

THE JOURNAL OF THE NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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EDITORIAL

The Northumberland and Durham Family History Society exists to assist its members in the research of their family history. It has been in existence now for almost twenty five years and owes much to its founding fathers and their endeavours.

Members like Bill Rounce Don Mason, Charles Neat and Dr Kenneth Mitchell, to mention just four who are no longer with us, have, in the past, given freely of their time to undertake many tasks, the most obvious of which were the transcribing and indexing of various genealogical aids: parish registers, census and memorial inscriptions. The Society has published many of these productions for the benefit of the members, and to help finance the running of the Society. It is for us to continue the example which they set: there are still many projects awaiting help.

There are many volunteers who work hard for your Society but, unfortunately, we still need more. Cyril Jewitt organises projects and ensures that there is no overlapping. Derek Cuthbert is organising the *Shroud Project*, Gordon Corbett co-ordinates the recording of monumental inscriptions and Kevin Dolan is upgrading our database. But, it's not just projects: there are the publication sales, arranging meetings for the local groups and, of course, the running by volunteers of our Library and Research Centre at Bolbec Hall, as well as many others who contribute to the general running of the Society. The NDFHS is not just a society; it is a (not so!) small business being run by volunteers.

The thing is that all these activities need help. If the Society is to move forward more members must come forward to assist. To stand still is not an option. If we try to stand still we will start to go backwards, and that would benefit no-one.

There are many things that could be done if there were more people who were prepared to give a little of their time. For example, we are often asked about a Directory of Members' Interests. Although that facility is covered in part by the *BIGR* it would be nice to be able to publish our own Society's directory.

Positions which are essential to the existence of the Society are unfilled. It is the view of your committee that this *Journal* is the most important part of the Society. After all, it is the *Journal* that is the vital link between members and, for most, the only direct contact they have with NDFHS. And yet, for the last few issues it has been compiled by an Editorial Committee because we were unable to find someone prepared, and able, to do the Editor's job. Hopefully, that situation will be changing soon.

By the time that you read this we will have had the Annual General Meeting and it would be nice to think that we had found people prepared to fill those positions essential to the running of the Society rather than leave the burden to be shared by fewer and fewer. However, I'll bet that we don't get the volunteers. I do hope that I am proved wrong!

NEWS 'SNIPPETS'

The day search fees at the Society of Genealogists have been changed. Whilst the fee for one hour has remained at £3, four hours will cost £8 and a whole day will be £12.

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As from 26th April this year, the price of a copy of a post-1858 will or administration from the Principal Probate Registry at Somerset House in London has risen drastically from £0.25 for a copy of the grant of probate and £0.75 for a will to £5.00. If you wish to study the original will in the searchroom the increase is even bigger, from £0.25 to £15.00!

You can still make postal applications to the sub-registry at York and the fee will be £5.00 for a search up to four years. This fee includes a copy of the grant and will, if there is one. Additional years will be searched for £3.00 for each four years. The address for postal applications is: Postal Searches and Copies Dept., The Probate Registry, Duncombe Place, York YO1 2EA

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A preliminary meeting has already taken place of a new NDFHS group at Hexham. In the next edition of our *Journal* we hope to bring you more news of dates and speakers for future meetings. In the meantime, if you live in the Hexham area and would like more information, you should contact Mrs Audrey Herbertson, Lockerbie, Park Avenue, Hexham NE47 3EN

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The Doncaster & District FHS is to hold a one day conference on October 30th 1999. Further details can be obtained from Mrs J. Staniforth, Marton House, 125 The Grove, Wheatley Hills, South Yorks., Doncaster DN2 5SN

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Buckinghamshire FHS will be holding an Open Day on Saturday 24th July 1999 from 10.00 am until 4.00 pm at Aylesbury Grammar School, Walton Road, Aylesbury. There will be many attractions for Buckinghamshire researchers in particular. Free admission and parking.

A one-day seminar on agricultural history and records is to be held Wiltshire FHS. It will be at Lackham College on 11th September 1999 and will cost £15.00 per person. Further details and a booking form may be obtained from Mrs Persis Wiltshire, 23 Little Parks, Holt, Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA14 6QR

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The NDFHS will be represented at the 4th Yorkshire Family History Fair being held on Saturday 26th June 1999 with a stall selling book and fiche publications and answering questions about our society. The Fair is being held at York Racecourse and will be open from 10.00 am to 4.30 pm. Admission will be £2.00 with free parking.

For those members living in the south west of England, the South West Group of Family History Societies are holding a Family History Fair at the Winter Gardens, Royal Parade, Weston-super-Mare on Saturday 3rd July 1999 from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. Admission £1.50; a large fair with over 60 exhibitors.

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David Ridgway is compiling a searchable database of Ridgways and so far has over 14,000 individuals listed. If any members have Ridgways on their family tree David would be happy to share information with you. He may be contacted at 6 Gorseway, Burntwood, Staffordshire WS7 8TB

NEW BOOKS AND REVIEWS

John Robinson; *The Death and Life of a Dales Community - Harwood-in-Teesdale*; 1999; £16.95 plus £2.75 p&p (no details on overseas rates)

The author of this new book sadly passed away within a few days of his book being printed and within a few weeks of his 80th birthday. His daughter, Mrs Christine Bracken of Spiebank, Queens Road, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 4PH, will be attending to the distribution of the book.

John Robinson spent many years in diligent research into the history of upper Teesdale and the book reflects his detailed down-to-earth approach to community life in days long gone. Consisting of 470 pages with over 400 photographs, the book is of compelling interest to those with family roots in upper Teesdale. Many family names appear; those who stayed and those who left and what happened to them. Altogether a comprehensive account of a subject on which very little has been written.

John Sheen and Graham Stewart; *Tyneside Scottish; 20th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd (Service) Battalions of the Northumberland Fusiliers. A History of the Tyneside Scottish Brigade Raised in the North East in World War I*; 1999; ISBN 0 85052 587 X; Pen and Sword Books Ltd; £18.95

Bill Reece was the last of them to die, in 1994. He had been an 18 year old reinforcement in 1918. He would have relished this book about his colleagues in arms eighty years ago, men who were "Harder than hammers". *Tyneside Scottish* is a companion volume to John Sheen's *Tyneside Irish* published in 1998 (see NDFHS Journal Summer 1998) and it follows the same form. There are 248 large,

copiously illustrated pages tracing the formation and early history of the Brigade, following it through the hell of France in WW I to the final laying up of the colours in Newcastle Cathedral, in Jesmond, in Bedlington and in Ryton.

Over 1,500 men of the "Scottish" perished, some 900 of them on the killing fields of the Somme in July 1916. Many regimental histories published in the aftermath of the conflict tend to concentrate on the military history and on the officers. Whilst not neglecting these aspects, the authors devote equal space to the human side and to the "other Ranks" and their activities, their gallantry and their tragedies. There are many hitherto unpublished photographs of individual soldiers and of groups.

Family historians will value the "background" but the jewel for them will be the 50 pages of closely printed appendices which are the result of a massive amount of research. There is a list of the many gallantry awards with citations. There is a "Nominal Roll" of 695 officers giving age, rank, decorations, date of wounding and death where applicable, on which memorial they are commemorated, and "general" information. For the other ranks, there is similar detail for 1365 men of the 20th Battalion, 1049 of the 21st, 1089 of the 22nd and 1060 of the 23rd, frequently giving a town or village of origin, date of enlistment, date and cause of discharge, and place of burial. The genealogical value of these pages is immense.

A worthy companion to *Tyneside Irish*, the *Tyneside Scottish* volume is available from NDFHS at Bolbec Hall price £18.95 plus £2.35 p&p (UK), £7.92 (N.America) or £9.34 (Australasia).

Following *Tyneside Irish* and *Tyneside Scottish*, John Sheen is working on a similar volume about the 18th, 19th, 20th and 22nd (Service) Battalions of the Durham Light Infantry - the "Durham Pals" and other units. He would welcome pictures, photographs and details of letters, diaries

or family stories. Write to him at 21 Roosevelt Road, Gilesgate, Durham DH1 1PS

Dick Keys and Ken Smith; *Black Diamonds By Sea*; ISBN 1 85795 019 4; Newcastle Libraries, Princess Square, Newcastle upon Tyne NE99 1DX; £5.99

Many members will have seafaring ancestors who worked on a sailing collier. They will be interested in *Black Diamonds by Sea*, subtitled *North East Sailing Colliers 1780-1880*, a nicely illustrated 38 page book about the "little wooden ships" which carried the coal between the north east and London, and elsewhere. There were 11,226 departures from the Tyne in 1830 alone and between then and the end of the sailing ship era almost 3,000 brigs, brigantines, snows and schooners were engaged on the work, taking about a month, but sometimes much longer, to do the round trip.

After examining the development of the trade, the book devotes a chapter to the innumerable casualties of the weather - almost one in five of the men lost their lives - and another chapter to the risks of capture by French privateers during the Napoleonic Wars, as well as discussing the strikes and the steps which were taken to combat them.

The beginning of the end for the sailing ship was marked by the launch of the steam-driven, iron-hulled *John Bowes* in 1852, although the wooden vessels were to linger on until the early years of the 20th century. This is a useful book for background information, available from Newcastle Libraries.

Thomas L. Hewitson; *A Soldier's Life. The Story of Newcastle Barracks*; 1999; ISBN 1 85795 099 2; Newcastle Libraries, Princess Square, Newcastle upon Tyne NE99 1DX; £6.99

A Soldier's Life tells the fascinating story of the rise and decline of the military presence in Newcastle upon Tyne. Newcastle Barracks has housed many thousands of troops, often along with their families, from the dashing hussars of Napoleonic times to the Tommies of the two World Wars, and the National Servicemen of recent history.

Today, the drill square no longer echoes to marching feet and the married quarters are empty of soldiers' wives and children. The Barracks which for so many years formed a vital part of Newcastle's social history has all but vanished. This book will ensure those past times are not forgotten.

Thomas L. Hewitson has an intimate acquaintance with Newcastle Barracks, having completed his basic Army training there in 1953. He is an expert on the military history of regiments associated with the North East and the men who served in them.

Margaret Beith; *The Story of the WWI Zeppelin Raid on Eldon (The Dene Valley) 5th/6th April 1916*; 1999; ISBN 0 9520675 2 8; Richard Beith Associates, 14 Middlecroft, Guilden Sutton, Chester CH3 7HF; £4.50 (UK), £5.00 (Europe), £5.50 (outside Europe, airmail)

Today, the village of Eldon might seem an unlikely target for an aerial attack but from 1850 to 1933 it was at the centre of an area of collieries, coke and brick works. As it turned out, the commander of Zeppelin L16 mistook Bishop Auckland for Leeds and the German reports were that an ironworks near Whitby had been destroyed.

The story of this attack has been put together from recollections by the author's mother who was born in Eldon as well as from newspaper and archival material both in this country and Germany.

Barbara Dixon; *Birth and Death Certificates. England and Wales 1837 to 1969*; 1999; ISBN 0 9535304 0 X; published by the author, 22 Redwood, Burnham, Buckinghamshire SL1 8JN; £4.00 (no information on p&p)

A most useful booklet for the bookshelf of anyone researching their family history, whether a beginner or more experienced. The author explains to the reader firstly how to obtain and then interpret the information on birth and death certificates. The actual wording on a certificate can often reveal more than might be at first apparent.

W.G. Elliott and Edwin Smith; *Bygone Days of Longbenton, Benton, Forest Hall, West Moor and Killingworth*; 1999; ISBN 0 9535633 0 8; Published by W.G. Elliott, 13 The Grove, Benton, Newcastle upon Tyne NE12 9PE; £4.99 plus p&p £0.65 (UK), £1.31 (Europe), £2.25 (N.America), £2.45 (Australasia)

This 88 page booklet contains 65 pages of photographs and five maps illustrating the history of the area. As well as the photographs and maps there is an early history of the parish of Longbenton and a short chapter on the development of Longbenton village.

Both authors have had long connections with the area and have combined to produce a booklet that will have interest for all who have connections with the district.

Edward Milligan and Malcolm Thomas; *My Ancestors Were Quakers*; 2nd edition; 1999; ISBN 1 85951 404 9; Society of Genealogists; £2.95 plus £0.50 p&p

A new 2nd edition of this valuable guide to tracing Quaker ancestry. The first edition of this work was published in 1983 and proved invaluable in guiding those seeking ancestors through the various Quaker records. This new, 64 page, edition has been vastly expanded and revised.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The following letter has been received from Dr Tom Manners of Morpeth:

I read with interest the article by Sue Wood about patients in the Northumberland County Lunatic Asylum [NDFHS Journal, Spring 1999] and I am sure many others will be interested too. Medical records are always interesting and for that reason doctors always guard them with strict security.

I am sure Sue Wood is on firm legal ground in opening these records to the public, but, whilst relatives should have access to the documents. I question the propriety of publishing patients' detailed histories with names, dates and addresses in the local press.

The stigma of mental illness has not disappeared and unfortunately some mental illness is familial, indeed one of the cases described appeared to be familial. Mental illness is greatly alleviated by modern drugs but much of it is not curable.

St. George's Hospital treated many patients with late neurological complications of syphilis during the latter part of the last century, a venereal disease with a similar stigma attached to it as HIV and AIDS at the present day and which most people would not like to be publicised

I believe a respect for medical confidentiality should extend for more than 100 years. We are not dealing here simply with an issue of "freedom of information". These are the private and personal affairs of individuals.

oooOOOooo

Reverend Joan Dotchin of St Mary's at Wallsend is seeking the assistance of our members. If anyone is able to help Rev. Dotchin she may be contacted at St Mary's Vicarage, 67 Churchill Street, Wallsend NE28 7TE. She writes:

We are currently raising funds to undertake preservation work on the windows at St. Mary's Church, Wallsend. Some of the windows are unique and include hand-tinted photographic plates of people who worshipped at St. Mary's more than 100 years ago.

We would like to trace the descendants of those who are featured in the windows so that when the restoration work is complete we may invite them to an unveiling ceremony.

If any of you members know the descendants of the following people we would be grateful if they could contact us:

John Henry & Mary Burn (1831 - 10 Apr 1872); Mary Barbara Burn (1863 - 1 Jan 1871); John Henry Burn Jr. Lived in Tynemouth. Possibly coal mine owner.

Brian Filmer (1912 - 29 Nov 1943), 1184503 Aircraftman 2nd Class, RAF Volunteer Reserve, Son of Frank Lewis and Janet Filmer of Willington Quay, Wallsend.

Henry Robinson (c. 1875), Rector of St. Mary's, Daughter: Emily Easton Robinson

E. H. Austine-Geake (d. 1 May 1875), First Rector of St. Mary's

George & Annabel Dixon (c. 1930) of Scarr Hall, Willington.; James Mills Dixon; Annie Barbara Dixon; Rachel Waters Dixon; Esther Mary Dixon

oooOOOooo

Partly in response to the Editorial in the Spring edition of the Journal, Mr Alan Morgan of 22 Jesmond Park West, Newcastle upon Tyne NE7 7BY has written:

Nearly 10 years ago I successfully traced my Morgan line back to the early 17th century, at which time they were farmers in the Frosterley area of Weardale, and feeling a little frustrated at having reached an 'end' I decided to visit the vicinity and call at the farm. The present residents were helpful, confirmed that the Morgans had at one time lived there and suggested I write to an address in Perth, Western Australia where more information was available. By return of post I received among other information a photocopy of a coloured parchment scroll, complete with heraldic detail, that effectively stretched the line back about 20 generations. It states that the Morgans arrived in Newcastle in 1103.

I have since been out to Perth and seen the 3 metre scroll but quite naturally my relative was reluctant to let me bring it back to the UK. The scroll apparently originated in England but was acquired during a tour she made (including Frosterley) about 10 years before I became aware of its existence.

I would welcome an expert's opinion concerning the scroll and wonder if other members have come across similar pedigrees.

BOLBEC HALL

OPENING HOURS

Daily 10.00 am to 4.00 pm Mon to Fri

1st Wednesday each month 4.00 pm to 8.00 pm

1st Saturday each month 11.00 am to 4.00 pm

THE JACOBITES OF THE NORTH-EAST OF ENGLAND

The following list has been compiled by Dr Leo Gooch and appears as an appendix in his book *The Desperate Faction? The Jacobites of North-East England 1688-1745* published in 1995 by The University of Hull (ISBN 0 85958 6367). It is with the kind permission of Dr Gooch that we are able to reproduce the list.

Jacobite Gentlemen of the North-East Engaged in 1715

- George Anderson, Bywell
 Robert Anderson, Elsdon, Transported
 Richard Aspinall, Newcastle St. John
 Peter Bradford, Kyloe
 Thomas Bulmer of Shadforth
 Edward Byras (Byers), Escaped
 James Cahill, Framwellgate, Durham
 Richard Carnaby, Hexham, Cornet
 *Edward Charlton Walwick Grange [Doctor], Escaped
 *William (Bowrie) Charlton, Reedsmouth, Escaped
 +*John Clavering, Callaly, *noli prosequi*
 *John Clavering, Berrington
 *William Clavering, Berrington, Died
 George Collingwood, Eslington, Executed, forfeited
 William Craster, Embleton, Transported
 Robert Cresswell, Warkworth, Transported
 John Crofts, Wooler [Adjutant]
 *Christopher (Christian) Dickson, Hexham
 George Dixon, Ancroft [Quartermaster]
 Jo. Dixon, Holy Island
 John Duncan, Glanton [Surgeon], Transported
 Charles Errington, Newcastle
 *Lancelot Errington, Ponteland [Sea Captain], Escaped
 Mark Errington, Bamburgh, Escaped
 +*Thomas Errington, Beaufront [Captain], Forfeited
 +Thomas Forster, M.P., Adderstone [General], Escaped, forfeited
 Thomas Forster, Bamburgh, Transported
 +*George Gibson, Stonecroft, Forfeited, died in prison
 +John Hall, J.P., Otterburn, Forfeited, executed
 *William Hardwick, London and Cartington, Transported
 +Philip Hodgson, Sandhoe, Forfeited
 *John Hunter, Callaly, Escaped
 John Hunter, North Tyne [Captain], Shot
 John Hunter, Bellingharn, Transported
 Leonard Hunter, Bellingham [Lieutenant] Escaped
 Charles King, Newcastle St. Nicholas [Surgeon]
 *John Leadbitter, Hexham, Escaped
 Thomas Lisle, Framlington,
 Thomas Lisle, Shilbottle
 William Lisle, Felton
 *Edmund (Mungo) Ord, Weetwood, Killed in action
 *Francis Ord, Weetwood
 *John Ord, Weetwood, Killed in action
 *Lancelot Ord, Weetwood [Captain?], Escaped
 *Richard Ord, Sturton Grange
 +*William Ord, Sturton Grange
 +Robert Patten, Rev., Allendale, Turned King's evidence
 John Pearson, Hexham
 William Potts, Alwinton
 +*Charles Radcliffe, Dilston [Captain], Escaped, forfeited
 +*James Radcliffe, third Earl of Derwentwater, Attainted, executed, forfeited
 William Raine, Newcastle [Quartermaster], Escaped
 +*Thomas Riddell, Swinburne
 *John Ridley, Hexham, Transported
 Fenwick Robinson, Felton, Transported
 Rowland Robinson, Rothbury
 *Roger Salkeld, Simonburn & Cumberland, Escaped
 *William Sanderson, Healey, Escaped
 Ephraim Selby, North Earle
 Thomas Selby, Ryton, Transported
 William Selby, South Earle
 Edward Shafto, Kirkwhelpington, Turned King's evidence
 John Shafto, Cockrington [Captain], Shot
 +John Shafto, Little Bavington
 +William Shafto, Little Bavington, Forfeited
 Cuthbert Stokoe Warden
 Richard Stokoe [Quartermaster], Escaped
 George Storey, Rothbury, Escaped
 Jo. Stotton
 +*Edward Swinburne, Capheaton, Died in prison, forfeited
 +*James Swinburne, Capheaton, Escaped
 *John Talbot, Cartington, Escaped
 *Walter Tancred, Aldbrough, Yorks., Transported
 +*John Thornton, Netherwitton, Forfeited
 +*William Tunstall, Wycliffe Yorks., [PMG QMG]
 James Urquhart, Stamfordham [Quartermaster], Transported
 Charles Wakefield, Newcastle All Saints
 Sydney Wakefield, Whickham [Co. Durham]
 Dr. Walker, alias Alcock, Alnwick [Physican], Escaped
 +*Charles Widdrington, Widdrington [Captain of Reserves]
 *Henry Widdrington, Cold Park [Quartermaster], Escaped
 +*Peregrine Widdrington, Widdrington [ADC]
 *Ralph Widdrington, Cheeseburn Grange, Escaped
 +*William, fourth Baron Widdrington, Attainted, forfeited
- + = Taken to London for trial.
 * = Roman Catholic

'English Followers or Servants' Listed by Patten

Robert Bruce	Corn. Stewart	John Brady	Cuthbert Haslet
Val. Errington	Luke Blacket	Robert Brown	Thomas Bell
Ed. Tinklar	Thos. Dixon	James Wilkinson	*Mr Hilyard
John Atkinson	Oliver Hamilton	John Clarke	Will Dixson
John Militson	William Ansley	Nich. Moses	Leonard Ord
John Patrick	Robert Stubs	Will Farnworth	William Scot
*J. Bywater	Henry Rewley	John Farnworth	Thos. Fareburn
Jonnage Aron	Ralph Lorrain	Wm. Wilson	James Richmond
Henry Masson	Garret Nangle	Wm. Tash	*James Ossington
William Smell	William Purdy	Henry Gardiner	Albert Hacksel
John Holt	*Thos. Lee	John Steele	John Tasker
Andr. Thompson	*Mr Wesby	Ra. Todd	Tim Flanakan
James Shaw	*John Todd	Henry Todd	Charles Bartes
John Burtham	William Stewart	John Todd	Ro. Finkle
Nicholas Doyle	Roger Balson	Charles May	James Wilson
Thomas Holling	John Wilson	Henry Ashley	William Todd
Ed. Bullock	Thos. Smith	Wllm. Ratcliffe	William Read
John Owfield	John Thornton	William Wilson	R. Wilson
Thos. Moore	*James Robson	John Thornton	
John Rowland	William Hardy	Wm. Young	
Nicholas Wilson	James Mills	*Henry Wilson	

Note. These are probably Northumbrians since over twenty can be positively identified as such, e.g. [*], Robson, the piper, Ossington the trumpeter and the two valets Wesby & Hilyard, who are described as 'Gentleman to' Derwentwater & Widdrington respectively; Bywater and Wilson were servants of Thomas Errington and became government informers. Lee was Forster's servant and escaped with his master.

