Law, as they say. With list "B" you can let yourself go a little and include all those things you were told by your Granny, but were never ever shown any proof of. You know the sort of thing -- Granny's own Granny was the daughter of some local Lord, but was disinherited for marrying a servant. There are stories like that in most families, my own being no exception, but in almost every case the disinherited daughter turns out to be simply a maid who was got in the family way by a footman!

This brings us to one of the most difficult lessons to be learned in Family History -- never believe anything you are told, whether it is by word of mouth or in the most official-looking of official documents, or even if it was your Granny who told you. Above all, never believe anything that is someone else's copying or re-interpreting of an original document. That, I'm afraid, includes all transcripts and indexes of records ever produced, including all those published by the NDFHS or otherwise to be found in the Society's Library. No reputable modern transcriber or indexer would ever claim that their own work is entirely error-free, and neither is anyone else's. As far as original documents are concerned, you should always ask yourself two simple questions -- (1) "Who is giving this information?" and (2) "Who are they trying to impress?". Remember that hardly any of the documents you will be consulting will have been prepared specifically to help future Family Historians!

Once you have your lists, it is best to put List "B" to one side, to be consulted later should anything you happen to turn up seem to fit with the information on it. For the present you should regard only List "A" -- the indisputably correct information -- as your true starting point.

Next, it is time now to look in that tin box under the bed, or at any other documents you may have in your possession. There may be none of these of course, but most people can come up with a few Birth, Death or Marriage Certificates, possibly a copy of a Will (or two) and if you are really lucky, perhaps some old Deeds to your property. One thing almost everyone will have is a box (or several!) full of old photographs of past family members or of now-venerable ones in their young days, probably none with any information on their backs to say who they are of or when, where or why they were taken.

Along with old photographs there are often newspaper cuttings, usually of birth, marriage or death announcements, but perhaps also including other items such as newspaper stories about family members' achievements, whether scholastic, sporting or otherwise. Many people keep such things, and some have them pasted into a scrapbook. Beware! If uncle Fred saved someone's life by jumping into the Tyne to rescue them, he would be hailed as a local hero and no doubt be well-written-up; auntie Mary, his wife, might well have proudly pasted the cuttings about him into her scrap-book. What, however, if uncle Fred had been brought before the local magistrates, charged with being drunk and disorderly in the local town one weekend? Would auntie Mary have proudly pasted those cuttings into her scrapbook? You can bet she wouldn't! (She'd probably be far too busy giving poor Fred the thick end of her tongue!). This brings us to another difficult lesson to learn -- every source is a biased one, even auntie Mary's scrapbook. Always ask yourself if you know what the bias is. If you do, then you can allow for it, but often you simply won't know.

One of the things I turned up in my parents' house when I began was a book presented to one of my father's brothers in 1907 for good attendance at Sunday School. It was dated and the presentation bookplate at the front had his address on it. That gave me the family's address at that time. It also gave me confirmation of which church the family were associated with at the time and it told me that my grandmother was not only the sort of woman who sent her sons to Sunday School but she also made sure they attended regularly!

When you have absorbed all the information available from your own sources, then it is time to see what there is in the wider family. At this point, if I am giving a Family History course, I usually give the advice "Have a word with your oldest living relative". I then have to deal with people who complain "But that's me!" Yes, I sympathise. In that case

have a word with someone of your own generation but from a different branch of the family. If you are not in touch with any more distant branches, then have a word with your own brother(s) and/or sister(s). After all, Granny may have told them different stories to the ones she told you! You will no doubt have a good idea who it is in the family who is most likely to have inherited the family papers, such as they may be, or who it is that has kept a meticulous record of all major family events over the last half-century. At one time most families had an old spinster member who filled that position very well, but as old spinsters seem to be a dying breed I shall assume you have an aunt or even a great-aunt, who may well know a lot of things you don't.

When I say "have a word with" such a person, I don't mean you should turn up unannounced and simply begin to grill some old lady or gentleman about his or her private memories. That method is only likely to produce a family rift! Make sure you are expected and that your subject knows very well who you are and why you are visiting. Most older people will be flattered if you tell them you are making a serious study of your family history (well, you are, aren't you?) and that they hold the keys to getting you started. It might be necessary, if dealing with someone who lives with their son or daughter, to speak to that person first, to make sure your visit is a welcome one and that your subject has had time to prepare themselves for it. It is best if you can arrange to have a companion, so that while you hold your subject's attention and ask all the important questions, your companion can be quietly writing down everything that is said. On the whole, I would say that a tape recorder should only be used for that purpose if your subject knows you are using one -- if an attempt at surreptitious recording becomes obvious it can lead to a very delicate situation indeed (and what do you do when you discover that your recording has not come out clearly?) Many people "clam up" if faced with a microphone; others feel it necessary to speak as if addressing a public meeting and yet others, I do realise, will come out with much more than they otherwise might. You should be certain you know which category your subject falls into before you attempt to use one.

Be "gentle" with your questioning. Ask only those questions to which you might reasonably expect an answer. That is, don't ask "Was the family's move from Wallsend to Jesmond before or after 1928?" Your subject won't have the slightest idea. Instead ask whether your subject ever went to school in Wallsend, or was it only in Jesmond? That will date the move to before or after his or her reaching school age. You might well get an answer "Oh, yes, I was at school in Wallsend for two years!" That is excellent information. Similarly a family event should be dated with reference to other family events, or even to local or national ones. "When you lived in Newcastle and went to visit your sister in Gateshead, did you use the Tyne Bridge" might get the answer "Oh no, we couldn't do that, it hadn't been built yet". Or "Was it before or after the War that your father left the pit and went to work in the perfume factory?" might get an interesting and useful answer.

Don't forget that in all this hunting for information, both documentary and in people's memories, there is one Holy Grail you should be on the look-out for. In the nineteenth century, and possibly dating from the late eighteenth, many families had a Family Bible. Before the days of Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates, most such events would be written in the Family Bible, usually by the woman of the house, if she was literate, and being contemporary records and coming "straight from the horse's mouth", as well as having been put into the Bible, to stand alongside Holy Scripture, they can be taken as absolutely accurate. A hint - Family Bibles often descended to the eldest married daughter, so the surname would change with each generation. What happened to yours? It could still be in the family, but it may be a possession so much prized by its present owner that they will deny having it in case you try to dispossess them of it. You should be very careful to make it known that you are not interested at all in the Bible itself but only in the information in it (no matter how untrue that may be!).

Here is a little story about "Interviewing Elderly Relatives" (the title of a useful booklet published by the Federation of Family History Societies). When beginning my own Family History in the early 1970s I heard of a lady still alive who was a first cousin of my long-deceased paternal grandmother. She was ninety-seven years old so the first approach of my cousin, who was working with me on that branch of the family, and I, was to contact her daughter, with whom she lived, the daughter being herself in her seventies. Having established that she was still "compos mentis" and loved nothing more than to talk about her own young days, we went by appointment to see her. She was indeed, a mine of information, and kept us busily scribbling notes all evening. When we were almost ready to go, by which time it had become obvious that the old lady was an exception to the general rule that old people get tired easily and can't be questioned for long, I asked her one final question. It was one that bothered her and I could tell she was annoyed with herself for not knowing the answer. I told her not to worry about it; it really didn't matter (though to me it did!). As a last resort, she finally said, "Oh, well, never mind, it'll all be in the Family Bible anyway!". At that she reached up her hand and without getting out of her chair she pulled open the door of a large cupboard built into the wall next to where she was sitting. Still without moving from her chair she pulled out a large Bible and handed it to me. It contained the answers to several questions we had asked that evening and to a lot more we hadn't asked, as they related to a period far earlier than even the ninety-seven-year-old could have remembered. The existence of that Family Bible had never even been mentioned before then. Of course, every word which had been written into it was quickly but carefully entered into our notes of that interview!

Once you have exhausted the information available in the present-day family, you should sit back and think about what it is you are trying to do. Remember that you had two parents. So did they and so did each of your grandparents. Indeed the number of ancestors you have in each generation

doubles with every generation you go back. Clearly it will be impossible to trace them all for more than a few generations. It is advisable to make a definite decision at this stage about which line(s) you are most interested in. The obvious one to select is the direct male line, not least because it is from that line that most people have inherited their surnames, even if they have inherited little else. However, you may well have a good reason to select some other line. Your preliminary look at what is known in the family may have given you some ideas about which of the other lines are likely to be most interesting. You may have heard "family stories" which are so interesting that you really must find whether they are correct, and what the details of them are.

