

THE JOURNAL OF THE NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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EDITORIAL

This is the last *Journal* which will be put together by the 'Editorial Team'. I am delighted - and relieved! - that Adam Bunting has come forward and volunteered his services to act as your *Journal* Editor.

Adam edited the *Journal* for a few years some time ago and is now coming up for a second bite at this particular cherry. I do hope that you will give him your support.

I know that I have said it several times before, but the *Journal* really is a most important part of the Society, especially for those members outside the north-east region who can't easily use the Society's excellent, and rapidly expanding facilities, and partake in meetings and activities. But, a successful journal does need the participation of the membership. If you have an interesting story to tell, or you have come across a source of information that might help another member, why not write a short article?

Even if you are unable to contribute an article, the Editor will always welcome book reviews and bits of news that can be passed on. There is always a need for 'fillers' and so if you come across an unusual, or particularly interesting, parish register entry, do send it to the Editor whose address is shown on the inside cover.

The best problem for an editor to have is to be spoilt for choice!

Finally, this is the time of year when we send out the membership renewal forms; the new membership year actually starts on the 1st November. Could you please help the Society, and particularly the Membership Secretary, by returning your renewal forms promptly.

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

This is the time of year when we invite you to renew your NDFHS membership for the year from 1st November 1999 to 31st October 2000. This subscription will enable you to use all the facilities of the Society and to receive volume 25 of the *Journal*, that is Spring to Winter 2000.

At the Annual General Meeting in June, it was proposed, and unanimously agreed, that the subscription rates should be unchanged. The rates are as follows:

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

The high cost of air mail postage rates for the *Journal* means that, unfortunately, we have to charge a higher overseas rate. If overseas members are unable to pay their subscription by sterling cheques, money orders or by credit card, they may pay by cheque in one of the following currencies at the rate shown:

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

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

PAYMENT INSTRUCTION

1. Complete the enclosed renewal form.
2. If paying by cheque, please make it payable to NDFHS and write your name, address and membership number on the back of it.
3. Send the renewal form and payment to John Gordon, Membership Secretary, c/o 2nd Floor, Bolbec Hall, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1SE

Please help by paying promptly using the renewal form enclosed with this *Journal* and following the instructions on the form.

COVENANTS

If you are a UK taxpayer, please consider completing the Deed of Covenant section of the renewal form. It doesn't actually cost you anything but does allow the Society to claim back from the Revenue some of the tax you have already paid.

In 1998/99 over 800 members signed Deeds of Covenant in favour of the Society therefore making a very welcome and useful contribution to the Society's funds.

Please note that the Deed of Covenant is NOT a subscription standing order or direct debit and subscriptions still need to be renewed annually. Unfortunately, this has not been made clear in the past and in some cases has led to late renewals by some members who thought that their subscription was automatically renewed.

NEWS 'SNIPPETS'

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The big news from Bolbec Hall is that, eventually, the 1851 Census has arrived. Yes, the NDFHS now has the 1851 Census for both Northumberland and Durham on microfiche and is available on the shelves at Bolbec Hall. Even if you aren't able to visit in person, if you have found someone in one of the 1851 Census indexes that the Society has published you can make use of the Research Service that the volunteers operate.

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The London Group of the NDFHS is to hold a One-Day Conference on Saturday 11th March 2000. The title of the conference is "Life in the North-East" and four excellent speakers will cover tenant farmers, shipbuilding, mining and Tyneside's children. The price of £18 (early bird £16!) will include a cold buffet and entry will be by prior booking only. For further details, please send a SAE to Mrs Wendy Bennett, 16 Grayshott Laurels, Lindford, Hampshire GU35 0QB

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The Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies runs a number of day and residential courses as well as a correspondence course. More details can be obtained from IHGS, 79-82 Northgate, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1BA

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The IHGS has also announced the publication of the 2000 Family History Diary and will be available from September priced £4.50 plus a SAE A5 sized envelope, stamped 38p. Overseas orders should add £1.75 p&p airmail or 80p surface mail.

NEW BOOKS AND REVIEWS

Vivienne Aldous; *My Ancestors Were Freeman of the City of London*; 1999; ISBN 1 85951 400 6; Society of Genealogists; £4.95 plus 50p p&p from the SoG

A new edition to the Society of Genealogists's *My Ancestors* series, this title runs through the complex records relating to the granting of freedom. The text describes the sources available for researching into Freeman whilst various appendices include lists of those granted honorary freedoms, and useful genealogical records at the Corporation of London Records Office.

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As its name implies, The Metcalfe Society exists to encourage research into the Metcalfe surname, and variants, through encouraging the exchange of information and help. If you have an interest in the name, further information may be obtained from the Society's Secretary: Mrs Diane Howarth, 31 Groves Lea, Mortimer, Berkshire RG7 3SS

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It is not generally realised that Black and Asian peoples have lived in Britain since the 16th century. The Black and Asian Studies Association is looking for the help of family and local historians by reporting any records that they may come across. The Secretary is: Marika Sherwood, Black and Asian Studies Association, c/o 28 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DS

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The Society of Genealogists is hosting a *Family History Experience* at the National Exhibition Centre on Saturday 15th and Sunday 26th September. There will be a wide range of exhibitors offering products, services, information, etc. as well as a range of lectures and advice clinics aimed at beginners and more advanced researchers alike. Tickets will be £4 in advance from the SoG or £6 on the day.

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Members may be interested to learn that the NDFHS is the 'Guest Society' in the August edition of *Family History Monthly*.

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Susan Harley; *In the Bewick Vein: The Story of a Northumberland Lead Mine*; 1999; ISBN 0 9534512 0 8; Honeycrook Press, Joicy Shaft Cottage, Haydon Bridge, Northumberland NE47 6NF; £4.95 plus UK £0.85 p&p

Lead mining had been an important industry in the northern Pennine area from Roman times until cheaper imports made it uneconomic in the late 19th century.

This is the story of one of the Langley Barony mines situated at the north edge of the lead mining area near Haydon Bridge which operated for only a twenty year period from 1873 to 1893.

This has been written not only for those with an interest in the local area but also for those who would like an introduction to the lead mining techniques and the social life of lead mining communities. The book includes a useful glossary of terms used.

R.E. Keys; *Dictionary of Tyne Sailing Ships*; 1998; £50 plus £6 p&p

This book is a most valuable work of reference which includes individual "biographies" (some very detailed) of over 4,700 sailing ships which were owned, registered or built on the Tyne between 1830 and 1930. The names of the vessels are cross-indexed with those of some 16,000 owners, shareholders, shipbuilders, masters and seamen.

The introduction describes the Tyne of the sailing ship era, the life, hardships and perils endured by the crews and the wide variety of trades in which they participated from carrying coals to London to whale hunting in the Arctic and transporting emigrants overseas. This is fascinating background and it is followed by details of each ship, her owners and masters and details of her career.

The amount of research involved in producing this fine archive of a bygone age must have been enormous. The 858 page hardback is in a limited edition of only 110 copies and is available solely from the author, Mr R.E. Keys of 99 St John's Road, High Cross, Benwell, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 7TJ. It is not cheap at £50 plus £6 UK postage and packing but it is a work which ought to be in every reference library on Tyneside – needless to say, NDFHS has a copy! – and serious maritime historians, and genealogists with Tyne seafaring ancestors who want more than mere names and dates will find much of interest and value.

Also available from the same address, *The Sailing Ships of Aln & Coquet* by Richard E. Keys, an account of over 170 merchant sailing ships, owned, or built, on the mid-Northumbrian rivers of Aln and Coquet between 1830 and 1896. The price is £9 plus £1 UK p&p.

TALES OF THE TYNE

The following 'snippets' of information are taken from the introduction of Richard Key's book *Dictionary of Tyne Sailing Ships*, reviewed above, and reproduced with the author's permission.

In mid-December 1856, there were no less than 727 vessels lying in the Tyne between Whitehill Point and the Low Lights at North Shields. Others lay elsewhere in the river. It was estimated that on 4th January 1848, there were 1,700 ships in Shields Harbour, mostly delayed by weather.

On 26th October 1859, the west end of a house on Hospital Quay, Lower Shadwell Street, South Shields was carried away by the bowsprit of the inward bound *Sea Bird*. Thirty minutes later, the bowsprit of the *William Broderick* demolished the upper storey of a house belonging to a Mr Downey.

Between 1830 and 1870, about 70% of Tyne owned sailing ships ended their days by wreck, fire or other marine hazards and it was calculated that one in five seamen on the coastal trade lost their lives at sea. In 1854, 1524 men and 987 ships were lost in British Isles waters. There were 12,041 casualties to British owned sailing ships in the four years to 1850.

In 1849, some of the wrecked crew of the Newcastle snow *South Stockton* ate the cadavers of their dead colleagues. Only two survived, being picked up by a Scottish vessel. One died later. The mate, Robert Hogg, recovered and never denied that cannibalism had taken place.

In 1868, in the Dardanelles, the wife of the master of the North Shields barque *Acastur*, Eliza Ann Thompson (nee Hayes) was delivered of a daughter Dora. Eleven months later the ship was lost with no survivors on a journey from Queenstown to London with the family still aboard.

An orphan, Mary Ann Arnold, was at sea on a number of Tyne and Wear ships for about three years until, in September 1839, her sex was discovered during frolics on crossing the Equator. Margaret Johnson served for five months aboard the North Shields owned barque *Thetis* in 1843 without her sex being discovered.

In 1831, 3845 wooden sailing ships delivered 1,251,851 tons of coal from the Tyne to London. The record for the "fastest round voyage" – there and back – by a Tyne collier was probably by the brig *Hilda*, under the command of John Firbank of South Shields, in seven days in December 1862. The usual time was about a month, but often longer.

Millicent Johnson

It was with great sadness that we learned of the sudden death of Millicent. She had been a member of the Society for about 15 years and in that time had indexed many parish registers, monumental inscriptions and Census material. As a regular attender at the Durham Group, especially when called upon to help to despatch our *Journal*, she would freely give her time. Millicent will be greatly missed by her friends, the Society and Durham Record Office.

NEWS FROM TYNE & WEAR ARCHIVE SERVICE

April has at last seen the completion by the Genealogical Society of Utah of a long term project originally started by the Archives Service itself, to film and make more widely available records of all the municipal cemeteries in Tyne & Wear. We began several years ago with the early records of the City of Newcastle's cemeteries, and more recently, filmed all of North Tyneside's cemetery and crematorium records. We have also acquired copies of most cemetery records for South Tyneside which were filmed by the council itself. Last year the project received a welcome boost when the GSU stepped in and successfully negotiated with the City of Sunderland and Gateshead MBC to film all of their holdings, and the City of Newcastle also authorised the filming of their more recent records. All of these are now available for consultation on microfilm in the Search Room at Blandford House making coverage of Tyne & Wear virtually complete.

The following additional cemeteries are now available:

Birtley, 1926-98
Bishopwearmouth, 1856-1998
Blaydon, 1873-1998
Castletown, 1921-98
Easington Lane, 1892-1998
Garden House (Whickham), 1916-98
Gateshead East, 1862-1998
Greenside, 1949-98
Hetton le Hole, 1891-1998
Heworth, 1941-98
Hollywood (Gosforth), 1943-98
Hookergate, 1957-98
Houghton le Spring, 1892-1998
Lemington, 1906-98
Mere Knolls (Monkwearmouth), 1856-1998
North Gosforth, 1878-1998
Ryhope, 1898-1998
Ryton, 1884-1998

Saltwell, 1905-98
Southwick, 1884-1998
Sunderland, 1858-1998
Washington, 1902-98
Windy Nook, 1964-98

Burials registers, indexes and graves registers have been filmed for each cemetery.

Full details of all the cemetery records held at Blandford House are contained in User Guide 1: Cemeteries and Crematoria which is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Tyne & Wear Archives Service, Blandford House, Blandford Square, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4JA. Details are also included on our website. Visit us at ris.niaa.org.uk/archives/

The Archives Service has entered the digital age in a second area of activity recently with the acquisition of a digital reader-printer. This has enabled us to reinstate self-service for reader-printer copies, a service we were forced to withdraw a few months ago when the machine available then was not up to the task. The new machine (we are assured) is very easy to use, robust and produces good quality copies. Sadly, even the most up to date reader-printer technology can not make high quality copies from poor-quality film, so copies from films such as, for example, much of the 1841 census returns, are unlikely to be much improved by our new machine. Self-service copies are 50p (A4) or 75p (A3). Even though this is an easy machine to use, staff in the Search Room will give credit for one spoiled copy, but all other copies must be paid for.

And finally... Tyne & Wear Archives Service is 25 years old this year. To mark this anniversary various events are planned beginning with an exhibition illustrating the wealth of archives collected in that time which will be on show at Blandford House.

NEWS FROM NORTHUMBERLAND RECORD OFFICE

by Sarah Davis, Assistant Archivist

As you may be aware, Northumberland Record Office recently advertised job vacancies. We welcome Joan Rose to a permanent post at Morpeth Records Centre, while Lynne-Marie Early and Debbie Rogers will begin work at Melton Park.

Tracing nineteenth century ancestors in north Northumberland has now become easier at Berwick Record Office. The General Register Office Index (previously known as the St Catherine's House Index) can now be

viewed on microfiche from 1837 - 1900 inclusive. Also, the office has a copy of the 1881 census index for England, Scotland, Wales and the Isle of Man, compiled by the Mormon Church, on CD ROM. Researchers may be interested to know that the Berwick Record Office has a more legible copy of the 1841 census for Tweedmouth, Spittal and the area from Norham to Holy Island - the PRO refilmed it a few years ago. The Office also has a transcript and index to the 1841 census for Berwick. Please remember to book in advance to consult any of these sources. Finally,

the Berwick Record Office has recently changed its e-mail address; it can now be contacted at lb@berwick-upon-tweed.gov.uk

Court Rolls remain an under-used source for genealogy. The Morpeth Antiquarian Society has purchased microfilm copies of the Morpeth Court Rolls, which have been placed in the custody of the Northumberland County Library at Morpeth. Northumberland Record Office has been able to purchase a duplicate set of these which can be accessed at Morpeth Records Centre (Ref. M1809-1817). The originals can be seen at Durham University Library, Archives and Special Collections as part of the Howard papers.

These rolls relate to two distinct courts. Firstly, there are the court rolls for the Manor and Barony of Morpeth Castle (1696 - 1874). This extensive lordship was granted to William de Merley. At the start of each roll is a call book, which lists tenants required to attend the combined sessions of the Court Baron (which dealt with the internal regulation of the manor) and the Court Leet (which heard presentments for criminal acts). Admissions of new tenants can be found, often with details of the relationship to their predecessors, and, of course, there may be details of the

transgressions of some tenants. The second series of court rolls come from the Manor and Borough of Morpeth (1696 - 1883). These were the subject of an interesting article in the *Journal of the Northumberland and Durham Family History Society*, Summer, 1992. From these rolls, much can be gleaned concerning the life of Morpeth town. Of particular interest for the family historian are details of the admissions of the burgesses, which usually give information concerning the trade guilds to which the individual belonged. The microfilms are complemented by records that Northumberland Record Office has held for some time such as the court rolls for the Manor and Borough of Morpeth in 1654 (Ref. ZAN M16/B27) and papers collected by Henry Brumell in his capacity as deputy steward for the same court in the 1820s and 1830s. The latter papers (Ref. ZBS 37, box 9) include summons, appointments and lists of recommendations.

Also, on the subject of court rolls, the Tweedmouth Manor Suit Rolls (1751 - 1869) can be seen on microfilm at Melton Park. The early call books are annotated with interesting information about the ancestry of tenants and the transfer of land.

NEWS FROM DURHAM RECORD OFFICE

The Durham County Record Office's refurbished microfilm and manuscript searchrooms re-opened to members of the public on 6th April. Each room has been enlarged by one 'bay', that is the width of one window, and each room has been re-decorated.

The manuscript searchroom has new furniture: new tables for use by members of the public which complement the new chairs installed in the last few months. There is a new central service point, manned by all three members of staff on duty in the searchroom. This has the advantage of making it easier for those using the room to identify members of staff.

The microfilm searchroom now contains eighteen microfilm readers for use by members of the public and has new, more subdued, lighting. The windows have been completely blacked out, so that it is no longer necessary to block out the daylight by Venetian blinds. This allows air to circulate more freely. In addition, an efficient air conditioning unit has been installed.

The final stage of the alterations will be the acquisition of additional bookcase space in both searchrooms.

Visitors now enter the Record Office searchrooms through a new entrance half-way along the corridor from the Help Desk. In the new entrance area are lockers for use by members of the public: visitors are no longer permitted to

take bags of any kind into the searchrooms. The lockers are completely secure, as each person using a locker retains the key to that locker while it is in use, and no locker keys are interchangeable.

Visitors will also notice that the corridor from the Help Desk to the entrance to the searchroom has been transformed by a semi-permanent display of facsimiles of particularly interesting records held in the Office, and by exhibitions of facsimiles of documents on particular themes. Near the searchroom entrance is a display of publications which may be purchased in the searchroom.

I am sure that visitors to the Office will be pleasantly surprised, and impressed, by the spaciousness and attractiveness of the new searchrooms. We have received many compliments both on the new searchrooms and on the displays in the corridor.

ERRATA

In the Spring edition of the *NDFHS Journal* (Vol.24 no.1) we published "A Northumbrian Mystery: The Poor Clares of Rouen". Unfortunately, there were two typographical errors towards the end of the article which need to be corrected:

The death of the Abbess, Sr. Mary Catherine [Catherine Smith] should read 20 Jan 1799 and in the following paragraph, Mrs Herbert should read Mrs FitzHerbert.

NATIONAL BURIAL INDEX PROJECT: AN UPDATE

by Derek Cuthbert

I don't think that I ever realised just what a job I was taking on when I agreed to act as the co-ordinator for the National Burial Index Project in Durham and Northumberland. It has been more time consuming and bigger than I ever thought possible but it's also been a great experience.

This article is really an annual report on the project, both here in Northumbria and also nationally.

Let's start with some facts and figures at the end of June 1999. There are now over 200 volunteers and the number is still growing. There are volunteers from around the world who have wanted to get involved in the project. If you volunteered and I have not been in touch with you then I can only blame the amount of work and say that I will be in touch.

We started by loading the transcripts of burial registers that we have available at Bolbec Hall and at the present time we have over 110,000 records entered into the computer and the number continues to grow.

In addition to the these transcripts we have volunteers entering data from fiche that have been published, others who have taken on the very difficult task of checking the data on the computer and those who are transcribing burial registers. As you can see there is a lot of work going in our area and the scope of the project continues to grow.

At a national level there are now 52 Societies involved in the project and so far there are 1.4 million records that have been checked and corrected and are in the NBI. The plan is to publish the first edition of the National Burial Index towards the end of 2000.

So what about the future? The work of transcribing and loading will go on until we have "all" the burial records in our database and it's anyone's guess how long that will take.

In the meantime we have started asking this great bunch of volunteers to help with other projects which they have all willingly taken on.

We have started to load the transcripts of the 1851 Census index into a database with the intention of publishing an alpha index for Northumberland and Durham.

The other work that we are talking about and will probably have started by the time this journal is published is to load the baptism and marriage transcripts into a database so that again we will be able to produce County indexes.

You see what I mean about being kept busy. The greatest pleasure that I have had since I took on this project is the number of friends that I have made, and for me that has been a bonus. If you feel you'd like to help in any way transcribing at a Record Office or Family History Centre, load data into a compute, checking somebody else's work or helping with administration then do get in touch - there is still a mountain to climb.

Editor's note: If anyone would like to help with this project, they should contact Derek Cuthbert at 16 Harton House Road, South Shields, Tyne & Wear NE34 6EE

NDFHS MILLENNIUM CONFERENCE: "Life in Nineteenth Century Northumbria"

The Northumberland and Durham Family History Society is to hold a One-Day Conference on Saturday 15th January 2000 from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. at Gosforth High School, Newcastle upon Tyne. The entrance fee will be £15 for the day and will include a buffet lunch.

