

THE NORTHUMBERLAND & DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

NDFHS Library & Research Centre 2nd Floor, Bolbec Hall, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1SE Tel: 0191 261 2159
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Hours: Monday to Friday 10.00am- 4.00pm, first Saturday in month 11.00am-4.00pm

Evening opening first Wednesday in month to 7.30pm. Telephone booking of microfiche readers and computer essential.

SPECIAL NOTICE: CHRISTMAS CLOSURE FRIDAY 17 DECEMBER 1999, REOPENING MONDAY 3 JANUARY 1999

Directions: leaving the Central Station, turn right and keep straight on for about 100 meters.

Bolbec Hall is on right after the Literary & Philosophical Society.

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Note: all officers are volunteers and should always be contacted in writing unless in emergency, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope (two international reply coupons from overseas members) if a written answer is required.

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For information on group meetings

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NEWCASTLE	Mrs S Frizzle, 174 Westgarth, Westerhope, Newcastle upon Tyne NE5 4PJ
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SUNDERLAND	Mr C Trotter, 6 Dene House Road, Seaham, County Durham SRY 7BE

Our front cover picture is a woodcut by Thomas Bewick. St Nicholas' Church, Newcastle is to the right of the oak. Windmill Hills, Gateshead is to the left.

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Please note any advertisements have been accepted by the Northumberland and Durham FHS, as a service to members, and in good faith. The Society is in no way responsible for any services performed and cannot become involved in any way, or in any disputes which may arise. The Society reserves the right to refuse any advertisements, without giving reasons.

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HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR NDFHS MEMBERSHIP?

Members are reminded that subscriptions for 1999/2000 were due on 1st November and this is the last Journal for 1998/1999.

If you have not done so already, please send your renewals to the Membership Secretary at Bolbec Hall. It would help the administration if you could use the renewals form which was enclosed in the Autumn edition of the Journal.

Have you signed the covenant section? It costs you nothing but helps the Society.

WANTED, PLEASE!

MORE VOLUNTEERS to assist at Bolbec Hall including "Back-room staff" to undertake clerical duties etc.

Apply to Gerry Langley at Bolbec Hall.

'SHROUD' (burials index) transcribers, apply to Derek Cuthbert.

DONATIONS of unwanted fiche from members who are researching in areas other than ours.

Thank you, Alan Readdie, Phil Thirkell and Maurice Lincoln, for all the hard work put in as a team to produce the *Journal* over the past many months, and especially to Alan for having edited the *Journal* previously, single-handed, for, well, probably more years than he cares to reflect on, but I think it is seven or eight. That is a great achievement. Alan has had a hand in editing for roughly half the lifetime of our Society. Instead of taking a well-earned rest, he has now taken on the mantle of Librarian at Bolbec Hall, and we wish him well in his new role.

And now a confession: your new Editor has no known ancestral roots in North-East England! Perhaps, one day, I may find that the Elsdons of Norfolk (from whom I am descended on my father's side), originated from someone with Northumbrian origins who perhaps married a Norfolk girl a couple of hundred years back. Meanwhile what I am able to offer by way of a reason for being a member of our Society, is that my wife, who sensibly devotes her time to culinary rather than genealogical arts, but wanted to find out something of her history, is one hundred per cent Geordie. That is to say: she, like so many Geordies, finds her roots not simply in the North-East, but also in a rich mixture of Irish and Scottish blood, laced in her case with traces of Yorkshire and Somerset! Our children also, neither of whom were born within even five thousand miles of the sound of Armstrong's factory whistle, regard themselves as Geordies, as do all their friends. So, although you have an effete Southerner for your new Editor, rest assured that the family will keep me firmly in line if ever my regional loyalties come into question.

In an early edition of the *Journal*, I once wrote an article on how I traced my wife's Durham family tree. I was greatly enthused by my discoveries at the time, but the article makes for dull reading, alas. We family historians do well to remember that, as a general rule, it is probably best to keep discoveries relating to our own family history within the family unless (in the case of a

one-name study) we wish to involve more people with the same surname, or (in the case of research) we need to prompt people outside the known family to come forward with fresh information. The former case may best be answered via an Internet website these days, the latter via the *Readers' Interests* pages of family history magazines and regional *Journals* such as ours, or again through the Internet. Exceptions can be made, for example, in the case of research that demonstrates the successful use of novel or unusual resources, or which reveals aspects of local or social history that might help other readers' research plans.

Old hands will have gathered my drift here. Your *Journal* is, as ever, desperate for fresh articles, but articles that carry more than merely personal/biographical information. I should like our readers to believe that what they find within these pages, even if not immediately useful, could at least be of potential interest or help at some future point. Blanche Endean's piece on her family background is a vivid reminder of the conditions in which many of our members' forefathers grew up. There will be room for such material now and again. But the bulk of our content ought to be of general genealogical and family history interest.

I would like to thank those readers who have already written with ideas, to which I undertake to give my serious consideration. All articles you send will receive my full attention, and will be acknowledged as long as the regulation s.a.e. is remembered. I will also welcome members' letters, and hope that if there is sufficient demand, we will be able to have a question-and-answer forum on the knottier problems of genealogical research.

At the time of writing, the trees are still leafy although autumnal colours are setting in. Unlike one of our local supermarkets, I shall abstain from wishing you the Millennium of a lifetime! But it is not too early for me to wish you, on behalf of the Society and all its hard-working officers, a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DITCHBURN FAMILY

Mr Robert Ditchburn, Lowe Springfield, Walls, Shetland ZE2 9PF, writes:

In the Winter 1993 'Journal' (Vol 18 No 4) there is a short article asking for information about various people who were in America at the time of the Civil War. The article quotes a letter to the *Newcastle Journal*: 'Mr Peter Ditchburn recounted that he was born at Boston on 23 May 1853 and remembers as a boy "seeing the soldiers go away". His father, the late Thomas Ditchburn... was for many years a foreman at

Elswick Ordnance Works. He went to America in 1851... but was compelled to return on account of the war, in about 1861.'

I believe that the Thomas Ditchburn mentioned was my great-grandfather's brother. He was the son of Peter Ditchburn (1805-1840) of Bedlington who died in a mining accident. Thomas married a 'Marion' and had a son, Peter Ditchburn who later married Mary Waite.

I have little doubt that these relatives of mine are the Thomas and Peter Ditchburn mentioned in the article.

Is five years a record time for answering a query in the *Journal*?

- Possibly! Unless anyone knows better ... (Ed.)

GEORGE & ROBERT STEPHENSON

Mr Raymond Rees (Mem No 5714), 49 Deepdale Road, North Shields NE30 1AN, writes:

I refer to Robert S Roper's appeal (*Journal*, Spring 1999, page 3) for confirmable ancestral connections with George Stephenson of locomotive fame, and his son, Robert, civil engineer.

The appeal stated Mr Roper to be a descendant of the Stephensons, which I knew to be incorrect, as does Mr Roper! He clarified to me in correspondence that he is a descendant of the family of George Stephenson, knowing full well (his words) that there are no known direct descendants.

He has added that his great, great grandfather was John Stephenson (1790-1831), the youngest of the three brothers of George, who died of an accident at Robert Stephenson & Co's South Street works in Newcastle.