However, at this point I should introduce a note of caution. There may be some famous figure in the past with the same name as yourself or of one of the branches of your own family. Do not say "that person must be an ancestor: I'll make my aim to trace back to him". You may have no connection with that person at all, or if you do it may be with a quite different branch of his (or her) family. Not every Stephenson on Tyneside is descended from George

the railway pioneer and not every Darling is related to Grace, just as not every Armstrong is connected with Lord Armstrong's family. Some are, yes indeed, but comparatively few and most of them already know about it! All you can do as an impartial researcher, is to work back from the known to the unknown in a step-by-step logical manner, keeping an open mind about whatever you might or might not discover on the way. Family historians have to be broad-minded. You will almost certainly come across illegitimacy in the family and possibly you may find offenders who have served various sentences for misdemeanours now long forgotten about. These things happened - in all families, including yours.

Next time I will discuss making a start on records which will tell you things about your family that neither you nor anyone living today had any clue about before you started your research.

Editor's note: Geoff Nicholson is a professional genealogist as well as a member and former Chairman of the NDFHS. His address is 57 Manor Park, Concord, Washington, Tyne & Wear NE37 2BU

NEWS FROM BOLBEC HALL

from Gerry Langley

The inaugural meeting of what we hope will be the Newcastle Branch got off to a flying start at Bolbec Hall on Wednesday 7th October with over 50 members present. Neil Richardson gave an interesting talk about the Blyth Harbour Commission records. Because of the numbers, the meeting was moved to the lecture room of our neighbours and landlords, the Lit. & Phil. If the numbers continue, we may have to reconsider the proposed meeting place. Support was given to the idea of an evening meeting at Bolbec Hall as well if there were sufficient numbers. Anyone interested should contact either Gerry Langley or Moira Furness to help assess demand.

Plans to run an "Absolute Beginners Course" at Bolbec Hall are proceeding. Full details are not yet available yet but those interested should in the first instance contact Gerry stating preference for day or evening to assess demand in that respect. This will probably be an 8 week course outlining primary sources with "hands on" practical sessions as part of the syllabus.

New accessions to the Fiche Library include the latest *Original Indexes* offerings of parish register and similar information, and the Cleveland FHS 1891 Census series of indexes for South Durham, Cleveland and North Yorkshire.

We await the imminent arrival of the latest CD-ROM from the LDS which is *British Vital Records*. It should prove a valuable asset to add to our growing library of CD-ROM information available in the computer room. In the last Journal we announced that we hoped to have shortly *Soldiers Died in the Great War*. Unfortunately, production problems have delayed its publication but we do expect to receive it by the time this Journal is dispatched.

We are always seeking new volunteers to assist members in their searches at Bolbec Hall. You don't have to be a specialist in the field of Genealogy, just be keen, and enjoy meeting and helping people. The rest comes naturally.

The usage of the facilities is growing, to such an extent that booking is now an imperative on Monday - Thursday to be certain of a fiche reader, and/or time on the computer. Remember to ring in advance and avoid being disappointed.

Finally, a reminder that Bolbec Hall will be closed over the Christmas and New Year period. The Library and Research Centre will close at 4.00 pm on Friday 18th December and reopen at 10.00 am on Monday 4th January.

ROBERT TIPLADY PATTISON AND EARLY CYCLING

Robert Tiplady Pattison was born 21st August 1851 at Burnhope Colliery, Durham, son of Isaac Pattison and Mary Tiplady. He was attracted by the "boneshaker" cycles of the period and in 1866, when he was 15 years old, he built his first cycle and entered a race at Blaydon Hoppings. From that day he became an enthusiastic and successful competitor.

In 1872 a cycle race was included in the Lumley Castle Sports and Robert was victorious in the half mile race and later raced successfully at Wolverhampton after his challenge to the north of England to ride for £100 a side received no response. When a Grand Six Day Contest to be held at the Agricultural Hall, London was promoted by Sir James Astley, Robert entered and came third to Billy Cann of Sheffield and Harry High of Nottingham. A medal presented by English Royalty as first prize in a cycling race was among his treasures and many of the international records he set stood for many years. Two impressive performances on his high wheeler bike were 196 miles in 12 hours and 100 miles in 6 hours.

By the early eighties factories were producing bicycles with rubber tyres but solid forks and straight handles still remained. Now Robert Pattison, Tom Anderson and Mr W. B. Kirsop formed *The North-Eastern Bicycle Company* though Robert still took part in long distance cycling contests. A catalogue of the cycling company called *The North of England Bicycling Company* dated 1882, contains much about early cycling and the machine, "Northern", which they manufactured. It also contains an article *Roads around Newcastle*, giving places accessible by bicycle. *The North of England Bicycle Company* had an office and show room at 44 High Bridge, Newcastle and works in Pilgrim

Street. (*Pattison and Murdoch* and *Pattison's Cycle Depot*). A photograph shows Robert Pattison and his daughter Caroline in the doorway of the shop. As cycling became more popular and amateur clubs and races increased, the company made cycles for many leading riders such as Tom Oliver, Billy Mills and William Anderson. Robert was well known at Harrogate and Barnard Castle Cycling Meetings and when he lived in Whitley Bay he often attended runs with the Whitley Bay Club.

Robert was married twice; firstly to Elizabeth Sutton in 1872 and then to Mary Ann Cousin in 1890. After Mary Ann died in August 1910 he sailed on the *Mauretania* to America with his son Joseph and daughter Catherine. He maintained his interest in cycling, especially the six day races and some of the cyclists he trained became champions in events held in America.

Editor's note: A Family Tree File is in Bolbec Hall containing the photographs and catalogue mentioned with more information. Mr Robert E Pattison grandson of Robert Tiplady, also has a photograph of Robert Tiplady Pattison, his father Isaac and his brother John. Unfortunately he knows only the birth date of John Pattison (29 March 1846 at Tanfield) who appears to be wearing a wedding ring on the photograph. He would love to hear from anybody with more information. His address is 8256 W. Green Tree Road, Milwaukee, WI 53223, U.S.A.

This article was produced using articles from Whitley Chronicle Visitors Gazette 1908, The Pattison News, The Marseilles Daily Press and letters from Mr Robert E. Pattison.

NDFHS LIBRARIES

from Doreen Tait

I believe that there may be some confusion about our two libraries and perhaps an explanation may be of help.

Prior to the library moving to Bolbec Hall, it was housed in my home and items were loaned out on request. However, when we moved to Bolbec Hall it was decided that the library should be for reference only.

Realising that our 'out of town' members were losing this 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 research facilities.

There is a printed Postal Catalogue, price £1.50 including postage, listing the available items, and notes on how to use this service. If you already have this catalogue, a list of additions to the postal library may be obtained on receipt of a SAE from: The Postal Librarian, NDFHS, 2nd Floor Bolbec Hall, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1SE.

I hope that this clarifies what seems to be puzzling some of our members and trust that you will avail yourselves of all the Society has to offer.

BOLBEC HALL OPENING HOURS OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

Please note that Bolbec Hall will be closed
from 4.00 pm 18th December
until 10.00 am 4th January 1999

DIRECTORIES FOR NORTH-EAST ENGLAND

Part 3: 1850 - 1899

by Adam Bunting

Update

Bolbec Hall now has a copy of the North-Eastern sections of Bailey's *Northern Directory* (1781), thanks to the unstinting efforts of Mr Douglas Marshall, a member from Guildford, who has kindly prepared copies for distribution, and to whom we owe much thanks. We have been less lucky in tracking down other rare Directories, and I would urge our out-of-region members to keep a weather eye open, and to write if any of the rarer Directories mentioned particularly in Part Two (*Journal NDFHS* Vol. 23, No. 2, pp 61 - 62) come to light. Thanks are due to all members who have contacted me over the past months.

1850 - 1899: Introduction

Once the depression of the 'Hungry Forties' had faded away, publishers of directories found a ready market for their wares in the burgeoning economic environment of the Fifties. The general trend was for increased coverage of outlying towns and villages, and for so-called 'court' sections, listing private residents, to increase in size. The usual method was to list residents alphabetically, before the Trade sections. However, as our towns and cities grew, the tendency grew to list residents by streets; particularly as street numbering gradually became organised in the years following the introduction of the Penny Post. Street-by-street listings were a boon for tradespeople, but make life decidedly difficult for genealogists. We love our alphabetical lists!

If the address is known, people are easy enough to locate. If it is not, then two problems arise. First there is the problem of time. Who has not spent an hour flicking through the bulky pages of a Ward's directory circa 1891 in the hopes of finding a census address for a 'lost' family? More seriously for our libraries and records offices, the second problem is one of wear and tear. Some of our directories are literally falling to pieces. We may have to look through two or three hundred pages to find one name with little clue as to where to start. Each turn of a page wears it down a little more. Directories are a precious, fragile source. Let us treat them with respect.