Plebeian Jacobites of the North-East Listed in the State Papers (KB 8/66)

Geo. Pennington, Jno. Cross, Matthew Ginginson and Francis Simpson, Corbridge, servants to Lord Derwenter	Thos. Bowman, Ed. Ellis and Wm. Willson, St John Lee, servants
Matthew Jenkinson, coachman to Lord Derwentwater	Jo. & Geo. How, Jo. Story, Henry Browne, Ja. Ashton, Geo. Johnson, Robt. Clark, Geo. Corrins, Jo. Gallon, Robt. Blacklock, Ja. Mills, Jas. Willson and Wm. Hardy, Whittingham, servants
-- , groom to Lord Derwentwater	Thos. Davison and Thos. Richter, Alwinton, servants
-- , smith to Lord Derwentwater	Jo. Gwfield, Jo. Steele, Jo. Thomson, Wm. Ratcliffe, and Richard & Wm. Todd, Woodham, servants
Wm. Selby and Wm. Redhead, Corbridge, joiners	Henry Down, Allingham, carpenter
Will. Radcliffe, Rothbury, butcher	Wm. Howsby and Hir. Willson, Hartburn, taylors
Henry Murrow, Hartburn, smith	Jo. Fairlamb, Hexham, farmer
Ed. & Robt. Spaunston, St John Lee, yeomen	Wm. Wright and Will. Scott, Hexham, servants
Thos. Selby, Elsdon, yeoman	Peter Cumin, Hexham, smith
Jo. Woffilaw, Warden, gardener	Ma. Morison, Durham, servant
Jos. Maforshead, Ryton, cobbler	Hy. & Jos Thornton, Geo. Boughan, Chas. May, Jo. Clarke, Henry Gardiner, F. Fairburne, Thos. Smith and Robt. Willson, Woodhorne, servants
Wm. Ord, Corbridge, mason	Rid. Twidell and Robt. Stokoe, Hexham, butchers
Jo. Stott and Jo. Margison, Simonburn, servants	Sam. Highmay, Jo. Pell, Thos. Potts and Thos. Anderson, Ovingham, servants
Ant. Ladlow, Ovingham, servant	Geo. Robson, Allingham, servant
Jo. Bolton, Bywell, weaver	Wm. Smiles, Wooler, servant
Jo. Patterson, Warkworth, servant	Ed. Smith, Norham, farmer
Rd. Little and Ed. Elliott, Newburgh, servants	Geo. Shorer, Holystone, piper
W. Mitchell and M. Borlinson, Hartburn, servants	James Robson, Rothbury, piper
Henry & Wm. Audley, Rog. Borlinson, Luke Blackett, Robt. Browne, Hen. Rewly and Jo. Mitchison	Rob. Richardson and Wm. Nensen, Ja. Thobourne and Mar. Fisher, Holy Island, servants
Thos. Jones and Thos. Stott, Corbridge, servants	
Ed. Nicholson and Mich. Lithease	
Francis Ridley and Toby Butler, Hexham, masons	
Jo. Nevill, Ja. Wilshaw and Thos. Browne, Wolsington, servants	
Cha. Willson, Jo. Lowry, Tho. & Chal. Dixon and Henry Harkison, Aldingham, servants	

Luke Stott, Biddlestone, servant
 Ma. Stott, Holystone, servant
 Ja. Hamilton, Alston Moor
 Jo. Stott, Alnwick, skinner
 Jam. Hogg, Kirkwhelpington, servant
 Marke Bourne, Morpeth, servant
 Nic. Cooper, Morpeth, weaver
 James Corsham and Rob. Hand, Holy Island, masons
 Robt. Young, Alwinton, gardener
 Wm. Dickinson and Oswald Hood, Ja. Jackson, Robt.
 Fenwick and Het. Bidge, Holy Island, labourers
 Henry & Jo. Todd and Nic. Borlison, Hartburn, weavers
 Jos. Atchison, Hartburn, cooper
 Wm. Dobson, Hartburn, mason
 Geo. Nicholson, Durham St Giles, carpenter
 Ma. Nicholson, Jo. Rea and La. Briggs, Durham St Giles,
 weavers
 Jo. Addison, Hexhamshire, farmer
 Jo. Willson, Whickham, carpenter
 Henry Willson, Hartburn, carpenter
 Robt. Carr, Hartburn, wigmaker
 Chris. Wilkinson, Chester le Street, smith
 Tho. Gilhaspen, Newburn, servant
 Francis Cook, Ryton, glover
 Alex. Robinson, Ryton, seaman
 lo. Stanley, Whickham, waterman
 Jo. Laborne and Geo. Perkin, Ryton, servants
 Wm. Young, Woodhorne, coachman
 Benj. Cooke, Hexham, skinner
 Ffrad Lumpa, Newcastle, brazier
 Jo. Marshall, Newcastle, St Nicholas, waterman
 Wm. Tosal, Newcastle, All Saints, labourer
 Alex. Hall, Newcastle, All Saints, skinner
 Mic. Pottas, Newcastle All Sainpts, seaman
 Andrew Carr, Newcastle, St John, servant
 Jos. Jopling, Newcastle, St John, innkeeper
 Thos. Moore, Chollerton, shoemaker
 Wm. Murray, Durham, smith
 Robt. Broosh, Chollerton, servant
 Thos. Gallender, Newburn, mason
 Caine Liddall, Hexham, Chandler
 Wm. Borlison, Bolam, smith
 Wm. & Jo. Browne, Corsenside, servants
 Thos. & Robs. Hutchinson, Stannerton, farmers
 Jo. Paterson, Hexham, feltmaker
 Ja. Garlick and Thos. Harbottle, Bolam, servants
 Ed. Hall, Stannerton, servant
 Jo. Euller, Rothbury, servant
 John Oram, Widdrington, servant
 Thos. Smith, Holy Island, smith
 Thos. Wilkinson, Morpeth, skinner
 Wm. Watson, Gutsford, servant
 Thos. Potts, Morpeth, butcher
 Wm. Richardson, Shields, servant
 Robt. Anderson, Ryton, farmer
 Ed. Dodd, Simonburn, servant
 Richard Megin, Bywell, farmer
 Robt. Armour, Alwinton, farmer
 Hen. Harrison, Ovingham, weaver
 John Hunter, Bellingham, servant
 Geo. Buttermell, Simonburn
 John Gendenman, Rothbury
 Ed. Ashley, Tweedmouth, perriwig maker
 Thos. Wilson, Chester le Street, collier
 Wm. Reed, Ellingham, servant
 William Stewart, Cold Park, servant
 Wm. Gregg, servant to Lord Widdrington
 --, Bellingham, servant
 C. Liddell, Hexham, saddler
 Philip & Thos. Dixon, John & Henry Judd, C Mitchell, St
 John Lee, labourers

WHAT IS "THE BIG R"?

Always ask if anybody else is researching your family name. This is a piece of good advice for anybody just starting out on family history. "The BIG R" will help you.

In 1993 the Federation of Family History Societies launched a project to list families being researched in the British Isles to be known as "The British Isles Genealogical Register": a national list of family names being researched by family historians to complement the present system of county/society/regional directories to which few contribute. The project was repeated in 1996 and is known as "The BIG R2".

It was open to anybody doing family history, not just members of family history societies and forms were available through societies, record offices, libraries and magazines. It was also open to family historians overseas with roots in the British Isles.

Unlike other research directories "The BIG R" (as it became known) is county based and is available in county sections. Thus the Northumberland section contains Northumberland interests only. This helps people to concentrate their interests within that county and should increase the possibility of "family contacts". It also allows family historians to choose only the counties which interest them or have the information for the whole of the British Isles if they wish.

The lists are on fiche and contain the name being researched, the area of interest, the approximate dates of interest and a code number. This number refers to a separate list of addresses. The subscribers can then be contacted direct.

So why am I telling you all this? Well, preparations are now underway to publish a new version - BGR 2000. Enclosed with this Journal should be an application form for you to submit your research interests. If you do want to participate, please follow the instructions on the form and send it to the address given - please, not to the NDFHS!

KNOW YOUR PARISH: MUGGLESWICK

by Muriel E. Sobo

Muggleswick is an ancient parish of County Durham located in the north west of the county and its northern border, the river Derwent is also the divide between Durham and Northumberland. The parish is entirely rural and there is a chapel at Waskerley as well as the parish church at Muggleswick. Although some authors and locals write the dedication of the church to All Saints there is no documentary evidence for this. There has been a dramatic decline in church attendance this century and like most rural areas there has been a lot of amalgamation of parishes and Muggleswick was first combined with Edmundbyers in 1953 and then with Blanchland and Hunstanworth in 1990. The most recent rector left last year and a priest-in-charge has just been appointed for a term of five years. He lives at Sleafy and has six churches and their congregations to look after. This means that Muggleswick, since 1990, has been in the administrative county of Durham but in the diocese of Newcastle and this has implications for locating the records.



Muggleswick Monastery

The Boldon Book, 1183, tells us that the Prior of Durham held Muggleswick, partly from the Bishop and partly in exchange for Hardwick and the monks continued to hold and work the whole parish until the dissolution of Durham monastery on the last day of 1539. The monks used the farms in the parish as a stock farm and raised cows, sheep and horses for the use of their number in Durham. There are records detailing transactions from these years but not many and of course they are in Latin. The monks also made fish ponds and remains of the earthworks; these are still visible near the cattle grid on the road leading up from Eddy's Bridge. The monks built a stone grange at Muggleswick in 1259 and it was said to consist of a chapel, a hall, a dairy and various offices for their use and for their numerous servants and retainers. This grange was a substantial building and it would house perhaps three or four monks, possibly sent in rotation from Durham. There are substantial remains of the east end which seems to have been part of the chapel and part of the massive west wall is

still standing and in between there are farm buildings which would have used the stones from the grange. The length of time that the monks held these lands from the building of the cathedral in Durham till the dissolution is almost the same as the time from the dissolution to the present day.

The monastery at Durham although dissolved by Henry VIII was soon reconstituted by royal charter as a Dean and a Chapter of 12 prebends or canons. They held lands from the Tweed to the Tees and received the income from them and it was quickly established that Muggleswick was divided into three and provided income for the fifth, sixth and eighth canons.

The Dean and Chapter records refer more often to the Manor of Muggleswick and not to just the parish. The manor included the parish of Edmundbyers to the west and the township of Healeyfield to the east as well as the parish of Muggleswick. There was a parliamentary survey of 1649 which was carried out by commissioners directed by Oliver Cromwell to list all the lands which had been taken from the church. It lists all the dwellings and the names of the tenants. The Bishop's lands were also surveyed but this Muggleswick record is the only one that has been preserved. Rental books go back to the middle of the 18th century and list tenants and farms, and from 1792 there are records of surveys, some of which have a lot of detail of the acreage, crops and even the names of fields!

Boundary perambulations were a common feature when parish boundaries were important and again Muggleswick has been fortunate in that a few of these records have been preserved. There are short accounts from 1695, a more detailed one of 1752 and three large parchments of the 1809 perambulation when over 100 persons are named and the boundary is described with a detailed plan attached.

A rural parish on the fringes of a county was often served by clergy without distinction or merit but there was a notable exception in the 17th century. John Ward, a dissenting minister, elected an elder in 1655, was the leader of a large congregation which had links with the newly formed Baptist church at Hexham. This was a time of uncertainty; the King had been executed in 1649, the people wanted more say in their worship and dissent was marked down as sedition. In 1662 the so-called Muggleswick Plot came to light when an informer, Ellerington, went to the magistrates and named 34 people who he said were about to overthrow all Bishops, deans and

clergy and rise up in armed rebellion. Despite the best efforts of the Bishop's men over a number of years nothing was ever proved and Muggleswick, from being national news, sank back into rural obscurity. Some erudite articles have been written about these events to show that Muggleswick was part of a wider plot but a knowledge of the area and families involved can lead to a contrary view. However the Ward family had a long association with the parish which lasted till the later part of the 19th century.



The parish church at Muggleswick

A local sculptor who won national fame in early Victorian years was John Graham Lough who was born at Greenhead, just over the Derwent but who probably carved his first gravestone for Muggleswick churchyard in the 1820s. This was for the Mayor family children and brass railings were later erected around it by a grandson who was an ironmaster. Lough's name appears on the north edge of the headstone. He carved more headstones in the churchyard of St Andrew's at Grey Mare Hill before going to London. Many of his statues, including the famous Milo, are at Blagdon Hall the home of Lord Ridley near Ponteland. Lough's parents lived for a time at Muggleswick and, although they died at Blanchland, they are both buried at Muggleswick.

Rowland Harrison has a memorial stone laid into the church floor near the font declaring that he departed this life in 1712 and that date is the earliest recorded on a memorial. He has gone down in legend as a famous mosstrooper so was unlikely to have been buried in the church but its preservation is due to its position inside the church.

A family which has made a notable contribution to the parish are generations of Ritsons. They were weavers living in Muggleswick but the original John Ritson was born in 1737 in Allendale. Early in the 19th century they were prominent as leaders in the Methodist church and instrumental in the setting up of the Watergate chapel at Castleside, part of the Muggleswick parish. Later in the century they were typical Victorian entrepreneurs making money from construction, railways and coal. They rebuilt a humble farmhouse, Calf Hall, and made it into a

grand summer residence. Large properties were also built on the outskirts of Hexham and in Jesmond. The family, although Methodist, was very generous with gifts to the church and most of the carved oak woodwork, the stained glass and other items were given in memory of various members of the family. The memorial to John Wesley, re-sited on the refurbished quayside in Newcastle, was donated by U.A. Ritson when he was a member of the City Council. The lych gate at the south west corner of Muggleswick churchyard was carved from wood from a battleship and has all the initials of U.A.R.'s children carved into the posts.

In the 1830s an early railway company, the Stanhope and Tyne, engineered a line from Stanhope to South Shields which passed over the Muggleswick moors and an incline, worked by ropes, ran past the farm or Tween House where the Mayor family lived. The mother, a widow since 1819 and known as Nanny Mayor, ran a tavern sometimes grandly called the Railway Inn where the early railway workers could slake their thirst. The incline was called the Nanny Mayor incline but was later by-passed when locomotives were used but a village, Waskerley, grew up at the top of the incline to accommodate the many workers needed to run a railway. Nanny Mayor died aged 85 in 1860 and it was her young children who were commemorated on the early tombstone by Lough.

Waskerley today has a farm a couple of dwellings and a chapel, giving very little hint of its busy railway past but look carefully at the wall of one of the houses and there is K9 above the doorway. This was how the Stockton & Darlington Railway numbered its properties. To the careful observer there is much evidence of the railway past when Waskerley was the highest railway village in the country



Dyke House, Muggleswick

and in the mid 1800s there were nearly 700 people recorded in the census! The railway has gone, the village was demolished in 1956 and it lives on only in memory, records and photographs. But it is part of the glorious Waskerley Way from Stanhope to Consett a wonderful walk or cycle ride.

Muggleswick church is sited on a rise but does not have any architectural interest as it is probably a Victorian rebuild. Written records about it are sparse indeed. The setting is very tranquil with views to Howns Gill viaduct and to Consett where previously the iron works were visible. The parish has seen the monks, the clerics, lead miners, railway workers and reservoir navvies come, make their mark, and go. Today the sheep and grouse are the main inhabitants of the moors and farming and grouse shooting are the principal economic activities.

Records

The original parish registers are now in Northumberland County Record Office at Morpeth since the parish was transferred to the Newcastle Diocese in 1990. Durham County Record Office retains microfilms. The Bishops Transcripts and the earliest register of baptisms and burials,

1784-1812, are kept by the Durham University Archives and Special Collections at the Palace Green library. When I did my original transcription of baptisms in 1991 the Muggleswick register with all the baptisms of this century was kept in the church at Edmundbyers. Records do not go further back than 1784 although reading the returns made by perpetual curates there were in existence registers before then. Time and carelessness has taken care of them. Other parish records are in the NCRO at Morpeth.

The Diocesan records relating to the Manor of Muggleswick are held by Durham University Archives and Special Collections.

Editor's note: Mrs Sobo's address is 39 Beech Court, Ponteland, Newcastle upon Tyne NE20 9NE

FIRST WORLD WAR ARMY OFFICERS SERVICE RECORDS: WO 338, WO 339 and WO 374

by John Sheen

Among the First World War service documents at the Public Record office, Kew are the "Officers Documents". These are contained in two main series. The smaller class, WO 374, is mainly for officers commissioned into the Territorial Army; the second and much larger class is WO 339. The first is arranged alphabetically and contains the records for almost 78,000 officers. The latter class contains records of over 140,000 officers, arranged by the officer's "long number". I concentrated on WO 339 because that is where the majority of records for the officers of the Tyneside Brigades would be found. To trace a record in this class one first has to locate the "long number"; searching a microfilm index held in WO 338 does this.

There are 23 volumes arranged alphabetically, covering the period 1901 - 1922, each entry arranged by Surname, Initials/Forename, Regt./Corps, Long Number, Rank and Remarks. The Regiments of the line are identified by the regimental district number, thus the Northumberland Fusiliers are shown as 5 and Durham Light Infantry as 68. In some cases the battalion is shown first - 24/5 shows that the officer was commissioned into the 24th Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers. Corps units are normally abbreviated - ASC would be the Army Service Corps. With a common surname and first name it is necessary to have a good idea of the officer's regiment. A typical entry would read: *Cole, Percy; 26/5; 49767; Lieutenant; No remarks.* Having found the entry required, the next step is to go to the bound volumes in the WO 339 class list. These are found on the bookshelf near the door of the microfilm reading room. Each volume has two numbers on the spine, showing the range of numbers covered, e.g. 30000 - 50500. Select the volume that covers the long number that you have found. Look through the list numerically to find the

long number 49767. Beside this should be the name Cole, P. and a piece number, in this case, 27970. The next step is to order the piece WO 339/27970 on the computer system, in the normal way.

What do the officers documents contain? In some cases very little indeed. They have been heavily weeded and some are very poor in the amount of information they contain. However in some cases where the officer has been killed there are reports from other officers and soldiers who saw them fall. In the documents of Second Lieutenant H.E. Howard, of the 2nd Tyneside Irish, WO 339/76353, there is a statement made in August 1917 by Captain Franz Fasel of the 4th Bavarian Infantry Regiment, a Prisoner of War at Closterdale Camp, Masham, Yorkshire. On 7th April 1917 at 9.30 p.m., a patrol led by Lieutenant Howard had tried to penetrate the German lines near Arras. Captain Fasel stated that the English officer had been shot in the head and was killed instantly. His personal effects had been taken from him and forwarded to the Bavarian Divisional HQ by Captain Fasel. The statement was made so that the next of kin would know how Second Lieutenant Howard had died. Interestingly, all the documents listed by Captain Fasel were eventually returned to Lieutenant Howard's next of kin by the German authorities after the war.

Most documents relating to deceased officers concern probate and the division of their wills. From the documents of Major T.G. Noble of the 1st Tyneside Scottish, we find that his groom, 20/486 Private James Watson, had made a claim for the pay due to him from his duties as a groom. Private Watson, from West Allotment, was in Queen Mary's Hospital, Whalley, Cheshire, with a severe gunshot wound to the right hand.