The speakers which have been arranged are: Dr Tony Barrow - Northumberland Ports; Mrs Ann T. Simmonds - The Diary of a Tyneside Youth; Michael Gandy - Catholic Ancestry in the North East, and Richard Keys - Tyne Sailing Ships.

Why not make a weekend of it? Although the conference is only on for one day, we will be opening Bolbec Hall on the Friday evening from 6.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. for an informal social gathering and a glass of wine. Also, the Library and Research Centre at Bolbec Hall will be opened on Sunday from 11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. for those who want to use the facilities.

Enclosed with this Journal is an application form for the Conference. Please return by the date indicated if you intend coming.

SOME CHOPWELL LOCAL AND FAMILY HISTORY FROM 1664 ONWARDS

by W. G. Richardson and M.E. Brown

Somewhat prompted by Sue Horsman's article ⁽¹⁾, we write this for family and history interest. It concerns the well known Surtees and Fewster families in the southwest Northumberland / northwest Durham border region, more specifically the Chopwell area.

One of us was given two old documents by our father at the time his old home, Oak Villa at Chopwell, was sold in 1961. These two documents were part of a larger collection our father had wished to research in his retirement but unfortunately they went missing. Happily, these have now been located and hopefully can be interpreted and published in future. Apparently one document refers to the Pilgrimage of Grace in 1536 in the reign of King Henry VIII, while another concerns the Rising of the Northern Earls in 1569, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. With the valued help of a medieval history researcher at the University of Oxford, we have obtained a translation of the two documents, one of which was written in Latin.

The first document, dated 1664 in the reign of King Charles II, relates to a land dispute between Anthony Surtees, plaintiff on one hand, and on the other, William and Isabelle Emerson and Robert and Margaret Blaxton (Blaxton). Apparently twelve acres of meadow in Chopwell were in dispute. The four latter recognised that the land was Anthony Surtees' by right because they gave it to him as a gift and they warranted it to him forever. In return for this, Anthony Surtees gave them 100 marks (one mark equalled 13s and 4d, about £0.67)

The second document, an indenture from 1703, refers to Anthony Surtees of "The Hollings", just over the border in Northumberland, a yeoman, but whether he is the same Anthony as in the earlier document remains to be seen. The other participants were John Hunter of Medomsley in the county of Durham and Edward Surtees of Woodhead in Ovingham parish in Northumberland. "The Hollings" (or "Hollins") and "Woodhead" are neighbouring farms to the present day, only a mile or so from Whittonstall. Also mentioned are Robert and Margaret Blakeston (Blaxton), presumably the same couple as in the 1664 document. Apparently the intention was to do some serious coal and possibly lead mining in the Whinney Leas area, an activity known to Chopwell since the 14th century, according to Horden and Wright ⁽²⁾ in their history of Chopwell. Water courses and mills were to be built to help the extraction. It was hoped to transport the products via Robert Blaxton's land, Blackhall, land bordering Whinney Leas. Other place names mentioned are Lightness, Craggs Head, Reverton and Bulmers Bush, none of which can be found on new or older Ordnance Survey maps of the area. However, five old coal shafts are located on older maps, to the northwest, west and

southwest of Whinney Leas, at least four of which were within Milkwell Burn

As the border between Northumberland and Durham separated the farms of interest it was necessary to research at the Record Offices in Newcastle and Durham. However, we have managed to trace from the Surtees family at "The Hollings". Anthony Surtees and his wife Isabelle (nee Burn) had three children all of whom died in September / October 1741, presumably because of some epidemic. Anthony and his wife later gave the lease of "The Hollings" (or "Hollins") to Isabelle's sister Eleanor and her husband James Fewster. The Fewsters farmed there, and later at "Bowsers Hole" and "New House" until the latter part of the 19th century. Several old documents exist relating to the leasing of their farms, dated mainly in the latter half of the 18th century. James Fewster, the son of the above James, was the father of twelve children, some of whose descendants live in nearby areas to the present day, while others have been contacted as far afield as Perth in Western Australia. James' eldest son, William farmed at "Bowsers Hole" and later at "New House". His younger daughter Isabella Ann Fewster was born there in 1824 and died there in 1891. She married George Richardson, whose family, formerly lead miners came from Rookhope in Weardale. Their eldest son, William, mentioned earlier, built "Whinney Leas Cottage" in 1890 after retiring from coal mining at East Castle. He lived there until 1899 when he moved to "Oak Villa". His eldest son Henry was the last owner of "Oak Villa". Henry's wife, Elizabeth Ann Bowman, had also come from Rookhope, where her family were lead miners and farmers. They later farmed at "Blackhall", the former home of Robert Blaxton mentioned in the earlier documents, a neighbouring farm to "Oak Villa". Coincidentally, the Bowsmans and Richardsons had lived in neighbouring dwellings in Lintzgarth and Wolfcleugh at Rookhope, although at different periods of time in the 19th century.

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BEGINNERS' GUIDE TO TRACING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY IN NORTHUMBERLAND AND COUNTY DURHAM

by Geoff Nicholson

Part 4: Church of England Parish Registers - The Originals

I call this section "The Originals" as there are many copies, indexes and partial indexes now available of Church of England Parish Registers, so many indeed that they will be the subject of my next article. This time I shall deal with the registers themselves and what we might expect to find in them.

Although the parish system was established in the form in which we know it soon after the Norman Conquest, and many individual church buildings in this region are much older even than that, no regular parish registers seem to have been kept until after the Reformation of the 1530s. It was only in 1538 that Thomas Cromwell, the chief Minister of Henry VIII, made it the duty of each parish to see to it that a register was kept, in which was to be recorded the names of all who were baptised or married in the church or who were buried in the parish churchyard. The register was to be written up after the service each Sunday. On the whole this rule seems to have been badly kept to, and no doubt the counter-reformation of Queen Mary's reign would be a period when the edicts of the reign of her father, Henry VIII, were largely disregarded. In those parishes which did comply those records were, on the whole, poorly kept, being often written in pencil (ink was expensive) and in paper books (16th century paper was of poor quality). Furthermore, when a book was full it would be discarded and within a year or two would probably have been lost, destroyed or eaten by mice or rats. The clergy who were ultimately responsible for the register were often absentees and their poorly-paid Curates ("Ministers" was the current word for them) might well not be too keen on taking on yet another job on top of all their parish work.

If there was some other person in the parish who not only could read and write, but was willing to do the work for little or no salary, then the Minister was lucky and he could be appointed as Parish Clerk. In most parishes the only possibility was the village schoolmaster and eventually it became accepted that being parish clerk was a normal appendage to being schoolmaster, especially where the school was run by the parish, often in the church or the vestry (or sometimes in either the church porch or a room over it), so that the schoolmaster would be on hand when required.

That the keeping of parish registers was something more honoured in the breach than in the observance is apparent from the number of Acts of Elizabeth's reign, each restating the position in stronger and stronger terms. Eventually, in 1598 the Church itself took the matter in hand and the Provincial Constitution of Canterbury

(perhaps roughly equivalent to the modern-day Church Synod) required that the registers should not only be kept but that they should be well-kept. In future they would have to be written in ink, and on parchment. Furthermore, all old registers, written in pencil or on paper, had to be transcribed to the new standards, especially those dating from the beginning of Elizabeth's reign in 1558. Strict penalties were laid down for any parish or Priest who neglected their duty in this respect and those, together with the psychological effect of having made the persons responsible invest a lot of time and effort into making their transcripts, ensured that the registers were reasonably well looked-after for many years afterwards.

There were several side-effects of this rule. One is that while hardly any parish registers go back as far as 1538 (Durham St Oswald is the only one in Durham Diocese), quite a lot begin in 1558 (e.g. Auckland St Andrew, Durham St Margaret and Newcastle St Nicholas). Furthermore, the pre-1599 entries in any register which goes back that far can often be seen to be transcripts by the suspiciously neat form they take. When the darkness of the ink and the quality of the handwriting is the same for every entry we know we are not dealing with entries made separately, from Sunday to Sunday, but with ones made all at the same time, or at least in a few large batches. Often we can say that the current, or the recently-discarded volume has been transcribed but earlier ones have been lost. In Ryton, for instance, the registers begin in 1581. An obvious assumption is that a first volume, extending from 1538 to 1580, was lost before 1599 and the volume commencing in 1581, which was probably still in use in 1598, was the earliest to be transcribed. Sometimes we may even suspect that all previous registers were said to have been lost, as the surviving registers date from close to 1599, e.g. Newcastle All Saints (1600), and we may wonder what happened in parishes such as Ponteland (1602) and Washington (1603).

Once all parishes were keeping parish registers, the only thing to prevent their survival was "misadventure". Such misadventure could come in many forms - wars, fires, sheer neglect and the depredations of uneducated "keepers" have all taken their toll. For several parishes the registers date only from the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660, the events of the Civil War in the 1640s and of the "Commonwealth" period in the 1650s having taken their toll. The earliest register of Ebchester commences in 1619 and the front of the leather-bound volume is said to have three neat, equally-spaced holes in it. The usual explanation is that the register, with other valuables, was buried in the

churchyard to save it from being looted when Cromwell's army passed that way in July 1650, on their way to take on the Scots at Dunbar. When the danger had passed the register was dug up again, using a garden fork - hence the three holes! Fires have taken their toll of several of our local registers, the 1790s being a particularly bad period, in which Monkwearmouth and Kirknewton both lost their records, while those of Kirkhaugh perished in a fire in 1898. If your family came from any of those places all is not lost - there are ways around the problem, some of which will be mentioned next time.

Misadventure can take other forms. In one Cumberland parish the 18th century Parish Clerk's wife kept the local grocery shop and soon discovered that the parchment of the older registers was the nearest thing then available to "grease-proof paper". Villagers would receive their purchases of butter and lard wrapped in a page of the old parish register - at least they wouldn't be short of material to gossip about! In more recent days someone very well-known to the author was helping an old aunt, the widow of a clergyman, go through some of her late husband's papers. Out of a box she pulled a parchment page. "Are you interested in this?" she said, "Or shall I just throw it out?" It was the first page of the burial register of a 19th century church, on which were recorded the first 16 burials to take place there. It was not even from a church with which the old lady's husband had ever had any personal connection, though he had been friendly with one of its Vicars. This time there was a happy ending and the page was soon re-united with the rest of the volume, which was already in the County Record Office.

"What sort of detail can one expect to find in parish registers?" That question is often asked by beginners but the only answer is "It all depends on which Diocese you are interested in and which period you are dealing with." Durham Diocese, which effectively covered Northumberland and County Durham, has early registers much the same as those of any other Diocese. Sometimes baptisms, marriages and burials have volumes of their own but more usually the earliest registers include all three types of entry, sometimes on separate pages or in separate columns but often mixed in together, which can cause confusion if one is not careful when reading them.

Beginners are sometimes put off by the writing in the earliest volumes being in "Secretary Hand". That is an old way of writing, where the shapes of the letters are not what we would expect nowadays. At first sight it looks impossible to read, but with just a little practice it can be done, as the old clerks usually wrote in a very consistent way, and once you work out that a certain shape corresponds to a certain letter, you will know that that will always be so, throughout the writing of that man (you may have problems when the parish gets a new clerk, of course, but by then you will have got the hang of it!).

In some parishes the entries were in Latin up to the 1730s but that should not put you off, as the Clerk's grasp of Latin was not necessarily any better than your own and in any

case each entry of baptism, marriage or burial tends to be in the same format. Just remember that "son" will be rendered as "filius" and "daughter" as "filia" (though both will probably be abbreviated to "fil") and all you will then need to know is the Latin versions of names. In many cases a first name is either left alone or has "-us" added to it, and the father's name may end in "-ae" or "-i" (genitive case). Surnames are almost always as in English.

Early baptisms are usually in the form "John son of Henry Smith", with no mention of the mother, the address or the father's occupation. If there are several John Smith baptisms in the right period, it is only by the most careful detective work that one might, if one is very lucky, be able to tell which is "yours". As a general rule, the later the entry the more detail it has.

In the 1650s marriages were conducted by Justices of the Peace and rather more detail may be given than hitherto, but things returned to "normal" at the Restoration. In 1667 it was required, to help the wool trade, that all bodies to be buried should be wrapped in a woollen shroud, and a certificate had to be produced that that had been done. The fact of the burial being in woollen was recorded in the burial register for several years after that. The Act was renewed in 1678 but soon fell into disuse, although it was not finally repealed until 1814. The writer still cannot but feel sorry for one of his remote Cumbrian ancestors who was recorded as having been buried "naked in his coffin, with only herbs in with him". At least he had a coffin!

In 1754, Lord Hardwicke's Marriage Act said that (with the comparatively minor exceptions of Quakers and Jews) all marriages had to take place in a Church of England Parish Church, which in fact almost all usually did in any case, and laid down the form in which the marriage register had to be kept. First, there had to be a separate marriage register, and then the entry had to state whether the parties to the marriage were "of this parish" or of some other parish, which would be named. It had to be stated whether the marriage was by Licence or after the calling of Banns, and a Banns register had also to be kept. Another new rule was that each party had to sign, or make their marks, after the statement "This Marriage was solemnized between us", a rule which has continued to apply to all UK marriages to this day. The signatures or marks of, usually, two witnesses had also to be appended and the officiating clergyman had also to sign the main part of the entry. It is useful to take careful note of the witnesses. In modern marriage entries these will be the "Best Man" and "Chief Bridesmaid", but in older ones it may well be the bride's father and perhaps a friend or relative of the bridegroom. Often one or both witnesses were "regulars" who witnessed most marriages in that parish at that time, usually the Parish Clerk and one of his assistants. Sometimes there is only one witness, which seems to have been quite acceptable, and sometimes there are more than two, which seems to have been the mark of a "smart" wedding.

That sort of marriage entry remained the same until 1837, though the printed version of the form was redesigned in

1813 and it was also then made compulsory for all entries to be on the proper form - most parishes began to use printed forms in 1754 but some kept to hand-written ones until 1813.

The next thing to affect parish registers was the Stamp Act of 1783, which came into force in October of that year. This was in effect a taxation on register entries and, like all taxes, was disliked and avoided or evaded whenever possible. If one of your ancestors appears not to have been baptised in the period 1783-1793, then it could be their parents were keen to avoid the 3d duty they would have had to have paid. Those who were "Poor" were exempt, but that meant "in receipt of Parish Relief" and so it was not easy to claim exemption unless that claim was genuine. One effect of this Act was to produce a large increase in baptisms towards the end of September 1783, as everyone attempted to avoid the taxation.

In 1797 Shute Barrington, Bishop of Durham, earned the gratitude of all family historians by requiring that, as from 1 January 1798, all baptism and burial entries in parishes within his Diocese should be in an extended form. For baptisms we should be told the date and place of birth, the father's occupation, the place of the child in the family (1st son, 6th daughter, etc.), and the names of the parishes of which each parent was a native. The child is still named as the child of the father, but the mother's status as a married woman is recognised by the words "by his wife" ("bhw"). In some registers, and even more in certain transcripts (see next time), some abbreviations are used which have been known to cause confusion, so let it be said here that "notp" means "native of this parish" (and NOT "not of this parish"!) and "notpo" means "native of the parish of" and NOT "not of the parish of!". In burial registers of the Barrington period the detail is less but still better than hitherto. The age at death is given (but beware - that could only be a guess, especially with aged adults), as is the occupation, address, parents' names if it was a child who had died, and occasionally even the cause of death, as it was assumed to be at the time. These "Barrington" registers are almost as good as the "Dade" registers of certain places in southern Yorkshire and a few counties to the south of that, which give the names even of the grandparents of each child.

The "Barrington" period lasted until 1 January 1813, when Rose's Act came into force. That laid down certain standards which were to be enforced all over the country and while they no doubt represented a great step forwards for most Dioceses, they were a great step backwards for that of Durham. Marriage entries were to be much as before, though on a slightly re-drafted form, but baptisms were to be on a new standard form of eight to a page, with columns for: When Baptized; Child's Christian Name; Parents' Names (Christian - Surname); Abode; Quality, Trade or Profession and By whom the Ceremony was performed. Sometimes, especially to begin with, room was found to add, perhaps in the margin, the date of birth, but that practice soon died out except in a handful of parishes. Burials were also to be recorded eight to a page but here the

information was only: Name; Abode; When buried; Age; By whom the Ceremony was performed.

Those standards for baptisms and burials have remained until the present, but there was to be a further change to marriage registers on 1 July 1837 when Civil Registration came into force throughout England and Wales. As the Civil Registration system was not interested in baptism and burial (it records birth and death, which are not quite the same things!), those registers were untouched, but church marriage registers had to fall into line with the new Marriage Certificates. The old forms were scrapped and new ones brought in which record, for each party, the name, marital status - bachelor, spinster or widow(er) - address and occupation, as well as their father's name and occupation. The same statement as before was printed on the form and had to be signed by each party and the need for the signatures or marks of two witnesses still remained.

Many years ago it used to be necessary to make arrangements with clergy to visit their churches and be shown the registers one wanted to look at. Now, thankfully, that is not so, as the Parochial Registers and Records Measure of 1978 ensures that all registers which have been disused for more than 100 years must be kept in one of two places. One is indeed the church safe and the other is the Diocesan Repository. A further clause in the Measure requires whichever place that is chosen to be not only secure against fire, burglary and vandalism ("a fire-proof and rust-proof cupboard") but the temperature and humidity must be kept within certain limits and a continuous record must be kept to prove that that has been done. As the average church safe has no hope of coming up to those standards, the choice becomes limited to a choice of one - the Diocesan Repository. The Bishop of Durham has declared that Durham County Record Office is the Repository for the Diocese of Durham and the Bishop of Newcastle has likewise declared that Northumberland County Record Office is the Repository for the Diocese of Newcastle (i.e. Northumberland). Things are further reinforced by the appointment, under the Measure, of an Inspector who has the duty of inspecting all registers at least once every five years and ensuring that the conditions are being met. The fact that these Inspectors are in almost every case, the County Archivists of the Counties concerned, ensures that any church safes which are brought into play must be very good ones indeed! To the best of the author's knowledge only two parishes in Co Durham (Durham Cathedral and Chester-le-Street), and none in Northumberland, have managed to retain their original registers, though in each case a microfilm copy has been deposited in the Record Office.

In practice, also, registers which have been disused for much less than 100 years are usually deposited in the County Record Office, and "best practice" among clergy is to deposit registers almost as soon as they are full. In Ryton, for instance, the last baptism in the latest register to be deposited was in February 1972 (and was that of the son of the author!). No doubt that statement will soon be out of date.