Here I must mention a large project of microficheing undertaken by *Original Indexes* (see back of Journal for their advertisement), who have recently completed the 'ficheing of over seventy directories, too numerous to mention here. Along with such companies as *North Fiche* and *Northern Forebears*, not to mention Northumberland County Records Office, they are providing a valuable service in making these rare books available to a wider public, and saving the originals from wear and tear. Perhaps even, one day, some enterprising soul will get round to 'databasing' key directories so that all entries for,

say, the huge Whellan (Durham) 1894 will be in one long alphabetical list.

By the late 19th century, almost everyone wanted to be in a directory, it seems. Entire streets of quite ordinary folk were included. The more people that were included, the more would be prepared to part with their money for a copy. One wonders how many paid for a directory just to see their name in print. So, directories from the end of the century are more widely available. I will mention only the location of those directories -- and there are several -- which are still difficult to access. Newcastle Central Library has by far the best collection, and all enquiries should start there.

Finally, I shall be very happy to receive corrections and additions to this list which I feel sure is incomplete.

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1896 Ward R Ward's *Directory of Darlington, Hartlepool, West Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Stockton & Thornaby*

1896 Ward R Ward's *Directory of Newcastle-on-Tyne and the adjoining villages*

1897 Kelly & Co. *Kelly's Directory of Northumberland*; Morpeth Library

1897 Kelly & Co. *Kelly's Directory of Durham*; Darlington and Durham Libraries, Bolbec Hall (fiche)

1897 Kelly & Co. *Kelly's Directory of Durham, Northumberland, Cumberland & Westmoreland*

1898 Ward, R *Directory of Newcastle & adjacent villages*

1898 Ward R Ward's *Directory of Darlington, Hartlepool, West Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Stockton & Thornaby*

1897 Ward, R Ward's *Directory of Newcastle, Gateshead & South Shields*

1899 Ward, R Ward's *Directory of Newcastle, Gateshead & South Shields*

1899 Cook W J & Co. *Stockton & Darlington Directory*; Guildhall Library

1899 Cook W J & Co. *Darlington & District Directory*; Darlington Library

Editor's note: Adam Bunting's address is 17 Moor Place, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4AL. If you have any additional information regarding local directories, Adam would be delighted to hear from you.

NORTHUMBERLAND RECORD OFFICE

Members living in the Northumberland and Durham area may have heard rumours that Northumberland Record Office is to be moved to Cramlington, and the currently repositories at Morpeth and Melton Park closed.

In order to clarify the position, a letter was sent on behalf of the NDFHS to Northumberland County Council requesting information. The following response has been received from Councillor D. Murphy, Chairman of the Amenities Committee:

"...NCC's Amenities Committee, whose responsibilities include public and local records, has been concerned for some time at the condition of the existing facilities and has debated the issue publicly on several occasions.

Consequently in September 1997 a feasibility study was requested and the potential advantages of combining both offices on one site was recognised.

A progress report was given to Amenities Committee in March 1998 by NCC's Land and Property staff based on the evaluation of sites in County Council ownership in Cramlington.

The Committee expressed reservations at the sites discussed, requested further work to be undertaken and made no decision as to the appropriate site for a new facility.

Most importantly they recognised that the indicative replacement building costs of between £1.5 and £3 million exceeded NCC's entire annual capital allocation.

For this reason NCC's Managing Director has been investigating possible private sector partnerships which might allow the scheme to proceed. To date, despite actively pursuing several options, there has been no positive outcome. Obviously, until the funding issue is resolved the siting of a replacement facility remains academic..."

We would hope to report any future developments in the *Journal*.

A Canadian Pioneer From County Durham

The March 1998 issue of *The British Columbia Genealogist* contains full biographical details of a local man and his sizable family.

William Stonehouse was born 1843 at Newfield, Co.Durham, son of William Stonehouse and Jane Richardson, and married Catherine, daughter of James Long and Catherine Humble. Their children Bob and Jim were born Shotton, Durham, Billie, Kate, Dennis and Morris, at Coxlodge, Northumberland, Jane and Hannah, at Fawdon, also Northumberland, and the last child, Annie Mae was born 1882 in Canada.

It appears that William must have arrived in Canada before November 1880 when he was fined for supplying liquor to the Indians! He returned to England after Catherine's death in 1883. The children's birthplaces, all colliery villages, suggest that William was probably a miner.

MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND QUERIES

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

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

If you wish to have your interests or any queries published, send a paragraph outlining your areas of research, problems etc. to Phil Thirkell at the above address by 31st December. 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.

0658 Mr P.T. REED, Unit 7, Villa McAuley, PO Box 229, Castletown, Townsville, Queensland 4812, Australia

Early last century, Elrington **REED** of Troughend sold up and moved away. His son Gilbert moved to Ross-shire as a surveyor and mapmaker and there married Alexandrina **McKAY**. They had issue and settled in Sutherland. Has anyone researched the Redesdale or Ross/Sutherland lines of Reed? Also, where is/was Dan's Castle in Co.Durham?

Tom Law

1185 CAROL KNAPP, 3114 N. Peoria Avenue, Peoria, Illinois 61603, U.S.A.

Searching for **BALIOL** family of Newcastle. John Thomas Baliol, pawnbroker, aged 24, married in 1882 to Dorothy Elizabeth **HOGG**, aged 22. Her father: Joseph Hogg, confectioner; his parents, Mary Ann nee **COOK**, born Houghton le Spring 1826, and John Thomas Baliol, surgeon in Gateshead, born Knottingley, Yorkshire. His parents were buried Elswick Cemetery. Siblings: Florinda (1854 Gateshead), Ann C. (1862 Newcastle), Albert (1868 Newcastle). Parents lived Marlborough Crescent and Beaconsfield Street, Newcastle.

4262 Mrs. D. THWAITES (nee CHARLTON), 6 Kinloch Drive, Bolton BL1 4LZ

Searching for ancestors of Joseph **CHARLTON** and Margaret **TEASDALE** who married at Allendale in 1770. Also interested in hearing from descendants of John Charlton and Elizabeth **PARKIN** of Lynesack who married c1868.

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

Trying to find the birth and parents of Alice **JOHNSON**. According to census records she was born in Longhorsley in 1784 and died Tynemouth in 1853. Alice married Stephen **NOTT** at All Saints, Newcastle 1807. Would be most grateful for any information on this family.

4582 Mr A.R. FORSTER, 26 Bonnefin Road, Hunter's Hill, New South Wales 2110, Australia
(email: ronald.forster@clubmac.org.au)

Trying to locate a baptism for George **FORSTER** shoemaker born North Shields 1779-1800. All his sons became mariners and master mariners, so possibly George's father may have been a seaman. Probable parents names are William and Anne. All local baptism registers have been searched, including all non-conformist.

5071 DALENE ROBINSON BUTTS, 310 South 3rd St. West, Aurora, MN 55705 U.S.A. (email: butts@rangenet.com)

Seeking information on George **ROBINSON** (son of Thomas) who was born 1736 at Stanington. George was a scholar at the age of 14 at the parish school there. At the same time, a Thomas Robinson was the vicar of Stanington, a Matthew **CHARLTON** was church warden. George married Mary Charlton 1777 at Stanington, and probably died at Lough House in 1816. Was George the son of Thomas Robinson of Stanington, West House, and his wife, Elizabeth - both buried at St. Mary the Virgin, in Stanington?

5216 Mrs H. BULMER, 17 Rosaville Crescent, Allesley, Coventry CV5 9BP

Would like to beg, borrow or buy *Monkwearmouth Memories 1909-1989* and *More Monkwearmouth Memories, Book 2* published by the Monkwearmouth Local History Group but now out of print. Researching: 1) Birth and antecedents of John **BYERS** married Margaret **RICHARDSON** at Holy Trinity, Sunderland 1781. 2) Birth and antecedents of Thomas **COTTON** and Elizabeth **EASTON**, married St Peter, Monkwearmouth 1827, and their son John born c1829. 3) William **LEE** buried Staindrop 1837 aged 85. 4) **McDERMA(O)ND** or **McDERMOT(T)** of Sunderland pre-1845. James married Catherine **SIM** at Sunderland 1820 and their son James married Susan Richardson Bishopwearmouth 1845. 5) John **ROWLANDS** and Rebecca **MASTERMAN** married Monkwearmouth 1824. 6) James Sim and Catherine **NICHOLSON** married Sunderland 1751. 7) John **WILSON** and Sarah **MORALEE** married Sunderland 1814.