George Stephenson was married three times but was survived only by Robert. A daughter, also by his first wife Frances, died in infancy when the couple were living in Willington Quay, Wallsend.

I have a reference from a 1950 magazine article containing a photograph of George Macadam Stephenson of Essex, who claimed to be a descendant of the two famous engineers. This has always puzzled me and my late father, but Mr Roper has now confirmed that GM Stephenson (who died last year) was descended from Robert Stephenson (1788-1837), George's middle brother.

Mr Roper finally stated in his letter that there have been many claimants to be descendants of the George Stephenson family, but despite much correspondence, he has found very few who are actually connected.

I trust my comments will help to clarify the Spring appeal.

DO YOUR BIT!

Ms Wyn Chalker, 13 Margerison Crescent, Ben Rhydding, Ilkley, West Yorkshire LS29 8QZ, writes:

I write to endorse your comments about volunteers who work for the Society. I firmly believe that everyone should make a contribution, and have been delighted to help with indexing and census transcription in the past.

Like many members who live in other parts of the country, I find it impossible to do work 'on the ground', but have become much involved with my local society where, like you, we find that the bulk of the work is done by a dedicated few.

The point of my letter is to show that absent members are not necessarily idle, and to encourage family historians to do their bit, wherever they live.

One project I should be happy to volunteer to help with, is the indexing of the 1891 census of Tyneside. If everyone indexed just ten pages, perhaps we could get it done. What do you think?

CITY & COUNTY IN 1841?

EN Quirer (address withheld), writes:

In the 1841 census, the enumerators were instructed to write 'Yes' if a person was born in the same county in which they were living, 'No' if not (except for birth in Scotland, Ireland or abroad).

My question is this: on 23 May 1400 Henry IV signed a charter separating Newcastle from Northumberland, making it the fourth 'City and County' after London, York and Bristol.

I have seen several census returns for 1851 or subsequent years giving a person's birthplace, quite erroneously, as 'Newcastle, Northumberland'.

Let us consider persons in the 1841 Census, living in the City. How should he or she respond if born in Northumberland, therefore not in the 'County' of Newcastle? Surely they should have said 'No'.

Does any reader have clear proof that people in the city and responding 'Yes' only ever meant that they were born in the city? Or was there confusion over the question? If it could be found that people were instructed to say 'Yes' only if they were born in the city, it could be a valuable aid to research.

I suppose the opposite could also occur: there may be persons living in Northumberland in 1841 who said 'No' because they were born in Newcastle! I will welcome responses to this query - Ed.

GREENLEES FAMILY

Mr KM Stewart, 44 Drumlin Drive, Milngavie, Glasgow G62 6NH, writes:

I recently came into possession of a photograph album which was with my late grandmother's property. The album contains photographs of a honeymoon trip in 1919 of a Captain and Mrs Greenlees who then lived at Carham Vicarage, Cornhill-on-Tweed, Northumberland. My grandfather, William Stewart, was their chauffeur on this trip.

I was interested to ascertain whether or not there were any descendants of Captain and Mrs Greenlees who might wish to see this album.

I duly wrote to the occupier of Carham Vicarage only to find that it was pulled down in 1951 or 1952. Linda Bankier, Archivist at Berwick Borough Offices kindly gave me the telephone number of a J Greenlees of 2 Quarry Cottage, Ashington, but when I phoned that number I found out that there were new occupiers who had no knowledge of the name.

I fully appreciate that it is now eighty years later on, and I would not intend to go to a great deal of trouble to try and trace any descendants of Captain and Mrs Greenlees (if any), but if any of your readers have any information which might be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

BOLBEC HALL

Gerry Langley

New additions at Bolbec Hall include the 1881 census on CD-ROM readable via the computer, together with British Vital records and Australian Vital records. "Vital Records" are the successors to the IGI and will be issued at intervals by the Church of Latter Day Saints to augment the IGI as more records become available. The American equivalent is expected shortly. This is a convenient way to check on possible emigrant family members, although the records are by no means complete. The 1881 Census includes Scottish details unavailable until now in fiche form. The British Isles Vital Records includes details of some Irish registrations of Births and Marriages.

Due to increased usage it is now imperative that computer time be booked in advance. We have obtained a server, which we hope will allow multi-access to several computer terminals in the near future to alleviate the problem of demand.

NEW POSTAL CATALOGUE

Doreen Tait, Postal Librarian, runs our Postal Library Service especially for members who live out of reach of Bolbec Hall. We are glad to see her recovered after a period of illness, with grateful thanks to Audrey Shield for carrying out her duties in her absence.

Items such as indexes of Parish Registers may be borrowed upon written application to the Postal Librarian.

Information regarding the scheme is given on the inside cover of the new Postal Catalogue which has been re-sorted and contains many recent additions. The price is still £1.50, post free. Members who have the old Catalogue are asked just to continue using the old reference numbers.

LIBRARY CHANGES

Alan Readdie, our new Librarian, with the kind assistance of Shirley Lenderyou, is at the time of going to press busy reorganising the Library with the aim of making books more easy to locate. Members visiting Bolbec Hall should be prepared for some changes in the shelving, but they will also find that the collections are grouped more logically than hitherto.

YORKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

The 5th Yorkshire Family History Fair (claimed to be the biggest of its kind in the UK) will be held on Saturday 24th June 2000 at York Racecourse (Knavesmire Stand) from 10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Parking will be free, admission £2.00. Cafeteria facilities will be available. Further details from: Mr A Sampson, 1 Oxbang Close, Redcar, Cleveland TS10 4ND, Telephone 0162 486615.

'MY ANCESTORS WERE COALMINERS'

NDFHS member David Tonks has been commissioned by the Society of Genealogists to write a new book in their 'My Ancestor' series. The new title 'My Ancestors were Coalminers', is hoped to be completed by midsummer 2000. Any readers who have suggestions as to what should be included, or sources that have proved fruitful in their own researches (especially in regions other than the North-East), are asked to contact David at: 64 Deanery View, Lanchester, Durham DH7 0NJ. Telephone 01207 520803, E-mail tonks@tesco.net

LINCOLN SEPTEMBER CONFERENCE

The Lincolnshire Family History Society is hosting a weekend Conference next September at Bishop Grosseteste College, Lincoln. There will be lectures on 1st September followed by the Federation Council Meeting on Saturday 2nd. For more details write with a s.a.e. to: Mrs Brenda Webster, 25 Fern Road, Heighington, Lincoln LN4 1JL.

MORPETH HERALD INDEX

Felton & Swarland Local History Society have now produced Volume 5 of their ongoing project *An index of Births, Deaths & Marriages extracted from the Morpeth Herald*. This volume covers the period April 1864 - March 1865 and costs £4.50, inclusive of inland postage, £5.00 overseas. Available from: Peter Cook, 23 Benlaw Grove, Felton, Morpeth, Northumberland NE65 9NG. Please make cheques payable to 'Felton & Swarland LHS'.

NORTHUMBERLAND RECORD OFFICE

Sarah Davis, Assistant Archivist

Census returns are of great importance to the genealogist so I am pleased to report that a microfiche copy of 1891 census returns for Tyneside has now been added to the holdings at Morpeth Record Office.