If the officer was commissioned from the ranks there is usually a copy of the original enlistment document. These are particularly interesting in cases where the officer had previous service. My wife's great uncle, Jesse Miles, was commissioned from the ranks in 1918. He had been a regular soldier in the Gloucestershire Regiment at the outbreak of war and had gone to France as a Corporal in August 1914 with the original British Expeditionary Force. From his documents we have been able to find that he was there only three weeks before he was wounded in the face during the retreat from Mons. Evacuated to the 3rd General Hospital in St Nazaire for initial treatment he was returned to England and fitted with false teeth. By February 1915 he was again fit for active service and returned to France. Initially he joined No. 1 Infantry Base Depot and was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Jesse was sent back to his battalion but he was only there for a month before he was wounded again and returned to England once more.

By September 1915 he was again in France serving with his battalion until he was promoted to Company Quarter Master Sergeant and posted to a Territorial battalion of the regiment. After being commissioned he was posted to the Italian Front and was only there three weeks when the Austrian Army attacked on the Asiago Plateau. He was again wounded and died of wounds at the 24th Casualty Clearing Station in June 1918.

If your officer ancestor had been in trouble there may be notes about the case. For example Second Lieutenant T.F. Noble of the Tyneside Scottish was initially invited to resign his commission in June 1916. However after being passed as fit for General Service and going out to France he was repeatedly drunk, for which he was dismissed the service in March 1917.

The case of Second Lieutenant Alex McGilp makes interesting reading. He had served with the 7th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers from the outbreak of war, rising through the ranks to Lance Sergeant until he was commissioned into the Tyneside Irish in March 1917. He stole a cheque book and was cashing the stolen cheques prior to going out to the 10th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers in Italy. He was arrested in Italy and escorted back to the 3rd Battalion at Scotts House Camp near Boldon where he was held in custody until his Court Martial took place in Newcastle on 15th August 1918. He was sentenced to be dismissed the service and given 18 months hard labour in Durham Gaol. Surviving in his file are the letters he wrote from Durham stating his case for a remission of sentence. Eventually this was granted on the grounds of his previous good service in France in 1915 and 1916.

Officers who were taken prisoner were required on release to make a statement about the circumstances of their capture. Lieutenant Percy Gamble was captured when the Germans overran the Tyneside Irish and Scottish in Bunhill Row on the 21st January 1918. He stated: *"Got orders to stay in a railway cutting with remnants and stragglers, as another division was coming up in support, but it was a Bosch Division that came up and swept along from our*

right in great numbers. I was compelled to give myself up as I had been rendered incapable from the effects of gas and a stunning blow from a piece of shrapnel which bashed in my tin hat".

Captain John Esmonde had enlisted into the Leinster Regiment on 10th November 1914 and was commissioned into the Tyneside Irish a week later. He was transferred to the Royal Dublin Fusiliers in 1915 and employed in France on 'Special Intelligence Duties'. With the events that took place in Dublin at Easter 1916, Captain Esmonde and Captain Redmond, Irish Guards, who both had strong nationalist connections, were summoned to report to Room 115 of the War Office. What took place is not recorded but Captain Esmonde resigned his commission on 3rd October 1918.

I have tried to give a picture of what may be found in the documents, but the reader should be aware that every set is different. The file of Major Payne Gallwey contains only four or five sheets of paper, two of which are letters requesting a commission, whilst other files are over an inch thick.

In my article in the Spring 1999 edition of the *NDFHS Journal* about the body of the Tyneside Scottish soldier found at La Boisselle, I said that I would be free to name the man soon. I can now reveal that the cut throat razor found with the remains had the name G. Nugent 1306 engraved on the handle. Private George Nugent lived at 38 Franklin Street, Newcastle and enlisted in the 3rd Battalion Tyneside Scottish on or about 12th January 1915. At the moment, so far as I know, the Ministry of Defence are still trying to locate his nearest surviving next of kin. Can you help?

NDFHS TAPE LIBRARY UPDATE

The London Group has been making tape recordings of many of the speakers at their meetings. The following two tapes have been added to our collection in recent months:

- 034 Lord Armstrong - Northumberland's 19th Century Genius by Alan Fendley
- 035 Potters and Potteries in the North East by Nick Dolan

The hire cost is £1.60 each, inclusive of postage and packing, and is for 14 days. All cheques and postal orders should be made payable to NDFHS. All tapes are strictly for individual use only and, unfortunately, are only available to UK members.

A full list of the available tapes was printed in the Summer 1998 edition of the *NDFHS Journal* but members can obtain a copy of the list by sending a SAE to Mrs Edith Styan, 18 Albert Street, Cambridge CB4 3BE.

FRAUDULENT REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN THE 1840s

by Peter B. Park

Almost from the beginning of Civil Registration, it was appreciated that there was a significant level of under-registration, particularly of births. The onus was on the registrar to collect births and deaths - he could be fined for failure to register them; until 1875 parents could only be prosecuted for refusing to give details if asked for them by the registrar.

This paper is about three sub-districts where there was significant *over* - registration, of both births and deaths in the 1840s. The relevance of this to family historians is self evident. The trials of registrars in Liverpool, South Shields and St Marylebone, highlight the issue. The evidence given in the courts and in an application for the post of registrar throws light upon the methods employed by registrars in densely populated areas to collect birth and death registrations.

Charles Chubb, registrar of Great Howard Street sub-district and Thomas Wilson registrar of South Shields sub-district were both jailed for six months with hard labour for fraudulently entering births (and in Wilson's case, deaths) in their registers. In both cases they employed assistants to knock on doors enquiring if there had been any births or deaths in the area. They both paid their assistants a fee for each registration.

The third case, that of All Souls sub-district in St Marylebone is a little obscured. A footnote in the Registrar General's Annual Report for 1850 indicates that the registrar for All Souls, St Marylebone, had been imprisoned for falsifying the registers and that the number of registrations of births and deaths before 1845 were not to be trusted. No further details are given.

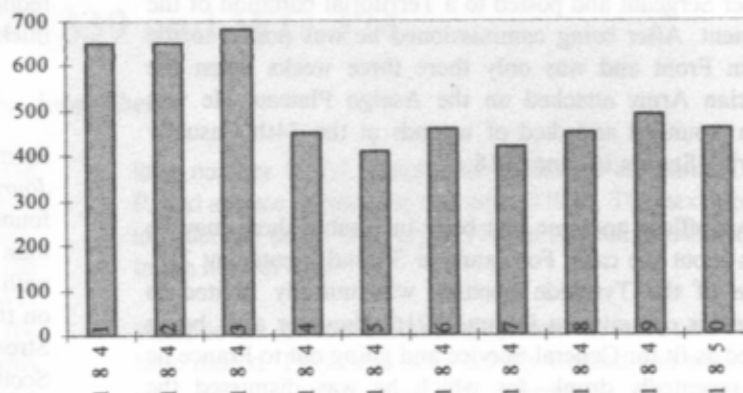
The registrar in 1845 was Charles Benson Breary, a surgeon, who had come to the post only in September the previous year. Breary's predecessor, Thomas Daniels, who was appointed in 1842, died in August 1844. Daniels' deputy had been his son James, an engraver, and Breary retained him until the appointment of Thomas Tindall as deputy in August 1846; there is no indication of what happened to James Daniels in the correspondence. Breary resigned on grounds of ill health in April 1849.

I have not been able to identify who was gaoled for the All Souls fraud. Thomas Daniels, the most likely person to have been held responsible, was dead. Breary had entered the post at the very end of the period during which it was going on; it is even possible that it was he who brought the matter to the attention of the authorities. James Daniels

may have been implicated, but he does not appear in the printed sessions papers for the Old Bailey and Central Criminal Courts between 1846 and 1853, nor in the indexes to London prisons for the same period.

Without the evidence from the trial, one can but surmise as to what had happened. However, to support his application for his father's post, James Daniels said that they received information from midwives, surgeons, and undertakers. The All Souls information gathering was thus somewhat different from the two northern sub-districts.

South Shields Birth Registrations 1841-50



How big was the problem?

This is not an easy question to answer with absolute accuracy. However, the Registrar General's Annual Report for 1850 gives birth and death registration figures for individual sub-districts for the years 1841-50. By comparing the average numbers of registrations in the years preceding a trial with the average for the years following, it should be possible to get some feeling for the numbers involved.

The South Shields case came to light because, in the year ending 30 June 1843, the crude death rate for the district was seen to be 25% above the national average. There had been no local epidemic reported, so the discrepancy was brought to the attention the Commissioners of Health for Towns. In an article in *The Magazine of the Registration Service* in the early 1970s, Gibson gives very detailed figures for the South Shields deaths. There were 829 deaths in the civil registers; of which 614 could be accounted for in the parish registers, with another fourteen interments outside the area. This left 201 registrations not accounted for. For 115 of these, neither the deceased nor the informant could be traced. In addition, another 59 entries occurred more than once - a total of 174 suspect entries.

In South Shields, there was an average decrease of about 170 death registrations (37%) in the non-epidemic years after the trial when compared with the years immediately preceding it. Comparison of Gibson's figures for deaths in South Shields sub-district with those derived from the Registrar General's Report, shows good agreement - indicating that comparison of the 'before and after' averages is reasonably reliable.

A similar exercise on the birth figures shows a decrease of about 200 (31%). See figure on the previous page - the bars show clearly the decrease in birth registrations after Thomas Wilson's trial.

The pattern of birth registrations in the neighbouring sub-district of Westoe over the same period is more 'normal', without the 'step' between 1843 and 1844. High levels of deaths registered in South Shields in 1846, 1848 and 1849 are mirrored in Westoe, suggesting that there were local epidemics in those years.

The figures for All Souls, St Marylebone indicate that there was over-registration on about the same scale as in South Shields - almost 300 deaths (30%), while nearly 570 births (38%) registered in the years 1841-43 could have been fictitious.

The Liverpool discrepancy was also exposed as a result of the diligence of the GRO statisticians, when they identified an unusually high birth rate for the Great Howard Street sub-district. When Chubb requested bail, this was opposed by the prosecution:

Mr. Snowball [Registrar General's inspector]: 'I'm afraid I shall have to oppose it. It is a felony, a very serious felony. There are many more cases.'

Mr. Rushton [the magistrate]: 'More cases, have you?'

Mr. Snowball: 'Oh dear, yes, a great many more.'

The question is, how many more?

The pattern of births in the Great Howard Street sub-district was more complex than in South Shields and All Souls. The increase in the years to 1847 could be explained by an influx of Irish as a result of the famine following the failure of the potato harvests. However comparison with the birth registration pattern for the neighbouring St Martin's sub-district suggest the Great Howard Street figures were inflated, by about 685 per year (37%).

There are a number of similarities in the two northern cases. In both the registrars had other commitments and personally employed assistants to visit houses enquiring for births. It looks very much as if the assistants were the source of the discrepancies - it was noted in court that John Hughes, Charles Chubb's assistant, had previously appeared before a magistrate accused of defrauding a Dr Walton in a similar manner, although he had been cleared of the offence. It is obvious that the two registrars were negligent and did not check registration details as thoroughly as they should have.

It is difficult to see how fraud on the scale that occurred in All Souls could have been perpetrated without the involvement of Thomas and James Daniels, given the manner in which it was said they gathered information - from, among others, businessmen and professional persons.

Without the names of the suspect registrations, it is, of course, not possible to say how many are in the GRO indexes. All eleven cases identified in the trials of Thomas Wilson and Charles Chubb appear there, so it is likely that all the others are also present.

I have obtained the birth certificates of Hannah Sinnott and Thomas Seymour via the GRO without comment, so obviously the central registrations have not been annotated to indicate that they are fictitious. I have also obtained certificates from the local register offices concerned. I find it surprising that no annotation was made here at the time of the inquiries, particularly given the amount of investigative work - particularly at South Shields where over 800 deaths were followed up. Incidentally, it would be interesting to know the legal position of the registration service in issuing certificates knowing them to be fictitious.

At least two of the three cases came to the notice of the Registrar General, and subsequently to the courts, because of their scale of operations. As was commented on by a Poor Law Board memorandum, the employment of assistants paid by the birth or death was asking for trouble. How common the practice was, it is not now possible to say. Its occurrence in South Shields until 1844 and in Liverpool four years later (where at least two registrars used assistants), suggests that it was widespread. Indeed Chubb's barrister 'had no doubt that other registrars were in the habit of doing the same, both in Liverpool and in other large towns'.

While fraud on the scale described here was not commonplace, it is highly likely that, as long as the system of employing assistants was used by registrars in urban areas, a low level of undetected, fraudulent registration was endemic.

Further Reading About Fraudulent Registrations

Very little seems to have been published about fraudulent registrations - more attention has been paid to the more wide-spread under-registration.

Gibson, P H. 'Some Curiosities from the vaults', *The Magazine of the Registration Service*, No.12, July 1972, pp.8-16.

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Editor's note: This above article is a summary of a talk given to the London Group of the NDFHS. Mr Park's address is 25 Harvey Road, Walton on Thames, Surrey KT12 2PZ

BEGINNERS GUIDE TO TRACING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY IN NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM

by Geoff Nicholson

Part 3: Obtaining and Using Census Information

UK censuses are normally held at ten-year intervals, when the year ends with a "1". The first was in 1801 but it was essentially a "counting of heads" and no records were made of individuals. The only information available from those early censuses is numerical statistics of how many people, families and houses there were in each township. It is only in 1841 that census material becomes useful for those of us seeking to identify particular persons. We can therefore use the material from the six censuses held 1841 to 1891.

Why cannot we use information from those censuses held after 1891? Well, every time a census is held, concern is expressed by certain people that the Government is demanding a lot of personal information from them. What is it to be used for? The answer is always the same: purely for statistical purposes and the original personal information will be kept confidential for 100 years. Every Government since 1841 has given that promise and it has always been kept. Our present Government recently refused to reduce the closure period of census information, as it said that a promise, once given, cannot be gone back upon. I'm sure we all sympathise with the Government, as we know what great store they set by keeping their promises! This means that if, for instance, the Government decided now to lower the closure period from 100 to 70 years, that could only apply to the next and later censuses, so it would be 2 January 2072 before we would see any benefit.

The six censuses which are available to us are, however, a gold mine of valuable information. The country was divided into districts which originally conformed to civil registration sub-districts, but as the population grew, they were sub-divided many times. Each of these districts has been given a census "piece number" and has been further subdivided into "enumeration districts", each the responsibility of one census enumerator. The enumerators filled in the notebooks for their own enumeration districts and the notebooks for each "census piece" have been collected together and foliated. That is, they have had consecutive numbers stamped on the recto of each folio - i.e. on what would normally be the odd-numbered pages of a conventional book. By quoting the piece and folio numbers, then, it is possible to identify any folio of a census.

As the enumerator went methodically around his district, he recorded information from each household in turn, so we can follow him as he went up one side of a town street and then down the other, or as he used field paths and country lanes to go from one farm or small hamlet to another in rural areas.

In 1841 the information recorded about each individual was very basic - for each address was given, each person in that household, their name, age, occupation and birthplace. That is not as straightforward as it may appear, however. In the 1841 census the ages of adults (i.e. those aged 15 or over) were to be rounded down to the multiple of five years below, presumably as a sop to the sensitivities of those who were embarrassed about revealing their age, even to the enumerator. Not all enumerators kept to that rule, however, and when using the 1841 census it is a good idea to compare the household you are interested in with others on the same page, especially if "your" family appear to all have had ages which were exact multiples of five. That may really have been the case, or it may have been that their ages have been rounded down, so you will need to know whether that rounding down was really being done in that enumeration district. Occupations tend to be given only for those in gainful employment, so we have no information about, for example, whether a child was attending school or not, and the source of income of old people is frequently left in doubt. The information about birthplaces was also frustratingly sparse. It consists of simply the answer to the question "Were you born in this county?". The answer is given as a single letter: Y = Yes, N = No, S = Scotland, I = Ireland and F = Foreign parts.

A major difficulty in using the 1841 census can be that the microfilms (see later) of many districts are difficult or impossible to read, due partly to the pencil-written originals being in a faded or rubbed condition and partly to their having been filmed several decades ago, when the art of filming such difficult records was not as advanced as nowadays. The readability of the 1841 census does vary a lot, sometimes from page to page of the same notebook, so be prepared for an unresolved search. Tyneside, for instance is, on the whole not too bad but Berwick on Tweed and Tweedmouth are effectively just blank pages.

In 1851 the amount of information given was greatly extended. Not only were the ages of adults given to the year but an extra column was added to tell us the marital status of adults. They were all recorded as Married ("Mar"), Unmarried ("Unm") or as a Widow or Widower ("Wid"). Occupations, or at least their main source of income, were given for all persons, and children who were on a school roll were recorded as scholars. Birthplaces were to be given as the name of the county, followed by the name of the town or parish, though most Irish-born people still simply had "Ireland" recorded as their birthplace and for most Scottish-born ones it was simply "Scotland". A final column, rarely completed, was to record whether a person was blind, deaf and dumb or an idiot.

This level of information was continued in 1861, 1871 and 1881 but for the 1891 census three minor alterations were made. Unmarried adults were now to be recorded as "single" (S), in an extra column the information was given as to whether the person was an employer, employed or unemployed; and also we are told how many rooms there were in their house (to a maximum of five).

So, the census is a very useful document, which gives us a "bird's eye" view of a family as it was on one particular night. How easy is it to search it? Well, there is only one set of originals, and they are kept in the Public Record Office in Kew, near London, but microfilm copies for their own districts are held by most major Reference Libraries and County Record Offices throughout this country, and by some places (e.g. LDS Family History Centres) abroad. Those who live in the UK will find it easiest to visit their local Library or Record Office. Before doing either it is necessary to enquire first to find whether an appointment is necessary. For County Record Offices appointments are always needed, as you will need to use a microfilm reader to view your film and as there are a limited number of those available they must be booked in advance. Do not be put off by the technical sounding name. Microfilm readers are very simple machines which you will be shown how to use if you tell the staff that you are unfamiliar with them. Some Public Reference Libraries prefer you to make an appointment but others operate on a "first come, first served" basis, so be sure to get there early, as demand, especially during school holidays, can be great.

If you have never been to a County Record Office before, you should note certain basic rules which will always apply. I have mentioned the need to have a booking. That should be made as far ahead as is practical. When you arrive, you will be asked to sign the Visitors' Book. That is not just a pleasantry. It is so that the number of people in the Office will be known about in case of fire! You will then select a reader and if necessary you will be shown how to operate it. After that you will be more or less on your own - the staff in all local Offices are very helpful but they do have other work to do and it is best not to presume too much on their good nature. Remember, they are not interested in the details of your family history and will expect you to know what records you wish to use.

There are some other rules which should always be observed, and which will probably be displayed on a notice somewhere. The main one of these is that pens of all kinds are strictly forbidden in the Record Office. All note-taking must be in pencil, even in areas reserved for microfilm users, so do be sure to go equipped with several pre-sharpened pencils. Smoking, eating (including sweets) and drinking are also all banned. As someone who frequents Record Offices as much as anyone, I would particularly draw everyone's attention to the rule that researchers MUST work quietly. I know that we all offend against that one on occasions, but there is really no excuse for people indulging in audible conversation in a Record Office. Remember that in a quiet room sound can travel very well

indeed, so ANY conversation will be too loud. There is nothing more annoying than to have ones concentration destroyed by someone recounting the details of their research problems in a way that can be heard by all, when you are trying to concentrate on a difficult search using a difficult-to-read film. The best way to avoid conversation is not to have anyone to talk to, so - go alone. Your time in a Record Office is precious and should be used to best advantage. If you want to discuss what records to look at with other family members, do so at home before you go - don't take them all with you then waste you own time and annoy fellow searchers by discussing the date of Granny's birthday in a room full of people with not the slightest interest in the answer. Going "mob-handed" is, in any case, a very inefficient way to conduct research and if you make multiple bookings - three machines at once, as I have known happen - then you are depriving others of the chance to use them for their own researches. Make sure also that you know what you intend to achieve by your visit and check in advance if you can, that the records you wish to consult are actually held by that Record Office. In other words, as in any other field, do your homework before you embark on original research and always respect the rights of others not to have their own concentration disturbed.

There are various finding aids which can help you avoid the need to reel through many microfilms in order to find someone whose address is known only as "Newcastle", for instance. A few years ago the LDS, in conjunction with family history societies all over the country, including the NDFHS, arranged for the whole of the 1881 census (30 years or approximately one generation, after the 1851 census) to be indexed on a county-by-county basis, and the results of that project are now available in microfiche form in most Reference Libraries and Record Offices in the region - at least for their own counties. The information was indexed in several different ways - alphabetically by surname and "as enumerated" being the two most useful ones. First find the person you seek in the alphabetical index (going by his name and age), note the piece and folio number, which will be given, and then look up that reference on the "as enumerated" fiche. This one-off indexing project has given us a very powerful tool indeed.