5781 EDYTHE NATTRASS, 1405 Willow Downs Circle, Willow Springs, NC 27592, U.S.A. (email: edythen@aol.com)

George **HOWE**, baptised 1800, married Margaret **PARKER**, born 1797, at Holy Trinity, Sunderland 1820. They had a son

George Parker Howe baptised 1823 St Marys R.C. Church, Bishopwearmouth; he married Frances (Fanny) **TOMLINSON**, born 1836 Bootle, Cumberland. Frances was the daughter of John Tomlinson, a widower when he married Mary **PIRT**; (who were Mary's parents, where was she born?) Grandfather John Howe was the 4th child of 7 of George and Frances Howe. John was an Inspector on the N.E. Railway, a member of Darlington Town Council and appointed a J.P as a Liberal candidate. Any information on any of these names would be appreciated.

5782 DAVID NATTRASS, 1405 Willow Downs Circle, Willow Springs, NC 27592, U.S.A. (email: edythen@aol.com)

Looking for connections to Robert **WANLESS** born 1822 Ingleton, who married Mary **COATES** of Hamsterley; can't find on the IGL. Also Thomas **LODGE** born 1766 in Cockerton married Jane; known children Michael (born 1784), Francis (1787), Elizabeth (1792) and James (1799), all in Cockerton (linen weavers). Francis married Jane **WILSON** of Haughton Le Skerne had sons Francis and Wilson, all weavers, but then became market gardeners. Francis Lodge married Ann **BAINES** in 1841 at Great Langton, Yorkshire. They eventually moved to Catterick, Yorks where most of their children were born.

6151 IAN PATTERSON, 3 Pool Road, Hadnall, Shrewsbury SY4 4BG

Seeking information on: 1) William **PATTERSON** born c1835, son of James originally from Warkworth but moved to Dinnington by 1841. Can't find the birth of William. 2) William **THOMPSON** born 1816 at Meldon but no trace in Meldon registers. Father likely to be William, mother Isabella. His uncle Robert Thompson was a pitman at Meldon between 1800 and 1814.

6157 JOAN GARDNER, 59 St Johns Avenue, Brentwood, Essex CM14 5DG

Further information required on Sarah **BES(T)FORD** nee **TAYLOR** born Staffordshire c1851, married Durham 1870, daughter of John and Codelia Taylor, living at Leamside in 1881. John was born at Great Bridge, Staffs. and Codelia at Hall Green, Staffs. Was Sarah an only child? Is anyone researching Bestford in Leamside, East, Middle and West Rainton area? Also interested in **STEPHENSON** and **ROBINSON** of Kirby Hill, Boroughbridge and Marton-cum-Grafton. Does anyone have information regarding descendants of George Robinson, stationmaster at Lambley in the 1930s?

6201 Mrs S.A. BOWES-TAYLOR, 95 Epworth Road, Scottsville, Pietermaritzburg, Natal 3201, South Africa

Robert **TAYLOR**, farmer, married Elizabeth **GRIEVE** 1778 Chester-le-Street. Children, all baptised Chester-le-Street: Dorothy (1780), Jane (1782), Anthony (1782), Robert (1785), Anthony (1787), Thomas (1789), Jane (1803). Also, George Bowes Taylor born 1792 Great Lumley, baptised 1798, married - firstly, Sarah **GARSIDE** (died 1845), one child Sarah Georgina; secondly, at Liverpool, Mary Ann **JEFFERSON** (born Rothwell 1812). Son, George Jefferson Taylor born 1852 Bootle, Liverpool. George Bowes Taylor and family emigrated to South Africa c1854.

6350 Mrs. D. J. SHAKESHAFT, 1 Pondtail Road, Fleet, Hampshire GU13 9JW

Seeking the marriage and birth place of Robert **WHITFIELD** and Eleanora (Helen) **BROWN**. Where did the Whitfields come from? They had 3 children: 1) Hellena (Eleanor) born 1806, baptised St. Andrews R.C. Church Newcastle and married James **STOTT** in Bishopwearmouth, Sunderland 1835; 2) Margaret born 1808, baptised St. Andrews and married Pierre **ORTIGE(R)** 1833 in Bishopwearmouth; 3) Robert born/married/died? Robert appears on 1841 census in Bishopwearmouth aged 29 and born out of County. Believe Robert and Helen died in Bishopwearmouth in 1834 aged 64 and 1830 aged 55 respectively. Also interested in descendants of Stott family.

6871 Mrs B. REEDS, 14 Briar Avenue, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear NE26 1RU (email: brian@breeds.freemove.co.uk)

Researching families on Tyneside linked to **BARLOW**, keelmen of Whickham in late 18th century. Seeking parentage of Timothy **WAIT**, shipwright, possibly of All Saints Parish, who married Elizabeth **ROBSON** at South Shields in 1797. Also, Peter Wait, house carpenter, who married Jane **ORKNEY** in 1784 at Ayton, Berwickshire. Both families were living in Milburn Place, North Shields in the early 19th century. Looking for information on **BULCRAIG** (**BULLERAIG**, **BULCREAK**) anywhere at all.

6879 Mr ALAN WILSON, 8 Felden Close, Pinner, Middlesex, HA5 4PU (email: alan.g.wilson@btinternet.com)

Seeking information on great grandfather James **WILSON** born in Ireland c1830 and married Jane **RACE** in Croxdale Chapel, Durham in 1858. His father's name was Michael. Also require help with Jane's father who was John Race who married a Mary **LISTER** in Bishop Middleham in 1836. Also ancestors of Thomas Lister born 1774 in Hett who married Elizabeth c1812. Children were born in Tudhoe.

6315 Mrs BETH CARR, 78 Queens Road, Blackhill, Consett, Co.Durham DH8 0BW

Seeking the **WINTER** family originally from Arkengarthdale in N.Yorkshire. Matthew married Hannah **DAVIDSON** 1805, son of same name married Jane **WATSON** 1828 Edmundbyers and lived at Ruffside. On 1851 Matthew was a lead mine agent; Jane died 1847. Known to have moved with some family after 1851 to work at Settlingstones Mine near Haydon Bridge. His eldest surviving daughter married John **HUTCHINSON** of Ruffside who later moved to Burnhope and then Witton Gilbert. Third son John moved to Leadgate where he died 1911. Hannah died 1912. What happened to Joseph, leadminer aged 14 in 1851?

6600 ERIC BELL, 26 Buck Stone Oval, Leeds LS17 5HG

Seeking information on George **BELL**, dates unknown, father of Elisha Bell, baptised 1732 at Tynemouth, innkeeper of North Shields, and grandfather of Elisha and Charles Brown Bell.

6697 Mrs C. SIBBALD, 18 Horseguards Drive, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 1XL (email: chris@sibbald.demon.co.uk)

James **DOROTHY** married Ann **TUTIN** at St Hilda's, South Shields 1847. Their daughter Sarah Ann was born Union Alley, South Shields 1853, married at Tynemouth 1874 to Isaac **CHATTEN**, mariner, when her name was recorded on the certificate as **DOCKERTY**. Has anyone any Dorothy/Dockerty connections, particularly in the North and South Shields areas.

6767 JOE DAVISON, 28 Windmill Rise, Tadcaster, North Yorkshire LS24 9HU

James **DAVISON** married Katherine **LONGSTAFF** 1757 and they had three children born 1759-1780. Martin **BLACKBIRD** married Mary **LISTER** 1759; nine children 1760-1780. George Davison (born 1761, son of James) married Ann Blackbird (born 1767, daughter of Martin) in 1790; nine children 1791-1808. Martin Davison (born 1801, son of George) married Mary Lister; six children 1824-1840. All the marriages were at St Michael's, Houghton-le-Spring. Does anyone any information about these families, especially the two Mary Listers who are thought to have originated from the Rainton/Moorsley area.

6809 SARAH ROSE, 9 Montagu Avenue, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4HX

Could anyone with knowledge of the Stroud area of Gloucestershire help to locate the present-day location of Cotswold Close in Bournes, Brimscome near Stroud?

6855 PATRICIA TURNER, Vine Cottage, The Street, Middleton cum Fordley, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 3NQ

Researching: 1) Robert W. **GREENER** married Mary Ann **FISHER**; they had children Catherine (c1843), Robert W. (c1850) and Thomas Metcalfe (c1850). Thomas born Pilgrim Street, Newcastle married Dorothy Ann **BLACK** 1867 St Andrew's, Newcastle. 2) Henry **BLINKESOPPS**, father of George **BLINKINSOP** born c1733, Ralph c1725 and Elizabeth c1730, all baptised at Auckland St Andrew. Thomas Blenkinsopps c1733 was baptised at Auckland St Helen. 3) Hans **JOHANSON**, born Sweden (became naturalised British subject) married Isabella **SMITH**, born c1851 Shadforth, daughter of John Smith, colliery blacksmith, and Elizabeth **LAMB**. Hans and Isabella had at least three children: Mary E. born c1875 Gateshead, Caroline c1881 Silksworth and John Gibson c1884 Gateshead.