ENEAS MACKENZIE: A CAUTIONARY TALE ABOUT 19th CENTURY SECONDARY SOURCES

by John Sanders

Some years ago I came across Eneas Mackenzie's *Historical, Topographical and Descriptive View of the County of Northumberland etc.*, which he published in Newcastle in 1825. In it (Vol II, pp 17-18) was a passage headed "Brandon", from which I culled the following excerpt:

*"...At a little distance from the village stands Brandon White House, which was the seat of Sir Daniel Collingwood, lineally descended from Cuthbert Collingwood, the renowned Border chieftain, who distinguished himself so much in the Border wars of the 16th century. Sir Daniel, in the earlier period of his life, was chaplain, and afterwards sword bearer to King Charles II. His extensive landed property was divided among his six sons, from whom sprung many able and upright magistrates, and skilful officers in both the army and navy, as will be hereafter particularised. The only remaining branches are Henry Collingwood Esq. of Lilburn Tower; John Collingwood Esq., of Chirton; and the sons of the late T. Collingwood MD of Sunderland. John Collingwood of Howburn in Glendale Ward, was attainted in 1715, and fled to France with his wife (a Selby, also of ancient family), where they were attacked with a typhus fever, and both died. They left two sons, John and George, the former at that time an apprentice to a merchant in Newcastle; and the latter, about 7 years old, was left to the care of the steward, James Fowler, who bred him to agriculture, and set him up in a small farm. The estate was mortgaged to the Joliffs. John was grandfather to Admiral Lord Collingwood; and George was grandfather to the late Dr. Collingwood". A footnote reproduced an obituary of Dr. Collingwood from the *Durham Advertiser* of 2nd November, 1822. This reported that he was born at Bates Cross, near Berwick upon Tweed 7th July 1751, and died at Bishopwearmouth 29th October 1882, aged 71 years.*

When I first read this, the obvious errors seriously undermined its credibility, as will appear from the following summary of the relevant facts concerning Daniel Collingwood of Branton. His great grandfather was Cuthbert Collingwood of Branton, a gentleman of no particular eminence, whose will is dated 12th Aug 1608. The only "renowned Border chieftain" of the 16th century was Sir Cuthbert Collingwood of Eslington (obit 1596), a quite different person. In 1672, Daniel was the officer in charge of the garrison of Holy Island, of which his father, Sir Robert Collingwood, was Governor after the Restoration. He was MP for Berwick 1664/5, and for Morpeth 1679. It is very doubtful whether he was any kind of chaplain to the King: "sword bearer" is equally suspect, but he was a courtier, in fact a notorious place-seeker. He was never knighted; his status as an MP may have brought

him a local honorific, but it is more likely that Mackenzie's informant confused him with his father. Daniel died without issue, and was buried in Westminster Abbey in 1681. The "six sons" were probably himself, his brothers and (illegitimate) half-brothers! Luckily, Daniel's history was known to me. John Collingwood of Howburn was not, and I could not judge whether this latter part of the story was any more creditworthy than the first. The remainder of this article records my attempts to sift a grain of truth from a maze of distortions and sheer inventions.

Was a John Collingwood attainted in 1715? I cannot claim to have examined every list of those who participated in the Derwentwater Rising of that year, but I have consulted the records of the Forfeited Estates Commission in the PRO concerning George Collingwood of Eslington, who was taken under arms at Preston in 1715, found guilty of high treason and hanged for it at Liverpool in 1716. Amongst those records is "An alphabetical list of persons attainted by Impeachments, Acts of Parliament, Judgements or Outlawry" in connection with the Rising (PRO: FEC1/672). The only Collingwood listed is George Collingwood, of Eslington. This list does not appear to be amongst those mentioned in Dr. Gooch's recent study of the question, (L. Gooch; *The Desperate Faction - Jacobites of North East England 1688-1745*; Hull University Press 1995; and see *NDFHS Journal* Vol. 24 [1999], No. 2 pp 41 et seq.), but his study also does not refer to any attainted Collingwood, or even participant, other than George of Eslington. Seeing that a group of Whittingham men are included, it is a little surprising to see that none of the non-gentry Collingwood family living in Whittingham at the time was amongst them. The FEC list, in fact, contains only 22 of the names of north east gentry listed by Dr. Gooch, and only one of the north east "followers and plebeians". However, the "place of abode" given in the FEC list is in some cases patently inaccurate - George Collingwood is listed as of Preston, and others are given as of London when they are identifiably from the north east - e.g. Thomas Riddall. The many discrepancies probably indicate that this list was selective rather than comprehensive - it notably does not mention those who turned Kings evidence, and some who escaped or were not proceeded against. All the same, Mackenzie's story about the attainder of John Collingwood of Howburn appears to be an invention.

Was there any record around the turn of the century of a John Collingwood, of Howburn or elsewhere in the Border region, married to a Selby, with a family including two sons John and George? The difficulty here is that several Northumberland Collingwood branches were Catholic at this time, and generally did not baptise, marry or even bury at Anglican churches, so that they escape the parish

registers. However, I have found no John Collingwood married to a Selby in either parish registers or alternative sources. In particular, the Forster and Hedley papers deposited at the NCRO do not include any such individual. Dr. Forster's work was primarily concerned with the Catholic families of the north east, and is particularly valuable because it covers large numbers of relevant references to Quarter Session recusancy convictions. The Hedley papers deal with Northumbrian families generally, and include copious notes on the Collingwoods, sadly without this research finding a place in his published volumes. However, the parish registers of Norham parish do mention a John Collingwood of Duddo, who baptised a family at Norham between 1695 and 1706. John himself was buried at Norham in 1707, and a posthumous son, Richard, was baptised at Shilbottle in 1708. His wife was Frances, daughter of Richard Lisle of Hazon, who was still living in Felton in 1723. Their children were Luke (1695 died in infancy), Frances (1700), John (1701), Mary (1702), Elizabeth (1704), Robert (1705), George (1706) and the Richard mentioned above. In several of these baptismal entries the father is referred to as "Mr.", usually an indicator of prominent social status, at least in the eyes of the parish clerk. John of Duddo was also the trustee named in the settlement made by John Clennel of Lilburn dated 1701 (NRO 1147/G18) and, judging by the name of his eldest son, was probably descended from the Collingwoods of Lanton, which they acquired by purchase from the last Henry Collingwood of Etal in 1630. The original Luke Collingwood of Lanton was probably a cousin of Cuthbert Collingwood of Branton formerly of Titlington, the great-grandfather of the Daniel Collingwood of the first part of the Mackenzie report. The existence of sons John and George at the right times, with the appropriate age difference, and a probable connection with the Branton family, suggests strongly that this is the family which Mackenzie's informant had in mind.

So, what can we learn of John and George? The former was certainly not the grandfather of Admiral Lord Collingwood. The Admiral's descent from Cuthbert Collingwood of East Ditchburn (obit. ca.1628) has been comprehensively investigated in a paper by J.C. Hodgson, which he read to the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne in 1906 (*Archaeologia Aeliana*, series 3, Vol. 11, pp. 150 et seq.). Nothing more about John son of John Collingwood of Duddo has been found. The apprenticeship records of the Merchant Adventurers of Newcastle include several Collingwoods, but none that can be identified with John of Duddo's son. There is no marriage or burial record in the Newcastle area or at Norham. It may be doubted that the reported Newcastle apprenticeship ever existed. He must have accompanied his mother when the family returned to Hazon in 1708 after his father's death, and is more likely to have been apprenticed in Alnwick than Newcastle, though the list of Alnwick apprentices (which appear to be in the hand of H.C. Wood) held at the Northumberland Record Office (NRO 4583/1) does not mention him. He evidently moved on as an adult, and his ultimate fate can only be guessed at. Perhaps he may be identified with the John Collingwood who married Mary Therése Mondehare of

Bordeaux at the Catholic Chapel of the Portuguese Embassy in London in 1731. This individual, who claimed to be "of Eslington", became a successful wine merchant and (French) Royal official in Guienne, and, in 1751, bought a vineyard of 16 hectares near Cantenac, later known as Chateau Kirwan, still in production though the Collingwood connection ceased in the early 19th century.

George, on the other hand, could very well be the grandfather of Thomas Collingwood MD, as Mackenzie suggested. Amongst the Hodgson Pedigrees to be found at the Newcastle City Library, there are two (*Hodgson's Pedigrees* 1,55 and IX,140) concerning Thomas Collingwood and his descendants. They are both headed by a Collingwood, of unknown forename, of Bates Cross (now Bates Strand) just north of Berwick upon Tweed, which information probably derived from the *Durham Advertiser* obituary. In addition, Hodgson records a personal communication to the effect that Thomas's father was the first to introduce the culture of turnips into Scotland. The *Advertiser* obituary maintains that this was achieved by Thomas rather than his father, so either its author or Hodgson's acquaintance misremembered the facts, or Thomas continued and developed a practice which he had learnt from his father. Bates Cross could be the "small farm" mentioned by Mackenzie. However, Thomas, born in 1751, is unlikely to be the son of someone born ca.1706: an intervening generation is indicated, which accords with Mackenzie's story. Thomas named his children, in age order, George Forster, Robert Gustavus Adolphus, William Dixon and James Wilkie. His wife's father was a George Forster, but common naming patterns suggest that while the Foster may be a bow to the father-in-law, the George may come from Thomas's father. It is just possible that George, the son of John of Duddo, being the youngest son of a long deceased father, may have had some difficulty in making his way in life, and his marriage could accordingly have been deferred. The marriage has not yet been found, nor any record of Thomas's birth. The reason could be that the family may have been or became non-conformist, although Thomas was married at Warkworth church and one of his grandsons was an Anglican vicar who married, in 1869, the sister of Lewis Carroll, Mary Charlotte Dodgson. Though more research is needed on these points, it is fair to say that this part of the Mackenzie report carries more weight than the rest of it.

If the family concerned is that of John of Duddo, did he have anything to do with Howburn; and was that estate "mortgaged to the Jolliffs" after 1715? The ownership of Howburn manor was researched by the authors of Vol. XIV of the *Northumberland County History* (NCH). They record that the place was sold in 1642 to Sir Robert Jackson, a wealthy burgess of Berwick, who, dying in 1645, left it to his sole heiress, Mary, the widow of Sir Pelham Carey, a younger son of the then Lord Hunsdon. She later married again, to a George Paylor of Nunmonkton, Yorkshire, and their son, Nathaniel, was her heir. Nathaniel, by his will of 1747, left Howburn to his great nephew, William, the son of Samuel Tufnell of Langley, Essex. The Tufnell family held it until 1869, when they sold it. Samuel Tufnell's

mother was a daughter of Sir William Jolliffe, a London Alderman, whose will provided for handsome inheritances for his grandsons on condition that they took the name of Jolliffe. This William did, although the next generation resumed the Tufnell surname, with Jolliffe as a second forename (I am indebted for these details to Mrs Pat Winsor of Monks Risborough, Buckinghamshire, an authority on the Jolliffe name). The Jolliffe interest in Howburn therefore did not begin until 1747 at the earliest. The alleged Collingwood title and the mortgage are simply mythical.

Is it possible that John of Duddo might have held Howburn as a tenant? That it was leased seems almost certain, since the major Paylor estates appear to have been in Yorkshire at the time. The NCH makes no mention of possible tenants at Howburn in 1715, and it is probably impossible to discover whether or not there were Collingwoods there. But John of Duddo was presumably so called because he held lands in the vicinity of Duddo. Duddo is not a parish name, but is a township within the parish of Norham. The place was a Clavering fief. Robert Clavering VI married Mary, a daughter of Sir Cuthbert Collingwood of Eslington. They lived at Duddo and raised a family there, who were still around in the late 17th century. It seems more likely that

John Collingwood became a tenant of the Claverings somewhere in the neighbourhood of Duddo township, rather than of the Paylors lands in Howburn some miles away across the moor - and incidentally in another parish, that of Lowick. On balance therefore, the references to Howburn appear to be just another Mackenzie red herring.

In sum, Mackenzie appears guilty of publishing unverified local gossip, a "good story" worthy of a modern tabloid, much of which, as we have seen, is arrant nonsense, and, taken at face value, greatly misleading to the unwary researcher. On the other hand, there appears to be a germ of truth in it. It would be a shame to dismiss the whole of such sources as unreliable, when a little patient analysis, taking account of evidence from other sources, can bring the true facts to the surface. Moreover, the research process can, as it did for me in this case, lead to discoveries which might otherwise never have been made. Nevertheless, sources like this one clearly need to be approached with critical faculties in top gear!

Editor's note: Mr Sanders address is 122 Bay View Road, Northam, Bideford, Devon EX39 1BJ (email: sand@bayview.prestel.co.uk)

CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE: IS IT SATISFACTORY FOR A FAMILY TREE?

by Brian J. Edwards

When researching a family tree, we all have different views as to the amount of evidence required to prove a family link and as this is a hobby, rather than a court of law, this is entirely up to the individual concerned. Many researchers are quite happy to follow a family from marriage to baptism to marriage, etc., without any additional confirmatory evidence. Whilst this may be acceptable in some cases, say when there is an unusual surname, I have always considered that some additional evidence such as a will or census extract is highly desirable if not essential.

So what does one do when one simply cannot find any direct evidence in terms of a baptismal record, but when all the circumstantial evidence suggests that a child belongs to a particular family? Should one follow back the line with the conviction that the connection exists, but for some reason it can't be found, or simply abandon that particular branch of one's tree.

To illustrate my point, I would like to examine my paternal grandmother's ancestors and the problems with my great grandfather.

My grandmother, born Mary Jane Weddell, was the youngest of eleven known children of Samuel Robert Weddell. She was born in 1862 at Toxteth Park, Liverpool

and lived to the ripe old age of 102. I knew her well, and used to visit her regularly, but unfortunately in those days I was not interested in family history!

The earliest information I have concerning her father comes from his marriage certificate, which just made the new registration system in 1838. He married at St Philip's Church in Liverpool, and from the certificate we discover that Samuel Weddell was of full age, a bachelor, a saddler, and that his father was William Weddell, a hatter. His bride was Ellen Oakley, aged 19, a spinster and her father was Samuel Oakley, a whipmaker.

In fact Samuel's full name was Samuel Robert Weddell, this being confirmed by the various census entries and his children's birth certificates. His bride's name was incorrect to the extent that she was christened Eleanor.

As previously mentioned, I have identified eleven children, their eldest daughter being Elizabeth Hannah who was baptised in 1843, and all were born in various Liverpool suburbs along the Mersey.

Where did Samuel Robert come from? Well this is about the only consistent information that I have found. The 1851 census records his birthplace as "Northumberland,

Newcastle" whilst in 1861 and 1871 the census records "Newcastle on Tyne". However his age is more variable, and at ten year intervals is recorded as 39, 51 and 60. On this basis he was born in 1811 plus or minus a year. However, when he died in March 1874, his son gave his age as 65, which makes him a year or two older.

So much for the facts; the problem is to find his baptism. Now whilst I would not claim to have searched every register in England, or even in Northumberland, I have conducted a thorough search of Newcastle and surrounding area, including parts of Durham and so far I have not found his baptism.

However there is one Newcastle Weddell family which I find of particular interest, and there is circumstantial evidence to suggest that my Samuel is one of their children. At the moment I am undecided whether to follow this line back any further, but these are the facts so far.

On 7th June 1780, a William George Weddell was born in Bloomsbury, Middlesex, the son of Samuel and Mary Weddell. He was baptised on 2nd July at St George's Church, Bloomsbury. Some time before 1803, he had moved to Newcastle, where for some reason he required a certified copy of his baptismal record. This certified copy, dated 28th July 1803 is held by the Tyne & Wear Record Office. No one seems to know why this was required, or indeed how it got into the record office.

About a year later, on August 27th 1804, William George Weddell married Elizabeth Lyon by licence at All Saints, Newcastle. The marriage bond gives his age as 24 and his occupation as a hatter. Elizabeth was only 18, and her mother, Hannah gave her consent.

In 1806, the baptismal register for the same church records "George William Weddell, born June 26 baptised March 23, 1st son of George William [sic] Weddell, hatter of Bloomsbury Middlesex, by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Lyon, banker of Newington." No further baptismal entries have been found for any other children.

By 1808 William George Weddell was clearly in difficulty with his business. A Commission in Bankrupt was awarded against him, in which he is described as shopkeeper, dealer and chapman. The situation obviously went from bad to worse, as by March 1812 he was in Newcastle's Newgate prison for debt, and one of the signatories to a petition seeking release. A search of the letter books at the Public Record Office has failed to find any response to the petition.

The *London Gazette* gives a notice of a meeting for his creditors to be held at the Talbot Inn, Manchester on 11th October 1813. but whether he attended is open to speculation.

No trace has been found of the death of William George Weddell, but Elizabeth Weddell, nee Lyon is recorded as a widow/pauper in the 1851 census, her mother Hannah having died aged 79 in 1843.

Why do I think that this is "my" family?

Firstly, of course the father's name and occupation are correct; the probability of another William Weddell working as a hatter seems somewhat remote.

Secondly, both William George and his only proven son have two Christian names, as does my great grandfather Samuel Robert. This was a relatively unusual occurrence at that time, and in statistical terms, for the 20 year period from 1800, the IGI lists approximately 500 Weddell baptisms, of which around 45 have two names, this figure including all those illegitimate children given a surname as a second Christian name.

Thirdly, we have the naming pattern; the two grandfathers of William George Weddell's children were Samuel Weddell and Robert Lyon. Was my great grandfather named after them? Additionally, Samuel Robert Weddell's first daughter was baptised Elizabeth Hannah; could she have been named after her grandmother and great grandmother?

With William George Weddell being consigned to the debtors prison around the time of the birth of Samuel Robert, it seems likely that Elizabeth Weddell, along with her children, could have ended up in the workhouse. Although she claimed to be a banker's daughter, it seems more likely that her mother was a widow and not a person of means. Unfortunately, there do not appear to be any records in existence for the Newcastle workhouse covering this period so I am unable to check the admissions or workhouse baptisms, but such a scenario could account for the apparent absence of a baptism. Somewhere along the line, Samuel Robert became a saddler, but again with no workhouse records and at a date too late for the apprenticeship tax records, the probability of finding any information seems remote.

What happened to William George Weddell? So far, I've not found his burial. Again, there do not appear to be any records for Newcastle prison, so it seems impossible to discover whether he died there or was released. Remember too that we were at war with France and that Newcastle was a port. Could he have been pressed into the navy from prison?

So there we are; circumstantial evidence, and I believe a credible case, but no hard facts. It would be interesting to hold a survey of members to discover what percentage feel that I have located the correct family and would be happy to continue research into earlier generations, but clearly this is impossible. However, if anyone has any comments or suggestions, I would, of course, be pleased to hear from them.

Editor's note: Mr Edwards can be contacted at 46 Tilsworth Road, Beaconsfield, Bucks. HP9 1TP or by email at brian.edwards@atalk21.com

SOME VANISHED GRAVESTONES FROM HEXHAM ABBEY...

Come with me back to about 1715 and you will find one J. Warburton looking at the gravestone inscriptions inside Hexham Abbey, that solid, squat building in the centre of the town. Imagine, if you will, the genealogical value today of those 17th and early 18th century stones.

And now come with me to the Abbey today, and it will not surprise you to learn that, in the main, those inscriptions are no longer there. They have fallen victim to time and to man.

But we are lucky, for the industrious Mr Warburton took the trouble to record the inscriptions that he found. He wrote them in a manuscript which was held, in 1898, by the Duke of Northumberland. A well-known local antiquarian, J. Crawford Hodgson, wrote an article about them and printed the inscriptions which Warburton had recorded. This article is entitled, not surprisingly, "Some Forgotten Epitaphs and Monumental Inscriptions in Hexham Priory Church" and it appears in volume VIII (1898) of the *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle* on pages 145 to 150. Hodgson's article includes copious extra details, from parish registers, from wills and so on. Space will not allow reproduction here of the full details, but below is a list of the surnames on the stones. The dates

given are the earliest and latest dates of death from the stones.

Allgood (1641-1675), Ashby (1680), Butler (1641), Carnaby (1657), Carr (1648-1707), Cocking (1685), Copley (1638-1657), Copperthwaite (1698-1712), Criswell (1654-1675), Dixon (1663), Downes (1702), Errington (1653-1706), Gibson (1610-1691), Heron (1638-1657), Heslop (1636-1677), Johnson (1668), Kirsopp (1650-1691), Lambert (1705), Lawson (1637-1641), Mowbray (1702), Mowbrid (1687), Pierson (1707-1711), Riddell (1) (1678-1684), Shield (1673), Stevenson (1677), Swinburn (1677-1684), Thompson (1665-1705)

If you are interested in these families in 17th century Hexham, you could look up Hodgson's article in the NDFHS Library at Bolbec Hall, or use the Society's research service to look it up for you, or you could fork out a whole two pounds (overseas £2.40) and buy the NDFHS microfiche, reference TN75, which includes these inscriptions in a total of 286 from Hexham Abbey, as well as those at Blanchland, Corbridge, Halton, Newbrough, Shotley, Warden and Whitley Chapel. The fiche may be ordered from Neil Richardson, 12 Banbury Way, South Beach Estate, Blyth, Northumberland NE24 3TY.