Most of the indexes which are available relate to the 1851 census, however. This is because it is the earliest census for which exact ages and birthplaces are given. Indexes produced by the NDFHS and other Societies, and in some cases by private individuals or organisations (e.g. schools), have now covered almost the whole country. The NDFHS's indexes, most of which are available as books or as microfiche, cover the whole of Northumberland and almost the whole of the northern part of County Durham. Indexes by Cleveland FHS cover the southern part of County Durham, and there are also ones by D. J. Butler for Durham City and by Blackfyne Comprehensive School for the Consett district.

Other censuses have had more sporadic attention from the indexers. However, it is always worth enquiring whether whichever Library or Record Office you are in has anything

to cover the census and district which interests you. Some of the other census indexes are: (1) the 1841 census coverage of South Shields by Lindenbridge Publications, (2) the 1871 census coverage of Newcastle and the north bank of the Tyne below Newcastle by John Nieurzyla (published by the NDFHS), and (3) the 1891 census indexes for the Consett district by Kath Willans.

The amount of information given in these indexes varies a lot - even in those published by this Society - so be aware that no index is ever anything other than a pointer to which part of the original record you should be looking at. Some give only ages of persons with the same surname, arranged in family groups; others give "full" details as in the original, but with everyone arranged alphabetically. It is therefore necessary to look at the originals (i.e. the microfilm), not only to check whether the index is correct but to see who was in the household with a surname

different to that for which you looked in the index. That would include married daughters, in-laws and step-relatives as well as visitors and servants, all of whom you should aim to know about as part of your researches.

The future of census accessibility looks very interesting and, as with all modern forms of information provision, very innovative. The LDS are on the point of issuing a set of searchable CD-ROMs to cover the 1851 census of each region of the country and we have been promised that the 1901 census (due for release on 2nd January 2002) will be put on the Internet. That is the good news. The bad news is that, as I understand it, "put on the Internet" may well mean "put *only* on the Internet, and in such a way that it can only be accessed for a fee; not microfilmed".

Editor's note: Geoff Nicholson's address is 57 Manor Park, Concord, Washington, Tyne & Wear NE37 2BU

NEWS FROM BOLBEC HALL

by Gerry Langley

New acquisitions continue to be added to the Society's collection of material at Bolbec Hall. With the purchase of the "Soldiers Died in the Great War" and "British Vital Records", both on CD-ROM, the booking of a computer has become imperative if you want to use these new sources.

The 1881 Census index for England and Wales, and the 1891 Census "As Enumerated" for Durham and Northumberland have been added to the rapidly expanding fiche library together with a large selection of new parish material from Northfiche and Original Indexes. New lists have been posted at Bolbec Hall. The 1851 Census for Durham and Northumberland in fiche form has been ordered and, hopefully, should be available by early Summer.

Because of increased demand four extra fiche readers have been set up permanently in the Computer room. These readers are not normally booked in advance but will be made available to casual users. This brings our total number of microfiche readers to sixteen.

In the Computer Room three of the older computers have been loaded with the "Shroud" programme, and are being used to index material from the library as part of the National Burials Index project. If you would like to join the team, and take part in our in-house indexing programme please contact me.

The new Society database has been completed by Kevin Dolan. It comprises of three separate sections on the computer for baptisms (75,000 events), marriages (250,000 events) and burials (from the Shroud project, 75,000 events and growing). Kevin is now working on a system to include

the censuses in a database. If anyone has data on disk from any of the censuses, or transcripts of any parish registers, please pass it to Kevin or myself for inclusion.

The newly formed Newcastle Group is now well established at Bolbec Hall but it has been suggested that a group meet in the evenings. The day and time has yet to be finalised but in the first instance, if you are interested, names addresses and phone numbers should be passed to Gerry Langley at Bolbec Hall to gauge the demand and response. There would eventually be a requirement for a small committee to run the group.

Continued requests are being made for the establishment of a "Genealogy on Computers" Group. At present there is no focal point for computer users within the Society. Aims could be to evaluate and comment upon current and later upgrades of genealogy programmes, and to publish reports via the Journal for our members: this being coupled with general discussion about computers and indexing methods etc. Again first responses as above, and again a small committee would be required to plan and co-ordinate activities.

Due to the continued and increasing "disappearance" of items from the library, particularly fiche, it is necessary to restrict the number of bags and files that users can take into the search rooms. May we suggest that members prepare a "To Do List" prior to their attendance. It is sad that it is necessary to inconvenience the vast majority of users but at present we are missing irreplaceable fiche from the 1984 IGI together with others from the 1992 IGI which will require the purchase of complete counties to replace the missing items.

DIRECTORIES FOR NORTH-EAST ENGLAND

Part 4: 1900 - 1940

by Adam Bunting

This final listing of directories for our region is based very largely on the holdings at Newcastle Library. I repeat the 'health warning' that should accompany all such articles: always check with your local library before making a special trip to examine a book. Not only could there be errors in this list or the library catalogue, books could also be withdrawn for repair, or missing from stock.

The early 20th century marked the peak of development in the world of directories. For our region, the market was dominated by Ward and Kelly. Ward covered the conurbations, Kelly (less frequently) the country, but always with a section devoted to the conurbations as well. The Kelly directories were, as in the 19th century, produced in various editions from single county to regional size. For the sake of simplicity I have shown just those which cover the region. Readers will often find a single Northumberland or Durham directory for the same year. There are extensive holdings of these more recent directories in all of our region's large libraries.

The number of specialised trades and professional directories increased rapidly from the end of the previous century, and telephone directories from 1900 show a steady

increase in the number of private subscribers. Nevertheless, these directories can still be of considerable use to the researcher. In particular, women feature more than in any other comparable listings, at least until 1919 when women over thirty received the franchise and can be located in electoral registers. Directories are also more widely available than electoral registers and, unlike electoral registers, the trade of the householder is generally stated.

I shall, as ever, be very grateful for additions to this list. I suspect there are more for Teesside and perhaps for the Berwick area than I have so far discovered. I hope to produce a definitive bibliography from earliest times to 1940, in a year's time or so.

I have curtailed the titles in the list below in order to save space, and so as not to weary either the reader, or the editor! The geographical content, and therefore the title, of Ward's directories changed over the years as towns and their suburbs expanded. If for example you are seeking a directory for Newcastle in 1915, you will see that the number '3' by the title for 1915 leads back to the first appearance of that particular title in 1907-8.

Bibliography 1900 - 1940

1900 *Ward's Directory of Newcastle-on-Tyne & adjacent villages*

1900-1 *Ward's Directory of Darlington, Hartlepool, West Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Stockton & Thornaby*

1900-3 *Caldcleugh, T & Son - Durham Directory & Almanack* (NB Durham City only)

1901-2 *Ward's Directory of Newcastle-on-Tyne, Gateshead, North & South Shields, Wallsend, Jarrow, Sunderland & adjacent villages* (see 1 below for the same title)

1902 *Kelly's Directory of Durham & Northumberland*

1902 *Ward's Directory of Newcastle, Wallsend & adjacent villages* (see 2 below for the same title)

1903-4 *Ward's Directory* (1)

1904 *Ward's Directory* (2)

1904-5 *Ward's Directory of Darlington, Hartlepool, West Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Stockton, Thornaby & their surrounding villages*

1904-7 *Caldcleugh, T & Son - Durham Directory & Almanack* (NB Durham City only)

1905-6 *Ward's Directory* (1)

1906 *Kelly's Directory of Durham, Northumberland, Cumberland & Westmorland*

1906 *Ward's Directory* (2)

1906-7 *Ward's Directory of Darlington, Hartlepool, West Hartlepool, Redcar & Coatham, Middlesbrough, Stockton & Thornaby* (see 'a' below for the same title)

1907-8 *Ward's Directory of Newcastle-on-Tyne with its extended boundary, Gateshead, North & South Shields, Wallsend, Jarrow, Sunderland & adjacent villages* (see 3 below for the same title)

1908 *Ward's Directory* (2)

- 1908-9 *Ward's Directory* (a)
- 1908-10 *Caldcleugh, T & Son - Durham Directory & Almanack* (NB Durham City only)
- 1909-10 *Ward's Directory* (3)
- 1910 *Kelly's Directory of Durham & Northumberland*
- 1910 *Ward's Directory* (2)
- 1910-11 *Ward's Directory* (a)
- 1911-12 *Ward's Directory* (3)
- 1911-13 *Caldcleugh, T & Son - Durham Directory & Almanack* (NB Durham City only)
- 1912 *Ward's Directory* (2)
- 1912-13 *Ward's Directory* (a)
- 1914 *Caldcleugh, T & Son - Durham Directory & Almanack* (NB Durham City only)
- 1914 *Kelly's Directory of Durham & Northumberland*
- 1914 *Ward's Directory* (2)
- 1914-15 *Ward's Directory* (a)
- 1915 *Caldcleugh, T & Son - Durham Directory & Almanack* (NB Durham City only)
- 1915-16 *Ward's Directory* (3)
- 1916 *Caldcleugh, T & Son - Durham Directory & Almanack* (NB Durham City only)
- 1916 *Ward's Directory* (2)
- 1917 *Ward's Directory of Newcastle-on-Tyne, North & South Shields, Jarrow, Wallsend & adjacent villages* (see 4 below for the same title)
- 1917-18 *Ward's Directory of Darlington, Hartlepool, West Hartlepool, Middlesbrough & Stockton*
- 1919 *Ward's Directory* (2)
- 1920 *Ward's Directory* (4)
- 1921 *Kelly's Directory of Durham & Northumberland*
- 1921 *Ward's Directory of Sunderland, Wallsend, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Gateshead & adjacent villages* (see 5 below for same title)
- 1921-22 *Ward's Directory of Darlington, Hartlepool, West Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Stockton & Thornaby* (see 'b' below for same title)
- 1922 *Ward's Directory* (4)
- 1923 *Ward's Directory* (5)
- 1924 *Ward's Directory* (4)
- 1924-5 *Ward's Directory* (b)
- 1925 *Durham City Year Book & Business Directory*
- 1925 *Kelly's Directory of Durham & Northumberland*
- 1925 *Ward's Directory* (5)
- 1926 *Caldcleugh, T & Son - Durham Directory & Almanack* (NB Durham City only)
- 1926 *Ward's Directory of Newcastle-on-Tyne, Whitley Bay, Tynemouth, North & South Shields, Jarrow, Wallsend and villages adjacent*
- 1926-7 *Ward's Directory of Redcar & Coatham, with Dormanstown, Saltburn, Middlesbrough, Stockton, Eaglescliffe Junction, Eaglescliffe & Yarm, & Thornaby*
- 1927 *Caldcleugh, T & Son - Durham Directory & Almanack* (NB Durham City only)
- 1927 *Ward's Directory of Sunderland, Wallsend, Gosforth, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Gateshead & adjacent villages* (see 6 below for the same title)
- 1927-8 *Ward's Directory of Darlington, Hartlepool & West Hartlepool* (see 'c' below for the same title)
- 1928 *Caldcleugh, T & Son - Durham Directory & Almanack* (NB Durham City only)
- 1928 *Ward's Directory of Whitley Bay, Tynemouth, North & South Shields, Jarrow, Wallsend, Gosforth, Newcastle-on-Tyne & adjacent villages* (see 7 below for the same title)
- 1928-9 *Ward's Directory of Redcar & Coatham, with Dormanstown, Saltburn, Middlesbrough, Stockton & Thornaby* (see 'd' below for the same title)
- 1929 *Kelly's Directory of Durham & Northumberland*
- 1929 *Ward's Directory* (6)
- 1929-30 *Ward's Directory* (c)
- 1930-1 *Ward's Directory* (d)
- 1931 *Ward's Directory* (6)
- 1931-2 *Ward's Directory* (c)
- 1932 *Ward's Directory* (7)

- 1932-3 *Ward's Directory* (d)
 1933 *Ward's Directory* (6)
 1933-4 *Ward's Directory* (c)
 1934 *Kelly's Directory of Durham & Northumberland*
 1934 *Ward's Directory* (7)
 1934-5 *Ward's Directory* (d)
 1935 *Ward's Directory* (6)
 1935-6 *Ward's Directory* (c)
 1936 *Berwick Advertiser - The Advertiser Directory of Berwick & North Northumberland*
 1936 *Ward's Directory* (7)
 1936-7 *Ward's Directory* (d)
 1937 *Ward's Directory* (6)
 1937 *Berwick Advertiser - The Advertiser Directory of Berwick & North Northumberland*
 1938 *Kelly's Directory of Durham & Northumberland*
 1938 *Ward's Directory* (7)
 1938 *Berwick Advertiser - The Advertiser Directory of Berwick & North Northumberland*
 1938-9 *Ward's Directory* (d)
 1939 *Caldcleugh, T & Son - Durham Directory & Almanack* (NB Durham City only)
 1939 *Ward's Directory* (6)
 1940 *Ward's Directory* (7)

Editor's note: Adam Bunting would like to hear from anyone with additional information about directories covering the Northumberland and Durham area. His address is 17 Moor Place, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4AL

NEWS FROM NORTHUMBERLAND RECORD OFFICE

from Sarah Davis, Assistant Archivist, Northumberland Record Office

Northumberland Record Office is to undergo a number of changes. Firstly, following a period of public consultation, we are altering the hours to facilitate greater public access. To remind you, as from the 1st June 1999, the new times are:

Morpeth Records Centre: Monday 9.30 - 1.00, 2.00 - 5.00, Tuesday 9.30 - 1.00, 2.00 - 8.00 and Wednesday 9.30 - 1.00, 2.00 - 5.00.

Northumberland Record Office, Melton Park: Wednesday 9.30 - 1.00; 2.00 - 8.00, Thursday 9.30 - 1.00, 2.00 - 5.00 and Friday 9.30 - 1.00, 2.00 - 5.00.

The opening days at Berwick Record Office remain the same: Wednesday 9.30 - 1.00, 2.00 - 5.00 and Thursday 9.30 - 1.00, 2.00 - 5.00.

Those of you accustomed to visiting the Records Centre for the family history resources will now be able to use the service at Melton Park at the other end of the week. Many untapped sources of genealogical information are located there, including manorial and business records as well as tithe maps and trade directories. The personal names index is always a good start and may throw up unexpected references. We hope that you will be encouraged to use both local services and that the change in hours will be beneficial. Please remind friends and colleagues who may be unaware of the changes.

Another facility, which will be introduced at Melton Park, is the provision of space to stay inside over the lunch time period. We regret that this will be basic and there will be no access to the toilet facilities until the whole building re-opens at 2.00. However, there will be coffee and hot chocolate on hand and you will be spared a walk in the rain.

The Amenities Committee of Northumberland County Council has agreed to set up an Archives Consultative Committee. This will involve representatives of interested organisations. It is also intends to see if there is support for setting up a "Friends" organisation.

Finally, we have had several interesting new accessions. Allendale parish council has deposited a burial register (1889 - 1941) and grave-spaces book (1889 - 1941). The reference for these is PC 31/91 and PC 31/92 respectively. Together with these records, the parish council also deposited a school log book for Sinderhope (1904 - 1945), reference CES 295/11. The above records are all at Morpeth Records Centre. Also at Morpeth, on open access in the search room, are two new transcripts for the Blyth Circuit Wesleyan Methodist baptism register (1840 - 1987) and St Peter's, Lowtown, Tynemouth baptism register (1861 - 1870).

LOOKING FOR THE LAINGS

by Jean Laing

There must be many family history researchers who feel they have hit a brick wall when they come unexpectedly to a census giving place of birth as merely Scotland, Ireland or England, depending where the census was taken. However, there are a number of occasions when the exact location is given. In my case, I had this stroke of good fortune and it served to confirm what, until then, could have been a card castle about to collapse for lack of proof.

The births of my husband's father and grandfather presented no problems because both were established, at that time, in Sunderland. The marriage of great grandfather William, the first of that branch to settle in Sunderland, was found in civil registration records but his birth just missed registration. A census extract for 1861 gave his birthplace as Scotswood, on the western outskirts of Newcastle. After several fruitless enquiries, with the considerable help of an agent his baptism was found in Newburn parish register, his father being a gardener at Lemington Hall. This was the next parish west of Scotswood. A brother, Alexander, who had been a witness at William's marriage to Margaret Vardy in Whalton, Northumberland, had also been born there and Alexander's birth certificate gave his parents' names as William Laing and Mary, formerly Inglis. When a search was made in the 1841 census, 18 months after Alexander's birth, there was no sign of the family in Newburn parish.

I was not, at this time, in a position either personally to blanket search the censuses for the Newcastle area nor to employ someone to do it for me. So I tried to find other members of the Sunderland family in the hope of further information. My husband's grandfather and great grandfather both died in their thirties which meant a lack of family information on the Laing side and, after the grandfather's death, the grandmother took her two sons to Edinburgh to be educated. I was lucky enough to locate two members who, like my husband's family, had left Sunderland and now lived in the south, and also a cousin in Canada. All expressed interest but could offer no information on William Laing, the gardener.

There were 14 years of searching where and when I could; following many lines of Laing families in Northumberland and Co Durham. After receiving some information from an Australian correspondent, I made an application for an 1851 census extract for Morton House in the parish of Houghton le Spring. From what she wrote I was expecting to find a Laing farmer with whom, perhaps, William was working. What I did find was William Laing the gardener, his wife Mary and five of their children in the gardener's cottage, and a further son, also a gardener, living in Morton House. This extract enabled me to trace baptismal records for the two eldest children and the youngest, and gave me a place for two daughters. Through an enquiry made to Tyne

& Wear Archives, I ascertained that the family were not at Morton for either the 1841 or 1861 censuses. The place of birth of both parents was given as Scotland.

At first I did not know where to start, or how I was going to prove a connection with anything I might find. I was tempted to drop the Laings but, after some thought, started collecting IGI sheets for Laings in a number of the more likely counties trying to reconstitute families with a William born around 1805, probably son of a John, taking into account the Scottish naming pattern in his family. A number of Scottish birth certificates later and no further forward, I noticed, in a directory, that a Hugh Laing was researching Laings in Penicuik, Midlothian. This reminded me that the only snippet of family tradition my father in law ever mentioned was a vague connection with Penicuik, which so far had not seemed relevant.

On contacting Hugh Laing, I found he was descended from William's eldest son John (a gardener in the 1851 census) who had migrated south some time before 1860, but he could add nothing to my information on William Laing, the father, beyond a similar tradition of a connection with Penicuik. He had made a valuable transcription of Laing monumental inscriptions in the old churchyard there, which was to be useful in sorting out the Laing families, though it did not have anything for our branch.

The obvious thing was to concentrate on Penicuik, a decision I made which coincided with my being in a position to visit a local Family History Centre, where I was able to order and view 1841 - 71 census films for Midlothian, which included Penicuik, together with relevant parish registers. This took about three years and I slowly sorted out four Laing families in the area and matched them with monumental inscriptions and out of parish places of birth in the IGI and OPR (Old Parish Register index in Scotland). It was the OPR which threw up the marriage of William Laing and Mary Inglis in 1827 in St Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, so I ordered that part of the register to view. This gave me only William's trade and where he was living, but much fuller information on Mary Inglis which enabled me to trace her birth and family in Berwickshire.

William Laing, according to the 1851 census, was born about 1805. I found three possibles in Midlothian from the OPR and set about researching each. After eliminating two of them, I was left with a William Laing, son of John Laing, wright, and Mary Cochrane, but he was not born in Penicuik. His parents had married in Edinburgh in 1799 and the marriage entry could be seen in a printed book of Edinburgh marriages at Edinburgh Central Library. This, while giving no information about John, beyond his trade, noted Mary Cochrane as the daughter of William Cochrane,

farmer in Glencorse parish, which bounded that of Penicuik, and from the baptisms of the children of John and Mary, it could be seen that she returned to her home for the births of three children (Agnes, Alexander and John) while the rest of the family (William, James, Peter and Janet) were born in the parish of Colinton which was bounded by Glencorse and Penicuik. It was son John and his descendants that I had tracked through the 1841 - 71 census extracts in Penicuik, as well as Alexander's widow and their only surviving son and his descendants. A viewing of the parish registers of Penicuik, Colinton and Glencorse confirmed the IGI and OPR entries.

I found the libraries in Edinburgh and Midlothian District very helpful in furnishing me with copies of the New Statistical Accounts, which give varied but mainly excellent descriptions, for around 1840, of the particular parishes, and directory details. The Scottish Genealogy Society librarian (although I was not a member) kindly supplied copies of transcripts of monumental inscriptions for a reasonable cost.

All the time I was working on this family I was very conscious that I had no proof that the William who married Mary Inglis was the William born to John Laing and Mary Cochrane, nor indeed that William and Mary were the same as the parents of the family found in Northumberland and Co Durham. I knew there were many who never appeared in any register, that some registers were poorly kept, and that I wasn't in a position to achieve total coverage of all census enumerators' areas, especially the country districts.