6862 MIKE BROWNLEE, 7 Clifden Road, Twickenham, Middlesex TW1 4LU (email: M.Brownlee@btinternet.com)

Research Elizabeth **SWALWELL**, born Co.Durham c1792, possibly Barnard Castle, married Henry **BROWNLEE** in Gillingham 1815 and died Mile End Old Town 1858. Also the family of Thomason **GLOVER**, baptised Castle Garth 1761, married Henry Brownlee at All Saints, Newcastle in 1782 and died Newcastle 1839. Seeking the origins of Henry Brownlee who married Janet **CORMACK** at All Saints, Newcastle in 1760. He was a keelman - looking for his baptism and burial.

6867 Mr WARWICK ROBERTSON, 54 Murdoch Street, Turramurra, New South Wales 2074, Australia (e-mail: wandl@classic.com.au)

William Thomas **ROBERTSON**, 'aged 21 years', gardener of Hillgate Street, Morpeth, married 'by certificate' 1886 at Morpeth Register Office to Margaret **GAIR**. His father was William Robertson also a gardener. The 1881 Census for Morpeth shows a William Thomas Robertson, market gardener, aged 45 years, living at Hill Gate, the son of William Robertson aged 72 years, also a market gardener. I cannot reconcile the ages of the parties shown in the details of the marriage with those shown in the census. Ideas please as to how I can resolve this - the 1871 census perhaps? [In this case, 'age 21 years' on marriage certificate probably means at least 21 years, i.e. 'Of Full Age' and doesn't need parental permission - Ed.]

7012 Mrs CHRISTEEN WEIR, 18 Tydfil Place, Roath Park, Cardiff CF2 5HP

Looking for the wife, forebears and occupation of Thomas **WADE** who lived at Hylton Castle from 1819. He had at least one son, my 2X great grandfather Rev. Albany Wade who married Elizabeth Orde **PEMBERTON** of Bainbridge Holme. Thomas Wade may have been a colliery owner.

7075 Mr BRIAN BAILEY, 37 Oval Park View, Felling, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear NE10 9DS

Any information sought on **CORBRIDGE/CORBRICK** names. Also, the **AYSCOUGH** family from Bishopwearmouth, Houghton and Tynemouth areas.

7179 JOHN HUNTLEY SHILLITO, 264 Frimley Road, Camberley, Surrey. GU15 2QH (email: shillitojh@aol.com)

Seeking any information on Herbert **SHILLITO**, born 1864 in Bradford son of Joseph Shillito (surgeon, no records after 1868) and Susanna Louisa nee **HUNTLEY** (later remarried 1890 to **WHITTLE**). Believe returned to Newcastle area early 1870's. Incorrectly listed in 1881 Census as Herbert Huntley who, with sister Mary Louisa were fostered to mother's brother Dr Robert Elliot Huntley. Elder brother Joe Huntley Shillito living with mother in 1881 is known to have emigrated to South Africa around 1888.

7288 Dr. KEITH BLOOMFIELD, 72 Cropwell Road, Radcliffe-on-Trent, Nottingham NG12 2JG

Seeking descendants of Thomas **EGAN** (born c1863) and Ann Eliza **BLOOMFIELD** (born 1864) who were married at Newcastle Register Office 1893. At the time they lived in the Gog Bank/upper Pilgrim Street area.

7348 BARBARA YORK, 82 Station Road, Woodville, Swadincote, Derbyshire DE11 7DX (email: barbara@woodville.demon.co.uk)

Great grandmother and her sister were born and brought up in Newcastle, so why would Margaret, the sister, be sent to an orphanage in Bristol? Enquiries of the orphanage show that Margaret Eleanor **MOAT**, born 1867, was admitted to the old Orphan Homes at Ashley Down in 1879. Her mother had died in 1868 and her father in 1878. She and her sister were then with an uncle, William **ALDER** of Ponteland, Newcastle. Margaret returned to the care of another uncle, Thomas Alder of Spittal

Tongues, Newcastle, in 1884. She died 1886, on the death certificate it states; 'found dead in her bath, supposed to have taken a fit in it and was drowned'. But why was she sent to Bristol? Her older sister, Elizabeth Ann Moat, was found a job in Huddersfield.

7360 Ms P.T. LUCAS, 49 Malton Green, Gateshead NE9 7EF

Seeking any information on John LUCAS, former Mayor of Gateshead, and Lucas family of brick manufacturers. Also, TURNBULL of Gateshead, possibly innkeepers on the High Street; and, FERRY of Gateshead, particularly the family of Christopher Ferry who worked at Ravensworth Castle.

7409 SANDRA TRAPP, 16W668 Marybeth Court, Hinsdale, Illinois 60521, U.S.A.

Seeking information regarding Jane PAXTON probably born between 1855 and 1880. Lived in Sunderland and died there between 1929 and 1932. She had at least two children - James and Elizabeth. Her granddaughter would be Elsie CARNEY (nee LONGCAKE?) who lived in Sunderland with her mother during WW II.

7427 Mrs V.A. POTTER, Glen View Farm, Ayle, Alston, Cumbria CA9 3NH

Seeking information on: 1) Family of George and Eliza SUNDERLAND of Wellington Terrace/Street, Newcastle. On 1871 Census they had: Maria (aged 12), Mary (10), Alice (8, born Hull), Margaret (7), Eliza (5), George (3), Emily (10 months), and by 1881, Jane (8). The youngest five were all born Newcastle. George jnr. is on 1881 Census at North Shields aged 13, head of house given as 'Wellesley' - could this be a ship? Not yet found George and Eliza's marriage on GRO indexes - thought to be pre-1858. 2) John George ATKINSON of Campbell Street, South Shields, grandson and executor for George Atkinson who died 1882 at Barningham.

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

Information required please on George MARSHALL of Lambeth. His daughter Mary Elizabeth married 1871 at St John the Evangelist, Pancras, Middlesex to Henry Carnell PALMER from Devon. Also any information on John Palmer - especially his parents or siblings - who married Ann SAUNDERS 1785 Broadhembury, Devon. John and Ann had at least six children.

7446 Mrs MARGARET MANCHESTER, 81 Front Street, Sunnyside, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham DL13 4LW (email:manchester@alecmargaret.freeserve.co.uk)

Seeking information on Matthew ELLIOT who was born in Arkendale [Arkengarthdale?] Yorkshire. He married Ann HEATHERINGTON at Stanhope in 1797. Also any relationship between the EGGLESTONE family in Edmondbyers and the Egglestones in Weardale.

7672 WILLIAM BARRON DENT, 45 Lynton Road, New Malden, Surrey KT3 5ED

1) Looking for early information/ parentage of George DENT, born Stanhope 1808/9, who married c1841 (where/when?) Isabella MOSES, born Hillend, Stanhope 1815. The first of their seven children, William, was born Medomsley 1843. 2) Isabella BREWIS and Matthew Spearman ROBSON married 1841 at the Spring Grove United Secession Chapel, Sunderland. Would appreciate any information about the church.

7681 Mrs B. WATSON, 6 East View Fields, Plumpton Green, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 3EE

Researching the LLEWELLYN family of Newcastle. Believe that there was only one family, either in Byker or Newcastle, All Saints. Presently looking for Henry Llewellyn, who married Annie, father of James Goodwin born July 1901. Any information on the family would be welcome.

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

Seeking information on John BELL and Ann CAIRNS and family, most of whom emigrated from Greystead parish(?) to Canada in 1830 and 1835. The emigrants included members of the Bell and SHIPLEY families who were related by marriage. Bell family members included John Bell (born c1777) and his wife Ann Cairns (born c1777); their children: Elizabeth (born c1804) and her husband George Shipley (born c1803) with two young sons Lionel and John; Ann Bell (born c1808); John Bell (born c1811) and his wife Mary Ann HINDMARSH (born c1811); and James S. Bell (born c1813). I would like to find confirmation that they did indeed come from Greystead parish in order to find a starting point for Northumberland research.

7842 STEPHEN STOKES, 26 Dalesford Road, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 9XD (email: sjstokes1@aol.com)

Searching for information on the following: 1) Peter WATT (iron turner) and Sarah TOSHACK who had a child, Alexander, born 1855 in George Street, Westgate, Newcastle; 2) The marriage of William BROWN and Annabel DAVISON in the mid 1850's. In 1871 the family was living at Custom House Quay, South Shields; 3) Catherine RODHAM born c1808 in Hexham and who married Charles HOOD at St. Nicholas, Newcastle 1828.