...AND SOME AUSTRALIAN STRAYS

by Miss Veronica Lisle

Last year, during a trip to Australia, I visited the early gold-mining centre of Bendigo to trace an ancestor, Robert Lisle of Lowick, Northumberland. Whilst there, I spent a short time in the town's Sandhurst Cemetery (Bendigo's original name). The cemetery is very much vandalised and, as the tombstones are owned and must be maintained by descendants who are now, mainly, long since gone, the whole area is in a state of great disrepair. There is a voluntary group which is endeavouring to preserve the heritage, collate the histories and encourage the maintenance and restoration of many tombstones and their surrounds.

The cemetery is divided into various sections - Methodist, Church of England, Lutheran, Chinese, Independent, Baptists, Presbyterian and Catholic containing the remains of settlers from England, Scotland, Germany, Switzerland, Ireland, France, America and Denmark, amongst other countries.

Robert Lisle's tombstone and monument were prominent in the Church of England section. In the immediate area I noted several other graves and monumental inscriptions which were of north-east England interest.

In loving memory of my dear mother Ruth E. Steel, native of Durham, England, died 23rd May 1897 aged 78 years. Also my dear daughter Susanna S. Pattison died 1 January 1897 aged 22 years. Also Caroline Ann died 28th April 1874 aged 2 years.

Sacred to the memory of Hon. Robert Clark M.L.A. born Newcastle upon Tyne, England. Died at Sandhurst April 24th 1883 aged 41 years. Erected by his widow and family. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord". Also Mary Ann who died October 17th 1880 aged 6 years 3 months. Newman Henry died March 31st 1878 aged 3 months. Evelyn May died December 27th 1883 aged 4 months.

Sacred to the memory of Thomas Maddison native of Lumley, Durham, England who died June 11th 1873 aged 46 years. Also Ann beloved wife of the above died March 18th 1896 aged 75 years. And their daughter Georgina Maddison died 26th Nov. 1919. "He giveth His beloved sleep". Also their grandchildren Daisy E. Thomas died Nov. 23rd 1892 aged 9 years. Elsie Violet died Nov. 29th 1893 aged 3 years.

In memoriam. George Urwin G.E., native of Newcastle upon Tyne who died Dec. 4th 1873 aged 39 years. Also his son George Robert who died Sept. 18th 1879 [aged] 19 years. Also his dearly loved wife Honour Boynes died 8th Aug. 1930 aged 88. Mother and father reunited.

[Four sides of a tall monument]

Sacred to the memory of Charles Crawford born Felling, Co.Durham 27th Oct. 1819 died 10th Aug. 1883 aged 63 years. Also Margaret Crawford relict of the above died 9th July 1890 aged 69 years and 7 months.

In loving remembrance Sabina wife of C.H. Crawford died 19th May 1873 aged 26 years. Sabina Crawford daughter of the above aged 11 months. Mignonette Crawford aged 11 months. Margaret Jane Crawford died 9th July 1903 aged 49 years.

Sacred to the memory of Elizabeth Crawford mother of C. Crawford died 30th September 1874 aged 80 years. George Hunter Crawford born 1847 died 18th June 1929.

In affectionate remembrance Sarah wife of R.E. Crawford died 30th December 1879 aged 26 years. Charles John Crawford died 24th October 1878 aged 6 months.

[Three sides of a tall monument]

In loving memory William Brown who died November 18th 1882 aged 50 years.

Erected by Elizabeth Brown in memory of her beloved husband Matthew who died April 29th 1825 aged 62 years, native of Co.Durham, England. "Weep not dear wife but be content, My life to you was only lent, In love we lived in peace I died, You asked my life it was denied". Also their three children who died in infancy.

In loving memory of our dear mother Elizabeth Brown who died Nov. 22nd 1899 aged 63 years, native of Co.Durham, England. "What is home without a mother, Oft we miss her loving face, First one to fly to in sorrow, None can fill our mother's place, She was a patient sufferer, Who long desired relief, Within the loving Saviour's arms, She now does rest in peace.

Editor's note: Miss Lisle has photographs of the above stones and would be happy to pass copies to interested researchers. Her address is 19 Low Hauxley, Hauxley Links, Amble, Northumberland NE65 0JR

GENEALOGY COURSES AT THE CENTRE FOR LIFELONG LEARNING IN THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

by Sue Wood, Course Director, Certificate in Family History and Tutor, Advanced courses
& Rick Barker, Tutor, Beginners and Intermediate courses.

There are currently four genealogy courses available in the Centre for Lifelong Learning: Beginners and Intermediate, run by Rick Barker, and Advanced and Certificate level courses by Sue Wood.

Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced Courses

There are no formal entrance qualifications for these courses which are of 10 weeks' duration, 2 hours per week, and each of which, successfully completed, can contribute 10 points out of the 30 required to gain the University's Higher Education Certificate. This will require two-thirds attendance at classes and a little homework! The latter is not strenuous and exercises are designed to fit in with students' own research or to supplement parts of the syllabus. [Students may opt out of this scheme if they wish.] Nobody said genealogy was easy, however, and the importance of a sound scientific approach to research is stressed.

Each of these three courses can also be included as part of the University's Part-time Degree in Humanities, further details of which can be obtained from the Centre for Lifelong Learning.

"Genealogy for Beginners - Tracing Your Family Tree"

This course is intended to introduce complete novices, or those with a little experience, to the methods used in tracing ancestors, compiling a family tree and describing the sources most commonly used in the early days of research.

We explore existing family information, genealogical literature, membership of family history societies, record offices and record-keeping. We then learn how to prepare an initial family tree from existing information.

Next we move on to the main "basic sources": Civil Registration, Censuses, Parish Registers, Roman Catholic

and Nonconformist records, Wills, and because of their importance in the northeast, we examine Scottish and Irish ancestry.

Each topic includes a brief history and description of relevant documents [using practical examples,] an explanation of their uses in genealogy, and how to locate them.

"Intermediate Genealogy - Beyond the Basic Sources"

For this course it is advisable to have a good working knowledge of the basic sources. We deal with a range of "further sources" including The Parish Chest, Quarter Sessions, Poor Law and Employment records. A variety of "Land records" are described, including Estate Papers, Land Tax, Tithe and Enclosure documents, and we have one session on Palaeography and Latin designed to reassure rather than frighten! Finally, we introduce other "name-list" sources such as Hearth Tax and Muster rolls and discover the Public Record Office and other National Repositories as sources of genealogical material.

"Advanced Genealogy"

Once family history research is progressed beyond 1837 it generally becomes more difficult. Parish registers become the most important source available to researchers. In theory, English & Welsh parish registers should commence in 1538. However, it is unusual to find registers dating back to this period. Equally, even when possible leads are located in parish registers beyond 1837 it is often difficult to substantiate this information, in particular to prove links both between and within generations. The aim of the course is therefore to familiarise students with sources that might allow them to progress their research up to and beyond the period served by parish registers and to look at how other sources can be used to prove family relationships and to provide short cuts in research in the periods before and after the commencement of parish registers. The following sources and their potential value are discussed - deeds, ecclesiastical court records, estate records, guild records, manorial records, pedigrees, taxation records, visitations and wills.

"Certificate in Family History"

This is a four term team taught assessed course aimed at students with a serious interest in family history. The first three terms are taught with the fourth set aside to write up the project which forms the major piece of work of the course. The syllabus covers basic sources such as parish registers through to more complex and less well used sources like manorial records. It's aim is to give students an overview of the variety of sources that are available and to encourage students to look beyond the basic to sources that are sometimes difficult but are potentially extremely fruitful.

The course is assessed and students are given two assignments in each of the three taught terms. These assignments comprise five essays and a palaeography test. The main piece of work and the culmination of the course

is a project in which students are expected to trace six generations of a family and write detailed biographies for direct descendants. There is also a critical and analytical element to the project.

There are no formal entrance requirements although it is expected that students will have undertaken some personal research before enrolling on the course. A leaflet providing further information about the course content is available from Brenda Wright at the address given below.

Forthcoming courses:

The courses of the Centre for Lifelong Learning, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RU, are usually held in Joseph Cowen House, St Thomas's Street. [Between the Haymarket bus station and the R.V.I. main entrance]

"Genealogy for Beginners - Tracing Your Family Tree"*
Starts Tuesday 28th September 1999 at 7 pm.

"Intermediate Genealogy - Beyond the Basic Sources."*
Starts Tuesday 28th September 1999 at 2 pm.

"Advanced Genealogy"
Starts Thursday 7th October 1999 at 7pm.

"Certificate in Family History"
Starts Tuesday 11th January 2000 at 7pm.

*These courses are also run by the University at Blyth Resource & Initiative Centre, Eric Tolhurst Centre, Quay Road, Blyth, NE24 2AS. However, starting on Wednesday 6th October there will be two Intermediate classes only at Blyth, in an effort to reduce waiting lists. These will be open to those who have already completed the Beginners course at Blyth. It is anticipated that the New Year at Blyth will re-commence with one Beginners and one Intermediate class!

For further details of all courses at Newcastle contact Brenda Wright at the Centre:

Tel. 0191 222 5680; Fax 0191 222 7090

<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/lifelong-learning/>

For courses at Blyth contact Janice or Joan on 01670 353817

INSURANCE AGAINST GRAVE ROBBERS?

The following extract is taken from the will of John Bell, cooper of Berwick upon Tweed, dated 12th September 1800 and proved 16th July 1803. The will was proved in the Consistory Court of the Bishop of Durham and may be seen in Durham University Archives and Special Collections.

"And I do direct that my Body be interred in the Burying Ground called Lennell Churchyard near Coldstream in the county of Berwick and that the Grave wherein I shall be interred shall be watched in such manner as my Executors shall think proper for the space of eight days after my Interment".

"A MELANCHOLY DEATH NEAR NORTH SHIELDS"

by David A. Bell

One of the many family names which I am attempting to follow back into history is that of Oxley. Strangely the name appears on both my paternal and maternal sides though as yet I can find no link between the two. One group, my paternal side, is centred on Hexham and the group on my maternal side seems to have come to Wallsend from Dunston and Whickham.

As part of my general trawling around (no pun intended) I made a recent visit to the Local Studies Department at North Shields public library and a rich source of material awaits the visitor there. It was a first class experience made that much better by very helpful staff.

An extremely useful card index exists and with little effort I pulled out various Oxleys to follow a sort of lucky dip. A comprehensive indexed extract of reports from the *Shields Daily News* failed to reveal any report of the death of my grandfather Richard Lambert Oxley, for which I was searching. He, I knew, had fallen to his death from a bridge at Wallsend Quay in 1871 and I had hoped to find a report of a Coroner's Inquest, which might further enlighten me. Sadly that was not to be.

The following caught my eye however, from the *Shields Daily News* of 19th April 1869:

MELANCHOLY DEATH NEAR NORTH SHIELDS

On Saturday morning [which was the 17th April 1869], Mr. John Oxley, a steamboat owner, belonging to North Shields, was found dead in a ditch, at Long Benton, near North Shields. [The] deceased had been missing from his home since Tuesday evening last [Tuesday 13th April]. Of late he had been in a very bad state of health, having suffered from an attack of paralysis, which had affected him mentally. On Tuesday, he never returned home and, though search was made by his friends, his whereabouts was never discovered until Saturday. It is supposed [the] deceased had laid down during the storm on Wednesday [14th April], and thus perished. This morning, an inquest was held upon the body of Mr. Oxley.

This intrigued me and I pressed on wishing to know more. Perhaps the inquest report if published would explain why a steam boat owner lay dead in a ditch at Longbenton,

In the *Shields Daily News* of 20th April 1869 [Tuesday] the full report did appear and again I quote it here in full:

THE DEATH OF A NORTH SHIELDS STEAM BOAT OWNER

Yesterday morning [Monday 19th April 1869] Mr. Cockcroft, Coroner, held an inquest at the Ship Inn, Long Benton, on the body of Mr. John Oxley, aged 64 years, a steamboat owner. The deceased resided in Linskill Street, North Shields, and it appeared from the evidence that he

left his house on Tuesday evening, the 13th inst., with the intention of proceeding to Preston Cemetery to see the grave of his wife, but did not return home. Search was made for him the same night and during the week by his friends, but they could not find him. On Wednesday morning, about nine o'clock, he was seen getting over the hedge as if to go on to the line near Benton Station by a platelayer, who went and asked him where he wanted to go. He said he wanted to go to Shields, and the platelayer offered to take him to the station to go by the train, but he said he had no money, and if he would direct him to Benton Church, he would know his way. The platelayer accompanied him part of the way, and then pointed out the direction he had to continue. On Saturday morning [17th April], Mr. James Atkinson, of Forest Hall, whilst working on his farm looked over the hedge, and there saw deceased in a ditch lying with his face downwards, and nearly covered with the water that was in the ditch. Mr. Atkinson, immediately got assistance, and took him to Benton, but life was extinct. Dr. Heslop, of Killingworth, who had examined the body, said he found no marks of injury upon the deceased, and death appeared to have resulted from drowning. The appearances of the place indicated that the deceased had fallen most probably from exhaustion, and been drowned. The deceased's watch and some trifling things were found in his pockets. For some time past he had been in a weak state, both mentally and physically. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.

There remains in the area, Benton Station, still in use on the Metro line and Benton Church referred to is doubtless St Bartholomew's Parish Church nearby, as the presently adjacent Methodist church in Station Road was not built until 1904.

The Ship Inn is not the present premises on Front Street, as that was not erected until 1904 either, but refers to a rendered and probably whitewashed building to be seen in photographs in the recently published *Bygone Days of Longbenton* by W. G. Elliott and Edwin Smith.

I am afraid that my search was not very fruitful that day. By sheer chance I had found this sad tale and I am unable to say that John Oxley was in any way connected to my family. I unearthed one other reference that day, to one Jane Oxley, a drunk who neglected her five children. I am pleased to say that I am pretty certain that she is not one of mine either!

Editor's note: This short article illustrates well the wealth of detail that can be found in newspaper reports of coroners' inquests. If you know of an ancestor who died suddenly or violently, it is always worth checking contemporary newspapers for a report. Mr Bell's address is The Beeches, 1 Kinkry Hill, Roadhead, Carlisle, Cumbria CA6 6NA

SNAPSHOTS OF VICTORIAN CONVICTS

by Kath Rolph

Genealogists with a black sheep in their family tree will be interested in an item relating to Newcastle Gaol recently acquired by Tyne & Wear Archives Service. The volume is a gaol register [TWAS reference PR/NC/6/1], one of a series which recorded full particulars of every person convicted of a crime and reported to the Secretary of State [Home Secretary] as being imprisoned in the Gaol.

It is a fascinating volume which has survived through one of those lucky accidents which archivists and historians often have cause to wonder at and be grateful for. The depositor's father, Mr Taylor, was assistant to the auctioneer who disposed of the contents of Newcastle Gaol prior to its demolition by the City Council in 1925 and, as a reward for his services, was offered this volume as a souvenir. Over 60 years later his son has generously donated it to the Archives Service. Only one other register relating to Newcastle Gaol is definitely known to survive, a "nominal register, 1859 - 1860", which is preserved at the Public Record Office at Kew. Efforts are being made to secure its transfer to Tyne & Wear Archives, although its contents are as yet unknown.

The register, donated by Mr Taylor, covers the period from 11th January to 9th August 1873 and records a wealth of detail for every prisoner, including a three-quarter length photograph - an early version of the modern-day "mug shot". The following other particulars are also recorded:

- Name and aliases
- Description when liberated (age, height, colour of hair, eyes and complexion; where born, marital status, occupation and other distinguishing marks such as scars etc)
- Address at the time of arrest
- Date and place of conviction
- Offence committed
- Sentence imposed
- Date of release and details of any conditions imposed on release
- Details of previous convictions
- Names of police officers who can identify the prisoner
- Any other relevant particulars

The "Descriptions when liberated" are particularly valuable because they record physical attributes which are rarely available from other sources. Not even contemporary photographs can accurately convey hair or eye colour, height or "other distinguishing marks" unless they were

very obvious facial scars. The "mug shots" which are routinely included are also invaluable because photographs of any kind are uncommon for the poorer social groups mainly represented in this volume. These people would not have been able to afford the fashionable *cartes de visite* portraits which were very popular amongst the middle classes and more prosperous working people.

... nowadays it is more likely to be a source of delight than shame to have a "black sheep" in the family ...

However, this volume also has a wider appeal, providing as it does a snapshot of the Newcastle underclass in the Victorian period. The crimes inmates had committed were mainly theft and housebreaking, and most prisoners were sentenced to a few weeks or months often with hard labour - even for the youngest offenders. Neither parole nor remission were available so all sentences were served in full. Most convictions seem to have been for first offences, but for those with a string of convictions a surprisingly high proportion (30%) were women. One of the most inveterate rogues was Sabina Forbes, a 32 year-old Newcastle prostitute, who had several aliases and was convicted on 7 January 1873 of "stealing money from the person" (i.e. pickpocketing), and was sentenced to six months hard labour. She had eight previous convictions for assault, drunkenness or stealing money stretching back over the previous nine years. The photograph which accompanies her particulars reveals a very stern-looking woman whose appearance instantly evokes the thought, "I wouldn't like to meet her in a dark alley!"

Of the 223 different prisoners registered, over half had been born on Tyneside, and a further 17% had been born in the counties of Durham or Northumberland. However, many inmates had originated much further afield, reflecting the strong migrant element in the contemporary north-east population, attracted here by the prospect of employment in expanding local industries such as coal and manufacturing. Irish and Scottish migrants are well represented with 20 and 30 convicts respectively, and there is one from Germany and even two born in the USA! One of these was Thomas Smith (alias Thomas Woodhall), a 32 year old shoemaker who stated his birthplace as New York, America. His crime was conspiracy to obtain money by false pretences and he was sentenced to 3 months hard labour on 1 January 1873. Smith had two previous convictions for theft, offences committed over 10 years previously. His distinguishing marks - a blue mark on the right side of his head, a broken nose twisted to the right side and a scar on his nose - do not (perhaps fortunately!) show up on his photograph.

The age range of prisoners is considerable, and both sexes are included. Prisons were not then segregated by either age or sex. Ellen Woodman, aged 11 is the youngest. She seems to have been part of a gang of four young girls (the oldest of whom was 14 years old) all convicted in May 1873 of stealing iron. Her sentence for a first offence was seven days hard labour. Her photograph depicts a thin and frightened-looking girl in very poor clothing. With her red hair and dark blue eyes she must have been easy for the authorities to identify. Several of the youngest prisoners (though not Ellen) were sent to Reformatory Schools such as that at Market Weighton, East Yorkshire far distant from their home town, following their release from prison. One such was James Scullion who was 13 years old when he was sent to Market Weighton for three years at the end of his 14 day sentence for the offence of stealing clothing. He had one previous conviction for stealing a rabbit, for which he had been whipped. At 13 years he already looks hard-faced, and his clothing is very noticeably ragged. The oldest convict recorded is John Roman, a 64 year old, German-born tailor who was convicted of stealing "wearing apparel" in February 1873. He too was sentenced to 14 days hard labour as his conviction was for a first offence. In his photograph he appears frail and undernourished.

The women convicts were mostly hawkers, charwomen, servants or factory hands, if they had an occupation at all, but many of them, both married and single, stated their occupation as prostitute. The youngest of these was Catherine Kelly, aged 17, originally from Nottingham, whose crime was stealing "wearing apparel". She had two previous convictions for drunkenness and offences against the byelaws and so was sentenced to three months hard labour. It is interesting to note that "prostitute" seems to have been an accepted occupation, and women were not usually arrested for plying their trade unless drunk or violent also.