Northumberland Record Office has received some additions to existing deposits of parish records, although these tend to be fairly recent records, for example a marriage register for St John Lee parish, 1977-1983 (Ref: EP113/75). Several transcriptions and indexes also been deposited. These include an index to the Naval Quota Act Returns, 1795-1797, compiled by Mrs M Howes from documents in the Quarter Sessions. The information concerning volunteers, county officials, parish overseers and churchwardens has been indexed by name alphabetically. The index can be seen at Melton Park (Ref: NRO 5396) and is on the open shelves at Morpeth Records Centre.

The organisation of finding aids at the Morpeth office has changed slightly to allow for the increased indexes and transcriptions. The colour coding, red for Anglican parish registers and orange for Non-conformist records should also be more apparent. The lists of Monumental

Inscriptions have been transferred to the strong room, please ask staff if you wish to consult these.

Records of craft guilds can be extremely useful. Originating in the thirteenth century, these were associations of artisans who obtained exclusive rights to practise the craft. Membership was limited and individuals practising the trade outside of the guild were penalised. Guilds provided security for members and frequently made payments to help in times of sickness, or aided widows and dependants of deceased members. There were many craft guilds throughout Northumberland; Morpeth alone had twenty-four. Rowland Bibby's booklet *The Medieval Guilds of Morpeth* gives a valuable introduction to these particular companies. Although some of the records of the Morpeth guilds remain in private hands, several have been deposited with the Record Office. Most can be seen at Morpeth Records Centre in the Morpeth Borough Collection (Ref: NRO 989 and NRO 4258). Deposited items include records relating to the Company of Weavers, the Company of Tanners, The Company of Fullers and Dyers and the Company of Smiths, Saddlers, Glaziers and Armorers.

The Society of Genealogists have recently donated an album containing papers of the Morpeth Company of Butchers, Skinners and Glovers, 1719-1805. This is particularly important as it gives details of admittances and periodically provides a list of members. Lynne Marie Early has indexed the album chronologically, by page number and also alphabetically by surname. Since this item is a private gift, it is located at our office in Melton Park (Ref: NRO 5383). Also at Melton Park, are a few records relating to guilds in Newcastle, which form part of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne Collection. Please ask staff for further details.

DURHAM PARISH REGISTER SURVEY

Jennifer Gill, County Archivist

The *Parochial Registers and Records Measure*, 1978, as amended at 1 January 1993, lays down requirements for the better protection and preservation of parish records and for promoting their accessibility. These provisions include the appointment of at least one designated repository in each diocese for the receipt and administration of such records and for making them available for public use. The Durham County Record Office is designated as the sole repository for parish records for the whole of the Durham diocese.

Under the *Measure*, records which are more than 100 years old are required to be transferred to the Record Office. Records of more recent date may also be transferred and many parishes have chosen to do so.

Equally important is the fact that the *Measure* provides for regular inspection of the registers and records retained in parishes. Initially, inspections were intended to take place every six years. Since 1993, however, the interval between inspections has been reduced to five years.

In Durham the first inspection was made in 1980-82 in order to identify and schedule the holdings of each parish. At the same time a record of the storage conditions and facilities was made. This first inspection was carried out on a full-time basis. Since then, an archivist has been employed part-time to undertake subsequent inspections. These have involved checking the records against the previous schedule; updating the schedules as required; collecting records for transfer to the Record Office; and checking the storage arrangements for those records remaining in parochial custody.

Inspections are normally conducted archdeaconry by archdeaconry on an area deanery basis beginning in the north-west of the diocese. So far three full inspections have been completed. The fourth is now in progress and has so far taken in the archdeaconry of Sunderland and part of the archdeaconry of Durham. It is expected that this will be completed by the year 2002.

Enquiries concerning the survey and parish records generally should be addressed to Miss J Gill, County Archivist and Diocesan Archivist for Parish Records, County Record Office, County Hall, Durham DH1 5UL.

APPEAL FOR INDEXER

We have been sad to learn that Olive Trewick, who has for years compiled the genealogical names index for the *Journal*, has had to resign. The Society owes her a debt of gratitude for all the hard work she has put in, making an invaluable contribution to our work. She has already compiled half of the index for the current volume. The replacement indexer should ideally have some knowledge of using databases. Could any member interested in taking over please contact the Editor as soon as possible.

IRISH WORKSHOP AT BOLBEC HALL

An Irish Workshop is in the process of planning, to be held on Thursdays at 2.00 p.m., subject to numbers. The idea is to pool experience in Irish research. Led by Godfrey Duffy, author of *Tracing your Donegal Ancestors* (1996), each session will concentrate on particular topics, sources of information, repositories etc., allowing the participants to highlight the problems they are having in their own research. Members interested please contact Gerry Langley.

Gerry would also like to start a series of classes on the topic "Beyond the IGI & GRO". He envisages them starting possibly in April. He requires suggestions from members on topics that they would wish to explore more deeply.

MY AUNT MARY

by Gordon Daglish

My aunt Mary was born in Cornwall but nearly ended up in Canada. She was baptised Mary Jane Lord on 19 March 1890 in the Bible Christian Connexion church at Cheesewring, Linkinhorne, according to her baptismal certificate. She was the third child of Frederick George Lord and Elizabeth Hosken, following Archelaus George Henry (1885) and Frederick George (1887). By the time of the 1891 Census they had moved to Cramlington in Northumberland, where Fred started to mine coal instead of the tin he and his wife had worked amongst in Cornwall. Just a few years later, the family moved to Ashington, Northumberland, where streets of houses were being built, to encourage the influx of workers to the numerous mines being developed in the area. There they settled at 81 Maple Street and brought up a family of nine children (six boys and three girls). When the 1914-18 war broke out, Mary volunteered as a nursing auxiliary and her younger brother, James Henry joined the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers. He was killed in action September 1918 but she worked for most of the war at a rehabilitation hospital, taken over by the Army, at Gilsland, Northumberland. There she met a dashing young sergeant in the Saskatchewan regiment of the Canadian Army who had been severely wounded in the battle for Lens (a coalmining town in Northern France), whilst earning a distinguished conduct medal. During his convalescence, Mary and he formed a close attachment and talked of getting married after the war, which is what I inferred when I began this article. Sadly this was not to be for, as soon as his wounds had healed, he was sent back to the trenches where he died a hero's death, shortly after.

The family story was as I have stated but with the addition that Hugh Cairns, the young sergeant mentioned, won the Victoria Cross. Recently, I decided to research this aspect of my family history. The result was a story not unlike *The Red Badge of Courage*. On November 1st 1918, a machine-gun opened fire on Sgt

Cairns' platoon. Without a moment's hesitation, he seized a Lewis gun and single-handed, in face of direct fire, he rushed the post, killed the crew of five and captured the gun. Later, when the line was held up by machine-gun fire again, he rushed forward killing twelve of the enemy and capturing eighteen prisoners and two guns.