7884 Miss T. BOWMAN, 23 George Street, Darlington, Co. Durham, DL1 5DW (email: cat.house@virgin.net)

Researching Susannah SMITH, baptised Hexham in 1820 to parents Ridley and Margaret Smith. Susannah married Joseph WILSON (son of John Wilson) in 1843 in Hexham Parish Church. Their first child Mary, was born in Hexham in 1844. They moved their family down to Heworth sometime during the 1850s. There are several Ridley Smith's on the IGI, but most come from Wallsend, could any be my Ridley Smith? None of the families appear on the 1851 Census for Hexham or Heworth. Has anyone come across them during their 'travels' through the censuses?

7946 Mrs VALERIE ESTALL, 266 Harwich Road, Little Clacton, Essex CO16 9PX

Seeking information on the following: Richard **ELLISON** and Eleanor **BROWN** parents of William Ellison, born Birtley, Chester-le-Street 1864. William subsequently married Jane **WIND** in 1888 at High Elswick. Jane was born 1868 Witton Gilbert, daughter of John Wind and Margaret **SAYERS**. Also looking for John **FISHER** and Mary, parents of John Fisher born c1867 Etherley, Durham, who later married Annie Elizabeth **HORTON** 1891 at Auckland Register Office. She was born c1871, daughter of Richard Horton - 'deceased' on daughter's marriage certificate.

7957 Mrs ANNETTE McNIVEN, The Bushes, Barham, Canterbury, Kent CT4 6QE

Trying to establish whether the parents of William **WEDDELL**, woodcarver born Newcastle c1816, and older brother Thomas, might be John Weddell and Isabella **ANGUS** who married Newcastle All Saints in 1810. Their father given as John, cooper. Also seeking information on Ann **FORSTER** and Joseph **ATKINSON** (seaman/waterman) who had a daughter Jane Forster born Newcastle c1834. Possibly Ann and Joseph married later. Jane married Samuel **CALLOWAY** in 1853.

7974 MARGARET I. ROBERTS (nee SPURRS), 2 Wetheral Pasture, Carlisle, Cumbria CA4 8HU
(email: mir@edencroft.demon.co.uk)

Would welcome hearing from anyone who recognises or is researching any of the following: 1) Charles **HORNSBY** who married Ann **VEACH**, Earsdon 1836. 2) Henry **SCOTT** married Mary Eliza **TURNBULL**, Newcastle 1839. 3) Edward Watson **YOUNG** married Ann **HEPPLE**, Gateshead Fell 1843. 4) Joseph **SPURR(S)** married Isabella Young, Newcastle 1884. 5) Walter **DOUGHTY** married Charlotte Brown **PEARSON** c1850, when and where? 6) Thomas Johnston Doughty (born in Alnwick) married Agnes Wilson Turnbull, after 1881 but when and where?

8039 Dr H. DAN ELLIS, 24 Kurru Street, Eight Mile Plains, Queensland 4113, Australia; and, after 15th January 1999, 24 Cronin Drive, Wellington Point, Queensland 4160, Australia
(e-mail : hylton@uq.net.au)

Researching names of **SCOULER/SCoulAR, DODD, AVERY** and **SMITH**. Also **DIXON** and **RUSSEL** around Norham. Scouler: - Norham, Ancroft, Tweedmouth area, especially descendants of John (coalminer) and Elizabeth, nee Dixon, and of John's parents, Robert and Jane nee Russel. One of their kids, Alice Rachel Ann, born 1863 at Shoreswood Colliery (who had a sister named Rachel Ann) married Thomas Dodd (born 1867, according to family Bible) on 1895 at St John's, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Thomas' father was Henry. Alice and Thomas's daughter Elizabeth, married John Thomas Smith, born 1893, son of Thomas Smith (born c1863, father Robert) and Elizabeth Ann nee Avery (born c1865, Durham, father Robert) at Longbenton 1888.

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

Seeking information of Elizabeth **STRONG** who married Thomas **ERRINGTON** 1869 at Lamesley. Her father is shown as James Strong, miner. According to her death certificate she should have been born in Dec 1847. On the 1871 and 1881 Censuses she says that she was born in Longbenton. Unable to find her birth.

8061 Mrs H. ORAM, 39, Orchard Close, Eaton Ford, St Neots, Cambridgeshire. PE19 3AW

Researching the **THOMPSON** family of Bishop Auckland and Etherly. Looking for baptism of William Thompson, violin maker, of Newgate Street, Bishop Auckland. He was the son of David Thompson and Frances (nee **EARNshaw**) and would have been born c1825. Also looking for the parents of Mary Ann **YOUNG**, born c1865-70 in Willington. She married David Thompson, son of the above William, in 1890. Marriage certificate states that she lived at Newgate Street, daughter of Robert Young, draper. Was he the Robert Young who is on the 1861 Willington census at the Oak Tree Inn with the **PIGFORM** family?

8092 JOHN GREEN, Sundown, Dark Lane, Codicote, Hitchin, Hertfordshire SG4 8UZ

Researching the **CLARK** family and seeking help in finding out more about Thomas and Sarah Clark and their family who lived in Throckley (parish of Newburn) in the 1780s. Sarah's maiden name was **BURN** and they were married in All Saints Church, Newcastle in 1785. Also, seeking information on the whereabouts of Thomas and Ann Clark after 1844; they were living in Deptford Lane, Bishopwearmouth at the time of the 1841 Census when Thomas was a "Cast Iron Founder". Ann's maiden name was **ROBSON** and they were married in St Peter's Church, Monkwearmouth in 1833. They had two sons in 1841: James and Thomas Robson.

8106 Mrs WYNNE MURRAY, 62 Sheffield Drive, Lea, Preston, Lancashire PR2 1TS

Seeking information on: John **STOKOE**, born c1820, a railway inspector, and his son John born 1843/5, engine fitter of Monkwearmouth, who married Jane **PATTISON**, daughter of William Pattison, at the Register Office, Sunderland in 1867. Their children: William Henry 1869, John Kendal 1872, Anne Young 1877, Dorothy Jane 1878, Elizabeth Elliot 1881, Sydney 1883 and Jane Isabella 1884, all born Sunderland. In 1885 John sponsored his family's emigration to Australia. Three children, Ernest 1888, James and Mary A. (twins 1891) were born in Australia and registered in Leichhardt. William Henry Stokoe subsequently returned to England.

8116 Mr J. KITCHING, 288 Rainham Road South, Dagenham, Essex RM10 7UU

Searching for information on Charles Henry **DIXON** born 1839 Blakeney, Norfolk, died 1885 Seaham Harbour. He was a ship's captain (bottle boats) but can't find proof of this; also, death of his wife Thirza Dixon nee **THURSTON** born 1841 Cley-next-the-Sea but lived in Seaham Harbour. Francis **KITCHING** of Bulmer born 1786. Was he born at Bulmer? Looking for information on Kitchings before this date. Also, John **CUNDELL** of the York area who married Eliza **CLIFFORD** of Stamford Bridge c1850.

8142 Dr B.R. THOMSON, 8 School Lane, Menstrie, Clackmannanshire FK11 7BB

Seeking information on George **WRIGHT**, master mariner on Tyneside, born South Shields c1830; father unknown but mother may have been Mary A. Wright, publican in South Shields, born c1801. Also, his brother Joseph Wright, glassblower born South Shields c1823. The wife of George Wright is not known but a

daughter Mary was born 1857 at Blackett Street, Newcastle. She married William **LITTLEFAIR** (born 1856, son of Joseph) and they moved soon after to Scotland.

8146 Mrs PAULINE RICHARDSON, 15 Nandi Terrace, Gaven, Queensland 4211, Australia
(email biik@winshop.com.au)

Seeking any information on **DINSDALE/LEATHAM** families of Blyth and Choppington. Also any knowledge of Thompson's Stores of Blyth and Ashington: locations and family members. Can anyone tell me of the exact location of Netherton near Rothbury (not Bedlington) and Borrowdon?

8150 Mrs. MAUD DIMOCK, 30 Belmont Ave. Feeding Hills, Ma. U.S.A. (email: Vicky_Stan@webtv.net)

Seeking married names of my great aunts. They are Jane born 1866; Elizabeth born 1861; and Margaret born 1851. They are the daughters of Stephen and Ann (nee **PATRICK**) **CAIRNS**. They were born in or around Berwick upon Tweed. One of the aunts married a Mr. **McGREGOR**.