The vast majority of offenders were young men in their 'teens and twenties, and in contrast to the women came from all walks of life, including many craftsmen and tradesmen amongst the labourers who dominate. Even the so-called respectable middle classes are represented in the person of James Augustus Jobling, a 26 year-old Newcastle merchant convicted in January 1873 of malicious wounding. Perhaps surprisingly, for this violent offence he was sentenced to only one month in prison - not including hard labour. Was the jury a little influenced by his respectable background perhaps? It is difficult to imagine the likes of Sabina Forbes receiving the same leniency. In his photograph, Jobling certainly looks very prosperous and smart in his tailored three-piece suit with velvet collar, sporting a fashionable moustache and side whiskers. More typical of the male convicts is 19 year old Joseph Calder, a short, sallow-complexioned Scotsman who stated his occupation as labourer and was convicted in January 1873 of stealing a plane and a set stone, and sentenced to six weeks hard labour. He had two previous convictions for similar offences, but even so his sentence seems disproportionately harsh when compared to that of James Jobling. Calder's right leg was short and deformed, which

may explain his life of crime. It would not have been easy for him to find work as a labourer with such a handicap.

This volume is over 100 years old and is open to public inspection as the information in it is no longer considered to be too sensitive to be disclosed. In fact, nowadays it is more likely to be a source of delight than shame to have a "black sheep" in the family, especially as more information is often found relating to the criminal than to the law-abiding!

Registers of convicts of this type would have been maintained by all prisons, and the sort of information recorded would have been similar for all. They are therefore series well worth seeking out wherever your ancestral miscreants may have served their time. As many gaols probably preserved their registers more carefully than Newcastle the series which survive may be more complete.

One other series of records exists for Newcastle Gaol which may be of interest to family historians. These are the gaol ledgers, 1830 -1878 [TWAS reference PR/NC/3/1-8]. They are, as their title implies, primarily financial records, but they do include separate maintenance accounts for each individual prisoner. Unfortunately, no personal details are included apart from the prisoner's name, but if you are able definitely to pinpoint an ancestor to the Gaol during this period, you may find out what was spent on her/him for food, clothing, tobacco etc. Some of the volumes, (1830-1831, 1832-1834, 1837-1860) are indexed.

Family and local historians everywhere will continue to be cheered by the fact that gems such as the gaol register repeatedly turn up in unexpected places. It gives us all hope that the missing links in our family trees may one day be revealed by a chance survival in someone else's family archive.

Editor's note: Kath Rolph is Assistant Archivist at Tyne & Wear Archives Service, Blandford House, Blandford Square, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4JA

Extracts From the *Newcastle Courant*

10th April 1824. There were no fewer than 13 funerals at Sunderland, on Sunday last, principally children who had died of the measles. The number of funerals since the year commenced has been 216 at Sunderland only.

31st July 1824. There is at present living at Pelton, in the county of Durham, a woman, named Isabella Eddy, who was christened on the 30th of July 1721, and consequently is above 103 years of age, and yet she goes three or four times a week to Chester-le-Street, a distance of two miles.

25th October 1828. On Tuesday, the 14th inst., at St Nicholas church, in this town, Abraham Hartz, an Israelite, born near Warsaw, in Poland, renounced Judaism, and was baptised in the Christian faith, under the name of John Abraham Hartz, by the Rev. John Dodd, vicar.

KNOW YOUR PARISH: STAMFORDHAM

DESCRIPTION

In 1769 John Wallis, the historian and writer of *Natural History and Antiquities of Northumberland*, described Stamfordham (his spelling!): *It is a well-built town, of one long and wide street, on a slope; a covered market-cross, nearly in the center; on a square pinnacle at the top, on the east side, this inscription,*

Erected by Sir John Swinburn, Bart. 1736. His coat armorial on the other side.

It has an annual fair, April 21; and another on Holy Thursday; also on the Thursday after the 26th day of August.

Opposite to the market-cross, on the south side, is a free-school, founded by Sir Thomas Widderington, Knt. 1663, who endowed it with land at the Hugh, pleasantly situated at the east end of the town; sloping to the river Pont, valued, at the time, at 10 l. and in 1727, at 40 l. and now at 80 l. per annum.

On the west side of the market-cross, is the church. It has three isles, and a gallery at the west end. In the north wall of the chancel, in a niche, is the effigies in stone of a knight templer, in the usual habit and attitude, said to have been on of the Fenwicks, of Fenwick-Tower.

Although written more than two hundred years ago, the village has changed little and, today, Wallis would have no difficulty in recognising the place he describes. Situated almost equidistant from Newcastle, Hexham and Morpeth, the village is very much at the centre of a rural district although some residents commute to work in the city, 12 miles away.

The village of Stamfordham is roughly rectangular in shape with two rows of mainly 18th century houses on the north and south sides of a sloping green. At the east end of the green is situated the building, erected in 1879, that is now the parish hall but was previously a Free Grammar School, originally endowed in 1663 by Sir Thomas Widderington of Cheeseburn Grange. At the western end of the green is the parish church of St Mary the Virgin. On the green itself, as well as the market cross described by John Wallis, there is the village lock-up - 'the kitty' - built in the early 19th century and reputedly last used in 1943 when a soldier was confined for a day. Also on the green is 'the pant' which supplied water for the village before piped supplies were provided.

Stamfordham village is the main centre of population of the parish but about four miles west is the village of Matfen also built around a village green lined with trees through the centre of which flows a tributary of the river Pont. The *Black Bull Inn* stands in the middle of the village and across the river, the road leads past the village War Memorial to Holy Trinity, the parish church of Matfen, standing on a slight rise. The church was built in 1842 at the sole expense of Sir Edward Blackett of nearby Matfen Hall.



Stamfordham village green and market cross

Another two and a half miles north west of Matfen lies the hamlet of Ryal near to the old Roman road known as the *Devil's Causeway*, and still traceable in places. Here is the old church of All Saints which was restored in 1879 after having been disused for many years and is now a chapel of ease to Matfen. The churchyard contains several interesting old gravestones and inside the church there is an engraved plaque commemorating several men, women and children who died during the construction in 1901-1905 of the nearby Whittingham tunnel and aqueduct, part of the system of water supply to Tyneside.

Until 1846, when the new parish of Matfen was formed, the parish of Stamfordham occupied 18,179 acres, and was made up of the townships of: Bitchfield, Black Heddon, Cheeseburn Grange, Fenwick, Hawkwell, Heugh and Stamfordham, Ingoe, Kearsley, East Matfen, West Matfen, Nesbit, Ouston, Ryal and Wallridge. During the 19th century, the population of the parish declined, presumably as people moved jobs to a prospering, industrial Tyneside not far away. At the time of the first census in 1801, the population was 1,650; by the turn of the century, in 1901, it was 1,140.

The parish church of St Mary the Virgin at Stamfordham was extensively rebuilt in 1848-49. At the time of the rebuilding an Anglian cross shaft was found but the earliest

fragments preserved in the modern building date from the 13th century. The church consists of a chancel with a vestry on the north side, an aisled nave with a south porch and a west tower.



Ryall Chapel

There are records of several old chapels in the parish but the only one of which there is still trace is the chapel at Ryall. Although it is not mentioned in pre-Reformation times, parts of the stonework has been dated to the twelfth century. In 1379 there is mention of a chapel at Cheeseburn Grange but this was probably a private chapel attached to the Grange.

Cheeseburn Grange is the location of the Roman Catholic Chapel of St Francis Xavier which was built in 1775 which is the starting date for the registers although the mission dates back to 1725. The chapel at Cheeseburn Grange is still occasionally used but the Catholics of the district are mainly served by St Matthew's at Ponteland.

There was a Primitive Methodist chapel at Ingoe and the Wesleyan Methodists were at Matfen; both in the Hexham Circuit. There are still Methodist and Presbyterian churches in the village of Stamfordham.

RECORDS

The parish registers for St Mary's at Stamfordham start in 1662 and are held at Morpeth Records Centre. The baptisms from 1662 to 1812 are included in the IGI as are the marriages from 1727 to 1812. The Bishops' Transcripts from 1769 to 1836 are held by Durham University

Archives and Special Collections at Palace Green, Durham. The completed registers for Holy Trinity, Matfen are also held at Morpeth Records Centre: baptisms 1844 to 1974, marriages 1846 to 1979 and burials 1845 to 1972.

Some of the Roman Catholic records for Cheeseburn Grange have been deposited. Registers of baptisms 1775 to 1863, marriages 1787 to 1906 and deaths 1783 to 1797 may be seen at Morpeth Record Centre. The baptisms of 1775 to 1840, and some marriages, are recorded on the IGI.

The Presbyterian registers for Stamfordham recording baptisms from 1754 to 1896 are also held at Morpeth Record Centre and up to 1875 are recorded on the IGI.

Stamfordham was a sub-district of the Castle Ward Civil Registration District but now forms part of Northumberland Central Registration District. Copies of certificates that are known to have been recorded in the District may be obtained from the Superintendent Registrar, Register Office, 94 Newgate Street, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 1BU

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The most comprehensive history of the parish of Stamfordham: Northumberland County History Committee; *History of Northumberland*, volume 12; 1926.

A short account of Stamfordham, including a plan of the village, appears in *Archaeologia Aeliana*, 4th series, volume xxiii, 1945

100 Years of Methodism in Stamfordham; not dated but circa 1992

Rev. David R. Hannen; *A Goodly Heritage: A Short History of Presbyterianism in the Districts of Black Callerton, Ponteland and Stamfordham*; 1970

The 1851 Census has been indexed and the monumental inscriptions for Stamfordham, Matfen and Ryall have all been recorded and published by the NDFHS.



Matfen village War Memorial and Black Bull Inn

NORTHUMBERLAND FISHERMEN LISTS FOR 1628

"POOR LABOURING CREATURES": The Fishing Ports of Holy Island and Spittal

by Adam Cromarty

Industrialisation and the need for periodic retraining tends to obscure traditional family occupations which had remained unchanged for generations. But authenticating heresy can prove difficulty, unless perhaps the law is broken, because common knowledge usually went unrecorded. For example, the occupation of Holy Island fisherman only receives mention in the Parish Registers from the mid-1700's onwards, so one can only guess what happened earlier.

Fortunately in this instance, the *Calendar of State Papers Domestic, Charles I*, for 28th August 1626, contain a report from Sir John Delavale, Deputy to Theophilus, Earl of Suffolk, Vice Admiral of Northumberland, giving the names and approximate ages of some 264 Fishermen residing in ports on the Northumberland coast between the Tyne and the Tweed.

In his submission Sir John says that the fishermen "are poor labouring Creatures getting their living from the shore and having a great many poor people belonging their families that are relieved by them being very useful Creatures for the relief of the County. Of the Boats, they are termed, four-men cobses, of small proportion and are carried to the Sea by four men, to each of whom an oar belongeth and this is all they have to maintain themselves." Boats similar to those described have continued in use up to the present time.

The main Report, which is sub-divided into respective locations, shows that the ports of North Shields and Tynemouth (62), Holy Island (27) and Spittal (40) account for half the total number of fisherman. The other intermediate ports and bays were: Hartley, Blyth, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, Cresswell, Warkworth, Alnmouth, Craster, Embleton, Beadnell, North Sunderland (and Shostan) and Bamburgh. The spacing may well give an indication of the distance covered by the boats and the need to conserve local resources in order to support the community. Both Holy Island and Spittal, which at that time formed part of Durham, were included in the survey for completeness.

Lists of Names and approximate Ages of Fishermen.

Holy Island

FOGGARTE John 64
MOFFETT Luke 26
ELLWOOD William 28
STOBBS James 30
STEELE Easter 40

GRAMME John 30
LILLBORNE Charles 40
GRAMME Robert 30
JACKSON Raphe 34
SHORTE Thomas 30
DOWNIE Thomas 30

GRAMME William 24
TAYLER Richard 44
STEELE George * 58
STEELE John ** 26
BRYDIE Peter 24
BARNSON Thomas 40

The Church Records for Holy Island date from 1578 while those for Spittal (Tweedmouth), like many of the other 15 coastal parishes, only start from the early 1700's. Consequently Holy Island can be used to help validate Sir John's survey. It is probable that his *Lists* were compiled boat by boat and so are given in their original order to help identify any family connection that may have existed at the time.

As expected, because of the reluctance of Holy Islanders to give personal information to the authorities, which exists down to the present, there are some discrepancies between the two sources. But generally the fishermen seemed well aware of their own ages which suggests that the *Lists* may safely form part of a search for ones ancestors and information about their work.

In greater detail, the average age for the two groups was 35 years with few remaining at sea beyond 40 by which time one supposes their children had started to marry and needed to support their own families. But fishing was a dangerous task with a high mortality rate from which losses financial recovery was difficult. Sadly the deaths of those lost at sea went unrecorded. Reading through the *State Papers* it appears that Sir John may well have succeeded in preventing his fishermen from being conscripted into the Royal Navy for defence of the realm.

The *Lists* provide a unique guide to the names and approximate ages of Northumberland fishermen working in 1626. While the Cromartys only settled on Holy Island about 100 years later (R.W. Cromarty, *NDFHS Journal* Vol. 3 no.3), their children intermarried with families named in the survey. The original document is now kept at the Public Record Office, Kew, from which photocopies can be obtained but the reproductions can be of poor quality and over exposed.

Like many small boys the writer spent much of his misspent youth fishing, it now seems with some justification. But others saw the matter differently!

HEBBORNE Willyam 30
 MAXWELL Alexander 38
 MAXWELL Allan 60
 GRAY George 31
 PATESON William 30
 BROWNE Thomas 28
 WATTSON George 38
 FORSTER Luke 26
 BELL James 28
 STEELE John 30.

Spittal

MORRISE Daniell 40
 MORRISE Thomas 30
 LUMLEY Thomas 32
 BLARE Robert 36
 GIBSON Peter 38
 DUFF Andrew 36
 PEAXDEE + Thomas 29

BRADY John 40
 BRADY Alexander 40
 BA Humphrey 33
 EWRYE William 37
 RANDALL Alexander 30
 ANDERSON Peter 38
 PURRELL Rowland 29
 WHITE Hector 40
 BIDNELL + William 36
 STEWART John ** 30
 GILL John 38
 ACHTESON Rowland 44
 STEELE Hewgh 32
 READ Edward 30
 MOORE John 28
 CRAWORTH John 40
 LUCKLEY Clement 30
 LAWSON John 30
 CLARKE Raphe 36

EAGER John 30''''
 PATRICK Thomas 38
 CARR Edward 34
 MORISE William 36
 ANDERSON George 26
 HIRDMAN Henry 38
 PAWLING William 36
 STEWART Symond 34
 ARGAIL James 24
 LYELL William 64
 WILLSON Andrew 28
 MILL William 62
 EMMERS Raph 28
 HOWETTSON William 36

KEY: * ye elder, ** ye younger,
 + Unclear

A DEATH AT SEA

by Valerie and John Ford

While searching the 1861 Census for South Shields for someone quite unconnected, we were surprised to find that John's then ten-year old grandfather John, his two younger sisters and baby brother were living with their widowed mother, who had a shop in Queen Street. As her husband, also John Patterson Ford, would have been only about 36 years old, we wondered what had happened to him?

The mystery deepened when we found that death had, apparently, not been registered. On various marriage and birth certificates his occupation was given as sailmaker (as opposed to his father, father-in-law and grandfather who were all mariners) so we had assumed that he worked ashore while raising his family. However, it now seemed likely that he did go to sea and might have gone down with his ship.

A day's research at the Public Record Office, Kew started with the microfilmed records of seamen's registered tickets, and there was our John: ticket no. 309812, issued at Newcastle 23rd March 1846, the first year in which he went to sea, when he was 21, as a "sailmaker and learner". It also gave his place of birth as South Shields, the facts that he could write, had not served in the Royal Navy, his physical description (5'4", brown hair, fair complexion and grey eyes) and a list of voyages between Newcastle and London until 1854 when the record ended. So we had already proved that he went to sea.

From there we went to the Ledger Index of Deaths at Sea and found a Ford in 1861, so collected the ledger. This told us that a John Ford had been engaged on the *Cleveland* (official no. 22672, registered at Shields) on 1st May 1860

and had died of dropsy in the Indian Ocean on 30th July 1860, his effects being sold for £12 16s 6d. At first sight this seemed unlikely, despite the Shields connection, as he seemed young to have died of dropsy and the Indian Ocean was so far away for a family man with a background of coastal voyages.

So next we needed the Crew List and Captain's Log for the voyage. Unfortunately, Kew only keeps all of these up to 1860, and the last one for the *Cleveland* was for the 1859 to Spring 1860 sailing. This did give us the information that she was a barque of 466 tons and under Robert Wawn, Master, sailed to China with a crew of 12. This did not include John Ford, nor any other sailmaker, although, as sail damage was recorded in the North Atlantic, they needed one!

Kew does keep 10% of logs post-1860, but not the one we wanted. The rest are in Newfoundland, except for 1861 only, which we eventually found are held by the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich. After some weeks delay while that particular log was retrieved from some far-flung repository, we actually had our hands on what the custodian said was an exceptionally long and detailed log. No wonder - it was an eventful voyage!

Firstly, there was the crew list, from which we discovered that the John Ford aboard was the sailmaker/bosun, aged 36 and born at Shields. So we had found the right man. This list also told us that his previous voyage had been on the *Esther* of Shields (there are several ships of this name in the Lloyds Register at that time - we have not yet confirmed the right one), ending 14th November 1859, which was just

after the birth of baby James. So he probably stayed ashore for a while to help with his young family. Perhaps he then signed on for a voyage to China of up to two years for a bit of peace away from them! He was being paid £4 per calendar month of which £2 per month was to be allotted to his wife.

As the Captain's log is concerned with what can be summarised as discipline, death and damage, and the sailing logs are not preserved, we do not know what the cargo was, or if any landfalls were made for provisions. There is no mention of John Ford until the day of his death when the Master recorded the previous progress of his illness.

After only five days at sea, John had complained of feeling unwell and gone to his cabin. He gradually got worse, with swelling of his legs and feet, a hoarse, hollow voice and shortness of breath. On reaching the tropics the swelling subsided, due to much perspiration, and he said he felt "heart-whole" and well enough to do light work on sails on deck, despite the Captain's protestations that he would make himself worse. However, as the weather got colder the swelling became worse and by July 30th he was very ill, despite two men spending all night with him applying hot bottles to his stomach, which he said gave much relief. By noon he breathed with great difficulty and said "I'll bid you all good-bye tonight", but was quite sensible, though restless, until five minutes before his death at 2.45. Then he had a slight convulsion and died in the arms of the Mate who had been holding him up to give him some ease. He was shrouded in his hammock and committed to the sea at 5.20 that evening. (His Doctor great-granddaughter

says that this is typical of heart failure, his heart probably having been damaged as a child by rheumatic fever).

His effects were then auctioned among the crew, so we everything that he had taken aboard:

Clothes - 11 shirts (4 striped, 4 flannel), 5 prs drawers, 5 prs stockings, 5 prs socks, 6 prs trousers plus 1 white plus 1 oil, 3 prs braces, 5 caps, 2 jackets, 2 frocks, 1 pr gloves, 1 pr mitts, 3 prs shoes, 2 neckerchiefs and 2 ties. (This seems an extensive wardrobe for a working man at that time).

Other possessions - 1 old straw bed, 1 pillow and 3 slips, 1 rug, 1 half blanket, 4lb. Soap, 1 chest, 1 ditty bag, 2 bags, 1 razor, 1 comb, 2 pencils, 1 purse containing 1/-.

Tools of his trade - 1 sail bag, 18 sail needles in 2 cases, 1 tape line, 4 sail rules, 2 squares, 1 old wrench, 3 prickers, 1 fid (?), 1 awl, 2 rubbers, 2 bil hooks, 1 horn, 4 palms, 1 half-circle, clues. (We are not sure what all of these are - perhaps someone can enlighten us?).