When the 1881 census index became available, I collected sheets for Laing (and . Lang) in Midlothian,

Northumberland and Co Durham. I found that these repaid careful study over several weeks. For instance, I found my husband's grandfather, aged 19, lodging in Edinburgh and not at home in Sunderland. Also, the Northumberland index had printed Alexander Laing and his family as Lang and it was only the fact that I had noted that his place of birth was Lemington, Northumberland, that made me apply for the census extract, to find that he was indeed a Laing.

What the 1881 census index did give me, also, was William Laing, the gardener, aged 76, still in work, but widowed, living with his housekeeper in Benwell village (between Scotswood and central Newcastle), and his place of birth "Edinburgh Collington" was so exactly right that I breathed a sigh of relief I subsequently found his death certificate nine years later, which showed that he died at the home of his son Alexander. Mary, his wife, had died in 1861 at Jesmond Dene, Newcastle.

Without working through the Scottish records I would not have been able to prove that William Laing in the 1881 census in Northumberland was my husband's great great grandfather. It has taken me 23 years to get back to 1799 in a very roundabout way. Many researchers, I know, have covered much more ground in half the time, but I am glad that I did not just drop the project when I found that William and Mary Laing had been born in Scotland.

Editor's note: This article first appeared in Family Tree Magazine, and it is with the kind permission of the Editor of that publication, and of the author, that we are able to reproduce it.

MY ANCESTOR WAS A HORSE THIEF

by Sergei Scurfield

For several years I have been researching my family's history. Over the course of my research I have come across several interesting personalities whose stories often shed an interesting and informative look on world of our ancestors.

The surname Scurfield seems to have originated in northern England in the county of Durham or Northumberland. Today the Scurfield name remains most highly concentrated in the county of Durham, although Scurfields are found worldwide.

The first Scurfield to immigrate from England to the American colonies was William Scurfield who was a bonded passenger to the Americas in 1742. Sentenced in Northumberland in the summer of 1741 for the crime of stealing a horse, William was reprieved from capital punishment on condition of transportation to the colonies

(America). Recorded as a bonded passenger to America in 1742 William would have been the first Scurfield to have immigrated to North America; preceding by more than 100 years the brothers Thomas and John Scurfield who immigrated to Pennsylvania, USA before 1884, and the brothers Ralph and Thomas Scurfield who immigrated to Manitoba, Canada in 1887-1892.

I have not yet turned up any additional information on the infamous William Scurfield. It is not known where he landed or settled, or if he started a family in the Americas. It is possible that William found his way back to England as there is summary in the Glamorgan County Records of a William Scurfield who, in 1787, was presented for a dunghill as the sentence for some unknown crime.

The acts of the delinquent William Scurfield over centuries ago is a sharp contrast to the generally hard working, intelligent and honest Scurfield clan. Scurfields can proudly boast of more than our share of successful doctors, lawyers, scientists, entrepreneurs, actors, authors, musicians, athletes, and hard working and honest citizens - and even some politicians!

PUTTING FLESH ON THE BONES

by Jim Parker

Everyone involved in tracing the history of their family has experienced the pleasure of unearthing each piece of information which eventually evolves into their personal family tree.

Once connections are established it is inevitable that we want to add to the story of our forebears. It is not enough to simply know their names. They were real people, who had full and eventful lives. This is where my story really begins.

My maternal grandfather William Innes Scrimshaw died at 7 Felton Street Byker, Newcastle on July 7th 1938. I was only six years old, yet to this day, my memory of him remains undimmed. William Innes had married Sarah Jane Hope in 1910 at St Silas's Church in Clifford Street, Byker settling in and around the Headlam Street area up to the time of his death. My mother was the eldest of their seven children all of whom had good singing voices and a capacity for performance which was above average.

My eventual questioning of my mother and the remaining members of the family confirmed the heritage of performing that they had bequeathed to their children. In the early days William and his wife, who by now, was known as "Sally" performed as a double singing act. She had a wonderful sweet soprano voice which I often heard as I grew older. He was a comedian and pantomime dame for part of each year working under the stage name of "Will Russ". I am told that in the 1920s Byker had its own carnival and that William was much involved. One family story suggest that he and Sally were the first "act" to appear at the Raby Cinema in Byker after it opened showing silent films.

William's father and my maternal great grandfather added to the colourful story. He was Charles Henry Scrimshaw who proved to have no Tyneside connections whatsoever. He is recorded in the 1881 census for Newcastle lodging at 117 New Road (eventually renamed City Road) giving his occupation as a seaman and his birthplace as Middlesex. His subsequent marriage in 1884 to Jane Adams Hogarth in St Nicholas Church states that he is a publican and his address as 3 Cross Street Newcastle.

He next appears in the Census of 1891 living at Langhorn Street, Heaton, and this time tells us that he is "by trade a Tailor" but that he is working as a "Theatrical Stage Manager" which suggests a local theatre. His birthplace is even more informative. He records it as "Coventry Street" off Leicester Square, London, Middlesex.

My subsequent enquiries followed a trail to Aberdeen where Charles Henry was stage manager of the Peoples Palace from circa 1895 to 1905. He worked under the stage name of "Harry Russell". The Peoples Palace was burned down in

1896 which event was fully covered in the local press. Charles Henry was on stage as the fire grew urging people to get out quickly and quietly. There were a number of fatalities and as a result a subsequent court case and enquiry in which he was a principal witness, all of which are fully reported. During a visit to Aberdeen I was able to obtain copies of all the records, take photographs of the two house in which he and his family lived and visit the theatre which was rebuilt in 1898 and again subsequently.

It is clear from the local press advertisements that all the famous Music Hall artistes performed at the Aberdeen Palace. Charles Henry must have met them all. Harry Lauder, Charles Coburn, George Formby, senior, and not least, a young Charlie Chaplin, all appeared at the "Palace" during his years there. As my grandfather William Innes grew up in Aberdeen he must have seen a great deal that influenced him leading to his own theatrical development.

I still have gaps in my knowledge as to my grandfathers local artistic involvement in Byker. And further afield too. Which theatre in Newcastle and district employed his father, Charles Henry, as stage manager? Is there a member of the NDFHS who has knowledge of the theatre/music hall in Newcastle area during 1885/1895? Was there a "Byker Carnival" in the 1920s in which it is alleged that my grandfather took part? Does anyone have any knowledge of the stage names of Harry Russell (father) and Will Russ (son)? I desperately want to know.

Much can be achieved by following up clues contained in census records, birth/death certificates and marriage certificates. Putting flesh on the bones is possible by widening the search to include every available record such as newspapers, school, medical documents, etc. When the clues lead in the right direction you begin to recognise that you really do belong to those who went before you.

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(email: jimpee@lineone.net)*

Taken from *The Local Historian's Table Book* published in 1841-46 and compiled by M.A. Richardson:

1633 - Died, Barnabas Hutchinson, of Queen St., Durham, a proctor, who reached the age of 102. He was buried under an ancient thorn tree which flourished for near two centuries in the old church yard of St. Mary-le-Bow.

1636 December 4 - John Trollop the younger, of Thornley, county of Durham, in a sudden quarrel at a horse race, fought with William Selby, esq. of Newcastle, at White-hall Dike Nook, and slew him on the spot.

ROBERT GOTT WILSON (1851 - 1936)

"From pitman's labourer to colliery manager"

by Angela Sinclair

Robert Gott Wilson was born on 15th January 1851 at Quarry House, East Rainton and baptised at St. Bartholomew's, Thornley (near Kelloe), the second son of coalminer James Wilson and his wife, Mary Robinson. They had been married at St Bartholomew's on 10th July 1848. The marriage certificate is curious in that Mary gave her father's name as "Ralph Gott", who signed as witness. Mary was born at Windmill Hills, Felling on 18th December 1822 and she was baptised as "Mary Gott" to Ralph and Elizabeth (nee Hall) on 5th January 1823 at St. Mary's, Gateshead. She was, apparently, accepted in Ralph's family as the sixth in a total of 12.

Ralph Gott, another miner, had been born to weaver Jonas Gott in Durham City in 1787 but had married Walbottle-born Elizabeth Hall at Newcastle All Saints in 1811 before moving to South Shields, then to the Gateshead (Blue Quarry) area in 1817, to Usworth Colliery in 1824, South Moorsley by 1841 (where Mary courted Rainton based James Wilson) and, finally, to Thornley Colliery by 1848.

Mary's first-born, Ralph, lived only 13 months. "RG" was named "Robert" after James Wilson's father, and "Gott" after Mary's father. Their only other child was Elizabeth born in 1852. By the 1861 Census, the Wilsons had also moved to Thornley Colliery where "RG" is described as a ten year-old "coalminer's labourer". In 1868 they made their final move to Murton Colliery. On the 1871 Census, "RG" had brought his new bride into their home at 26 Double Row. He had married on 25th February 1871 at Holy Trinity, Murton, and two days after the Census, they had their first child, James. His wife was Elizabeth Gray, daughter of Berwick-born Frederick Bennett Gray, a shipwright of Sunderland, by his wife Elizabeth (late Goodfellow, nee Greener). It is at this point that "G" takes up his own story.

"I, Robt. Gott Wilson, was born at East Rainton on the 15th day of Jan. 1851. My father was a miner, & mother a pitman's daughter. I was the only son, & had a sister - who was a strong and a brave woman. My mother and sister could neither read nor write - my Dad did not think it necessary for me to be educated, so when I got to manhood, I found myself very deficient in education, & looked slightly on by my companion - I married my first wife in 1871 at Murton Colliery & had two boys, when a Mr Wm. Tate

started science classes there in 1875. I was persuaded by a cousin to go to them - I remember the teacher putting a simple multiplication sum on the board - it to multiply 365 x 9 - I could not do it, the most of the others could, so this was the first incentive for me to learn. I then began to think of my bairns and self - so I bought a slate, and an arithmetic, got hold of a pupil teacher to learn me for 1 shilling a fortnight. I very soon got as far as he could learn me. I then got a one that was further advanced & carried on until he turned tired of me, & I went & asked the school master if he would let me come to school among his scholars, in the afternoon, and I well remember, the cramped position I had to assume at the little desks. I often stopped a few minutes after the boys left to get an explanation of a new rule I was commencing. One day, a boy came and looked over my shoulder to see what kind of work I was doing. He beckoned a companion, to come & see, the big chap only doing compound addition. I felt proud at being so far on, and, so I went on, until I mastered arithmetic. Then started with Mensuration (Nesbit's)- got well on with it, until I had to get to understand, sines, cosines & tangents etc. There was no one I asked, knew anything about them, so I bought an Elementary Trigonometry & studied it, & learned, so much about it.

Now in those back days, the schools were usually two cottages joined, as at Seaham Colliery, in the Mill Bank. At Murton, the school was the end building of the Colliery work shops.

The Schoolmaster, often a lamed miner - the Owners had to provide the schools & pay the teachers. No holidays then, no School Boards - & no officials.

Now we will go back to the Science Classes. Well, I always came out at top in the exams. The other students jibed me that I had got some one else's ticket & that I could not have passed. When I got to be an Overman, I had to go with the Surveyor to survey the workings, and I used to keep a book of the Survey. I had to pay him for this - in kind. Then, on a pay Saturday, I would ask the Manager for the loan of the surveying instruments, and ask a farmer to allow me to survey his fields.

This would be in 1875. I had been at Murton Colliery since September 1868 and started as a coal hewer when 17 years of age - and I remember how tired I used to be before the

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shift was up - the picks were heavier in those days. When I was about 20, the putter came into me, & said there was a man, hopped up by a fall of stone. It was in a jud, and I ran to place - all the hewers & deputy was at the jud end when I got there, and none of them dare go in to reserve him. I got one to go with me & show me a light. I went over the falls of stone to face of jud, listened & heard him groaning - so I alone, removed the stones that covered him, - pulled him out, during the time the men were shouting for me to come out, or I would be killed. Just after I had got him out, the jud closed, burying everything - the man name was Mathew Cambie - he was only off work a week or two - several of the Murton men knew about this - this caused me to be noticed by the Manager (Geo Bailes) & the under manager, Ned Cowie - and shortly afterwards, I was asked to be a deputy - but refused as I could make more money hewing - Deputies then had 3s 4d per shift of 8 hours. I continued as a hewer for 2 years or so after this, & was on the Miners Committee - when I was a deputy for 5 years - until I was asked to be master shifter, in the Hutton Seam. I accepted the position - but earned the scorn of Overmen & Deputies, which caused trouble for me. They got what looked like a serious case for me to answer about fouling a place, where two Deputies were drawing a jud. The Manager heard the case, & I left the Office, & went for a walk. Then I went and saw the Manager and asked him to let me hew again, but he said NO - and stick into the B—s and I will back thou up. That night I asked the Overman to come into the street & I would fight him. So I got peace with offering the same thing to the others. In 1880 I got a back overman place & continued at it for 3 years, during which time I got my Colliery Manager's Certificate at Darlington.²

Now we will go back to the Science Classes - In 1876 I got 1st Class Elementary Magnetism & Electricity, 1877 I got 1st Class Advanced in Magnetism & Electricity, 1879 1st Class Elementary Geology, 1880 2nd Class Advanced Geology. Also certificates, 3 in the Principles of Mining & the Colliery Manager's Certificate. The Science Teacher, Wm Tate, wanted to raise Students' Fee from 2s 6d to 5s. Committee would not agree to this, so the teacher was finished. Committee sent for me and said my certificates qualified me to teach the classes there, which I did for 2 years.

I went to Derbyshire in 1885 or 4 to be under-manager at Markham Colliery. Only the Barnsley Bed was working, it was 7 feet thick - All got by open faced Longwall - gates 30 & 40 yards wide, the tub taken along the face. Two men would take one of these gates, called the Stallmen & they were the responsible ones, for putting in the timber & pack Walls. Wooden props were seldom used - Metal props, 6' to 6' 6" weighing 16 stone or so - had wooden lids (headtrees). The seam had a shale roof. The seam was half good steam coal & half bitumen, or like Durham Coal. All coal was hand filled. Then ordered by Manager to put no coal in the tub, if it was less than their foot. The Keeker used to empty a tub now & again, and if their was so many pounds of small, the Stallmen were fined 10s. What they fined the men for were better coal & bigger than are sold for the best coal in Durham. It was worked on what is

called the Butsy (?) System. There was a class of men, say 40, called 'holers', & an equal class called 'tillers'. The 'corvers' (holers) had 5s per day and all holing had to be not less than 5 feet deep. When the seam had a softish underclay, I have seen them hole 10 feet. There was an "Iron Judge" - a piece of iron in the form of a right angle triangle, and the removed curveing had to conform to it shape - or they were fined. The Stallmen made 12s per day on an average then. When an order was got for small coal, it was filled away. The carvings sometimes cast into the gob, the Stallmen were responsible for seeing that sprags were put in every 6 feet, to prevent coal falling on the holers. Also, a sufficient number of 'cocker megs', to protect holers. All the miners had to find their own houses - and they thought nothing of walking 3 miles each way from the pit. They were allowed a ton of inferior coal, once a month. They had to pay for the leading. Every man, lad, Deputies & Overmen, had to stop in the pit 10 hours per day. They had no union of course. None of the North Country miners would stand such conditions. I employed a lot of Welsh Miners, & in time, they got conditions altered. The cost of getting coal into the trucks was about 5s per ton - without timber, royalty, rent & higher officials' wages & recovery of capital & interest thereon.

One day in my rounds underground, I caught two stallmen, unramming a charged shot hole. This was dangerous & against Mines Act. They pleaded that hard & went on to their knees & begged for mercy, stating ones wife was dieing, so I said, well there is only 3 of us - can you two keep your gobs? Of course they could & would have kissed me, if I would have let them. But the Manager had his spies and it, no doubt, got to H.M.Mines Inspectors. So this helped to get me out of Derbyshire. I was prosecuted and fined £2 & costs. The Manager was to blame as he would not appoint a night Official - he talked nice to me, saying the company would pay all expenses, but they did not. I asked for a month's wages in advance, and got it & came straight back to Murton Colliery & worked one shift there, when I got a telegram from Wm Armstrong - Pelaw House - saying I had to up to Cortonwood, in Yorkshire, at once, to be undermanager there. I did & got 10/- a week more wages. So there was only the disgrace. The month's wages paid my fine - I was about 12 months in Yorkshire - where I got my first experience of Post & Double Stall working.

Now for Yorkshire. Cortonwood Colliery is only a stone throw or so of the famous Lundhill Colliery at New Woombwell. The Yorkshire miner is a very different type of miner to deal with, and he was always wanting something for nothing - and as you were a stranger - many unfair propositions were put to me. I had to be very strict in payment of gd work & all things that I had to put into them. They told me what the other Under-Manager did etc. but I wasn't having any. So I was not in their favour. Herbert Smith, his brother & dad, had a Stall or Benk under one. The old chap was a talker, but I never heard Herbert speak. The old chap tried to work a dodge on me but it failed. The Yorkshire miners do not like North Country men - neither as gaffers or workmen.

They worked the Barnsley Bed at Cortonwood, and they had better prices for all their work than in Derbyshire, and they only worked 8 hours in the pit, and they made better wages than in Derbyshire. I was struck with the fact that so many miners only had one eye. I asked some how it happened. They used to tell me 'by another's clog'. Clogs were largely worn. I have seen two colliers fighting "up & down" they call it & they kicked each other - when they were got down. The Yorkshire miner has to find his own house. Some collieries have houses for their workmen, but they have to pay rent for them. At Cortonwood, I think it was 4s 6d per week. They are allowed coal, once a month, but had to pay for leading it. The Barnsley Bed there, was never above 6 feet where I saw it. I got the same system of Longwall set away there, instead of the Benk or Bank system. The Benk system was Post & Double Stall. I did not care much for the Yorkshire miner & the feeling was reciprocated. The roof above Barnsley Bed was a soft shale. In the falls of stone on miners, they were often buried alive, as the roof used to run through the bars (planks). I had one such accident. I got there an hour after the accident and it was 2 hours after that we got him out. He was alive, and groaned for two hours. Everybody did their best to get him out, but the shale roof kept on falling to a great height.

I got a telegram from Wm. Armstrong - he wanted to see me, so I came down & saw him, and he engaged one as the Certificated Manager at Pelton Fell Colliery (Feb 1886) - and I continued there for 30 years, and retired. Got a pension of £250 a year - but the Colliery went into liquidation - & I was thrown on the rocks".³

At this point the letter ends.

'RG' and Elizabeth had a family of six boys when they moved to Pelton Fell. There, in 1888, 'Lill' or 'Elizabeth Mary' (Fred Walker's mother), was born in a house depicted in T.H. Hair's sketch of 'Pelton Colliery'. ('RG' left a framed picture of this to 'Lill' in his will).

Following the death of Elizabeth, 'RG' married Eleanor Pace and had three further children: John Herbert 1896, George Edward 1900, and Margery in 1903. Most of his sons followed in his footsteps as colliery managers: Jim at Edmondsley, Fred at Wallsend Rising Sun and Dawdon, Bob (Robert Gray Wilson) in Chile during World War 1, Hugh at Blackhall, and Jack at East Hedley Hope.

After retirement from Pelton Fell Colliery in 1915, 'RG' lived for a while in Birtley, but the loss of his well-earned pension in 1929 caused him to 'live in', first with son Jack at the Lintz, near Burnopfield, and then with daughter, 'Madge' (Cooper) at Wardley Colliery. There, after a brief illness, he committed suicide in 1936.

As the coroner stated, 'RG' had had 'a long and useful life'. He took an active part in a number of rescue attempts in north-east colliery disasters, including West Stanley in 1911 and at Wingate in 1906 where his wife's brother, Henry Pace, was a heroic victim. Family stories underline also his warmth and friendliness. His grit and

determination is modestly related in his 'story' and he may surely be regarded as a splendid Victorian exemplar of Samuel Smiles' 'Self-Help'.

Notes:

1. This book, published in 1812, entitled *An Introduction to Mensuration and Practical Geometry* by John Bonnycastle of the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, was presented to "RG's" 15 year old grandson, George Walker in 1925, and is now in the possession of George's brother, Fred.
2. Fred Walker has the original Manager's Certificate of Competency No. 1833 according to the Coal Mines Regulation Act 1872. It is to Mr R.G. Wilson of 1 Pilgrim Street, Murton Colliery, Sunderland, and is signed 21 September 1889.
3. On Saturday, 21 Oct 1995, Fred Walker of Hartlepool, "RG's" grandchild, like myself, gave me a copy of the above 'testament' which he told me his mother, 'Lill' Wilson, had urged her father to write.

Editor's note: Angela Sinclair forwarded copies of two photographs which we are regrettably unable to reproduce. One photo is a portrait of R G Wilson, the other is of the Manager and officials at Pelton Fell Colliery in 1913. Names given: F Watson, G Park, G Mallam, K M Guthrie, C Alderson, T Raine, T Dodds, R Gardner, R Ayton, J Oliver, J Spry, T Stoor(?), Guy Armstrong, R G W(ilson), J Dixon, J H W(ilson), T Thomson, R Parker, S Tothard, one man unidentified. Mrs Sinclair would be happy to correspond with readers interested in the Gott, Gray and Pace families mentioned in the text, for whom she has comprehensive family trees. Her address is: 12 Regent Road, Ryhope, Sunderland SR2 0PP

MISSING FROM THE REGISTERS?