8151 Mr RICHARD COOKE, 22 Thirlmere Road, Wythenshawe, Manchester M22 1NB
(email: RHCooke@btg.co.uk)

Joseph **JEFFREY** (1834-1930) known as the 'Pitman Violinist', born Shillbottle, was a blacksmith before moving to Holywell (coal miner) before 1881; son of George (b1796) and Ann (b1796). Joseph married Mary Ann **COULSON** (b1853) of Tynemouth. Their son Joseph (b. 1875) married Florence Riccard **WORTH** (b1891) daughter of John Worth and Emma (nee **ELLIOT**, later **TARBUCK**) both of Taverstock, Devon. **RICCARD** is not a family surname but all the siblings were christened with it. Florence and Joseph's daughter, Edna married Edward **HARRISON** in 1837 at Earsdon. His Father Charlton Ward Harrison (1877-1910) of Medomsley. Parents of C.W.H. were Edward and Sarah Ann Ward. Edward's parents were George (b 1831) and Sarah Ann (b 1830). Sara Anne Ward's parents were Charlton Ward (b1817) and Sarah (b1819). Charlton Ward Harrison married Elizabeth Ann **FORSTER** in Newburn. Her mother Elizabeth **TURNER**'s family owned a pub; her brothers were Foy? Boatmen on the Tyne. Unlinked cousins with the surname **JOPLIN/JOBLIN** in the Riding Mill area. The Harrison family may originate from the upper Tyne Valley.

8152 Mrs M.A. DOSSOR, 72 Wheatlands Park, Redcar, Cleveland TS10 2PF

Matthew **DOWNEY** (born 1813) moved from Howick to Wales c1840 to the position of gamekeeper on an estate near Brecon. Seeking information about his parents William and Mary, brothers and sisters, and their descendants in Northumberland. Some of William and Mary's children were baptised at the Green Batt Presbyterian Chapel in Alnwick.

8160 ENID GOODWIN, 8 Lands Lane, Knaresborough, North Yorkshire HG5 9DE

Searching for a Scottish connection for John **MELDRUM**, master mariner, who married Mary **PEARSON** 1790. Would also like to

know about the **BURLINSON** family; Elizabeth Burlinson married Robert Meldrum in 1814. Did anyone know my uncle Harry **BURROUGHS** of West Hartlepool. He married Elizabeth Grace **BATT** and was fatally injured in an accident at South Durham Steel and Iron Co. in 1946.

8164 Mrs EILEEN BARNES, Flat 5, Falconhurst, 111 The Park, Sidcup, Kent DA14 6AN

Looking for information/descendants of William **SMITH** and Ann **REED** of Brunswick Street, South Shields (1891 Census), and Julius **SWAN** and Esther **MOORE** of Peel Street, South Shields (1881 Census). Ann Reed was shot by British Army at Harton Butts 1900 [sic!! - Ed]; Julius Swan was Norwegian - born Bergen. Also, Robert Moore and Mary **MULVEY**, grocers of Union Street, North Shields (1850), both born Ireland. Swan children were: Florence who married an **ARMSTRONG** and had a pig farm at Seaton Delaval, Andrea who had a boarding house for Norwegian seaman in Stanhope Road, South Shields, Julius, Mary and John Arrant.

8180 ROBIN DITCHBURN, Lower Springfield, Walls, Shetland ZE2 9PF (email: robib.ditchburn@zetnet.co.uk)

Researching **DITCHBURN** families, in particular any antecedents of William Ditchburn (1732-1802) who died at Bilton, and of his wife Sarah **DICKISON** (1740-1803) whom he married at Longhorsley in 1777. Any information about their sons: Peter, born 1782, and John who married Ann **WILLIS** at Longhorsley in 1802. Peter married Jane Alice **HORSLEY**, Grace **DARLING**'s aunt. Peter Ditchburn born Embleton 1805 died 1840 after an accident in Bedlington Colliery. Does anyone have any record of this?

8190 KEITH ARMSTRONG, 71 Brantwood Avenue, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear NE25 8NL

1) John Joseph **COATES** married 1899 whilst in the Army; age given as 24, father as John, a farmer. His year of birth would be c1874/5 but no trace found. On the 1881 Census for Evenwood and Barony, there is a John Joseph Coates aged 7, born Ohio, but father is recorded as William Coates, a miner. The rest of the family were all born locally; could William have adopted John Joseph? 2) In 1881 Sophie(a) Turner **GORNALL** born America c1860 was living in Westmorland Street, Newcastle with her aunt Mary **FOGAN** nee Gornall. Mary was the daughter of John Foster Gornall and Eleanor **MUMFORTH** who married at Monkwearmouth 1804. Looking for any information on the Gornall family who were in Newcastle 1834/5 and Bedlington 1842 when a son Robert Foster Gornall was born.

8198 Mr C.R. ALEXANDER, 42 Penhallow Road, Newquay, Cornwall TR7 3DA

Researching the **ALEXANDER** family of Durham (19th C) and Gateshead and North Shields (20th C). William Alexander, shoe retailer from c1905 to 1950, married 1905 to Alice **BEAN**. Trying to find out more about her family. He was in 1st Newcastle Royal Engineers (Volunteer Corps) 1901 to 1904. Are there are any records of this Corps? In WW I he served as a private in the Army Ordnance Corps. The 19th C Durham family were weavers and wool-sorters who may have arrived from Scotland. Any advice on how to trace people who move across the border?

8200 Mrs MARGARET WIDDOP, 4 Lodgeside, Clayton le Moors, Accrington, Lancashire BB5 5TQ

Seeking information about the children of Thomas **DENNISON**, born Kendal 1842, and his wife Mary, born Stanhope 1849. They were: John 1867, Joseph 1869, Burnhope 1871, Mary Elizabeth 1873, William 1875, Susannah 1877 and Margaret 1880. Their sister Jane Ann, born 1879, married Edward **HOGG**, born Richmond 1875, who was killed in WW I. Jane Ann later married William **PROCTOR**, also of Weardale, and they moved to work on the Stocks Reservoir, N.Yorks in early 1920s. Other names connected with the Dennison family are William **DOWSON** and Ernest **GOWLAND**. Also researching James Hogg, born Darlington 1854, married Isabella born Richmond 1859, children: the above Edward, and Ethel born Richmond 1881.

8203 Mrs. B. SADLER, 'Branksome', 132 Braunstone Lane, Leicester LE3 2RW (email: brenda.sadler@diamond.co.uk)

Seeking information on any of the following: 1) **SADLER**, farmers and landowners? in the Morpeth, Longhirst, Tritlington areas 1700 to early 1900s. 2) James William **DUNN** (born Holy Island parish) and Isabella **LUMSDEN**, born Burnfoot, Netherton, married 1901 at Thropton. 3) William **BORTHWICK** of Sunderland and Gateshead, died 1926 at Berwick. 4) Marriage of John **LITTLE** and Elizabeth **TRAIN** c1840 Newcastle/Gateshead area. 5) William **CORBETT** born to William and Elizabeth Corbett at Redesmouth in 1803. Also, any information on the 3rd Northumberland Rifle Volunteers 1860s and the Morpeth Shooting Competition of that period.

8208 Ms LESLEY WATERWORTH, 30 Cross Street, Corrimal, New South Wales 2518, Australia

Seeking information on the following: John **HODGSON**, born 1852 Merrington, son of Joseph. Also, John **HUMES/HUME** who married Margaret Elizabeth **FARRAR** late 1890s at East Stanley, and John William **SHIELD** who married Beatrice **BAINBRIDGE** late 1890s at West Stanley. Also has anyone information on the inn(s) of Langley Park for the late 1800s/early 1900s, such as names of owners/licensees.

8209 Mrs M.A. RUSSELL, 97 Park Lane, Guisborough, Cleveland TS14 6PA (email address: RUSSGEN@aol.com)

Looking for the marriage c1863-68 of Ruth **TRATHEN**, born 1840 Nenthead, and Matthew **LEE**, also born c1840. Where was Matthew born? A family bible has two lists of names; the names of the Trathen family, and the children of Edward **PEART** - Mary (1756), Isabel (1764), Frances (1766), Joseph (1769), Ann (1771), John (1774), Edward (1776) and Jacob (1779). What was the connection between the Trethan and Peart families?