As six months' allotment had been paid to his wife, we wonder if there was a telegraph link with Hong Kong (where the ship arrived in October) in 1860, so that Shields could be notified of his death. This allotment of £12 equated with his pay of £4 per month for three months as he had drawn nothing for himself, so the proceeds of the auction was all that went to his widow.

Thus, from unpromising beginnings, we have found out more about John Ford than about any other member of the family.

Editor's note: Mr and Mrs Ford's address is South Oast, Sheldwich, Faversham, Kent ME13 0LN

MILITARY AND NAVAL RECORDS: SOME SOURCES IN THE NDFHS LIBRARY

Are you interested in a military or naval ancestor who served in World War I, or in other conflicts, perhaps a man who was killed or wounded, or taken prisoner - someone you would like to know more about?

A number of books in the NDFHS Library at Bolbec Hall might help, and may give you that vital clue which is the key to further research.

Try, for example, *To What End Did They Die -- Officers Died at Gallipoli in World War I* by Rob Walker (NDFHS reference AR36). This includes officers of the Army, Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Royal Naval Division, Australia, New Zealand, India, etc. It also includes those officers from units at Gallipoli who died within one month of the evacuation but not those who became prisoners of the Turks and who died in captivity. The author believes he has accounted for 98% of the British and Commonwealth officers who died. These included men of the 8th Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers. It is an alphabetical listing,

typically giving name, rank, regiment and date of death but sometimes there is more information such as the parents' names. Thus we find Sub-Lieut. William George Marshall Callender of Howe Battalion, Royal Naval Division who died 4th June 1915 aged 31 whose parents were Peter and Mary Callender of South Shields. We are told that more details are available in War Graves Cemetery Register, Gallipoli 2, held by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Library ref. AR35 is a *Roll of Honour for Royal Flying Corps and Royal Air Force Casualties in World War I*. There are 6,500 officers and 1,600 other ranks listed in three parts. Part I lists officers, their ranks and years of death, with sometimes notes such as the cause of death and the Squadron the officer was serving with. Part II lists all entries from the Arras Memorial dealing with airmen who are recorded as having no known grave. This expands on the information in Part I and gives details of 1,000 missing airmen. An example is 2nd Lieut. Joseph Finnigan, 205

Squadron, RAF, died 18th May 1918 aged 19, son of Patrick Joseph and Mary Finnigan of South Shields, of 45 Randolph Street, Jarrow. Part III lists "Other Ranks", including rank, number and year of death, obtained from the St Catherine's House (now GRO) Registers, but it is stressed that this should not be regarded as a complete record.

Library ref. AR37 is *Royal Flying Corps Casualties in World War I*. There is some duplication with A35 above.

Library ref. AR41 is a *List of British Officers taken Prisoner in World War I*, which was compiled from records kept by Cox & Co.'s Enquiry Office in Charing Cross, London. All cheques cashed in Germany by officer prisoners passed through Cox's hands, often giving the first intimation of a man's captivity. The list is by regiment and then by battalion, but there is an alphabetical index. It is not a complete listing. It includes officers from the 2nd, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 11th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 20th, 22nd and 26th Battalions, Durham Light Infantry and from the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 8th, 9th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 17th, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th and 26th Battalions Northumberland Fusiliers.

Library ref. AR42 *List of Royal Marines Deaths 1914-19* is in alphabetical order giving name, rank, number, ship or unit, where died and place of burial, and there is a separate listing by ship and unit. There are 6,261 deaths listed, but it will not be complete as it does not, for example, include officers who were discharged and then died from their wounds.

Library ref. AR44 "Breaks new ground by recording the deaths and commemoration or burial sites of those who served in the ranks on the sea or in the air". It is volume IV in the *Cross of Sacrifice* series and its self-explanatory title is "*Non Commissioned Officers, Men and Women of the UK, Commonwealth and Empire who Died in the Service of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Royal Naval Air Service, Royal Flying Corps and Royal Air Force 1914-21 including Commonwealth Navies and Air Forces*". Section I deals with Navy and Marines giving name, rank or rating, number, ship and date of death. Section II deals with the other services. Both sections are alphabetical. This volume is unusual in not being confined to officers, indeed not including them at all.

Library ref. SEA20 is *Naval Who's Who 1917 - the Services, Honours and Special Qualifications of Officers (Active and Retired) of the Royal Navy, Royal Indian Marine, Royal Naval Reserve, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, Dominion Navies and Royal Marines*. This was originally published in January 1917 as the *Royal Navy List or Who's Who in the Navy*. It also lists all officers and men killed in action at the Battle of Jutland in May 1916 from the warships *Queen Mary*, *Invincible*, *Indefatigable*, *Defence*, *Black Prince*, *Warrior*, *Tipperary*, *Turbulent*, *Fortune*, *Ardent*, *Nomad*, *Nestor*, *Shark* and *Sparrowhawk*.

For a later conflict, there is a list of *British Army Prisoners of War in the Korean War of 1950-53*, which includes some Northumberland Fusiliers and King's Own Scottish Borderers (library ref. AR43)

Looking back in time, volume VIII of the *History of the Peninsular War* is a *Biographical Dictionary of British Officers Killed or Wounded 1808-14* in that war, listing over 300 officers. The amount of detail varies - sometimes it is lengthy, often just a few lines. (library ref. AR43)

Library ref. SEA21 is a 1,400 page tome, a reprint of O'Byrne's *Naval Biographical Dictionary Comprising the Life and Services of Every Living Officer in Her Majesty's Navy from the Rank of Admiral of the Fleet to that of Lieutenant Inclusive*, first published in 1849. Nearly 5,000 officers whose names were on the Navy List for January 1845 are included, including those retired and some 600 who died between 1845 and 1849. If you are fortunate enough to have a naval officer ancestor alive in 1845 - many of whom were Napoleonic War veterans - you will find there is usually a mass of detail about each officer, supplied normally by the man himself.

If you cannot get to Bolbec Hall, you could use the NDFHS Research Service which will look up the books for £1 per name but do quote exactly what you want and the library reference. "One-name" researchers could profit from this too, since most books are alphabetical. Worth a try?

North Country Clockmakers

The following extract has been taken from The Monthly Chronicle of May 1887.

In the first directory of Newcastle printed by Whitehead in the year 1778, we find the names of no more than eight clock and watchmakers, of which the following is a list:- Wm. Coventry, west end of Low Bridge; Wm. Fenton, east end of Denton Chare; Thos. Greaves, Quayside; Hugh Stockell, Pilgrim Street; John Scott, Sandgate Gate; John Shipmen, King Street; John Weatherston, Wool Market; and John Walker, Close.

In 1782 they had increased in number to twelve, the most important of whom were John Wilson, Flesh Market and Andrew Strachan, High Bridge. Still later we find John Craig located in the Broad Chare, and Thomas Pearson in the Groat Market. But other towns and villages in the Northern Counties have been noted as the residence of ingenious horologists. Among the best known of these old clockmakers, whose names may still be seen on rare specimens of their workmanship, were the following:- Joseph Atkinson, Bottle Bank, Gateshead; John George Chambers, Pipewellgate, Gateshead; John Carnaby, Hexham; John Bolton, Chester-le-Street; while in Sunderland the Gowlands attained local fame.

MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND QUERIES

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

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

If you wish to have your interests or any queries published, send a paragraph outlining your areas of research, problems etc. to Phil Thirkell at the above address by 30th September. Please include your membership number with any correspondence and print names to avoid errors.

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

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

0169 Miss VERONICA LISLE, 19 Low Hauxley, Hauxley Links, Amble, Northumberland NE65 0JQ

Interested in Joseph Henderson **BENTHAM** of Percy Terrace, Newcastle (1877/78), an agent, Belle Grove Terrace, Newcastle (1899/1900) and Latimer Street, Tynemouth by which time he had a company - J.H.Bentham & Co. - shipbroker's agent and india rubber manufacturers based in Newcastle and Middlesbrough. Interested in family members: Joseph Percy Lisle Bentham and William Lisle Bentham (both of Gosforth), Ethel Bentham (physician, Newcastle), Frederick Lisle Bentham (Middlesbrough) and his wife Jane Ann Bentham nee **LISLE**.

0663 Mrs M. BROWN, The Chantry House, Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1DB

Would like to trace any descendants of the following: 1) **SPENCE**: James Thomas, working at Grange Mill, Easington, near Belford in 1881. John, Elizabeth, Rachel, Robert, Alexander or James T. at Kilham in 1881. 2) **ROSS**: Ivy, born 1909, married J.V. **METCALFE** in 1935, lived Ripley Terrace, Walker in 1945 but left by 1950. Alistair born 1911, Andrew 1920, children of George Ross and H. **PICKLES**. Also any descendants of Alexander and Jane (**FULTON**) Ross who lived Napier Street, Newcastle in 1881. And the wife and son of Joseph Ross, killed at the Somme, last known address at Bomersund. 3) **WILSON**: Vida O. married W.S.J. Wilson in 1921 at Sleekburn. Any children? 4) **SMITH**: Adam, Alex, Joseph and Mary were at Kyoie in 1881. Joseph may have been at Old Dryburn, Lowick when his mother died there in 1901. 5) **TELFORD**: Agnes Violet born 1877 or Robert born 1880 at Red Row, Bedlington.

3944 ANN CRICHTON-HARRIS, 295 Indian Rd, Toronto, M6R 2X5, Canada
(email: senders@interlog.com)

Seeking parents, birthdate, siblings etc for Richard **DENTON** who married Ann **COPELAND** 1758 in Sunderland. Was Ann really from Staindrop as family story says? Also, where is the grave of two little brothers buried together in May 1879? Claude and Denton Dockray sons of Rev. Brian **CHRISTOPHERSON** (C of E) and headmaster of Newcastle Royal Grammar School. Photo shows handsome stone cross on a pedestal and a long, high stone wall behind.

4495 Mrs CELIA LLEWELLYN, 8 Lon-Y-Rhedyn, Carphilly, Mid Glamorgan CF83 1DR

Researching **MANSELL** of Chester-le-Street / Fatfield area, originally from Staffordshire. Also, **GOWLAND** and **GARSDIE** families who married into the Mansell family.

4903 PATRICIA SCOTT, 27 Shaftesbury avenue, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear NE26 3TD (email: pat@cushat.freoserve.co.uk)

Seeking information on Murray **BROOMFIELD** born 1855 Duns, Berwickshire, son of John and Martha Broomfield nee **MURRAY** of Duns; both were bakers by trade. Murray lived in Jarrow between 1881 and 1891 with his wife and three children, Richard, Agnes McAllister and Andrew Murray; where in Jarrow did he live? Later he moved to Gateshead where Martha 1888, Isabel 1890, Robert Carruthers 1893 and Elizabeth 1895 were born in Leopold Street and Lichfield Street.

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

Names being researched include: **BELL** (Alwinton, Rothbury); **BIRKLEY** and **THOMPSON** (Newcastle); **CHARLTON** (Ponteland); **DAVISON** (Tynemouth, Stannington and Bedlington); **DOCHERTY**, **PATTERSON** and **PERCY** (Berwick); **ERRINGTON** (Ponteland and Denton); **FLANIGAN** (Ireland, Alnwick and Berwick); **GREY / GRAY** (Shilbottle and Alnwick); **GRIEVE** and **YEAMAN** (Stannington); **JAMISON** (Durham); **LAWS** (Ryton, Ovingham, Earsdon and Bedlington); **MURRAY** (Ireland, Berwick and Edinburgh); **MURES** (Shilbottle); **NICHOLSON** (Whittingham and Ponteland); **PURVIS** (Rothbury); **RAWLINGS** (Hartburn); **REAY** (Ponteland, Stannington and Newcastle); **REYNOLDS** and **TUCKER** (Ireland) and **YELLOWLEY** (Stannington, Bedlington and Blyth)

5201 DURLENE GERMSCHIED, 1402 - 7 Evergreen Place, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3L 2T3

Researching the families of John and Mary **FOLEY**, and Neil **RODGERS** and Ann Jane **DEVLIN** who came from Ireland to Newcastle around the time of the Irish Potato Famine. Neil and Ann Rodgers had at least five children - Catherine (born in Ireland about 1845), and Elizabeth, John, Charlotte, and Sarah, all of whom were born in Newcastle (1848-1858). The youngest, Sarah, had two children before she married - James (my grandfather) and Sarah. Subsequently she married Edward Foley, grandson of John and Mary, and the children adopted his surname. After Edward's death in 1892, Sarah disappeared with her daughter and James eventually came to Canada. The children of John and Mary Foley were Michael, Margaret, Ellen, Bridget, and Ann (all born in Ireland 1830-1840). Margaret married Michael **LEYTON / LAYTON** and four of their children, John, Ann, Thomas and Peter were born in Newcastle between 1853-1870. Michael married Sarah, daughter of John **FEE / FAYE** at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Newcastle in 1852. Their children were Catherine, John, Edward (who married Sarah Rodgers), Michael, Jacobus (James or Jacob?), Mary Ann, Margarita, and Sara. Any information would be welcome.

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

Could anyone give me any information on the family of Ralph Taylor **HUNTER** and Jane **PEAK**. They married at Newcastle in 1860 and had twelve children. Two of the daughters, Elizabeth married Edwin **ROBSON** at St. George's Church, Cullercoats. in 1913 and Polly married Joseph **SPOTTISWOOD**. Any information would be most gratefully received.

5270 NANCY E. MUNROE, 91 Avondale Road, Greenmeadows, Napier, New Zealand

A 1940 newspaper for Berwick reported the death of Miss **YOUNG**, aunt Mrs James B. **JOBSON**, at her niece's home in Warkworth Terrace and was buried at Lowick. Miss Young was described as being from "old farming stock, lived at Tweedmouth". Was the niece a daughter of John Young who is believed to have had 12 children?

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

Seeking location of the following on the 1891 Census: Mary **MORTON** aged about 60, born Co.Clare, Ireland, and James Morton, her son, coal miner aged about 38, born Ireland or Ashton-under-Lyme; they were in the Chester-le-Street area in 1881. On her death in 1900 Mary was in Lanchester; James was in Birtley by 1906.

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

Would appreciate any information on the following members of the **DIXON** family of Newcastle: 1) Eleanor born 1825 All Saints, daughter of George and Ann Dixon; believed to have married a **NICHOLSON**. 2) Joseph born 1850, James Allen born 1851, Mary Ann born 1852 and Matthew Theodore born 1855, children of John and Hannah Dixon, timber merchants of Jesmond.

5509 Miss GAYNOR TRACY JOHNSON, 30 Florence Avenue, Hull Road, Hessle, East Yorkshire HU13 0AP

Seeking: 1) Information on the **REED** family of Darlington, particularly Mary Reed born c1796 who married Michael **HARRISON** of Patrington, East Yorkshire in 1815. They had at least three children born in Darlington before they left by 1829. In 1851 they were in Hull. 2) Birthplace of James **SCOTT** born c1767; occupation described variously as labourer in Spittal, coachman at Fishwick, hind at Cocklaw and coachman at Ayton. He married Agnes/Ann **TORPIN / TURPIN** c1798, but where? The couple had at least five children born 1799-1812 at Hutton and Ayton, Berwickshire. 3) Ancestries of Charles **BIGGS** who married Elizabeth **CLARK** 1799 at Berwick upon Tweed where at least two daughters were born. Another daughter Sus(s)an(na) Darling Biggs was born at Ayton. The above couple may have been the grandparents of Elizabeth Clark Biggs who married Mark **ANDERSON** at Ayton in 1874. 4) John **BURGON** and wife Mary **FOWLERTON** both born c1791 at Berwick and married there in 1810. Was he the son of Peter Burgon and wife Ann **ELLIOT** who married 1784?

5650 Mr KENNETH WILSON, 103 Averil Road, Leicester LE5 2DE

Looking for ancestors and descendants of: 1) Andrew **WILSON** married Elizabeth **PERCIVAL** at Longhorsley 1817. At Hillgate, Gateshead on 1841 Census and by 1851 at All Saints parish, Newcastle. 2) James Halliday Wilson and Isabella **STEPHENSON** married Chester-le-Street Reg. Office 1846. 3) Anthony Stephenson married Margaret Ann Wilson (daughter of Joseph) 1867 Sunderland; Mary Wilson married William **PINK** 1867 Sunderland, widowed and married William Lawrence **ALFRED** 1872 Sunderland; Bertram Wilson and Sarah **TRUEMAN** 1882 Sunderland; Isabella Wilson and

Eber **HARRIS** 1882 Sunderland; William Wilson and Mary Ann **PATTERSON** 1878 Sunderland; Elizabeth Wilson and George Robertson **GOOCH** 1880 Sunderland. Also, descendants of William James **TOLLOCK / TOLLOCK / TULLOCK**, born Devon, married Mary **HANSFORD** in Devon and was a coal miner in the Tanfield area in 1871. His granddaughter, Emily Jane Tollick, married James Wilson at All Saints, Monkwearmouth in 1907.

5887 JOYCE BROWN, 1032 23rd Street West, Des Moines, IA. 50266 U.S.A. (email: jebrown@ecity.net)

Looking for descendants of Charles **GRAHAM** born c1825 Cumbria, family found in Cramlington, Northumberland in 1861. Son George Graham born c1862 Cramlington married Elizabeth Ann **HALL** 1883, Hetton le Hole; lived Easington Lane c1920. Known children: Elizabeth and Charles W. Graham. Charles senior remarried after death of first wife to younger woman Mary **LEMON** and had new family beginning in 1867 - Thomas, Elizabeth, Mary, James, Maria and Margaret all born Newbottle, Seaham and Hetton. Charles died 1886 and was buried St. Nicholas, Hetton le Hole. Mary and children still in Hetton on 1891 Census. Also looking for descendants of John and Hannah (nee **ROXBY**) **NEVILLES** born c1822 West Rainton. Lived Seaham and Murton. Hannah died 1888 and John in 1894, buried Holy Trinity, Murton. Sons Robert Roxby and William Nevilles lived Murton c1900. Both had wives named Elizabeth.

5930 Mrs E.A. ELLIS, Harborne Court, 3 Spring Gardens, Ventnor, Isle of Wight PO38 1QX (email: e.ellis@lineone.net)

William Dryden **CROWE**, aged 22, married Esther **TURNBULL**, aged 18, at the parish church of West Hartlepool in 1867. He was a joiner from West Hartlepool, son of Matthew, also a joiner. She was the daughter of Cuthbert, another joiner. The 1871 census has Esther, married, as head of house, an elementary schoolteacher, living with her two sons, Francis and Matthew, at Cowpen Bewley. In 1881, still described as married, she is living back home with her family at Stranton, Hartlepool but neither Francis nor his father William are anywhere to be found on the census so I assume they must have died, unless anyone knows differently. Any information on William Dryden Crowe after his marriage would be most appreciated. Are there any descendants of their son, Matthew William Crowe out there?

6026 Mrs AUDREY PORTER (nee CARR), 88 Warwick Road, St Annes, Lancashire FY8 1XL

Interests: Henry **BELL** / Mary Ann **NATTRASS** of Coxhoe c1830; James **STEEL** of Penshaw Hill and wife Mary **FAIRBARN**, Cumberland 1897; Thomas and Mary **CARR**, 1818 Shilbottle, son Thomas married Hannah **WILSON** of Ryton; Mathew **INNES** c1860 Brandon; George **MOLE** 1830 Shotley Bridge and Eleanor **PROUD**; William **GORDON** of Eglington and Ann **WARDAL / WARDELL** 1750.

6472 Mrs JOAN HALL, 86 Moorgreen Newthorpe, Nottingham NG16 2FB

Looking for information on: 1) John **FAWCETT**, blacksmith, native of Lanchester, and his wife Jane **KELL**, native of Hexham, father possibly John Kell, who married 1806 Jarrow. They had at least three children: Joseph, Elizabeth and Hannah. 2) Joseph Fawcett married Ann **STOKER** at St James', Newcastle 1827. Their youngest son Edward was born Lamesley. Ann died 1849 and Joseph remarried 1850 to Mary **SELKIRK**. 3) John **RIPPON** married Jane **CROFTON** 1783 at Boldon. They had at least 10 children, the youngest known being George baptised 1798 at South Shields who later married Isabella **SHIELDS** at Heworth 1821. 4) Catherine **BIZZARD**, daughter of John of Tanfield, married John **MOORE** 1807 at Chester-le-Street. They had four known children: Mary, John, Elizabeth and Andrew who was born 1822.