Throughout that day he was credited with killing many more of the enemy, capturing their guns and taking over one hundred prisoners. Finally, he was rushed by twenty soldiers and collapsed from weakness and loss of blood. His final act of bravery, after a stray shot from a German soldier had blown away the trigger of his machine gun and mangled his hand, was to hurl his broken gun at the twenty German soldiers who ran forward to overpower him, before collapsing in a heap, unconscious. He died the next day from the wounds he had incurred and severe loss of blood.

The official citation, in awarding him is VC for his part in the liberation of Valenciennes, paid due regard to his bravery in the face of extreme danger. In his home town Saskatoon, where he played football for the Christ Church team (when he wasn't plying his trade of plumber), there proudly stands the Hugh Cairns Memorial commemorating the local footballers killed in World War I. At that time it was acknowledged to be the only war memorial in the world dedicated solely to footballers.

My biggest surprise was in finding out that Hugh Cairns was born in Ashington. His family had taken him to live in Canada when he was just a boy.

Editor's Note: Gordon Daglish's address is: 95 Hilda Park, Chester-le-Street, County Durham DH2 2JS.

CRUEL TIMES

From the 'Newcastle Courant', 19 Feb 1825

'A short time ago, a working man, nearly 80 years of age, a few miles from Darlington, took to the Hymeneal altar his 5th wife. Numbers assembled to witness the ceremony, and some wags fastened the door of the church, and kept them in for some time, and have since tormented the old couple at their home.'

Editor's Note: This is a sad tale from a cruel age, but if any reader familiar with Darlington area records has an idea as to the identity of the old couple to whom this refers, we would be very interested to know.

KATHERINE MORALEE

From the 'Newcastle Courant', 25 Aug 1827

'There is at present residing in good health at Ferry Hill, in the County of Durham, a woman named Katherine Moralee, now in the 107th year of her age. To look in her face, she appears not so old by 20 years. She is very conversible, and at the time the great flood carried away Newcastle Bridge, she was confined to her bed in child birth, and was carried out of the house in the night, to a place of safety.'

BANNED AT EARSDON

by Eileen Howe

The following entry from Earsdon (Northumberland) Banns register relates to an episode in my family's history:

'9th Sept 1787, Robert Phillips & Burnett Jack, both of this parish (2nd time) - forbidden on account of Robert Phillips being married to another woman.'

Burnett Jack (Jacques) was my great - grandfather's great aunt. She had been baptised at Newton Grange near Dalkeith, Scotland, in 1767. Her family appear to have left Newton about 1774 and gone to Earsdon, leaving friends and relatives behind.

The mystery of the banns was interesting. We found in the Newton parish register, that Robert Phillips had married Jean Collier in October 1786, and a child was born one month later. This was very likely a shot-gun wedding. Had Robert Phillips 'done a runner' and ended up in Earsdon? How he dare I do not know, as the Jacks and Colliers were related by marriage and were distant cousins. I do not know what happened to Robert Phillips subsequently.

Five years after the drama of the Banns, Burnett Jack married George Johnson at Earsdon in 1792. She would have been 65 when my great grandfather was born in 1832, and he would have known her when he was a child. I believe that Burnett must have lost the love of her life in Robert Phillips, and was not happy in her

marriage to George Johnson. She became a bad-tempered old woman, sadly, and my family was wont use the expression 'as sour as great aunt Burnett'.

My searches in Earsdon registers revealed three more examples of banns that were stopped. I have asked several clergymen if they have ever come across so many examples. They have all replied in the negative, but confess to holding their breath sometimes when they read out the familiar words!

Stopped Banns at Earsdon:

5 Dec 1784

George Bruce & Ann Turnbull both of this parish
- 1st time forbidden

9 Dec 1788

William Burn & Jane Morrison both of this parish
- stopped first time at the desire of Jane Morrison

17 Aug 1788

Emmerson Stephenson & Ann Thompson
- stopped first time at the desire of Emmerson Stephenson

Editor's Note: Mrs Howe, one of our members of long standing, has deposited her family tree (Phillips & Jack/Jacques) in the Bolbec Hall Library. Her address: Mrs E Howe, 56 Coach Road, Brotton, Saltburn-by-Sea, Cleveland TS12 2RP.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

This marks the start of a regular series that will track the 'Journal' as it was twenty years ago. We will reprint articles of general interest and summarise others. Members wishing to consult the articles can do so in person at Bolbec Hall, Newcastle Library, and local archives. Back copies are not available, though photocopies of individual articles can be obtained.

The NDFHS Journal Vol IV No 2 (January 1979) contains a number of familiar names. Alan Readdie was the Society's secretary, Geoff Nicholson was editor, and Moira Furness had just been appointed Strays Co-ordinator. Alan Angus, later to take his turn as Editor, submitted an article, as did Don Mason, treasurer, who very sadly died last year.

Articles:

Geographical research as an aid to genealogy by D le P Webb (pages 33-38). The author spent his holiday retracing his ancestors' homes across Yorkshire, Durham and Northumberland, thereby gaining a much clearer idea of their lives. Names: Storey, Pybus, Swan and Robson.

Searching for Priscilla, Don Mason (pages 38-39). A three-year search for the parentage of Priscilla Soppitt. A missing baptism was solved through using wills.

John Laws of Breckney Hill 1765-1844, Alan Angus (pages 40-43). John Laws, pupil of Thomas Bewick, was a taxidermist and well-known craftsman in his day. The author traced his life history by using a rich variety of archival materials.

Hodgson & Ord: a home in Nile Street, Sunderland 1824-1879, AJ Pain (pages 43-44). Two Victorian families traced via the deeds of their house.

A Tale of Serendipity, Mrs J Laing (pages 44-46). Successful research into families of Carr and Graham, especially the life of Alexander Carr (1811-1839), naval surgeon of Berwick.

Some Family Links between County Durham & the State of Iowa in the Mid-Nineteenth Century, J Rhodes (pages 50-51). Summary of a lecture on emigration to Iowa in the 1850's by families from Hamsterley & St Helen's Auckland: Morris, Greenwell and Wilson.

FELTON REGISTERS IN THE RESTORATION

by Gordon Corbett

I do my bit for the Corbett One Name Study Group, and have been trawling the Felton registers for ancestors. The entries follow the usual format of "Isbell, d. to Robert Pott of Thirston baptized Sept 18 1644", with the phonetic spellings which, I believe, are intentionally obscure to put the glazed-eyed family historian out of their family tree. The experienced person notes the details of every possibility, just to be on the safe side.

I was getting attuned to the entries until I came across the reporting of events relating to the Widdrington family. 23 February 1660:

"That most honourable and most valiant Captaine Master Edward Widdrington and the most vertuous and illustrious Lady Mistress Dorothy Lisle was married the 23 of february 1660."

The vicar waxed lyrical again in the entry for December 1661:

"Thomas, s to the Royall Captaine Edward Widdrington, was born the 20 of November and baptized the 4th of December 1661. Mary, d to the said Mr Edward Widdrington, bapt Oct 31 1662."

The boy's entry seems more splendid than the girl's, and the muse fell on the vicar again a few entries later when he almost repeated himself:

"Thomas s to the Royall and renowned Captaine Edward Widdrington was born the twentieth of November and baptized the fourth of December 1661. Mary his daughter was baptized the thirtieth first of October 1662."