8223 JANE HUGHES, Westbourne, High Street, Ticehurst, East Sussex TN5 7BD (email: janegarethhughes@msn.com)

Researching **OLIVER** family in Morpeth. William Oliver was master butcher at 55 Newgate Street, 1861-85. He married Eliza Julia **LUPTON** (Newcastle 1857), who, after William's death, owned a fruiterers at 44 Newgate St. in 1890's. They had children: Mary Jane, William (also butcher) Margaret, John, Eliza, Annie, Martha and Stephen. Seek contact with other Oliver

researchers, plus any background information on Newgate Street and Bolland House (where Eliza died in 1902)

8226 Mr R.A. SPRINGALL, PO Box 92, 16 Seymour Avenue, Mt. Eliza, Victoria 3930, Australia
(email: richanne@ozemail.com.au)

Researching information on **HAMILTON**, **McMANN**, **MOON** and **GUNN** families, generally in the Berwick upon Tweed area. Hugh Hamilton, baptised Berwick c1820, married Ellen McMann in 1845 at Lambertton Toll. Know children: Jane, Hannah, James, Elizabeth, Margaret Ellen, Anne, Mary Jane and William. Hugh was a shoemaker in Western Lane and later High Street, Berwick. His son James was a blacksmith at Pallion, Sunderland when Hugh died in 1878. William Hamilton married at Sunderland to Sarah Gunn, daughter of John, a coachman to Charles Doxford, shipbuilder. William and Sarah later moved south to London. Hugh Hamilton was the son of James Hamilton, shoemaker, and Hannah Moon. James was born in 1778 and when they married in 1818 he was living in Shaw Lane, Berwick. They and several of their children died in the 1832 cholera epidemic.

8237 Mrs MARY HALLET, 6 Trout Lane, Barns Green, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 7QD

Seeking information, photographs, etc. of 9 Percy Street, Newcastle, home/business from 1870s to at least 1895 of John and Susannah **MILLS**. On 1881 Census John was described as a joiner and by 1891 Mary was a widow and shopkeeper and broker. Also looking for information about Clarke Chapman & Co., Gateshead where John and Mary's grandson Nicholas Henry was apprenticed in 1916. Did his father, also Nicholas Henry, work there too? He was a blacksmith. Also information on the rest of the Mills family. John and Mary had at least three children: John (1861), Jane Ann (1864) and Nicholas Henry (1870), who married Catherine Sarah Ann **HUTCHINSON** in 1895 at St Andrew's, Newcastle and had four children.

8239 GERALD PEARCE, Home Farm House, Dalton, Burton-in-Kendal, Carnforth, Lancashire LA6 1NJ

Researching **PEARCE**, particularly the family who lived in Consett in 1881. Are any descendants known to members? Also has a special interest in **STEPHENSON** families centred on around Windlestone and Merrington. Unable to establish any information earlier than 1808 and believe they may have originated in Northumberland with a link to Weardale.

8242 IAN BURDON, 29 Corstorphine Hill Gardens, Edinburgh EH12 6LB

Research interests: **BURDON**: 1) William married Ann **HEPPLE** Medomsley 1746. 2) Their son William, pitman, born Ovingham 1753, buried Barlow 1819; married twice, firstly to Dorothy **MARSHALL** at Ovingham 1785, she died 1788, secondly to Mary **BEATON** at Chester-le-Street 1793. 3) Martin born Pelton 1799, married Isabella **MIDDLETON** at Ryton 1820. 4) Martin baptised Winlaton 1836, married Sarah **HEANEY** 1861 Eston. **CRIBBIN**: Sarah Jane born 1870 Croniwell(?) married Rowland Burdon at Holmside 1890. John Heaney, Corporal in 5th Dragoon Guards at Ashted, Warwickshire in 1837 and Master Barrack Sergeant at Tees Tilery, Eston in 1861. Whereabouts after 1861

not known. Samuel **RAINE**, joiner of Red House, Muggleswick married Margaret Jane **BELL** 1901 at Edmundbyers.

8260 JOAN ARMSTRONG nee CARTER, 12 Pioneer Road Umina, New South Wales 2257, Australia (email: joalarm@ozemail.com.au)

Seeking any information of ancestors of James **LANDLES** born in Scotland. His son Alexander Landles married Mary Elizabeth **HAILS** at St Mary's Church South Shields in 1875. Was living at 91 Weavers Row, Hedworth, Monkton, Jarrow with daughter Isabella aged 4 years and son Alexander aged 2 months in 1881. Isabella married John Richard **CARTER** in 1902 at St Paul's Jarrow. Also the following ancestors or relatives of: Henry Carter, seaman, married to Mary **COLLINS**, lived at Wellington Street Tynemouth 1851; son John Richard born 1851. Peter **JOHNSON**, seaman, married to Jane **ANDERSON** son Henry born 1874 Mount Pleasant, Chirton. Would like to find any brothers or sisters. Later Peter Johnson, on son's marriage certificate in 1902, profession is stated as missionary. John **TAYLOR**, son of John, seaman, married to Elizabeth **SCORER**; daughter Dorothy born 1855 South Shields.

8266 JOHN NELSON, 9 Barracong Street, Belmont North, New South Wales 2280, Australia (email: nelson@id1.net.au)

Seeking information about the following and their families: Oswald **NELSON** born c1827, migrated to Australia in 1856 from South Shields. Margaret **BULMER** born c1820, wife of Oswald Nelson, her father John Bulmer. Abraham **GRAY** born 1795 Herrington, died 1860 Pittington. James **CHARLTON**, born c1810 Newcastle upon Tyne and died 1868 Newcastle, New South Wales. Ann **ROBINSON** born c1818 Newcastle upon Tyne and died 1869 Newcastle, N.S.W., wife of James Charlton, her father JOHN Robinson. John **MUNCASTER** (1802 to before 1876), and his wife Margaret **MAYNARD** (1819 to 1907), who lived in Neasham, Hurworth.

8271 Mrs MARGARET ORTON nee BAINBRIDGE, 335 Masfield Drive, Leyfields, Tamworth, Staffordshire B79 8JE

Looking for information on her **GREEN**, **BAINBRIDGE**, **GARGETT** and **BELL** families. John Lunson Bainbridge was born 1903 at Hetton-le-Hole, son of Arthur Bainbridge, born 1878, and Elizabeth Jane nee Bell who married in the Auckland District 1900. Elizabeth Ann Green born Killerby 1905, daughter of Elizabeth Alice nee Gargette, born 1882, and George Henry Green, born 1875 at Binchester, married 1902 at Ingleton.

8272 JOHN PARRY JONES, Flat 1, Hewshott House, Hewshott Lane, Liphook, Hampshire GU30 7SU

Seeking information on **HUDSON**, to link Anglesey ancestors to Northumberland and Durham. Henry Hudson born Llansadwrn 1788, son of Thomas Hudson born Beaumaris 1752, son of John **HUDGSON**. Possible link to Northumberland and Durham found on marriage certificate of Henry's daughter Ann in 1844 at Caernarfon; witness was Nathaniel Hudson, later found in Lloyds Captains Register "born 1799 Newcastle". Also his baptism in Newcastle 1798 as son of Edmund Hudson. Is this the same Nathaniel Hudson, and was John Hudson related?

8275 ANN SCOTT, 17 Craigie Loanings, Aberdenn AB25 2PS

Researching: **DODDS**, **TEASDALE**, **ARMSTRONG** and **WILKINSON** of the Simonburn and Wark areas.

8279 Dr. GREGORY ALLAN FINNEGAN, 31 Hubbard Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02140-3312, U.S.A. (email address: gregory_finnegan@harvard.edu)

Seeking information on: 1) Thomas **ALLAN**, born Roxburghshire(?), married Grace **AWBURN** in Newcastle St. Andrews 1825, and descendants, especially George Awburn **ALLAN**, 1831-1910, of Earsdon and from 1855, Wallsend (Mayor 1903-4), and their kin **LAWSON**, **AWBURN**, **FLINT**, **WOOD**. 2) Wallsend artillery volunteers and the 1st Newcastle and Durham Engineer Volunteers and the 25 or 30 members of the latter unit who served in the 10th Railway Company in the Sudan Campaign, April-May 1885.

8288 CHRISTOPHER McPHEE, 70 Blunden Road, Farnborough, Hants GU14 8QW (email: chris@mcphee.demon.co.uk)

Looking for various family branches in the last century including **ROBSON** from Wooler; **COLLINS** and **McPHEE** (aka **McFEE**, **McFIE**) from central Newcastle; **TURNBULL** and **MULKERRIN** from Gateshead Fell and Sheriff Hill.

8290 Mr G.W. BYLES, 1 Nursery Close, Chineham, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG24 8TA (email: gbytes@compuserve.com)

Seeking information on: Richard **HALL** and his daughter, Elizabeth Ann born 1872 in the Felling or Washington areas who married Robert **GREENWELL** c1891. They had a son, Ralph, born c1892 and a daughter, Beatrice Egan, born 1899 in London. Ralph emigrated to Australia prior to WW1. Returned to the UK as a member of the Australian Army, was wounded at Gallipoli and again in France. Prior to returning to Australia he married Maria **FISHER**, c1918/1919, in Dumfries, Scotland. He died about 1935. They had four children, Ralph (killed in WW2), Patsy, Kathleen and Beatrice. Also interested in Albert Victor **FUTERS** of Washington Station, Durham, born 1890.

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