6622 Mrs DIANE MILLBRAND, 10 Abbey Drive, Abbey Grange, North Walbottle, Newcastle upon Tyne NE5 1QR

Are there any West Country members who would be prepared to undertake work for me in Devon or Cornwall in exchange for research in Northumberland or Tyne & Wear? My main interests are ADAMS, KNEEBONE, TRUCOTT and YOULDEN (plus variants), as well as mining history.

6674 LOWELL (BUD) ALEXANDER, 5848 N. Sunnypoint Road, Glendale, WI. 53209 U.S.A. (email: budalex@gna.net)

Looking for any information on Matthew ALEXANDER and Jane RUTHERFORD. They were married at St. John's, Newcastle 1849. According to the marriage certificate, their fathers were Robert Alexander and James Rutherford. Matthew's family appeared in the 1851, 1871 and 1881 censuses at various addresses all located within walking distance of St John's. Matthew died about 1910 in Newcastle. Both families may have originated in Scotland, and we would be very much appreciative of any information that might lead to the proof of that theory.

6956 Mrs VALERIE BROWN, 17 Wyrley Dell, Letchworth, Hertfordshire SG6 2TG

Seeking information on Joseph KNOX, born 1850 Wallsend, who married Ruth APPLEBY in 1872 at Tynemouth. Did he go to sea as family tradition has it? Where and when did he die? Also, John and Sarah ENGLISH, Belford area in the mid-1800s, and Ann PRINGLE, born 1830s, father James, at Slimfield, Northumberland according to the census. Where is this place?

7134 and 7135 SHARON and ELIZABETH FRANCE, "Sharjon House", 27 Clifford Close, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 8QD (email:shajonel@globalnet.co.uk)

Looking for information on the following: 1) David BARRON (1820), Newbrough m. Catherine DAVISON (1815), Anne (1847), Newcastle. Sunderland: William ELSTOB (1847), George (1853), Elizabeth (1855) and Robert (1858). Father James Elstob m. Ann DONKIN (1821), father William Elstob. Joseph Donkin (1794) Italy. 2) John COCHRANE / COCKRANE (Ireland 1833) m. Bridget Lenighan (Ireland 1836), Sunderland: Catherine (1857), Bridget (1864), John (1865/9), Ellen (1872) and Dominic (1874). Cousin(s) emigrated to Kokomo, Indiana in 1800's. 3) Robert SMITH (1871) Scotland m. Eleanor STUART (father Joseph) (1874) both known Druids in Sunderland. Also HARDWICKE. Scotland: father also Robert Smith brothers Edward P and Joseph. Elizabeth and children Toss, Betty, Georgina and William Smith (1910?). Georgina m. Sidney DOOLEY Stage Manager/Scottish Comedian. William m. Margaret emigrated to Australia. Anne Francis Stuart (alive in 1894), Ethel m. ? ELLIOTT and Stuart sister m. Joseph ROWELL, Sunderland. Also 1900's SHIELDS (Whitburn), THORNTON Middlesbrough/Yorkshire, PARVIN and STRICKLAND of Teeside.

7268 PAT SMITH, 1 Basin Road, Maldon, Essex CM9 4RQ

What became of baby Catherine RENNOLDSON? Born in July 1890, the ninth and last child of William and Isabella Rennoldson of Bishopwearmouth, she was with the family for the 1891 Census but then disappears. She was born nine years after the previous child, when her mother was 45. All the children of this marriage remained in and around Sunderland and are a close knit family. Elderly relatives (she would have been their aunt) had never heard of her. She was not, as is sometimes the case, the daughter of an older 'sister' registered as the grandmother's child - there is no matching aged girl and all are known to us. We have searched in vain for a record of her death. If she was a

disabled child (eg. Down's syndrome), where might she have been removed to? Would welcome any ideas.

7295 Mrs ANNE HARDY, 9 Westerdale, Spennymoor, Co.Durham DL16 6SD

Researching the names CHIRNSIDE / CHURNSIDE, GRADON, CREWETHER and AINSLIE, all originally from Northumberland, and would like to share information with anyone else with an interest in these families.

7418 LYDIA FORSTER, 1 Thorpe Bulmer Cottage, Hart Village, Hartlepool TS27 3AU

Seeking information on George FORSTER and wife Ann, father and mother of James Forster born 1799 Alnwick. Any information on Elizabeth TWEEDY born c1832 Felton, married Joseph SNAITH c1860. Also looking for help from any Canadian members on Willie PRINGLE and sister Maggie and Tina who emigrated to Edmonton, Alberta, married and had families. William born c1887, Margaret Ann c1888 and Christina Elliot c1890. William arrived Edmonton June 1906 aged 19 years and his sisters followed.

7440 CHRISTINE A. MacARTHUR, 7 Wayside, St Johns Town of Dalry, Castle Douglas, Kirkcudbright DG7 3UY

John William GARSIDE born c1814 Eastrington, Yorkshire, lived Wisbech (where three daughters were born) and Tydd St Giles, both Cambridgeshire as a brick and tile maker, married 1) Maria NICHOLSON (1822-1854), and 2) Ettie TURTON. Then lived at Whitley Chapel as a schoolmaster (1869) and Benfieldside, schoolmaster (1870). Last known 1881 Tynemouth Road, Byker aged 66, merchant's clerk. Where / when did he die? A daughter Martha married James LAUDER, tailor, and lived Newcastle. Also, John WATERSTON born 1847 Cowpen, son of John and Elizabeth nee MASON. John married Mary Cicely PROUD 1868 at Register Office, Newcastle, both aged 22. Bride's father given as John Harrison Proud, ship broker. John and Mary's son George Edward Waterston married Eliza Jane Lauder, daughter of above.

7765 Mrs CONNIE ELSENDER, 55 Woodlands Grange, Forest Hall, Newcastle upon Tyne NE12 9DG

Seeking information on George JOPLING born c1824 at Newburn; married 1850 at St Nicholas, Newcastle to Elizabeth THOBURN born c1830 Derwenthaugh. Also, John LEE born c1850 Swalwell who married Jane PARKINSON born c1856, possibly Lancashire. Date and place of marriage not known.

7898 MARION TOWERS, 14 Koraha Street, Remuera, Auckland 1005, New Zealand (email: jm-towers@xtra.co.nz)

William DODD baptised 1785 at Simonburn, son of William and Mary Dodd (nee Dodd/s), married in 1814 at Slaley to Sarah DICKINSON daughter of John and Ann Dickinson (nee MARTINDALE). Issue of William and Sarah married into ALLISON, DIXON, THORBURN and SYMM/N families. Also looking for descendants of Hannah NEVIN and Edward Dixon who married at Hexham in 1758.

7981 ALBERT JAMES HENDERSON, 3 Lindisfarne Close, Stobhill Grange, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 2UG

Searching for the parents of John HENDERSON, a widower when he married Elizabeth JACKSON at St Michael's, Alnwick in 1811. Several of their children were born at Facey's Park, Alnwick Moor. Who was his first wife?

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

Seeking information on: 1) James **McAULEY**, originally from Ireland, married second wife Ann **DONACHY** in Glasgow and moved to Jarrow c1888. Who was his first wife and where in Ireland was he born? His father, also James, married Mary Ann **McLACHLAN**, both from Ireland. 2) Robert Henry **BROWN**, joiner of Hebburn, and wife Margaret Jane. Daughter Ethel married Luke **McCAULEY** 1924; Ethel had a brother John Durkin. Ethel left Luke in 1932 and went to Keighley to work in the mills. Unable to find Ethel's birth date c1904.

8038 COLIN A. NESBITT, 16 Western Way, Kidderminster, Worcestershire DY11 6JF

Research interests: George and James **BOWMAN**, and Eleanor **DOBBINS** of Whitehaven, pre-1810; John **GREEN** of Church Fenton, North Yorkshire, pre-1750; Eleanor **GRINDLE**, Alexander and Mary Ann **NEILL**, and Thomas and William **NESBITT** of Belfast, pre-1850; Mary Ann and James **MAGEE** of Co.Durham, pre-1850; Mary **MARTIN** of Whitehaven, pre-1785; Mary Elizabeth and Thomas **WILSON** of Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Birmingham, pre-1880.

8069 Mr L.D. WILSON, 18 Somerville Drive, Pound Hill, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 3TJ

Looking for any information on Bracey Robson **WILSON**, born Sunderland in 1812.

8158 Mr T.S. WHITFIELD, "Ashleigh", Stothards Lane, Goxhill, North Lincolnshire DN19 7JL

Could the member who wrote with information about a will for John **WHITFIELD** please make contact. The original letter has unfortunately been mislaid due to house changes!

8285 RAY HOLMES, 70 The Fairway, Abbots Langley, Hertfordshire WD5 0JY

Seeking information on: John **HOLMES** married Mary **FROST** at Whickham 1828 and John Holmes who married Mary **HENZEL** at Jarrow 1829. Which couple had nine children: Eliz (1830), Mary (1832), Richard (1834), Robert (1836), Isab (1838), Fanny (1840), Eliz (1842), Jon (1844) and Maud (1846)? If Mary Henzel was their mother, did her relatives live in Lepkow, Germany, the birthplace of the eldest son? Does anyone have knowledge of this area of Germany or the miners fraternity who also travelled through this region of East Germany?

8327 Mrs JUDITH RICHARDSON ARNOT, 44 Halton Drive, Wideopen, Newcastle upon Tyne NE13 6AB

Seeking the birth of David **RICHARDSON**, tailor, born 1771 in Norham. Also the marriage c1797/8 of David Richardson to Isabella **SANDERSON**, born 1766, both of Norham.

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

Seeking information on the **MORTON** family. Frederick Milton Morton and his wife Margaret had nine children, all with the middle name **MILTON**: Ellen born 1867, Thomas 1868, Selina 1870, Frederick 1871, Charles 1873, Laura 1876, James 1879, and twins Rose and Lily born 1880. In 1881 the family was living in Sandyford Road, Jesmond.

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

Seeking links with the **RAGG** family of Newcastle. Joseph Rag, bpt.1753, married Margaret **ADAMSON** and they had nine children 1782-1801. Their 4th son George married Phoebe **LEARMOUTH / LARMOUTH**. They had at least three children: William 1818 married Mary **BOYD** (born c1820 South Shields), Richard bpt.1820 and John Adamson Ragg (later **RHAGG**) bpt.1823. William and Mary Ragg had six children: John, Ellenor, Phoebe, Richard, Jane and Kate born 1855-1869. Richard later adopted the spelling **WRAGG**. Also seeking connections with Le(a)mouth. Richard, son of Alexander, married Isabella **BAINBRIDGE**. Their children, all born Newcastle, were: Isabella bpt.1797, Thomas and Phoebe (wife of George Ragg) born 1799, Richard 1801 and John and George 1805. By the time a second set of twins were baptised in 1806 Richard, the father, had died.

8501 JOHN LOVAT SHORT, 14 Silver Street, Midsomer Norton, Bath BA3 2EX (email: jlovatshort@compuserve.com)

Researching **LOVAT** and **KNILL**. Also wanting information about the family of Robert **SHANKS**, who died in Amble in 1843 aged 101. He was the grandfather of Isabella Shanks (1829-82) who married Robert **CARSE** (1822-98) of Embleton and Amble.

8547 Mrs P.A. CHATFIELD, 75 Severn Way, Cressage, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY5 6DS

Seeking descendants and forebears of John **McGREGOR**, born c1847, died 1891 at William Street, Hebburn aged 44, shipwright, married Barbara **S(O)UTER** born c1849, died 1888 at Albert Street, Hebburn aged 38. On 1881 Census they were at Hood Street, Hebburn with children: John born c1867, Sarah Wallace c1870 (married 1891 to William Henry **GIBBY** in Hebburn), Barbara c1874 (married 1892 in Jarrow to William John **DAVIES**). The above children were born in Scotland but, where? There were also Jane born 1876 Hebburn and Alexander c1879, also in Hebburn. On the 1891 Census three more children are recorded: James born c1883, Kate c1885 and William c1887. James and Kate were born at Hebburn and William in Shields (North?), Northumberland. Between 1892 and 1896 Barbara Davies nee McGregor moved to Pembroke Dock, South Wales; more of the family may have followed at a later date.

8582 IAN McMILLAN, 43 Easedale Avenue, Melton Park, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 5TA

Seeking information on Peter **McMILLAN** and Barbara **HERDMAN** who married 1829 Haydon Bridge. He was a farm hind (son of Alexander McMillan, countryman) living and working at Farrowshields, Haltwhistle during the 1830s. Family moved to Waskerley Cottages, Shotley 1841/3 with Peter marrying Ann **GRAYSON** (nee **COLVIN**) at Medomsley 1846 following the death of Barbara at Benfieldside 1845. Peter and Barbara's children were: Mary born 1846, William 1832, Barbara 1835, Rosana 1838 and Margaret 1843. Barbara Herdman was born 1801 Grindon Farm, Northumberland, daughter of William Herdman, herdsman, who died 1839 at Rock House, Haltwhistle.

8588 MARGARET ANDERSON, 33 Archer Square, Sunderland SR3 3JY

Seeking to make contact with sibling descendants of George **MILBURN**, blacksmith's striker, born 1843, married Margaret **HUNTER** in 1862. Known siblings: George born 1863, Ann 1870, John 1872, Isabella 1875, Hannah 1878, William 1880 and Mary 1883, all born in Gateshead. Mary married a man named **O'BRIEN**. Mary's known children include two daughters Florence and Katy and a son William who served in the Royal Navy during the Second World War.

8603 PATRICIA GEORGE, PO Box 34, Cedars, PA 19423, U.S.A.

Would like to make contact with English relatives of George, Thomas or Sheil Bell LEE; or John, George or Margaret STOREY. Other intermarried families: MEWS, BARKER, STEPHENSON, DANSKIN and BINNIUS. Some went to the U.S.A., others stayed in Co.Durham. Last heard from in the 1940s.

8604 COLIN WILLIAM HARRISON, 21 Southfield Avenue, Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 2NR (email: cw.h@btinternet.com)

Please help a novice! John HARRISON born 1860, son of Thomas Harrison (born North Shields 1822) and Mary DOBSON (born Newcastle 1822). Informant described as William Harrison, father. Is this William father of Thomas, rather than John? Marriage certificate of Thomas and Mary has Thomas' father as John, shipwright, deceased. A Thomas Harrison, baptised Birtley 1822, was son of Thomas and Jane Harrison. Thomas and Mary's children: Thomas (1854), Mary Dobson (1857) and John (1860). They 'disappear' between 1860 and 1880. Where did they go, and how may I determine the name of Thomas' real father, and when John died?

8607 Miss LAVINIA DOWN, 23 Longhirst Drive, Woodlands Park, Wideopen, Northumberland NE13 6JW

Researching the DOWN family of Cramlington c1865; Henry Down formerly of Devon, Sampford Spinney near Tavistock. Also the PAYLOR / PAYLER family of Willington, Co.Durham; Joseph or Vincent Payler c1830s Topcliffe by Thirsk.

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

Seeking any information on the family of William CRAWFORD who, during the early 1900s, was bioscope operator at the Corona Picture Hall, Felling. Believe the Crawfords of Felling were connected to a William THOMPSON or his wife Martha (nee DOBSON) of New Washington, Co.Durham during the same period.

8708 Mr GLEN BRAUN, 25 Platina Place, Chelsea Heights, Victoria 3196, Australia

Researching: 1) Michael JEWERS, believed born Beadnell, worked as an engineman at the waterworks in Blyth, married 1855 at South Shields to Mary CUTHBERTSON, born Bamburgh. 2) Hannah BELL, born Cramlington 1859, daughter of Mary Ann and George Bell, butcher then miner. Mother's maiden name BARD / BAID? 3) John Meek PATTERSON who married Matilda AISTON in 1898 at Hebburn.

8727 Mr S. MAPSTONE, 3 Carlton Avenue, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 5NJ

Seeking information on Wake PAXTON who was a policeman in Sunderland in 1838 and married Jane CURBESON (born 1797) at Bishopwearmouth in 1837.

8729 Mrs F.C. WILLIAMS, 74 Gwyn Street, Alltwen, Pontardawe, Swansea SA8 3AN

Requesting any information on the family of John PARKIN born Gateshead 1873, his wife Ellen Elizabeth Rix WICKHAM born 1875, probably in Gateshead, any RIX family of Gateshead, and George BROWN born 1890 South Shields. Also looking for information regarding the "Northern Press" works of South Shields c1911, and the Pilot Safeguard Good Templars and Edward Hedefine Lodges of South Shields c1911. Willing to undertake some research in the Swansea area in exchange for research in the north east.

8822 Mrs PHEOBE KENDALL, 'Hillside', 54 Uppleby, Easingwold, York YO61 3BB

Searching for: 1) Information on (H)ARMSWORTH family in South Shields / North Shields / Tynemouth area. James Armsworth married Jane BYERLEY in 1846 at Wallsend. He was from Middlesex, son of Charles, a whitesmith. 2) Relatives of Peter TAYLOR and Isabella nee HENRY, formerly YOUNG. Known children: Martha Robinson Taylor and Thomas Taylor (of Taylor Bros. Buses)

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

Seeking information on George William SMITH born c1881/2, son of William Smith, brickmaker. It is thought that they lived in the Prudhoe area but this may not have been his place of birth. He had a brother Thomas and, possibly, Charles. In 1909 he moved to Hunwick, Co.Durham and married Lavinia TREDDENICK in 1910. George William died in 1913 following an accident at Hunwick Colliery. Are there any colliery records which may include his details?

8961 MALCOLM FAIL, 11 River View, Lynemouth, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 5TY

Seeking any information on Thomas BLOSSOM, farmer of North Cave near Hull, born c1820. Also, 1) John James SHORT, master butcher of Crawcrook or Ryton born c1860s, married Eliza Blossom, daughter of Thomas. 2) Bertram / Benjamin KELL, journeyman mason, lived Bishopwearmouth 1860s, born c1814. 3) Charles BROWELL who had a wife Ann(e), lived at Dunwell Pit, East Rainton at the time of the 1881 Census.

9013 Mrs P.J. SMITH, 50b Old Road, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex CO13 9BZ

Seeking information on the lives of William (born c1834) and Jemima DIXON nee DAVISON (born 1839) of Blandford and Pitt Streets, Newcastle. Children: Thomas 1862, Ellen c1864, John c1867, Henry 1869, James c1873 and Robert c1875. Family photographs especially sought.

9023 SALLY DOIG, 78 Wikiriwhi Crescent, Palmerston North 5301, New Zealand (email: sally.doig@xtra.co.nz)

Information sought on LILBURN family of Holy Island. Sarah, daughter of William and Susannah Lilburn was born 1872 in Holy Island and married Michael HEARN in Berwick on Tweed in 1894. They later emigrated to Christchurch, New Zealand with their two sons Victor John and Charles Cecil (my father). Sarah's brothers and sisters were Robert George born (c1863), Mary (c1868), William (c1870), John (c1874) and James W.L. (c1876). Susannah died in 1919 in Berwick. The name RANKIN also appears as a family connection. Would be grateful for information on any branches of the Lilburn family, and will gladly respond to any correspondence.