The entries were for the same events and I am informed that it was common practice for the officiating minister to note the event on a scrap of paper for the clerk to write up in the register later, when they had the time or inclination. This could account for some of the date discrepancies occasionally found in other parish registers. The lazy cleric may have been spurred into action by a visitation or a need to complete the Bishops returns.

Following the baptism of Mary the Widdrington family seems to have left the area, as I could not find another before 1700.

Were the vicars declarations in 1683 significant?

"I Robert Henderson vicar of Felton in ye County of Northumberland did read ye Articles agreed upon by ye (?) according to ye Act of Parliament made in 14th year of our sovereigne Lord King Charles ye 2d after ye 2d lesson in ye time of evening service and did give my 5d assent, consent, approbation according by June 17 1683 witness my hand." Signed and witnessed. And, "it is not lawfull upon any praetence whatever to take up arms against ye King and I do abhorre that wayward(?) position of taking armes by his authority against his person or against those that are commissioned by him and that I will conform to the lytergy that ye Cth [Commonwealth] of England as it is now established by law. Witness by my hand." Signed and witnessed June 17 1683.

These statements seem strange and out of place, coming from a vicar in the pulpit of a small country church until it is placed in context. The Civil war was over and the Monarchy had been restored. King Charles the second, saw the preceding events merely as a rebellion and consequently his reaction was to try to quash Puritanism and the threat it posed and to suppress the "Popish Plot". Also the Anglican Church was seen as the possession of the aristocracy from the Crown, being appointed by God, and as such was used as an extension of their rank to control the lower classes.

The perceived ownership of the Church by a single class in this period and another class that had tasted the interregnum enabled Puritanism to develop into Methodism.

High Church instructing Low Church and the reason for the syrupy entries from a cleric who knew his place?

RESEARCHING AT HOME

by Colin Wanless

Thanks to the efforts of NDFHS members we can research our family history, on fiche or from books, in the comfort of our own homes. These are extremely useful sources for UK and overseas members who can't get into Bolbec Hall and the various County Record Offices.

For those who have access to a computer you can check the British Isles 1881 census on CD-ROM or trace your family's roots on various genealogy sites on the Internet. Perhaps some members are apprehensive about this 'new' technology and strange looking addresses full of dots and slashes. Join the clan! My brother reckons the only computer jargon I know is "How do I do that?" and "What do I do next?"

So, what about this new technology? Well, the Internet has been around since the 1960s and the World Wide Web (the Net's new baby) was born in 1992.

A good starting point is the home page of the UK-based Genuki - short for UK & Ireland genealogy (www.genuki.org.uk). The site has an introduction which will explain how best to approach your research. Try Cyndi's List (www.cyndyslist.com). Regularly updated, this contains over 53,000 links and more than two-thirds of them are categorised and cross-referenced for speedy research. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (www.cwgc.org) is responsible for marking and maintaining the graves of members of the Commonwealth forces who were killed in both world wars, including, after the Second World War, a record of the Civilian war dead. The site also includes a list of recommended literature and software. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints web site (www.familysearch.org) includes the International Genealogical Index (British Isles, North America, and Finland regions) and family history related web sites.

For birth, marriage and death certificates try the Office for National Statistics at the Family Records Centre (www.ons.gov.uk/regist_f.htm). Its General Registry Office is responsible for the central archive of all registrations of births, marriages and deaths that have occurred in England and Wales since 1 July 1837 and deals with postal, telephone and e-mail requests for certificates. The General Register Office for Scotland (www.origins.net) has births/baptisms, marriages and deaths/burials 1553-1898 and the census of Scotland 1891. Thirty pages can be viewed for the initial £6 fee in 24 hours. You will need your credit/debit card.

You can find further information by paying a visit to the site of the Public Records Office (www.pro.gov.uk). The genealogy section contains advice and resources for family historians. Plans are being made to have the 1901 census put on the Internet in 2002. The format of the census and cost of the service have yet to be decided.

Finally, I'm not suggesting that all family history research can be done at home. County Record Offices, libraries, Family History Centres etc., still have a major role to play.

Editor's Note: I should very much like to place a regular computer article in the Journal and am seeking a volunteer to write some! Colin Wanless' address: 15 Hillcrest, Ashington, Northumberland NE63 9SH.

A SUITCASE OF 'MYSTERY' FAMILY PAPERS

by CM Washbourne

As if I hadn't enough of my own family research to do, a suitcase was purchased at a flea market by a relative of mine. Its contents could be of interest to other members as most of the people mentioned are from South Shields.

I have done some limited searching of my own in the 1881 Census and local directories from 1871 and have found the two main families mentioned to be ship owners. In the case there is much correspondence about bonds and shares, an account notebook, deeds to property etc. a summary of examples follows:

- 1865 deed of burial ground, S. Shields Cemetery. Mr W. CAY, ship owner, Charlotte Terrace.
- Insurance certificate for property at corner of Woodbine and Winterbottom Streets. Miss Charlotte COTTEW 1906
- Mr S COTTEW Insurance policy as above 1886
- Jane Isabella and M.E. COTTEW 22, Winchester St 1915/1919
- H.A. SMITH, Esq 1948/53 3 Mariners Cottages and 23 Marine Approach
- * Eliz. Tindle WILLIAMS 6, Ogle Terr (widow in 1919?) died 1955
- * Mr Alfred Stephen WILLIAMS (husband of above?) 30 Sea View Terrace

- * Daughter Miss Ellen Powles WILLIAMS (buried 1886)
- * Son William Cay WILLIAMS (died 1925)
- * All at Harton Cemetery, S. Shields
- Mr R.E. HUNTER and Mrs E. HUNTER 55 West Avenue. 1940/1948/1967 (Bill for the construction of their air raid shelter!)
- Smiths Dock Company share transfers 9th August 1906 Mrs Mabel HODGE Singleton House, Newcastle on Tyne
- H.W. CARTER Esq, Marsden Grotto, Whitburn
- FORSTER & CAY, 11th Feb. 1901 Schedule of Deeds Alnwick Road, South Shields
- a diary/itinerary for a honeymoon couple married Wednesday 16th August?

Can anyone help clarify the story of how the above fit together? I realise the latest date mentioned is relatively recent and someone may just have decided to dispose of this collection but the earlier information may be of help to someone? I will try to help anyone with a connection who may be interested in photocopies of the relevant information in return for a stamped addressed envelope.

Editor's note: Mrs Washbourne's address is 80 Manor Road, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 2LX

THE MYSTERIES OF FREEMASONRY

by Katharine Taylor, Tyne & Wear Archives Service

This is to acquaint the PUBLIC THAT on Monday the 1st inst. being the Lodge (or Monthly Meeting) Night of the Free and Accepted Masons of the 22nd Regiment, held at the Crown, near Newgate, Mrs Bell the Landlady of the House broke open a Door (with a Poker) that had not been opened for some years, by which Means she got into an adjacent Room, made two Holes through the Wall, and by that Stratagem discovered the Secrets of Masonry; and she knowing herself to be the first Woman in the World that ever found out that Secret, is willing to make it known to all her Sex. So any Lady that is desirous of learning the Secrets of Free Masonry, by applying to that well-learned Woman (Mrs Bell, that lived fifteen years in and about Newgate) may be instructed in all the Secrets of Masonry'. (From Fordyce, *Historical Register of Remarkable Events*, quoting from a Newcastle paper of 4 January 1770).