Never take the omission of your ancestor from a register as being evidence that they were not from the parish. At Morpeth, Northumberland, in the registers of St Mary the Virgin, there is a footnote dated 1894:

"Note: During the curacy of Rev. I.A. Nicholson, the register of Births and Deaths was written by William Leighton (who was appointed Parish Clerk January 7th 1787) in a book of his own, from which at distant periods Mr Nicholson copied them in to the Register, such as he thought of importance only. After Leighton's death in 1821 his books were destroyed by his relations. This accounts for very many omissions in the Registers during that period. This information was given by William Woodman, solicitor, who remembered Leighton well to me."

Signed Herbert Bott, Curate, 1894.

LLOYD'S REGISTER FOR 1901 AND GENEALOGY

by Peter Hull

In order to conclude the search for information about Sunderland Master Mariners, taken from Lloyd's records, by examining these over a reasonable span of years, it was decided to include the information obtainable for 1901. This was done so that a comparison could be made with the information previously collected for 1851 (*Lloyd's Marine Records and Genealogy*; Spring 1994, *NDFHS Journal*) and 1869 (*Lloyd's Captains' Register 1869 and Genealogy*, Autumn 1997, *NDFHS Journal*). This study was made easier, since I was fortunately able to buy a copy of the appropriate Register. This eliminated return visits to libraries and requests for the Registers from the stacks: however co-operative the library staff (and they were), the previous procedure occupied a fair amount of their time, and mine.

As before, the vessels were listed alphabetically in the Register, firstly for steam and then for sail. For each one the name of the Master is given, with initials, (in contrast to the records of 1851!), as well as details of the ship, including port of registry, and name of owner and agent. A list of all Sunderland registered vessels was transcribed to a computer, and from this an alphabetical list of 2,711 Masters was made (this compares to 650 in 1851, and 860 in the 1869 list). The objective was to get details of as many Sunderland Master Mariners as possible. It was then realised that by listing the vessels by owner or agent, a list of Sunderland owners could be obtained. In the Register an alphabetical table of all owners and agents was given, providing a list of all vessels belonging to each of them. This gave a further 26 ships, all steam, and the names of their Masters, to be included in the study.

The list of ships was itself of some interest, as a comparison with the previous two, in 1851 and 1869. In the preliminary list for 1901 there were only 15 sailing ships, out of a total of 245. To this could be added the further 26 steam ships, taken from the list of Sunderland owners. This meant that about 94% of the ships were steamers. All ships were sail in 1851, and in 1869 only 3% of the Masters had taken the examination in steam navigation. It is nonetheless true that photographs of the Harbour at Sunderland, taken around this time (1901) still show a conspicuous number of sailing vessels (but not necessarily registered in Sunderland). In the Register for 1901 as a whole, only 33% of the approximately 50,000 ships were steam. The trade of Sunderland must have been such as to require mostly steam vessels. Of the 15 Sunderland registered sailing ships, three were large (1,000 - 1,500 ton) barque rigged, relatively modern (10 -15 year old) steel vessels, owned by Robert Gaynor of 42 West Sunniside: the "Northern Hay", "Windrush" and "Wychwood". It would be interesting to know in what trade these were engaged. Some non-

perishable cargoes could still be carried economically by sail even for years after this time. None of the regular surveys carried out on these three vessels was done in Sunderland, even though they were registered there.

As an example of the method that can be used to obtain information about Masters, I traced James Tennant. In the latter part of his career he was Master of the "Lady Ann", broken up in 1901, and "Langley", both owned by the Lambton Collieries Ltd., managed by Thomas Nicholson, Lambton Office, Sunderland. By then consulting *Lloyd's Captains' Register*, (Ms 18567-71), held in the Guildhall Library, (Aldermanbury, London EC2P 2EJ), his certificate number, (C85133), birth date, (Monkwearmouth 1839) and date of examination (Sunderland 1872) were confirmed, and the information obtained that he was previously Master of the "Ottawa", "Remus" and "Said". The Certificate number enabled his Master's and Mate's Certificates to be obtained from the National Maritime Museum, which gave further details of the ships on which he sailed.

To be Master of a ship carrying coal cannot have been all glory. The diary of a young man of a previous era, who "ran away to sea" on a sailing collier, records his amazement that the sails were black, as was the deck, and other woodwork. When he found that the bedding and food were also black, he began to see why. The Master in a later era (1901) received the following very helpful warning from the Board of Trade, no doubt sitting comfortably in London:

- 1) Certain types of coal are intrinsically dangerous for shipment.
- 2) Breakage of coal, shipment in wet conditions and ventilation through the cargo conduce to spontaneous combustion.
- 3) Free and continuous egress for explosive gasses should be provided in all weathers.
- 4) Masters are warned that neglect will, in the case of accident, be brought to the notice of the court investigating the case.

Well, that is all right then: James died in his bed in 1910, so he must not have "neglected" the warnings,

I would be glad to look though the list of Sunderland Masters in 1901 for any name of interest to readers. My thanks for all the interesting letters in connection with the previous articles.

Editor's note: Dr Hull's address is 49 North Grange Road, Bearsden, Glasgow G61 3AG

MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND QUERIES

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

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

If you wish to have your interests or any queries published, send a paragraph outlining your areas of research, problems etc. to Phil Thirkell at the above address by 31st March. Please include your membership number with any correspondence and print names to avoid errors.

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

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

0899 Mr P BATESON, 650 Southmore Drive W, Ottawa, Ontario K1V 7A1, Canada (email: bateson@cyberus.ca)

Seeking death of Thomas BATESON married to Margaret GREENWELL of Houghton le Spring 1812. Believe he was born c1787 at Wakefield, Yorks., occupation servant (coachman). Last known address, in 1812, New Elvet, Durham. Children: John Bateson, bookbinder, born Durham c1814, died c1877; and Sarah Bateson, servant, born 1816, died Caim Edward, Kirkcudbrightshire 1895. Also names of Thomas' parents.

1895 COLIN J. McINNES, "Kinlochaline", Knockard Crescent, Pitlochry, Perthshire PH16 5JG

Researching the URWIN family. James Urwin, son of John and Isabella (nee RICHARDSON), born 1850, Ouseburn, Byker, married Elizabeth Ellen BURNIE 1870 at St Peter's, Newcastle. A daughter was born 1871 in Newcastle and the certificate gives mother's maiden name as McBARNEY. Another daughter, Esther Jane was born 1876 at West Kyo, Co.Durham and mother's maiden name is given as McBIRNEY. By 1881 James (31), Elizabeth (31), Margaret (10), Elizabeth (9), both born Newcastle, Isabella (7) and Esther (5), born Kyo, were living in Benwell. In 1898 Margaret married Duncan Walter McINNES at St Edmunds, Gateshead. James died 1907 aged 57 and Elizabeth in 1922 aged 71, both at Gateshead.

2639 Mrs EILEEN PERKINS, 1 Glebeside, Witton Gilbert, Durham DH7 6SD

Looking for birth/marriage, or any family details of Andrew ADAMSON buried at Redwing Chapel, Garrigill (1791) aged 53 years and referred to as "Agent at Nenthead". Son Andrew was baptised at Redwing and Alston Chapel in 1779 but he had other children including Ann who married Joshua DRYDEN at Alston in 1785. Where did the family come from, and is anyone else researching them?

2882 Ms VIVIANE E. MITCHELL, 21 Iolanthe Terrace, South Shields, Tyne & Wear NE33 3DE

Details wanted concerning the family of Henry NELSON, born South Shields/Westoe village, died 1891, who was elected Mayor of South Shields. Henry Nelson Street was named after him.

3678 NICK ARMSTRONG, 23 Highdown Road, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1QA (email: nick.armstrong@virgin.net)

Seeking information on Captain William Askew ARMSTRONG who died c1833 probably in the Newcastle area. Catherine Goldsmith Armstrong, his widow (grand niece of Oliver Goldsmith the poet), was made Matron of Newcastle Gaol in 1834 and was later that year transported to Tasmania for theft. They were the great grandparents of Warwick Windridge Armstrong, Australian Cricket Captain at the turn of the century. William, possibly a seafarer, had two sons Oliver Goldsmith Armstrong and William Askew

Armstrong who may have attended a Bluecoats School in Newcastle. William's father was possibly Archibald Armstrong, Master of the "Atlantic" which sailed with the Third Fleet.

4066 Mrs A.E. COWAN, "Glendale", Sandhole Lane, Shipton-by-Beningbrough, York YO30 1BL

Information sought on the SIMM family of Northumberland 1750-1850. Seeking the parents of Robert Simm, gamekeeper, whose daughter Margaret was born Scotland 1836. Was Robert the son of Peter Simm, gardener, and Elizabeth PRAWL, born 1791 Wooler? Would be grateful for any Simm references.

4268 Mrs LILIAN WOODWARD, 65 Ellerker Rise, Willerby, East Yorkshire HU10 6EU

Would like to hear from anyone with knowledge of Felling High Street in the early 1900s. Grandmother worked from c1900 to c1909 for a greengrocers which was called Smiths in 1920, and was photographed outside the shop although no-one in the family has a copy. She also worked at a shop in Salisbury Street, Pelaw 1938-1940, below no.9 and possibly called Lewis's.

4276 Mrs H. TALBOT, 25 Sycamore Avenue, Harraton, Washington, Tyne & Wear NE38 9BH

Information required on the descendants of Ralph Gray MADDISON who married May HARBIN 1920 at Holy Trinity, Usworth. Assume that they moved out of the area shortly after their marriage and are understood to have had a large family. Also seeking descendants of James RICHARDSON, brewer, of Bolton, Westmorland who moved to North Shields c1830. His son Thomas married Mary Jane DIXON in 1875 at South Shields. Not found on 1861 or 1871 Census but in South Shields on 1851, 1881 and 1891 Census. There was a family bible in the possession of Mrs ALLEN nee RICHARDSON of Sacriston in 1926 but can't find any of her descendants.

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

Seeking information on the BEST family. Samuel Best married Mary HALL at Christ Church, Tynemouth in 1802; sons: James (1803, Tynemouth) and George (1805, Chester-le-Street). George married Jane TRAIN, Newcastle, All Saints 1825 and they had at least 12 children. George was a miner at Walker, Gosforth and Cramlington. Searching for him on the 1851 Census - possibly Co.Durham.

4716 ROY SINCLAIR, 12 Regent Road, Ryhope, Sunderland SR2 0PP

Researching: AGAR, AKENHEAD, BECK, BELSHAW, BLENKINSOPP, BOULTWOOD, BRADLEY, BUTTERFIELD, CARLING, CHEEK, CHEVALIER, CHRISHOP, CLAUGHAN,

CLISH, COLLINGE, CROSSAN, CULLEY, EWART, FARAGHER, FIRMIN, GIBSON (Hamsterley), GILLESPIE, GLENDINNING, GOTT, GOWLAND, HALL (Elsdon), Martha HENDERSON (1781-1861), KITSON, LAX, LOWES, LUMLEY, MARTIN, McINTYRE, McPHERSON, MINNIKIN, MOFFAT, MOLE, MUTTON, ORD, OYSTON, PAUL, PATTI(N)SON, Alexander POUNDER (1909-81), PREST, REDDEN, REDHEAD, RENNISON, ROSS, ROUTLEDGE, ROWELL, RUTTER, SARGEANT, SHROUDER, Nicholas SCOTT (1781-1861), SHELTON, SIMPSON, SINCLAIR (Elsdon), SNAITH, SPEDDING, SPROATS, STANGROOM, STIFF, STOKER, STONES, SWAN, SWEETING, TEADER, TEEDER, THORNTON, TOWARD, WALL, WALLIS, Lisle WARDMAN (1905-33), WINDALE, WINTER, WOLSTENCROFT, WORTHY, WRAY and John Luke YOUNG.

4717 ANGELA BRAIDFORD SINCLAIR, 12 Regent Road, Ryhope, Sunderland SR2 0PP

Family names being researched: ALDERTON, BRAIDFORD, BOWMER, COBAN, FAIL, HANOVER, GARBETT, LEDGER, McCAW, Archibald McLAY, William John MUIR (born 1880), NEVIN, PACE, PALLET, Elizabeth Wylam RICHARDSON, STEMBRIDGE, STOUT, WEEDY, Robert Gott WILSON (1851-1936), WYLAM, WYNN.

4903 PATRICIA SCOTT, 27 Shaftesbury Avenue, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear NE26 3TD

Seeking information on Robert SCOTT of Stepney Lane, Newcastle who married Ann nee HUTCHINSON. Children included: Eleanor, Joseph, Mary, Thomas, Annie, Margaret, Jessie (born 1886), Hannah Moore (1887), Agnes May (1890) and Harriet Ethel (1892).

5360 NEVILLE COSSOR, 7 Bell Crescent, Waterlooville, Hampshire PO7 7DG

Researching his family name COSSOR and would particularly like to find information about the following who lived and died in the St Paul, Minnesota, U.S.A. area: Edna Cossor (May 1903 - Oct 1988), George Cossor (Dec 1921 - Feb 1981), John Cossor (Aug 1905 - Mar 1989), Patricia Cossor (Oct 1925 - Dec 1995) and Veta Cossor (May 1901 - Dec 1985).

5403 PETER MORTON, 8 The Haywain, Stanway, Colchester CO3 5YG

Seeking descendants of John and Mary MORTON, Harelaw 1856, especially: 1) George and Hannah LAWSON (nee Morton), married Lancaster 1876. 2) Thomas and Jane BROWN (nee Morton), married Gateshead 1879. 3) John and Mary WASS (nee Morton) married Chester-le-Street 1882. 4) James Morton, miner of Birtley 1906. Would also welcome information about the Union Workhouse, Lancaster c1900.

5440 Mr A.H. WILKIE, 31 Elgin Drive, Stirling FK7 7TZ

Researching HAWDON / HOLDEN in Allendale in the 1700/1800s. Specifically, John Hawdon (married Jane TAYLOR at St John's, Newcastle 1811) and described as "Native of Allendale" in baptism record of first son Thomas (1812) and again in 1851 census at age 61. Although no trace of the baptism in the registers the IGI shows a John Holden baptised 1790 Allendale and his twin Thomas. The twins and their siblings Francis (1796) and Elizabeth (1799) were born to a Thomas Holden and Ann. George Hawdon (1781) and Joseph (1803) baptised Allendale and born to a Thomas Hawdon and Ann TEASDALE. IGI also shows Elizabeth's (above) mother as Ann Teasdale. Would appreciate confirmatory evidence I am researching the same Hawdon family and have Hawdon corrupted to Holden.

5544 Mrs C.J. TRAVIS, 12 Wiggott Grove, Binfield, Berkshire RG42 4DY (email: 101450.1641@compuserve)

Seeking birth c1800 of John YEARSDON who married Ann DAVISON 1826 at Jarrow and death before the 1851 Census. Would like to hear from anyone with an interest in the name Yearsdon or its variant EARDSON.

5602 PATRICIA KING HUGHES, 9110 Bay Point Drive, Elberta, Alabama 36530, U.S.A. (e-mail: patrex@ametro.net)

Seeking ancestors and descendants of Andrew Liddell SCOTT, born 1836, St. John's, Newcastle; parents were Thomas Scott and Elizabeth LIDDELL who married 1826, St. John's, Newcastle. Andrew Liddell Scott and Jane Ann BOYD had at least one son, Andrew Scott, born 1859 when the family was living at 24 Thornton Street. Both Andrew and his father were cartwrights. Other siblings: Elizabeth (1828), William (1831) and Margaret Ann (1833).

5738 Mrs JANET HEDDERLY, 9 Russet Close, Alresford, Hampshire SO24 9PS

1) John STEEL, engineer who built an early steam locomotive, the *Gateshead Engine*, in 1804. His early childhood was spent in Colliery Dykes, now Dipton. 2) The wife of Nicholas YOUNG and sister of the above John Steel. He was killed at Fawdon Colliery and she is recorded as living at Ovingham in 1860. Would like to trace descendants of the family and any information about Fawdon Colliery. 3) SHORT Brothers of Sunderland, shipbuilding company opened in 1884 by George, John Young, Thomas and Joseph Short. Would like information about the company and any descendants, particularly of Samuel Short.

5964 JUNE McBRYDE, 84 Patena Street, Stafford, 4053 Queensland, Australia (email: sprinkle@ozemail.com.au)

Searching for information re: Sarah CAISLEY born c1815, either Ryton or Heddon on the Wall, married Andrew THOMPSON, tailor, lived at Plessey, Northumberland c1870.

6065 FRED G. URRON, 3512 Marion Court, Burlington, Ontario L7M 3E8, Canada

Looking for information on Elizabeth SHONE nee SMITHWHITE who died 1938 at South Shields aged 51 years. Also, her husband William Stephenson Shone, as on her daughter's birth certificate, or Owen Shone, as on her death certificate. Her eldest son John J. Shone, who I believe died in WWII and her youngest son Robert FALP.

6156 Mr A.D. ASTON, "The Coppers", Blenheim Road, Littlestone, New Romney, Kent TN28 8PP

Seeking any information on Thompson HUNTER who, according to a gravestone in Shilbottle churchyard, died in Prussia in 1862 aged 22. What was he doing there? Was he in the forces, or private employment?

6252 MARGARET R. BURGESS, 191 East Boundary Road, East Bentleigh, Victoria 3165, Australia

Looking for information on: 1) Thomas HOPE, nailmaker/smith, married Mary (possibly MAUGHAN born c1803 Hexham). Thomas was possibly born Ryton/Winlaton early 1800s. They have a son Thomas born Winlaton, baptised Dipton 1833. Thomas senior died 1832-1841. 2) Marriage of Jacob JOHNSON and Mary PLACE c1850s in the Haltwhistle area. Jacob was the son of Joseph Johnson and Elizabeth HENDERSON who lived at Plankey. Mary was related to Ann CRAIG and George Place living at Cowleazes in 1841/51. 3) John HUDSPETH married Dorothy HUTTON at St John Lee in 1777.

6583 LYNNE C. GRIST, 1655 Springwell Avenue, Mississauga, Ontario L5J 3J1, Canada (email: lynne@echo-on.net)

Looking for information on the family of Herbert WILKINSON and daughter, Jessie Oloman, who was killed on Ormesby Road near Normanby Hall Lodge, 29th June. She and her father, mother Jessie and brother Ken were involved in a motorcycle accident. They were living in John Street, Earsdon at the time. Also has a newspaper clipping from the *Illustrated Chronicle* of 21 Sept. 1921 regarding the murder of Wilhelmina WHITFIELD, aged 21, of Blanchland, who was murdered near Lightcliffe. Perhaps her family would like the cutting?

6642 Mrs B. GRAHAM, "Rosedale", Rosemary Avenue, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 1NP

Looking for Ann **WELCH / WELSH** on the 1871 Census. Born Monkseaton, she appears on the 1851 Census, aged 4 months, and the 1861 and 1881 Censuses. Where was she in 1871? Also researching: **FERRAND, TREWHITT** and **VINTON**.

6690 MARY JANE DINGLE (nee **JOPLING**), Box 136, Okanagan Falls, British Columbia V0H 1R0, Canada

Seeking descendants of Isabella **BLAKELOCK**, born 1883 Monkwearmouth. Isabella married George(?) (possible last name **LAW**) and according to family photos had at least four children: James Henry, Andrew, Isabella and George.

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

Searching for: 1) Birth and parents of Jane **CHATER** born c1749. She married Robert **AYRE** 1786 at Monkwearmouth and died 1791. MI at St Peter's, Monkwearmouth gives her as the daughter of Dorothy Chater who died 1793 aged 71 years. 2) Information and descendants of Peter **KNOX** born Norham 1778, married Dorothy **SMITH** c1807 at Spittal. They had eight children.

6861 GERALD LOWTHIN, 27 Allen House Park, Woking, Surrey GU22 0DB

Researching his family name of **LOWTHIN** and would like to correspond with anyone else with an interest in the name.

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

Looking for the birth/baptism of Catherine **MATHISON / MATTHESON / MADDISON** born Cresswell c1812/3. Father may have been John and she had brothers Andrew (born ?) and Adam born Meldon c1818 and a sister Elizabeth born Meldon c1819. Catherine married Thomas **WARDLE** at Mitford in 1835.

6901 Miss J. CHAPMAN, 4 Ferrers Road, Whitwick, Leicestershire LE67 5FE

Seeking information on the marriage of Hedley **CHAPMAN** and Margaret **ALLEN**. On 1881 Census they were living in Elswick, and Hedley was aged 50 and Margaret was 37. Their children given as Annie who was then 16, Margaret 10, Hedley 5, Isabella 4, Winifred 2 and Florence 3 months.