9028 Mr L. WALKER, Higher Trevurvas Farm, Ashton, Helston, Cornwall TR13 9TZ

Seeking descendants, forebears and siblings of: 1) Thomas WALKER born 1879 Fishburn and his wife Jane COOK born 1881. 2) His father Mark Walker born c1852 Bishop Middleham who married Elizabeth Ann MANN born c1850 Shotley Bridge. 3) His grandfather Benjamin Walker born c1824 Kelloe who married Catherine BOWMAKER born c1824 Dorrington. He was at Bishop Middleham in 1848 with Elizabeth born 1827 Bishop Middleham. Was she a second wife? 4) His great grandfather Benjamin Walker born c1785 Bishop Middleham and his wife Cecelia.

9031 Mr MUIR M. WASSON, 6 Church Road, Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex CM0 8DA

Researching John **SHORT** (c1766-1842), tailor, and his family, particularly his son Thomas born Aberwick (c1799-1864), a merchant tailor of Alnwick whose wives were possibly Ann **ARCHBOLD** and a Mary born Warkworth. His father was Richard Short, dead by 1781, of Broomhill. John was apprenticed tailor to Richard **WHINAM** of Whittingham.

9037 STEPHEN OSBORNE, Manor Cottage, Sleepers Hill, Winchester, SO22 4ND (email: steveosborne1@compuserve.com)

Seeking information on William **STEPHENSON** born 1763 possibly around Bishop Auckland. He was still alive in 1842, proprietor of, and living at, the Plait Soda Works, South Shields. He appears to be living at this time with Jane **SCOTT**, whose husband William S. Scott had died the previous year leaving two children, William and Charles Scott.

9047 ANNE PHIPPS, #101 The Saskatchewan, 9737-112 Street N.W., Edmonton, Alberta T5K 1L3, Canada

Seeking any information on John Thomas **WATSON**, born 1864 at Water Works Farm, Coxlodge to Sarah and George(?) Watson. Appears on the 1871 Census living Morpeth with grandfather Ralph Watson, market gardener. On 1881 Census he is a market gardener living with uncle Ralph Watson at Morpeth. Missing from 1891 Census and emigrated to Canada in 1902/3. Possible connection with Dinnington.

9059 Mr E. CASTLING, 1 Merlay Drive, Dinnington, Newcastle upon Tyne NE13 7LT (email: Eddy.Castling@ic24.net)

Researching the **CASTLING** family based in north east and southern England, also in Wales. Also interested in variations **CASLING**, **CATLIN**, **CASLIN**.

9079 Mrs. DORIS ANDERSON, 26 Comforts Cove, Stroud, Ontario L0L 2M0, Canada (email: dgander@bconnex.net)

Searching for ancestors and/or information about Anne **TEMPERLEY** born 1777 Falstone, and John Walton **THOMPSON** born 1777 Hexham. Their marriage is recorded 1800 at St. Nicholas', Newcastle although they were nonconformists. Children born in England were: William John Walton 1801, Eliza 1803, Nicholas Temperley 1804, and George. They went to Canada in 1812 where a son, Carr Thompson, was born in Quebec 1812.

9080 Mrs NORMA HOLDEN, 71 Lynton Road, Chesham, Buckinghamshire HP5 2BS

Researching her great grandparents John Thomas **SMITH** and Margaret nee **COOPER**. John Thomas was born Wingate, Co.Durham, son of a Francis; Margaret was born c1848, daughter of Benjamin Cooper and Ann nee **RICHARDSON**. They married at Mount Pleasant, Durham, probably between 1867 and 1869. They were Primitive Methodists and emigrated to Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia between 1875 and 1878. At least four children were born in Australia; were any born in the UK? How do I find which ship they sailed on?

9098 Mrs MURIEL SLANEY, 2 Bablake Close, Coundon, Coventry CV6 2ED

Researching his family which moved from Sunderland to Coventry in 1940. Grandparents: Robert Lawson **DODDS**, born c1867 at Sunderland, died 1904 Southwick aged 37, and Eliza nee **DIXON**, born and died Sunderland. Parents: Harry Dodds (1899-1957) married St Columba, Southwick in 1923 to Amy Caroline nee **KIRSOP**.

9102 Mrs ANN BENSON, 3 Churchill Crescent, Marple, Cheshire SK6 6HL (email: Ann.Benson@dial.pipex.com)

Looking for information about the following Sunderland families: 1) Forebears of William **JACKSON**, master mariner, born c1810, and his wife Ann **JOHNSON** (born 1811, daughter of William Johnson and Jane **STAMP**) whom he married at Monkwearmouth 1830. He was the father of William Johnson Jackson who married Isabella **RAINE** in 1859 and Thomas Stamp Jackson born 1839. 2) John **THOMPSON**, shipwright of George Lane, born 1824, married Elizabeth **BURDON** in 1846 at Sunderland; among their children: Margaret born 1849, Thomas 1857, John 1861 and Annie 1869.

9103 JOHN J. WALSH, 1 Haslemere Drive, Penketh, Warrington, Cheshire WA5 2RP (email: jack@walsh88.freemove.co.uk)

Seeking information regarding the **QUINN**, **MULHOLLAND** and **RIPLEY** families. Ambrose Quinn married Elizabeth Ann Ripley in Newcastle in 1914. They had 2 children: Louvain born 1915 and Olive born 1917. Ambrose's father was James Quinn who married Elizabeth Mulholland at Newcastle in 1884. I am prepared to do some limited research for members who have interests in the Liverpool area.

9118 JEFF PARTRIDGE, 55 Cromwell Road, Grays, Essex RM17 5HG (email: jeffrey.partridge@lineone.net)

Interested to hear from anyone researching the following family names: 1) **McINNES**, lived in/around Muthill, Perthshire, Scotland 1700s. 2) **INNES**, descendants of James Innes, born c1760/70 Muthill, Perthshire and settled in Hett, Co Durham in the early 1800s. And Joseph Innes, born 1799, Hett Co. Durham settled in Monk Hesledon Co. Durham 1830 onwards; also, James Innes born 1828 in Merrington, lived in Wingate 1860 onwards. 3) **COATES**, John Thomas, born 1883 West Hartlepool, mother Elizabeth, father unknown, siblings Robert, Jane, Elizabeth and James. 4) **HARRISON**, Ernest Charles born 1876 died 1956 in Durham married to Elizabeth Jane **ROBINSON** born 1886, died 1950 Sedgefield. Also interested to hear from anyone descended from Duncan Lough Innes, born in 1875 Hartlepool and died in 1948. Two children, Stanley Joseph Innes and Duncan Septimus Innes.

9120 JUNE LEE, 154 Harbour Tower, Trinity Green, Gosport, Hampshire PO12 1HF (email: junelegg@globalnet.co.uk)

Researching the **EVERETT** family who moved to Durham in the 1860s from Corpusty, Norfolk. James Everett married Charlotte **RICHES** 1846 at Corpusty - children: Joseph (1848), Benjamin (1856), John (1857), Robert (1859), all born Corpusty, and George (1863) born Quarrington Hill, Durham. George married Mary Ann **WRIGHT** c1863 - children: Joseph (1884), Elizabeth Ann (1888), Charlotte (1889), Emily (1890), Fred (1892), Richard (1894), James (1897), John Charles (1898) and Robert (1903), all in the Chester-le-Street Registration District.

9122 Mr R. MORAN, 41 Castleton Road, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool, Cleveland TS25 1EF

Researching the **MORAN** family. Thomas Michael Moran, born c1906, married South Shields 1934. James Moran married Mary Low **MUIRHEAD** and had son Gordon James (1924) and daughter Allison, all at South Shields. Also, Michael Moran married Elizabeth **MACNAMARA** at Neville's Cross; sons Michael (1909) and Thomas (1910). Some of the family were Relieving Officers in the area 1920s to 1950s.

9141 Mr GEORGE BARRY HUMBLE, 5 Highfield Close, Sheepy Magna, Atherstone, Warwickshire CV9 3RH

Seeking information on Edward **HUMBLE** born 1824/5 Sunderland, carpenter, married Margaret **WILSON** in 1847 at Sunderland, and had

children: Edward (1848), Thomas (1851), Elizabeth (1854), John (1856), Richard (1859) and Arthur Thomas (1867). The family was in Limehouse, London at the time of the 1871 Census but not found in London or Co.Durham on 1881 Census. Arthur Thomas married in London in 1893 and his descendants continue to live there. Have not found Edward's birth but, according to his marriage certificate, his father was also Edward, a mariner. Could this be Edward Humble born 1800 Washington, son of Thomas Humble and Elizabeth CROOKS, who married Mary Ann REEDER at Bishopwearmouth in 1822?

9147 DORIS C. SHUMWAY, 2501 N. Bell Avenue, Apt. 116, Denton, Texas 76201, U.S.A. (email: DShu914364@aol.com)

Searching for information on great grandfather John CASS of Monkwearmouth, born c1840 to John Cass and Jane GRAY. IGI shows birth of a John in 1828, however, this is not the date we have for him. Is it possible that there was a death of John born 1828 and another son born in 1840? Our John married Mary MARLEY and their children used the name Marley-Cass. Also, would like to find a marriage date for John Cass and Jane Gray which did not show on the IGI.

9149 AILEEN McAULLY, 11 Withy Bush, Burgess Hill, West Sussex RH15 8TT

Researching Jane FEARNELY nee LISTER who came from a farming family living at Tudhoe, Co.Durham. The family can be traced back to Thomas Lister, born 1813, through Isaac Lister of Coldstream Farm, Tudhoe and Thomas Lister of North Farm, Tudhoe. The Fearnelys were living in Middlesbrough on 1891 Census. Stuart Fearnely, born c1886, son of Joseph, born c1850 Middlesbrough. Stuart left his family to go Salt Lake City and become a Mormon.

9154 Mrs J.E. SIMS, 70 Cleeve Road, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 7NE

Looking for details of William OYSTON born 1786, died Monkwearmouth 1844. His children included James, Sarah and, possibly, John.

9159 Mrs KEITH PROWSE, 96 Peters Park Lane, Plymouth, Devon PL5 1PT

Interests: HARKUS, GARLAN and McPHERSON, anywhere, anytime; PROWSE and CARLTON, 19/20th centuries; CORCORANE / CORKORANE / CORKEN / CORKIN, 18/19th centuries.

9167 ELSIE MORTIMER, 22 Banklands Avenue, Silsden, West Yorkshire BD20 0JL

Seeking the birth of Edward LOW(E) c1860/61, son of John. Married: 1) 1889 at New Wortley, Leeds to Jane GLAVES (born Scarborough). Occupation: 'ag lab'. Known children: William Edward, Edgar, Ciss, Mary Hannah, all born at Rothwell Haigh near Wakefield, Yorks. 2) 1896 to Martha WILLMOTT (born Royston, Herts.); occupation: railway porter. On 1891 Census birthplace just given as 'Northumberland'.

9180 Mrs ANN P. LONG (nee JOHNSTONE), 7 Rosebery Avenue, Cosham, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO6 2PY (email: Ann@faster.freemove.co.uk)

Research interests: CRICK of Byker, Bishopwearmouth and Monkwearmouth; PETERSEN of Newcastle and Denmark; JOHNSTONE of Bedlington and Newcastle; STONEHOUSE of Sildon and Newcastle.

9184 Mrs JOYCE MORRISSEY, 6 Swires Terrace, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX1 2EP

Just getting started, so could anyone with knowledge of those mentioned below please contact me. Grandparents John JONES c1865 married Elizabeth DONNELLY at Killingworth. Children: Edward (killed in a pit accident), Robert married Belle, George married Maggie, Jock married Lizzie, Ethel married a BUXTON, Lily married Bob, and my father Thomas (1891 Westmoor) married Ettie CLARK at Killingworth in 1916. Children: Thomas 1917, Lily 1918, Richard 1922, Rita 1931 and Joyce 1934 in Longbenton.

9193 DON MICHEL, 7755 E. Laguna Azul #184, Mesa, Arizona 85208, U.S.A. (e-mail: dmmichel@sherbel.net (summer) and dmmichel@earthlink.net (winter))

Looking for birth and marriage or any other family details on Thomas S. BURROWS who was born c1830 and Elizabeth WHITFIELD born c1831; they married c1855. Their first two children born England: Mary Ann born 1856 and Alice born 1862. Willing to share information on their after they arrived in US, but have nothing on their life in England.

9220 JOHN WRIGHT, 2 Shirley Gardens, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear SR3 1YD (email: jcwright@cwcom.net)

Seeking any information on: Johanna WRIGHT born c1878, probably in Scotland, who married Henry McNEILL 1897 St Hilda's, South Shields. Also Jane Ann and Margaret Wright born early 1900s in Sunderland or South Shields. They went to the Edinburgh area where Margaret married Tom(?) RODGERS and later Arthur WATTERS. Jane Ann did not marry. Would also welcome any details on the marriage of John CLARK and Mary Ellen DUNN, possibly pre-1883 in Sunderland. They appear separately on the 1881 Census and as a couple on the 1891, both Sunderland. Their son John James Clark born c1889 married Catherine KILLALA 1909 at St Benets R.C. Church, Sunderland.

9226 STEPHEN SAUNDERS, 4312-129th Pl. SE, Bellevue, WA 98006, U.S.A. (email: stevesaunders1@juno.com)

Searching for any information on Robert SAUNDERS who, for 50 years, was a bricklayer and builder, mostly of churches, married Jane Ann NESBITT (born 1852). They had a son, also Robert, a fish merchant and cinema owner, birth registered in 1883 in the Westoe sub-district. He married Ada Mary GEORGE in 1907 at St Augusta, North Shields, had seven children and died in 1929 at Tynemouth aged 45 years.

9233 Mrs VAL FRANCIS, 44 Main Street, Thornton, Leicestershire LE67 1AH

Looking for descendants of John and Charlotte TIMMS who settled in Newcastle in the mid-1850s, including their son Luke who married Mildren SNOWDON at Newcastle in 1861. Also seeking information on Frederick WESTGARTH born c1802 Auckland area, who settled near Crook with wife Maria ROBSON, who he married 1829 St Helen Auckland. Do know that the first names William and Thomas Westgarth are important, possibly older brothers.

9240 Mrs P.A. HANCOCKS, 309 Holyhead Road, Coundon, Coventry CV5 8JQ

Can anyone help with the following: 1) DEVITT - in what part of Ireland is the name most common? 2) Margaret Ann BURN born c1880, married Samuel RILEY 1911 at Our Lady & St Aidan's R.C. Church, Willington Quay. Father was Arthur, deceased miner. 3) Joseph Riley, Samuel's father, born Ireland c1850, widower when he

married Catherine **SHERLOCK** in 1885 at the Register Office, South Shields. Family supposed to have been put into the workhouse but no trace of them or Joseph's death. 4) Catherine Sherlock born c1858, last child Sarah supposed to have been born in the workhouse and taken to St Joseph's Convent Doncaster or Darlington, then adopted by the **BOLAM** family of Dipton.

9242 WAYNE BOWLBY, 4191 Hilldale Road, San Diego, California 92116, U.S.A. (email: ronm@acusd.edu)

Seeking contact with descendants of: 1) John **MARTIN** (born 1781 Sunderland) and wife Mary **NAISBIT** / **NASBIT** / **NESBIT** (bapt. 1790 Hamsterley) who married 1814 Sunderland. John was the son of Thomas Martin (bapt. 1746 Sunderland) and Ann **JURDISON** (bapt. 1750 St Oswald, Durham). Thomas Martin was son of John Martin and Isable **WALL** (bapt. 1716 Wolsingham) who married 1744 St Nicholas, Newcastle. Isable was daughter of Mark Wall and Ann **WOOLER** who married 1714 Stanhope. Ann Jurdison was daughter of Christopher Jurdison (born c1724 Whitburn) and Frances **CRAGGS** (bapt. 1714 Easington), daughter of Anthony and Elizabeth Craggs. Mary Naisbit was daughter of George Naisbit (bapt. 1759 Gateshead) and Catherine. George Naisbit was son of George Naisbit (bapt. 1739 Whickham), himself a son of George **NASEBITTS** and Anne **GRAY** (bapt. 1709 Chester-le-Street) who married 1730 Whickham. Ann was daughter of John Gray / Grey and Ele **DINHAM**, married 1709 Whickham.

9244 Miss P. THOMPSON, 56 Solar House, City Centre, Sunderland SR1 3EQ

Would like any information on the descendants of Thomas and Isabella **CHARLTON** of Bedlington / Netherton. He worked as a banksman and they had 19 children including grandfather James (17th, born 1867). Family related to the actor Charlton Heston whose great grandfather was also called James Charlton and probably an uncle or cousin of Thomas. Members of the family lived in Gosforth and Neville's Cross, Durham, as well as in the U.S.A., Canada and Australia.

9246 Mr ALAN PIGG, 21 Waldrige Road, Chester-le-Street, Co.Durham DH2 3AE

Newcastle's town surveyor in the 18th century was called **PIGG**. Tom Pigg was a mathematician in Sunderland in the 19th C. and Tom Pigg was a well known Northumberland pipe player in the 20th C. Was there any relationship between them? Would welcome any information.

9255 Miss B. COULSON, 8 Grange Walk, Grimsby DN34 4DY

Looking for information on: 1) Joshua **COULSON** known as Jesse in 1816 at his wedding and as John at some christenings, born c1792 at Hibaldstow in Lincolnshire. 2) Willson **BRADSHAW** married at North Hykeham in Lincolnshire but birth not found in that area. The IGI gives a Wilson Bradshaw baptised 1800 at All Saints, Newcastle. Are they the same person?

9261 A.H. MOUNTJOY, 10 Carnegie Crescent, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE13 1RP

Seeking the marriage and children of James **TROTTER**, born to John and Elizabeth nee **HALL** at Darlington in 1733. Hoping to establish a link with the Trotter family of Herefordshire and Gloucestershire.

9307 Mr T.J. WHITE, 2 Honeybrook Lane, Kidderminster, Worcestershire DY11 5QT

Information sought on the forebears and descendants of Jennings **FORSTER**, miner and, later, shopkeeper of Boltsburn, Rookhope in the parish of Stanhope. He was baptised there in 1788 and later married Elizabeth **WEARMOUTH** there in 1825. Known children: John

(1825), Robert (1827), Elizabeth (1832), Hannah (1835), Mary Ann (1839) and Jennings (1841) who, in 1881 was a lead smelter. Robert married Jane Esther **WATSON** (bapt. 1823 at Blanchland, but parents of Ruffside, Edmundbyers) but where and when? A daughter Elizabeth was born in 1847. A son Joseph Forster (bapt. 1848 Stanhope) later became a blacksmith and moved to Yorkshire to work on Fewston Reservoir. Descendants of this branch still live in Yorkshire.

HELP OFFERED

1196 Mrs JANET ROBINSON, 1/20 Gilroy Road, Turramurra, New South Wales 2074, Australia

Has access to a "Captains' Index" - an alphabetical list of Master Mariners mentioned in the *Lloyds Registers* for the years 1834, 1836, 1848, and 1852. Mrs Robinson has compiled her own Index of Master Mariners of (mainly) South Shields which now has more than 4,000 names, including those taken from *Lloyds Captains Register 1869*, MIs and baptism registers of South Shields, *1858 Maritime Directory* and the 1881 Census. Is also adding to her Pilots Index of South Shields. Mrs Robinson would be happy to check her indexes in return for a 43p British stamp, or equivalent, to use for her own enquiries.

1239 Mrs DOREEN TAIT, 26 Beechwood Avenue, Low Fell, Gateshead NE9 6PP

Has acquired a number of **LEIPER** papers which she would gladly pass on to anyone researching a Leiper family of Stamfordham and Strathaven in Lanarkshire.

4495 Mrs CELIA LLEWELLYN, 8 Lon-Y-Rhedyn, Caerphilly CF83 1DR

Willing to do research at Cardiff Record Office, Glamorgan, Merthyr Tydfil or Caerphilly areas in exchange for research in Chester-le-Street, Sunderland and surrounding areas.

CORRECTION

8758 JENNIFER DE ANGELIS, Aptdo 622, Lloret de Mar, Girona, Spain 17310

In the Summer edition of the Journal, an incorrect email address was given. It should have read: bob@retemail.es

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