It is no longer necessary to go to such lengths to find out about the history of Freemasonry in Newcastle, as records from three of the most prominent lodges in Newcastle's history are now available for consultation at Tyne & Wear Archives Service in Newcastle upon Tyne.

The St Nicholas Lodge was constituted in 1763, at the home of John Fife, a publican, in the Castle Garth. The Lodge proceeded to meet in different premises, and was known by various Lodge numbers over the years. While the Lodge often made sizable contributions to various charitable bodies, it was also a source of help for members in times of difficulty. In 1772 the Grand Lodge of England made a gift of £20 to the St Nicholas Lodge, as three of its brethren had lost their homes and shops, built on the Tyne bridge, when it was destroyed. The records of St Nicholas Lodge are catalogued as TWAS S/MAS3 and include a Transaction Book containing minutes and subscriptions from 1798 to 1814.

The St Nicholas Lodge was a 'Modern' lodge, and had close links with other lodges in the region. There was always, however, a rivalry with the 'Ancient' lodge in Newcastle, the Atholl Lodge. Minutes of the St Nicholas Lodge in 1806 record that "no brethren after having visited the "Atholl" Lodge in this town be admitted a member of our Lodge", and lectures were introduced to warn against the dangers of "Atholl" masonry.

The Atholl Lodge was established in 1805 by a charter granted by the Duke of Atholl, Grand Master of Ancient Masons, and held its first meeting at the Star and Garter Tavern in Mosley Street, Newcastle. The formal opening of the Lodge was marked with a peal of bells from St Nicholas Church. Over the years, the Lodge met at numerous locations and continued to grow, and in

1813 the Lodge was awarded warrant 15, as a "reward for the unabating zeal it has always and successfully exerted in promoting the good of the Ancient Craft in the North". The smaller the warrant number, the closer the Lodge was to the Grand Lodge of England, warrant No 1, and so it was a matter of some importance. The records of Atholl Lodge are catalogued as TWAS S/MAS4 and include an account of the formal opening of the Lodge and a list of members present, early minutes and a Proposition Book containing information on new members which dates from 1805 to 1854.

The Lodge had close links with other Ancient Lodges in the region, but members often showed contempt for 'Modern Masons' such as the St Nicholas Lodge. All this was to change however, when the Grand Lodge of England asked the two lodges to unite to form a new lodge, to end the divisions within masonry in Newcastle. On 10 August 1814 a day of celebration marked the formation of the new Lodge, the Newcastle upon Tyne Lodge, which received warrant 26. A procession of 600 brethren marched to St Mary's in Gateshead to hear divine service, having been refused the use of St Nicholas in Newcastle, and a dinner at the Turk's Head Inn followed this.

All did not go smoothly for the new Lodge. In 1830 there was a closely contested ballot for the Master Elect, won by a majority of only one vote. As a consequence of the tensions that the contest had created, a splinter group formed a new Lodge, 'The Northern Counties Lodge No 586', but the Newcastle upon Tyne Lodge continued to grow and prosper. It received warrant No 24 in 1833, as a result of a closing up of the orders by the Grand Lodge of England, and met at various premises over the years, including the Freemasons' Hall in Pilgrim Street and the Assembly Rooms in Westgate Road.

The records of the Newcastle upon Tyne are catalogued as TWAS S/MAS5 and form the largest of the freemasonry collections. In addition to a comprehensive series of minutes dating from 1814, and membership records also dating from the creation of the Lodge, there are records relating to meetings and ceremonies, which include by-laws of the Lodge, notes on particular ceremonies such as the Bi-centenary ceremony held in 1966, photographs of Masters and Officials from the early part of the century and various histories of freemasonry in Newcastle and individual lodges, compiled by different brethren over the years. These records contain a wealth of information, which will be of particular interest to researchers seeking information on ancestors who belonged to one of the Newcastle Lodges, and to those with an interest in the customs and traditions of freemasonry.

Please note that access to these records is strictly by **depositor consent only**. While researchers are most welcome to visit the search room to consult the catalogue to the collections, it will be necessary for staff to obtain written consent on the researchers' behalf from the depositors, before access is possible. This will mean a return visit to the search room is necessary. If you are visiting the area, please write to the Chief Archivist at the address below, stating clearly your identity, your research interest, and the types and dates of records you would like to consult. Staff will

contact the depositors on your behalf, and we will advise you when permission has been given and if it is possible for you to visit. Access is unlikely to be granted to records until 100 years after their date of creation, to protect the privacy of individuals.

Editor's Note: For further information please contact Katharine Taylor at Tyne & Wear Archives Service, Blandford House, Blandford Square, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4JA. Telephone 0191 232 6789, Ext: 407, Fax: 0191 230 2614

BONDAGERS & HINDS

The following article was sent to us by Mrs Dianne Hughes of Teesdale, Victoria, Australia and is taken from the 'Geelong Advertiser' of 26th September 1844.

"A person from the south or midland counties of England, journeying northward, is struck when he enters Durham or Northumberland, with the sights of bands of women working in the fields under the surveillance of one man. One or two of such bands, of from half a dozen to a dozen women, generally young, might be passed over; but when they recur again and again, and you observe them wherever you go, they become a marked feature of the agricultural system of the country, you naturally inquire how it is that such regular bands of female labourers prevail there? The answer in the provincial tongue, is, "Oh, they are the bono ditches", i.e. bondages. Bondages! - that's an odd sound, you think, in England. What? Have we bondage, a rural serfdom, still existing in free and fair England? Even so. The thing is astounding enough; but it is a fact. As I cast my eyes for the first time on these female bands in the fields, working under their drivers, I was, before making any inquiries respecting them, irresistibly reminded of the slaves in the West Indies. Turnip hoeing suggested itself strongly in my brain with sugar dressing; but when I heard these women called "bondages", the association became tenfold strong. On all the large estates in these counties, and in the south of Scotland, the bondage system prevails. No married labourer is permitted to dwell on these estates unless he enters into a bond to

comply with this system. These labourers are termed hinds. Small houses are built for them on the shore; and on some of these estates, as those of the Duke of Northumberland, all these cottages are numbered, and the number is painted on the door. A hind, therefore, engaged to work on one of these farms belonging to the estate has a house assigned him. He has £4 a year in money, the keep of a cow, his fuel found him - prescribed quantity of coal, wood, or peat, to each cottage. He is allowed to plant a certain quantity of land with potatoes, and has thirteen bolls of corn furnished him for his family consumption - one third being oats, one third barley and one third pease. In return for these advantages he is bound to give his labour the year round and also to furnish a woman's labour at 1s per day during harvest, and 6d per day for the rest of the year. Now it appears that is an hereditary serfdom in its mitigated form, in which alone modern notions and Geelong would tolerate it. It may even be said that this is a voluntary system; that is merely married hinds doing that which unmarried farm servants do everywhere else - hire themselves on certain conditions from year to year. The great question is, whether these conditions are just and favourable to the social and moral improvement of the labouring class; whether, indeed, it be of quite so voluntary a nature as a first sight appears; whether it be favourable to the outward movement of the community in knowledge, virtue, and active and enterprising habits."