7202 Mr. G. S. LITTLE, 2 Callers Court, Tweedmouth, Berwick-upon-Tweed, TD15 2FE

Looking for the birth of George **GLENTON**, stonemason of Durham, deceased at date of son James' marriage to Jane Elizabeth **BAILEY** in 1878. Also looking for James and Elizabeth on the 1891 census. In 1881 at Crossgate, Durham with daughter Edith and in April 1892 at Walwick Grange, Chollerton where son Charles Roy was born. Also George **LITTLE** blacksmith b.1837/38, at Berwick according to 1871 Census, Walton near Brampton, Cumbria on 1881 and Kirkambeck, near Walton on 1891. Married Elizabeth **PATTERSON**, Greenses, Berwick-upon-Tweed, 1866; Father George, gamekeeper. Brother Thomas born c1839/40 living with George and Elizabeth at Greenses on 1871 census, also a blacksmith. Cannot find in Cumbria 1841 or 1851 census. Also, Thomas **STATHAM**, described on son's indenture in 1737, "late soldier in Col. Harrison's Regiment". Son George 1716-1798 became Freeman of Berwick by this apprenticeship as carpenter/sawyer to Adam **COCKBURN**, Burgess. Who was Thomas' wife, where were they born?

7272 R.E. CUMMINGS, 10 Beldene Drive, Sunderland. SR4 8QD.

Interested in the **CUMMINS / COULSON** family of Gilesgate, Durham 1768. Also Robert Cummin and Ann **RICHARDSON** of Gilesgate 1748. Any contact from anyone researching the same families would be welcome.

7421 BEVERLY TRUESDALE, 2105 North Buena Vista Street, Burbank, California 91504, USA

Seeking information on John Thomas **GIBSON**, born 1838 Stanhope, married Mary **SANDERSON** and had two children, James born 1864 and John 1866. James died in 1890 in an accident. John went to New Zealand, but when? James married Jane Ann **TEASDALE** and had one child James, born 1890. James and his mother emigrated to America in 1894. Would like to correspond with any living relatives in England or New Zealand.

7617 Mr D. HUDSPITH, 70 Hartland Way, Shirley, Croydon CR0 8RF

In 1798, Robert **HUDSPITH** married Jane **DICKINSON** at Haydon Bridge. He was described as "of Whitfield" but at subsequent baptisms of his children in 1801, 1803 and 1807, at All Saints, Newcastle he was described as "of Haltwhistle". In 1803, a Robert Hudspith, "of this parish", married Elizabeth **KIRK** at All Saints, Newcastle but at the baptisms of his first three children, 1804, 1806 and 1807, he was "of Haltwhistle". There was a Robert, son of Robert Hudspith and Mary **BEE**, baptised at Haltwhistle in 1777. Has anyone the clue to unravelling these Roberts?

7825 PAUL H. EATON, Bermicourt House, Heath Close, Wareham, Dorset BH20 6JR

Interests in Co.Durham include: **BUDDLE, CAIN(E)S, CARL(E)TON, GILBY, HARDY, MASON, MORLEY, NORMAN, SKIPSEY, SPENCE** and **WISEMAN**.

7866 Mr E. McCOY, 31 The Downs, Portishead, North Somerset BS20 6EE

Researching the **McCOY** family. James McCoy had a room at High Yard, Wall Knoll, Newcastle in 1872. Other McCoys found in the electoral registers include Samuel, Martin and John residing at Croft Stairs, Newcastle.

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

Seeking information on Thomas **CHERRY**, mariner, and Mary Ann Cherry, late **FIELDHOUSE**, formerly **WRAITH**, who married Holy Trinity, Hull 1857. A daughter Mary was born Tynemouth 1859 and married Richard Steven **FURZE**, seaman, 1878 at St Mark's, South Shields. Mary Ann is thought to have died at South Shields in 1878 but can't find the family on the 1861 or 1871 Censuses.

7930 Dr. BRIAN LEGG, 25 Spencer Avenue, Earlsdon, Coventry CV5 6NQ.

In the article "Read All about it!" (*NDFHS Journal* vol.23 no.4) a reference was made to a wealthy 'widow **LEGG**' (nee **COATSWORTH**) married James **SMITHSON** in 1744. This may be the same lady (Mrs Elizabeth Coatsworth) who married Christopher Legg in 1734 at Hexham (IGI). Christopher Legg seems, from other records, to be a well-to-do farmer from Kirby Wyske. Have any fellow members any information to shed light on these individuals, or their wealth, or where they lived?

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

Information sought on children and descendants of Thomas Skelton **DOUGLAS** and Jane (Jenny) **CALLOWAY** married Newcastle 1888. There were possibly 8 children including Emma, Annie and Thomas. Also seeking their address on the 1891 Census.

8026 JEAN TAYLOR, Wern House, Ynysfforch Hill, Seven Sisters, Neath, West Glamorgan SA10 9HA

Seeking information on James McAULEY, originally from Ireland, married 2nd wife Mary Ann DONACHY in Glasgow and moved to Jarrow c1888. Who was his first wife and where in Ireland was he from? His father was also James married to Mary Ann McLACHLAN, all from Ireland. Also seeking information on the family of Robert Henry BROWN, joiner of Hebburn, and wife Margaret Jane. Two daughters are known: Ethel born 1904 and Mary. Ethel married Luke McAuley in 1924 and they lived at Railway Street in Hebburn. Have searched for Ethel and Mary's birth registration in South Shields/Jarrow area but not found. Were they born elsewhere?

8070 TREVOR SWAN, "The Jangler", Leesmill Drive, Coldstream, Berwickshire TD12 4NL

Seeking any information or descendants of Peter PURVES and his family who lived at Lilburn South Stead, Ilderton, Northumberland. On the 1881 Census there was wife Johanna and children, Agnes (24), Johanna (23), Isabella (22), Edith (19), Peter (17) and Emily (13).

8075 Mrs HAZEL JACKSON, 13 Ludlow Court, Kingston Park, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 2YN

Searching for information on Frederick William BRYAN, born 1879, died 1939. He married Mary and they had a daughter Freda. Frederick, believed to have a brother and two sisters, lived at Harold Street, Washington, Co. Durham with his wife and daughter. Also looking for information on Ernest GLENDINNING of Nelson Street, Washington (1918 electoral roll), and also Mary Ellen and Peter McLOUGHLIN and a James McLoughlin (son or brother?) of Walkers Buildings, Washington (also 1918 electoral roll).

8079 Dr DANNY LAWRENCE, 40 Holkham Avenue, Chilwell, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 5EQ (e-mail Danny.Lawrence@nottingham.ac.uk)

James Thomas LAWRENCE and his family lived in St. Ives, Cornwall at the time of the 1871 census but had moved to Durham shortly afterwards as a daughter, Lydia Ellen, was born in Wingate 1872. My grandfather, a former copper miner, was now a coal miner and three years later, 1875, a son was born, Gusham Crabb, but this time in Havannah, Tanfield. James Thomas died, less than a year later in Havannah. According to family legend he died following a pit injury to a leg which led to gangrene. Would welcome any information about the move of Cornish tin miners to the North East, conditions at Wingate and Tanfield, and mining records which might give further information.

8102 Mrs PAULA PRITCHARD, "The Oaks, Knowle Lane, Buckley, Flintshire CH7 3JA

Does any member have an unwanted copy of the Summer 1997 *NDFHS Journal* - costs gladly reimbursed. Particularly interested in the reference to Cissy BONE. Also interested in hearing from anyone researching Bone and ARMSTRONG families from Walker and Wallsend.

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

Matthew JOHNSON was born 1847 to Joseph Johnson and Ann HERON. Did Matthew have any brothers and sisters? Information sought. Other associated names REED, RAWLING, KNOX, in the Northumberland area.

8202 Mrs ARLENE WIEDEMANN, 5718 Woodside Place, Surrey, British Columbia V3S 5L2, Canada (email boarlene@dowco.com)

Researching families of John Thomas BLACK, born 1859 and his wife Mary Ann KISNER, born 1866. Children were John W., Annie M., Margaret A. and Sarah E., all born in Hartlepool. John W. and Sarah E. emigrated to Saskatchewan, Canada c1912 and Sarah married James CAMPBELL. John Black's parents were William Black, born 1827/31 Yarm, Yorkshire, and Margaret, born 1829 Norton. Children were John T., James, Margaret and William. Mary Ann Kisner's parents were Andrew Kisner, born 1825 Germany and Annie M., born 1833 Frankfurt. Children were Mary Ann, Ellen M., Joseph and Andrew.

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

Seeking information on Isaac BAINBRIDGE, born 1855, son of James, married 1879 at St Peter's, Sacriston to Sarah ELSBURY / ELSBERRY, daughter of Robert.

8222 Mrs E. SKELTON, 14 Woodside, Hutton Rudby, Yarm, Cleveland TS15 0JF

Researching the WALKER family, fishermen of North Sunderland/Seahouses post-1800, and millers of Lesbury pre-1800. Any information on Lesbury Mill, Bilton Fulfilling Mill and Hawkshill Walk Mill, and fulling mills in general would be welcome.

8227 Mrs J. WOOLNOUGH, 189 Mullway, Letchworth, Hertfordshire SG6 4BD

Seeking information on Mary Frances GRIMLEY (nee UNSWORTH) 1885-1936. Lived at Wingate and Trimdon, and died at Trimdon. Brought over 100 babies into the world and attended deaths, thus helping families who couldn't afford a doctor. Also, looking for information and records of St Clares Abbey, Darlington, the school/college attended by great great grandmother in 1871.

8231 Mrs E. CALLAGHAN, 58 Dunsgreen, Ponteland, Newcastle upon Tyne NE20 9EJ

Looking for information on the ELLIOT family of Upper North Tynedale, especially William died 1742, Elizabeth 1780, Edward 1796 aged 60 and Robert 1818 aged 85, all at Low Newton, Charlton West except Edward who died at Little Swinburn, Thockrington, having lived at Low Newton until about 3 years before his death. Robert married Frances and farmed at Low Carriteth and Reedswood before returning to Low Newton around the turn of the century. Elizabeth was a widow in 1745 - was she William's wife and mother of Robert and Edward? Unable to trace any births or marriages. A marriage bond of Edward Elliot of Low Newton and Ann RIDLEY of South Stokoe states Edward was 24 when they married in 1778. Who was this Edward?

8274 Mrs P. JOHNSON, 15 Druridge Drive, Newsham Farm Estate, Blyth, Northumberland NE24 4PY

Seeking the births of James PERCY c1842, Wooler according to the 1851 Census, and Isabella BOWER c1845 at Ford. Both were resident in Newsham at the time of their marriage in 1867.

8350 Mrs ELIZABETH MEE, "Barnfield", Ashby Road, Kegworth, DE74 2DJ (email: davidmee@lemey1.freemove.co.uk)

Searching for details of the siblings of grandfather, John Robert SURTEES, born 1862 Bishopwearmouth, understood to be: William, b c1857; Thomas, b c1860; Margaret E., b c1867. Their parents were William Surtees and Elizabeth WHYBOURN. Details of these and their ancestors would be appreciated.

8381 Mr F. STAPPARD, 12 Kellsway, Rowlands Gill, Tyne & Wear NE39 1LD

Researching John FENWICK, woodman, who married Hannah HUTCHINSON 1781 at Stanhope. She died aged 46 and was buried at Stanhope. They had 8 children - 6 sons and 2 daughters. Two sons, Lowinger and Thomas married in 1814 and lived at Kyo West House, Lanchester. Would welcome hearing from anyone researching the Fenwicks from the Stanhope area.

8382 Mrs SUE RUSKIN, 6 Tyrells Close, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6BT

Seeking information on Alexander ROLLO, died 1856 aged 82 and buried in Tynemouth Priory; also his wife Margaret who died 1855 aged 77. Their gravestone has the inscription: *Corporal Rollo held the lantern at the burial*

of Sir John Moore at Corunna. Family legend says that there is a link with Alexander Rollo but I can't find it! Also seeking descendants of George William HALLIDAY and wife Mary Ann who, in 1871 were living at West Street, Newcastle. Their children: George William, born 1858 London, Eleanor, 1860 London, David 1862 Gateshead, Mary 1866 Newcastle, and Cameron 1867 Newcastle.

8409 Mr DAVE MOTHERSELL, 45752 Olney Road, Redwood, Alexandria, Jefferson, N.Y. 13679, U.S.A.

Seeks the marriage of Thomas MOTHERSELL who was born in Sedgefield in 1829. He appears on the 1861 census for Kingston, Ontario, Canada with his wife Mary McCALSEY. Any ideas about where to locate him? Are there any shipping records for that time period? Would appreciate any leads.

8428 ROSALIND MOFFITT, 13 Rievaulx Close, Knaresborough, North Yorkshire HG5 8NG

Information sought on Andrew MOFFITT born c1820 South Shields, married Elizabeth DRYDEN 1844, children: William (c1845), John (1849, married Mary Ann CUNNINGHAM), Andrew (c1852), James (c1855) and Robert (c1857, married Hannah GUNN). A photograph taken by W. Parry of South Shields after 1885 shows a boy aged about 6 years holding a naval cap with HMS Penelope on it. Is this clue to the boys identity, or a photographer's prop? Another photograph shows "Auntie Hannah and Captain Whitehead" in Rome at about the turn of this century, Hannah may be a Moffitt from South Shields. Would they have gone to Rome on the Captain's ship, and were they married?

8437 ANNE BATHIAS, 39 rue de Loisy, 71240 Varennes le Grand, France

Any information on the following families would be appreciated: 1) Thomas SUDES born 1857 Comsay, married 1835 Elizabeth STEEL born c1832 Burnt Hill. The couple lived at Bishop Auckland. 2) Robert Steel Suddes born 1857 Bishop Auckland, married 1877 Mary Ann FLEMING born c1857 Wakerley, daughter of Joseph. They lived at Shildon and Darlington. 3) William LLOYD born c1879, married Mary Elizabeth JOHNSON born 1878 Melsonby, grand father Joseph born c1802 Byersgreen, father George born 1847 Melsonby, both cartwrights. The couple lived at Blaydon.

8475 TERENCE CHAPMAN, 38 Amberley Drive, Goring-by-Sea, Worthing BN12 4QQ (email: chapman@arunet.co.uk)

Seeking information on: 1) Henry MONAGHAN who married Elizabeth ATKINSON 1819 St Nicholas, Newcastle; children: Jac, Esther and Joseph. 2) Martin Joseph MEHRTENS (MERTENS), son of Martin Geford Mehrtens, born 1877 West Ham. He was a miner and married Jane ANDERSON, daughter of James Anderson, of New Hartley in 1898 at Tynemouth Register Office.

8490 Mrs C.M. WILLS, 53 Bettys Mead, Exeter, Devon EX4 8LN

Researching the BRIDGICK family of Bishop Auckland and the WALLACE family of Thornley, Spennymoor, Tudhoe, Pelton Fell and Alnwick. Particularly looking for the marriage c1862 of William Wallace of Thornley and Sarah Jane KYLE of Sunderland.

8516 ANTHONY TEASDALE BLAIR, 4 Friary Way, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7RL

Christopher TEASDALE, merchant and Freeman of Newcastle, married Martha HARRISON (or HUTCHINSON) at Gateshead in 1692. She died giving birth to their only son who only survived her by a month. Christopher married again at St Nicholas', Newcastle to Mary DAWSON, believed to be daughter of William Dawson, sometime Mayor of Newcastle. Their second son also became a Freeman on his father's death in 1721, two years before his marriage to Ann BATES, daughter of Ralph Bates of Ponteland. Eldest sons Christopher, baptised St Nicholas' 1724, and Ralph, baptised Ponteland Ponteland 1726 are believed to have moved south to Hampshire and Sussex. Christopher's sons and grandsons enjoyed illustrious military careers through the Napoleonic and Crimean Wars resulting in Knighthoods and a Victoria Cross. Need conclusive evidence of the two brothers' move from Ponteland to the south of England.

8518 Mrs SUSAN E. HUTTON, 7 Lydford Court, Ouseburn Park, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 2RB

Would like to hear from anyone researching, or has information on, DOVER families of Westmorland pre-1830 and Northumberland and Durham after 1830.

8551 JOHN ADAMS, "Quakers Rest", 18 Peasland Road, Watcombe Park, Torquay, Devon TQ2 8NY

Searching for information on Charles SOULSBY and his wife Ann, formerly MATTHEWS of Rothbury where they married 1767. Charles remarried 1783 to Ann JAMES, possibly from Chester, at Durham, St Mary le Bow. Charles and Ann moved to Patrington in Yorkshire where they had a son Thomas baptised in 1795.

8553 CAROLINE GLANFIELD, Willow Wand, The Street, Albury, Guildford, Surrey GU5 9AE

Seeking the parents of John BOURN / BURN born c1803, married Ann ROBSON 3rd Sep. 1824 Newcastle (which church?). He was an edge-tool maker at Winlaton Mill in 1851; did he work at Crowley's forge? Also, the parents of Thomas TEMPERLEY, married c1831 to Elizabeth, had children christened at Edmundbyers and, in 1871, was a quarryman living in Cutlers Hall, Bonfieldside.

8589 Mrs JANICE HENDERSON IONS, 58 Mill Road, Bozest, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire NN29 7JA

Researching the following: 1) David Roberts PROBERT and Jane HENDERSON, married 1923 Howdon, Wallsend. He was a miner born Longbenton 1902, she in Howdon 1902. Parents were Richard and Catherine Probert (nee ROBERTS) and Joseph and Dorothy Henderson (nee HISLOP). 2) James WEALLANS, born Alnwick 1879, son of Edward and Mary nee JEWERS. A railwayman, he lived most of his life in Blyth, dying in 1937. 3) John (1868-1946) and Elizabeth IONS (nee GALLAGHER) (1869-1956). John was a sandmoulder; both were buried in Heaton Cemetery, Newcastle. 4) James and Margaret BALMER (nee MOON). James was born Jesmond 1869, a railway labourer; Margaret was born c1869 and died 1908. James remarried in 1911 at Kelso to Helen DICKSON.

8594 Mrs JOAN P. PEARCE, 57 Grange Park, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear NE25 9RX

Seeking information on the lives and families of three Alexander Thomas HARRISONS: 1) Born 1830 Canterbury, Kent; married Sarah at Penistone, Yorkshire c1858. 2) Born 1862 Sherburn, Co.Durham; married in 1895 at Islington, London to Ann BARRITT nee UNGLEY. 3) Born 1896 Sherburn; married Grace Jardine PARKINSON in 1927. Willing to share information on Ungley line.

8601 Mrs SYLVIA DERRY, Long Meadows, 13 Village Street, Edwalton, Nottingham NG12 4AB

Currently researching her YOUNG family of Easington (1600+), Newcastle (c1650+), Preston, North Shields (19th century) and Wolviston, Stockton on Tees (c1870).

8610 DAVID BEATTIE, 4 Arlington Park Mansions, Sutton Lane North, Chiswick, London W4 4HE

Researching: William BEATTIE (c1796-1869), his wife Ann (c1799-1864) and their sons James, enginewright, (born c1828), Alexander, enginewright, (c1836-1923), and Robert, commercial clerk, (born c1838). All were born in Scotland but spent most of their lives in Elswick and died in Newcastle. Would like to find out where in Scotland they were born, and more about their work as engineers, probably at the Armstrong Whitworth works. Also interested in the related family of George WARDHAUGH, whitesmith, (c1810-1848); his wife Ann nee DUNN, born c1817; David PERRY, enginewright, born 1847 North Shields, later lived at Tynemouth; and Benjamin HOLLAND, master mariner of South Shields, born c1822.

8615 Mr J.E. COATES, 6 Rossett Avenue, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 9NA

Joseph COATES, born c1791, mariner, married Alice Ellis RENNEY 1817 St Mary's, Scarborough, Yorkshire. Uncertainty of wife's name due to vicar entering Alice, but she signed Ellis. She was born c1788. They had two children: Mary, baptised 1822, and William, baptised 1828, both at Scarborough. At his wedding at Wallsend in 1863 to Mary WHITE, William gave occupation as shipwright. Joseph Coates' occupation was master mariner. Also, the parents of Richard HOGG, born 1861 at Hindley Broomley, Bywell, are believed to be Robert Hogg and Elizabeth nee GIBSON who married at Hexham Register Office in 1861. After they were married, they moved to the Sunderland/Marsden area. At his wedding in 1887 to Louisa LAMBOY, Robert gave his profession as blacksmith.

8617 BILL TODD, 133 Lancaster Road, New Barnet, Hertfordshire EN4 8AJ (e-mail horasfakia@classic.msn.com)

Seeking details of TODD, especially James Todd. The only information is the wedding certificate of his son, Charles, on 1843, at All Saints Church, Newcastle. Father and son are listed as carvers and gilders. Charles, a widower, married Margaret HALDER. Bride and groom were 'Of full age' and resident in Byker. Their son, also Charles, was born 1850, at East King Street, Westoe. Charles jnr was described as a 27 year-old sailor when he married Susanna WOOD at St Hilda's, South Shields in 1878. Their son, James Donkerley, was 1882, at Burrow St, Westoe. His son Leslie was born in Struan Terrace, Boldon, in 1912.