THOMAS IDLE

From Kyloe, Northumberland, Burial Register:

16 April 1783

Thomas Idle commonly called Thos., the cokle-man or the muscle-man who was murdered on the Mount-Hooly bank on the 1st day of April.

KILLED BY A THUNDERSTORM

From Alnwick, St. Michael's Burial Register:

Ann wife of Robert Dixon killed in the Poor House by a thunder-storm, a pauper. Buried 2 August 1797.

THE CAPSIZING OF THE PROVIDENCE LIFEBOAT (1849)

by Stephen Stokes

December 4th 1999 marks the 150th anniversary of an event described at the time by the *North and South Shields Gazette* as an 'Appalling Catastrophe at our Harbour Mouth.'⁽¹⁾

It is a well-known fact that the respective histories of South Shields and the lifeboat are inextricably linked. A spate of shipwrecks in the spring of 1789 had been the spur for a committee led by Nicholas Fairles to request suitable designs for a lifeboat: a craft capable of travelling through heavy broken seas with the intention of saving seamen from endangered vessels. There is much dispute as to who submitted the winning design. Though the first prize was awarded to local boat builder Henry Greathead, most people believe the true designer to be William Wouldhave. Nonetheless, based on these blueprints, the *Original* was built in Greathead's yard. The fledgling Tyne Lifeboat Institution was in very good hands when the question arose as to choice of crew. South Shields had at its disposal the services of men who knew the North-east coast, its geography and the vagaries of its weather: the men of the Tyne Pilot Service.

Beginning with the first rescue in January 1790, the *Original* proved to be a great success. She was soon joined by the *Northumberland*, stationed across the Tyne in North Shields. Over the course of the next forty years the two boats saved very many lives. Unfortunately, in January 1830, the *Original* was thrown on to the infamous Black Middens reef by heavy seas and was broken on a submerged rock. She was deemed to be beyond repair and was eventually replaced in 1833 by the *Tyne*. In 1842 a third boat, *Providence*, was put into service. The three boats and their crews of pilots quietly continued their work, going almost unnoticed, until that catastrophic day in December 1849.

The following account of the capsizing of the *Providence* is abridged from the original story as told by an eyewitness and reported in the *North & South Shields Gazette* of 7th December 1849⁽¹⁾. It was reprinted more or less verbatim in Boswell Whitaker's book, *Skuetender Lifeboat*⁽²⁾.

There had already been several days of storms when on the morning of Tuesday December 4th 1849 the brig *Betsy* of Littlehampton made for the harbour. In heavy easterly winds accompanied by snow and sleet, the brig encountered difficulties and drifted on to the notorious Herd Sand. No sooner had she done so than twenty-four pilots launched the *Providence* which was soon alongside the stricken brig. After throwing a rope to the deck of the *Betsy* and securing it, some of the pilots attempted to mount the side. Then out of the blue, the *Providence* was seen to '... heel suddenly round, mount upon the crest of an enormous wave, tilt over, and bury her crew in the turbid waters ...' By chance, three of the pilots managed to cling to the upturned lifeboat's bottom and another, George Marshall, snatched a rope from the *Betsy* and was hauled to safety. The other

twenty pilots, struggling against the rough seas, eventually succumbed to exhaustion and disappeared beneath the surface.

In the meantime, as a crowd gathered and watched helplessly from the shore, the lifeboat *Tyne* was launched. She picked up the three pilots (John Milburn, John Harrison and George Ayre), who had been clinging to the upturned *Providence* and returned them to the safety of the shore. Distraught families thronged the shore searching for their loved ones. Though all feared the worst, hope was expressed that perhaps some of the stricken pilots had managed to secure themselves to the underside of the *Providence*. The *Tyne* promptly returned for the *Providence* and was soon joined by the *Northumberland*.

Whilst the *Northumberland* rescued the crew of the *Betsy* and George Marshall, the crew of the *Tyne* set about recovering the *Providence*. After much difficulty she was eventually towed to shore where attempts were made to right the upturned boat. This too proved to be very difficult due to the sheer weight of the craft and the considerable suction holding her to the sand, but nonetheless she was eventually turned over. Tragically, the only thing to be seen was a solitary woollen scarf tied firmly to a seat - the other end frayed from where it had been torn away. Two hours later the body of the lifeboat's coxswain, Lancelot Burn, was recovered half a mile to the south near the rocks.

The *North and South Shields Gazette*⁽¹⁾ named the twenty lost pilots of the *Providence* in their report of 7th December 1849. An inquest was held the following day on the only body by then recovered - Lancelot Douglas Burn. However, it seems as though many of the other bodies were subsequently found, as burial ceremonies took place at St Hilda's Church, South Shields, intermittently over the next few weeks. These are listed below⁽³⁾:

(Editor's Note: The details of the burials at St Hilda's have been combined in italics below, with the Gazette's list.)

LAUNCELOT BURN, married, has left a widow and two children, of Coble Landing, December 7th, aged 49.

JOHN BURN, married, has left a widow and four children, of Green's Terrace, December 7th, aged 34.

JOHN BURN, jun, unmarried.

JOHN BONE, married, has left a widow and five children, of Shadwell Street, December 8th, aged 41.

WILLIAM SMITH, married, has left a widow and three children. William Wittingham Smith of Green's Terrace, January 1st 1850, aged 45.

JOHN MARSHALL, married, has left a widow and three children, of The Lawe, December 9th, aged 30.

JOHN DONKIN, married (no children), of *The Lawe*, December 8th, aged 26.

ROBERT DONKIN, married, has left a widow and two children, of *Shadwell Street*, December 7th, aged 34.

WILLIAM PURVIS, married, has left a widow and five children, of *The Lawe*, December 8th, aged 33.

THOMAS MARSHALL, married, has left a widow and six children, of *Shadwell Street*, December 8th, aged 42.

JOSEPH WRIGHT, married, has left a widow and eight children. (Probably James Wright of *The Lawe*, December 11th, aged 36.)

JOHN WRIGHT, married, of *Green's Terrace*, December 12th, aged 24.

RALPH PHILLIPS, married, has left a widow and one child.

JOHN PHILLIPS, unmarried.

RALPH SHOTTON, married, has left a widow and four children, of *Lookham Stairs*, December 8th, aged 50.

GEORGE TYNEMOUTH, married, has left a widow and two children.

GEORGE TINDALL, married, has left a widow and one child, *George Tindal of Military Road*, December 9th, aged 40.

HENRY YOUNG, married (no children) of *Shadwell Street*, December 11th, aged 47.

JAMES YOUNG, married (no children), of *Pilot Street*, December 29th, aged 38.

JAMES MATSON, married (no children)

In the aftermath of the tragedy, relief funds were set up for the families of the drowned pilots. Money was collected from all over the country including a donation from Queen Victoria. It would appear that it reached the bereaved as some of the widows are described as 'annuitants' in the subsequent census for 1851⁽⁶⁾.