8626 DAVID A. BELL, The Beeches, 1 Kinkry Hill, Roadhead, Carlisle CA6 6NA

Novice, intending to begin research into family names of BELL and AINSLEY, paternal grandparents of Low Fell, and OXLEY and DAVISON, maternal grandparents of Wallsend. Walton Bell, born c1870, was killed in a stone fall in a colliery in Gateshead c1912 and prior to that had been a horse keeper for Gateshead Corporation. Family memory suggests that his wife Margaret Ann Ainsley was from a Hexham family engaged in the carrying trade; she died in 1953.

8633 Mr JOHN W. LOVE, 1 Park House Mews, Cholderton, Salisbury SP4 0EG

Particular interests are the FORREST family of North Shields/Tynemouth area. Ann and John Scott Forrest (born c1826 North Shields) had John William Forrest, born c1850 North Shields, married Hannah Eliza SYMES. They had William James Forrest born North Shields 1882.

8641 Mrs J. MYNOTT, 652 Mt Albert Road, Royal Oak, Auckland, New Zealand (email: j.mynott@xtra.co.nz)

Seeking information on George, the father of Elizabeth Mary STOREY. He was a staunch Catholic, and boot and shoemaker of Sunderland. He disowned Elizabeth Mary for marrying Richard WORDEN of Lancashire in 1842, not because he was the family butler, but because they married in the Anglican church when she was expecting her first child. John Storey, the shipbuilder of Monkwearmouth is reputed to be a relative of George.

8642 CLARE ROBINSON, Hillbrooke, Queen Street, Tintinhull, Yeovil, Somerset BA22 8PG

Researching Thomas ROBINSON baptised 1817 Houghton-le-Spring, married Hannah CHARLTON baptised 1819 Lanchester. Their son Robert Robinson, born 1853 Houghton-le-Spring was a coalminer and married Sarah GRAY 1872 at Seaham.

8645 RICHARD LITTLE, "Haresfield", Cumwhinton, Nr. Carlisle, Cumbria CA4 8ER

Searching for any descendants of grandparents William and Annie LITTLE married 1890 Consett. Particularly interested in any descendants of John Maurice Little, son of the above couple, born 1898.

8653 NICHOLAS MICHAEL, 1267 Vich, Switzerland

Researching the name LAIDMAN (LADYMAN / LADEMAN). Searching for information on: 1) Rev. John Ladyman (1546 - c1610) who was vicar of Shilbottle (1571-1579), vicar of Warkworth (1595-1610) and in 1571 was presented to Queen Elizabeth. 2) Mitford Laidman (1711-1746), son of Rev. John Laidman (1680-1745) and Christian MITFORD (1680-1743). In 1745, in Morpeth gaol, reason unknown (was he involved in the 1745 rebellion?). 3) Parents of William Laidman (1774, Widdrington - 1845, Newcastle), mason. Trying to connect him to William Laidman (c1744 - 1801, Bullocks Hall, West Chevington) and Jane CRISP / CRISSOP (1744-1814).

8654 Mrs J. McCONVILLE, 1/28 Hewitt Avenue, Bendigo, 3550 Victoria, Australia

Seeking to make contact with the sibling descendants of Robert TURNBULL, colliery engineer, born 1859 New Herrington, married 1886 Constance Jane BURNETT, died Toronto, near Bishop Auckland 1936. Know siblings: Jane M. born 1857 New Herrington; Sarah Nicholson (1864 Little Lumley); Margaret (1866 Little Lumley); Lillie Edith (1868 Little Lumley) married Richard Thomas COLPITTS; Thomas William (1872 Little Lumley) married 1896 Jane BERTRAM at St Matthew's, Newbottle. Parents of the above: Joseph, colliery engineer, born 1832 Newbottle, died Lumley, buried Newbottle 1891, and Margaret, born c.1834 Newbottle.

8655 ALAN PEARCE, 10 Whiston Vale, Whiston, Rotherham S60 4JJ (email: alan@pearce7.freemove.co.uk)

Looking for Anne GRUNDY who married Jacob SOULSBY in Gateshead in 1810. There are two Ann Grundy's of the right age on the IGI. Is either of them the correct one, or someone else entirely? Can anyone assist please?

8657 Mrs MAUREEN HOLLIDAY, "Seacroft", 43 Windmill Lane, Northam, Bideford, North Devon EX39 1BZ

Local interests include: GOURLEY and HUNTER (18/19th century Northumberland); SMITH (all). Also DANIELS (Wiltshire); GOATER (London and Hampshire); HAWES (Buckinghamshire); KINDRED (Suffolk); MORLEY (Lambeth, Surrey); SPENCER (Sussex) and TROTMAN (Somerset and Wiltshire)

8669 Mrs M. GILDING, 17 White Oak Avenue, Easingwold, York YO61 3GB

Interested in the SNOWDON families of Hawthorne and Easington pre-1860. Have extensive information but having difficulty finding a date of birth of Thomas Snowdon who married Eliza WILSON in 1747 at Easington. They were farmers and are listed in Land Tax assessments from 1787 onwards.

8706 SHIRLEY MAPLESTON, 2 Larkin Avenue, Cherry Willingham, Lincoln LN3 4AY

Researching: 1) George Shephard RAVEN born 1882, son of William Christopher Raven (born 1838) and Mary Ann SOUTHERN (born 1850). George had three brothers: William Stephen, John Henry and Charles Southern, and four sisters: Annie, Minnie, Jane and Kate. 2) Isabella FOTHERGILL born 1886 Newcastle, daughter of William, married George Raven in 1908/9.

8711 Mrs PAM McDONALD, "Ambleside", Stumpcross Lane, Swineshead, Boston, Lincolnshire PE20 3JJ

1) FAIRINGTON. Does anyone researching this name have a Philip William Fairington, born 1845, died between 1897 and 1911. Married twice: especially interested in Margaret Millington WOOD. Family known to be Methodist. 2) Family of Edward GOWLAND and Ann nee STEADSTRONG of Middle Rainton. Would be grateful for any leads or information in the 19th C or earlier.

8723 JEAN HOLWELL, Hooker's Green, Bishopsbourne, Canterbury CT4 5JB

Seeking information on: 1) Birth/parents of Ethel WINLOW, born 1879 Jarrow, married Frederick ASHMAN. They had three sons: Frederick, James and Robert. 2) Birth/parents of Jonathan Ashman, fruiterer living in St Stephen's parish, South Shields in 1866.

8728 Mrs WYN BULMER, 57 Valley Drive, Branton, Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN3 3NB

Local interests include: Joseph BULMER (1800s Durham) and William Bulmer (1850+ Darlington); Isabella COOPER (1850+ Winlaton); Henry CROSS (1850 All Saints, Newcastle); PROCTOR and HEWITT (1800s All Saints, Newcastle); O'HANLON and SHARKAY (1800s Northumberland).

8744 Mrs IVY MARGARET KEMP, 24 Aldborough Way, Parkside, Leeman Road, York YO26 4UY

Researching the following names: LIDDLE, GLEN, SWINHOE and SAVAGE, all of Sunderland pre-1860. Also, PEVERELL, WILSON and DWYER, pre-1900, Durham. These latter three names are most likely to appear in Catholic records. Variants of Peverell could include PEVERLY, PEVERLER and PEVLER, and include a John, father of Nicholas.

8746 Mrs B.G. MARTIN, 1 Ireland House, Stephenson Court, Granby Street, Peterborough PE1 5DQ

Seeking information about William PASSMOOR who married Sarah Ann ROWE at All Saints, Newcastle in 1849. Father may have been Thomas Passmoor, born 1801, son of William and Dorothy nee KIRK who married Longhenton 1795. Also interested in Seaham Hall where OGLESBY relatives were employed 1881-1891, at least. They came there from Lincolnshire.

8750 Mrs M. WHITE, 5 Hambleton Road, Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough TS 0HL

Looking for information on the following: 1) MAVIN and NAITBY; anytime, anywhere. 2) George FOTHERGILL (22) married Margaret ROBSON at Mickley in 1881. Both were living at West Wylam. 3) Joseph LITTLEFAIR married Mary Elizabeth RAINE 1835 at Romaldkirk. 4) Thomas ADAMSON married Sarah CLEMESON 1785 Sockburn. 5) Elizabeth THOMPSON, daughter of Thomas Thompson and Elizabeth MOOR of Lanchester.

8751 Mr F. WHITE, 5 Hambleton Road, Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough TS 0HL

Would like any additional information on the following: 1) Michael WHITE, son of David, married 1838 at Holy Trinity, Sunderland to Eleanor KING. 2) John HIND married Catherine BOAN 1778 Bishopwearmouth. Their son Reuben married Jane Powell PRICE at Holy Trinity, Sunderland in 1811, and they had a daughter Jane baptised the day her mother was buried in 1813. 3) Robert PYBURN married Ann ROBINSON. Children: Robert, Thomas, Hannah, Margaret, Joseph and Mary, all born Sunderland. Margaret married Thomas White. 4) Sarah Ann COOK, born Sunderland, daughter of John and Jane. John died and Jane remarried George BUTTERY and was living Silver Street, Sunderland in 1851. 5) Alice Cook HALL married John White 1898 at St Peter's, Monkwearmouth.

8758 JENNIFER DE ANGELIS, Aptdo 622, Lloret de Mar, Girona, Spain 17310 (email: bob@ratemail.es)

Researching family name of SMITH. John Smith, master mariner, possibly of North Shields, wife unknown, son John born 1864 Hartlepool, daughter Annie but no details. John junior, an engineer sailing out of Hartlepool, married Annie HIRST, daughter of Edwin, a grocer, 1892 London. Other children: Joe, Lizzie married a SANDERSON or possibly a COCKERTON (children May, Maude and Gordon, a chemist) John and Annie Smith had three children all born Hartlepool, Lucy (1897), Ena (Wilhelmina) (1905/6), Wilfred Stanley (1911) who went to London and married Elsie. Lucy married John

PAYLOR; children Connie Lucy (1925). Ena married James BROWN and moved to Shildon; children Thelma, Hilda, Connie and James. Stans' children Jennifer, Sheila and Susan. John Smith died 1915 and Annie remarried to John William CAMBRIDGE (Dick) in 1916 and moved to Shildon. Lucy and John Paylor also moved to Shildon. Also interested in a "skeleton in the cupboard", name of TWEDDLE or TWEDDELL worked in iron works, possibly North Ormsby c1903-8.

8769 RON O'CONNOR, 16 The Strand, Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire LN12 1BQ

Seeking any information on the following: Charles O'CONNOR, merchant seaman, believed born Dublin 1862 or 1866, son of Francis and Susannah, married Catherine SLOAN 1892 Gateshead. Catherine was born 1869 at Felling, daughter of James Sloan and Catherine, formerly HAMILL. Also, Joe Hodgen WAKEFIELD married Lillian Wilson SWEETING of Burstall, Leeds c1897.

8770 BRIAN D. CORNABY, 35 Beechcroft Road, Ipswich IP1 6BB

Interested in any information on CARNABY / CORNABY. Particularly interested to know why a Carnaby left Northumberland c1550 and moved to north Suffolk starting a Cornaby line up to the present day.

8776 MARION BRANTHWAITE, Silvertrees Cottage, 161 Thrupp Lane, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL5 2EQ

Researching the family of Robert SUTHERLAND and Margaret MOLE, married 1862 Newcastle or Durham, subsequently living at Willington. Also, family of William HUTCHINSON and Mary Ann EMMERSON, married 1860s and later living at Sunnyside. Also BRANTHWAITE family from Cumbria living at Coundon in 1881.

8794 ALAN WADE, 20 Kimble Close, Allesley Park, Coventry CV5 9LX

Information sought on David William YOUNGER born 1861 Sunderland, married 1) Eleanor Hannah FOX in 1884 and had one child, Thomas Henry (1885); 2) Jane BURTON (widow) in 1887 and had Esther (1887). Also researching the AMOS family of the Elsdon area in 18/19th century and KIRKUP of Eglingham/Chillingham and at Alnham 19th century.

8820 SUE HOWELL, 1 Houndsmill, Horsington, Templecombe, Somerset BA8 0ED (e-mail: such@houndsmill.newnet.co.uk)

Seeking on 1891 census John EVERETT, born Essex, c1853, farm hind, and wife Elizabeth nee GREENWELL, born Pit House Lane, Durham, c1856; children: Robert, Sarah, Mary Ann (Polly) and Emily. Were at West Rainton in 1881, and Pelton in 1897 when Elizabeth died. Also seeking birth/baptism date and place of Mary Ann (Polly) who married Joseph CORKER in 1904 and then Joseph ROWELL in 1915. Sarah married Ned CUMMINGS and Emily married ? LEDGER. Also of Rowell family at Twizell in 1881: father Joseph, 54, widower, miner. Children: William 24, later killed in Burns Pit, Hannah 19, Thomas 16, Emma 13, and Joseph 11. Another daughter Polly not with them at Twizell then. Where was she?

8826 ROBERT SLAUGHTER, 5451 Bayview Avenue, St Leonard, MD 20685, U.S.A. (email: theresa@chesapeake.net)

Seeking information on: 1) Roger ROBSON married Margaret DAVIDSON, living at Elsdon 1835-50 and had Ann born 1840. 2) SLAUGHTER families coming to North Shields, Tynemouth or Newbiggin c1840. Connected by marriage: KIDDIE, RICHARDS, NEWELLS and LAMBERT. 3) Family of John William RUTHERFORD born 1839 Durham, married the above Ann Robson. They had children: Edward Lawson, William Thomas and Sarah before emigrating to western Pennsylvania in 1870.

8869 ANDRINA LYSER, 11 Ayres Terrace, North Shields, Tyne & Wear NE29 0HL

Information required about Annie ELSTOB born 1843, daughter of Captain Andrew Anderson RENNER. She married Andrew James ANDERSON 1869 at St Peter's, Wallsend.

8879 CHRISTINE CRAIG, 4 Greta Street, Kurri Kurri, 2327 New South Wales, Australia (email: haltwhistle@bigpond.com)

Researching: 1) John McPHEE, of Gateshead area c1850. 2) John BELL, of Gateshead c1850. 3) John Bell of Newbiggin c1820. 4) William SMART of Gateshead area c1818. 5) Robert CRAGG of Stainburn, Cumberland pre-1859. 6) Matthew ATHEY of Shotley pre-1840. 7) Margaret TOWERS of Tynemouth pre-1840. 8) John McFEE of Gateshead Fell c1830. 9) Mary ELSDON of Gateshead c1830. 10) HANDYSIDE of Chollerton c1830. 11) GILCHRIST of South Shields c1750.

8887 Mrs JANICE PORTER, 174 Loughborough Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7HZ

Researching: 1) Robert WILSON, born early 1840s Houghton-le-Spring, died 1922 Middlesbrough. He had a sister Elizabeth and father's name thought to be Thomas. He married 1868 at Stockton Register Office to Elizabeth MUDD; this was his second marriage. 2) George NUNN, born 1850s Wickhambrook, Suffolk, son of Benjamin and Ann Nunn, died Middlesbrough. He married 1876 at Wolsingham to Mary Jane COOPER. She was born 1860 Castleside, daughter of Joseph Cooper and Isabella BELL, died Middlesbrough.

8895 Mr STANLEY WATTS SMITH, 3 Keats House, Milton Road, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 5NZ

Mother, Johannah TELFER, was born Bellingham 1889, daughter of James Telfer and Eliza Annetta HODGSON. James was born 1842 at Low Rochester, son of William Telfer and Frances DODD. William had been baptised at Birdhopocraig Presbyterian Church in 1810, son of James and Mary Telfer. Can anyone help with the baptism/birth of James, c1764, and his marriage to Mary, c1789? Grandfather James called his house in Bellingham "Dodhead". Could there be a connection with the James Telfer who survived the raid on "The Fair Dodhead" on the Scottish side of the border in 1610?

8922 Mrs M.W. COLLING, 15 Cooke's Wood, Deerness Vale, Broompark, Durham DH7 7RL

Searching for information on Joseph William COUSIN born 1869 at Foulard near Alston. On the 1891 Census his siblings are given as George (20) born Nenthead, Thomas H. (18) born Broom, Co.Durham, John (14) born Everwood, Hannah born Blackhill, Robert Nevin (9) born Allendale Cottages, Medomsley, Fred (4) born Hedleyhope, Phoebe (9 months) born Esh. Also looking for any information on Henry Cousin of Dykeheads near Nenthead who married Isabella HESLOP of Brownley Hill near Nenthead at the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Alston in 1867. Both were aged 21.

8945 DAVID WOOD, 12 Warwickshire Close, Priory Grange, Priory Road, Hull HU5 5XF

Seeking information about, but particularly, the place/date of death of Richard TREDDENICK born c1805 Cornwall. He married Jane CUMMINGS 1833 at Hetton-le-Hole. He is recorded as a miner in 1861 at his son George's marriage at Witton-le-Wear to Jane RAINE. In 1833 he was described as a tinker. Also, George William SMITH, born c1882 son of George, possibly from a farming family in the Prudhoe area. In 1910 he married Lavina Treddenick at Hunwick, Co.Durham and lived there until 1913 when he died in a mining accident.

8948 Mrs DIANA LA RUE (nee BONE), 63 West End Lane, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 1AF (email: thurlstone.consulting@btinternet.com)

Researching BONE and WARDLE of Newcastle and Hexham; and, MACLEOD and ELLIOT of Sunderland and West Hartlepool.

8951 JOHN G. HIDDLESTONE, 777 S.Abington Road, Clarks Summit, PA 18411, U.S.A. (email: lunastone@webtv.net)

Seeking any information on the family of John HIDDLESTONE (1864-1916) and wife Mary Ann OVENDEN (1866-1932) who lived at Wellfield in 1896, May Terrace, Langley Park in 1912, and Darcy Street, Langley Park in 1918. Known to have had 12 children between 1887 and 1905. Eldest, John George, married Esh 1912 to Emma Louisa, daughter of John

CROSSMAN and Grace nee PEPPING of Langley Park, formerly of Millom, Cumberland. Sister Nell married a DOVER; and sister Carrie married Ernest BARRACLOUGH. Brothers Charles and James killed in WWI. Family left Langley Park after WWI for Bingley, Yorkshire before moving to Canada, U.S.A. and Australia.

8966 ARNOLD BAKER, Prior's Hold, Cresswell, Northumberland NE61 5JT

Seeks of John ROBSON, father of Robert Robson born before September 1736 at Pasture Hill, Northumberland. Does anyone know the whereabouts of Pasture Hill, Gilchesters or Craigies Barn, Northumberland. Also, Clarence MOFFAT(T), born c1885, who also used the names Clarence Robson and Clarence Baker, and was the mother of Archibald Robson BAKER, born Newcastle 1910, and Constance Robson born c1912. And, Henreyetta SOLOMON, wife of Archibald Robson Baker married c1933 Newcastle or Gateshead, and Anne MITCHINSON of Alston who married Martin Robson of Stamfordham at St John's, Newcastle in 1793.

8978 Mr S. NORRIS, 32 Brocks Lane, Kirk Sandall, Doncaster DN3 1NQ

Interests: RIDLEY and LEE (Haltwhistle, 18th C); HUGGINSON (Mallerstang, 17th C); STANWIX and BLAIN (Great Orton, Cumberland, 16/17th C); LITTLE (Brampton, Cumberland, 18th C); NICHOLSON (Shap, Westmorland, 18th C); WHITEHEAD (Killington, Kendal, 18th C); NORRIS (Heyrod, Lancashire, 18th C);

8979 Mrs C. NORRIS, 32 Brocks Lane, Kirk Sandall, Doncaster DN3 1NQ

James WATSON, son of Henry, c1880, Anywhere; PEROTTI (Scotland, 18th C); BROWN (Derbyshire, c1720); CULLEN (Notts, pre-1788); CHIVELL (Cornwall, c1777); RIMMER (Lancashire, c1840) and WATSON (Mansfield, Notts, c1735).

8997 Mrs L.H. HARRIS, Roschill HOUSE, Cornford, Redruth, Cornwall TR16 6AY

Researching the following names: GLENDENNING, SAINT and VEITCH, particularly of the Haydon Bridge and Newcastle areas.

9019 Mrs PAM SMITH, 50b Old Road, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex CO13 9BZ

Interests: STOREY, CURRIE, ROBSON and NICHOLSON of Cullercoats/Whitley Bay; WILKINSON, SNAITH and TURNBULL of Durham; DIXON, DAVIDSON and ROBSON of Newcastle; BURN and LILLIE of Alnwick; and, BARNFATHER and BROWN of South Shields.

CORRECTION

8180 Dr ROBIN DITCHBURN, Lower Springfield, Walls, Shetland ZE2 9PF

In the Members' Interests section of the Winter edition of the *Journal*, Dr Ditchburn's email address was given incorrectly. It should have read:
robin.ditchburn@zetnet.co.uk

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