My own particular interest in this event stems from my descent from Jacob Burn, an eighteenth century South Shields pilot. The line continues through William (pilot), John (sea pilot), Lancelot (boiler smith) and my great-grandmother Jane Burn, who became a Nicholson through marriage.

Over the past couple of years (and with the assistance of several distant cousins!) I have extensively researched the Burn family of South Shields - or at least those whose menfolk were pilots. In so doing, I now believe that as a family they were deeply affected on that December day in 1849.

My earliest definite Burn ancestor was Jacob Burn, a pilot born circa 1733. In 1757 he married Mary Douglas

at St Hilda's church in South Shields. The couple had eight children that I know of, three of whom appear to have died in infancy. Of the remaining five, the eldest daughter, Mary, married Andrew Harrison (pilot) in 1783. Lancelot married Martha Gibson in 1794 and William (my ancestor) married Alice Ramsey in 1797.

Mary Burn and Andrew Harrison had at least five children. The youngest child, Jacob (born 1793), was a pilot and subsequently became a coxswain of the lifeboats⁽⁷⁾. Jacob married Jane Ainsley and the marriage produced at least ten children. Of the six boys, five were certainly pilots and one of these, John, may or may not have been one of the four surviving pilots on the *Providence*. There was, however, more than one pilot of the name John Harrison at this time so this is open to doubt.

Jacob Burn and Mary Douglas' sixth child, Lancelot, married Martha Gibson in 1794. The union yielded at least eleven children. Their fourth child, Lancelot Douglas Burn, was born in 1801. In 1823 he had married Jane Thompson who bore him at least six children. The eldest of these, Eleanor Jane Burn married Benjamin Salmon and the family later emigrated to Australia where one of their sons, Phillip Melville Salmon, became Lord Mayor of Port Melbourne. As mentioned earlier, Lancelot Douglas Burn, 'a fine stalwart man,' was the coxswain of the ill-fated *Providence* on that day in December 1849.

The youngest child of Lancelot Burn and Martha Gibson was John who was born circa 1814. His marriage to Jane Jefferson in 1836 produced at least six children. Following in the family tradition, he too became a pilot and was another victim of the capsizing of the *Providence*. His widow Jane is listed in the 1851 census as living in Pilot Street with children Martha, Mary, Eleanor and Jane. She is described as an 'annuitant'.

The third child of Lancelot Burn and Martha Gibson was James Gibson Burn. James, who was born in 1798, married Elizabeth Elderton in 1823. I have so far traced ten children from this marriage and I believe that their first son, John, may have been the John Burn (junior) listed amongst the fatalities. Presumably the body was never recovered, as I have not been able to trace a burial, which would have given an indication of his age at the time. John, son of James Gibson Burn would have been twenty-four years old in December 1849. I know of only three pilots of this name operating at that time in South Shields. One of these was my ancestor John Burn who died of natural causes in 1885 aged 73. The other two were those mentioned above.

Lancelot Burn and Martha Gibson's youngest daughter, Martha Burn, was born in 1812. In 1835 she married into another family of pilots when she wed Thomas Marshall at Christchurch, Tynemouth. The marriage resulted in at least five children. If my research is correct, then on that fateful day of 4th December 1849, Martha was particularly badly hit. She lost her husband (Thomas Marshall), two brothers (Lancelot Douglas Burn and John Burn) and possibly her nephew (John Burn junior). In the 1851 census she was living at Pilot Street with her six children: Martha,

Ann, Mary, Thomas, William and Lancelot. In 1861⁶, I have found Martha's children again but as daughter Anne is then described as the head of the household, it seems likely that Martha (senior) had died in the intervening years. Of the other children, far from being dissuaded by his father's fate, Lancelot Burn Marshall later became a sea pilot and also manned the lifeboats.

What of the *Providence*? She was largely unscathed by the tribulations of December 1849 and continued in service. *Skuetender Lifeboat* describes many of these rescues including the names of the seamen they saved. She was retired in 1871. The *Tom Perry* replaced her in 1872 and in 1894, *Tyne* was moved to her present location - on display at the bottom end of Ocean Road. Next to her is a clock tower commemorating William Wouldhave and Henry Greathead.

References:

1. *North & South Shields Gazette*, 7th December 1849
2. *Skuetender Lifeboat*, Boswell Whitaker (1979)
3. South Shields, St Hilda Parish Records
4. 1851 Census of England & Wales
5. 1861 Census of England & Wales

Acknowledgements:

Christine Black, Christine Bullock, Meriel Lewis and Carol Woolhouse for additional research of the Burn family tree.

Editor's Note: Mr Stokes would be happy to be contacted by anybody with an interest in this article. His address: 26 Dalesford Road, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 9XD. E-mail: sjsfamtree@aol.com

STOP PRESS FOR THE REGISTRAR GENERAL

Just a couple of days before we went to press, we received notice of the publication of a major consultation document, 'Registration: modernising a vital service' from the office of the Registrar General.

To quote The Man Himself, Mr Tim Holt: 'The purpose of this consultation document is to get as wide a spectrum of views as possible as we consider the reforms that are needed.'

Many of the issues under question will concern genealogists and family historians of future generations. Altogether twenty-eight questions are asked to which organisations and individuals are invited to respond. The scope of the questions is wide, ranging from the use of electronic links between hospitals, undertakers, government departments, etc., via the contribution of civil registration to proving identity, to the level of fees to be charged.

In the little time that remains to us, the following questions would seem to be the ones that most closely affect us as genealogists and family historians:

- Q12** What level of access should be available to registration records of varying ages? What uses are acceptable? How should historic records be defined?
- Q14** Should birth registration records be updated and if so with what information?
- Q16** How should the balance be struck between individual's (*sic*) privacy and public interest in registration records?
- Q17** What should the arrangements be for historic records?
- Q20** What information should be recorded in the register and on certificates?
- Q21** Should there be greater flexibility to correct errors in registration records?

Q25 How should the registration service adopt wider use of technology in service delivery?

Q26 What are acceptable uses of civil registration records?

Q27 Should the registration of key life events remain free of charge? If so, should other fees be set at a level to ensure full cost recovery across registration services as a whole?

The Registrar General accepts, in the opening pages of the document, that matters are far from satisfactory, and in the case of genealogists, acknowledges the complaints that are made about lack of access. Elsewhere, he hints at a possible 75 or 100 year limit on public access to the registers themselves.

The full document is available on the Internet at <http://www.ons.gov.uk> and a summary is available by writing to: General Register Office, ONS Main Store, Segensworth Road, Titchfield, Fareham, Hants PO15 5RR or E-mail sue.henstock@ons.gov.uk

There is also a copy of the full document at Bolbec Hall.

If any member wishes to submit their own response to these or any other questions, they have only until 6th December to do so, although doubtless some allowance will be made for postal delays. Write or send a taped comment to: Alistair MacGregor, General Register Office, Office for National Statistics, Trafalgar Road, Southport PR8 2HH or by E-mail to: alistair.macgregor@ons.gov.uk

Editor's comment: This is a golden opportunity for us to make our feelings known. It is so typical that we have been given an impossibly short time to notify our readers. The issues are of great consequence for genealogists. I can think of: microfilming of district registers for deposit in record offices; computerised indexing of same by experienced indexers; correction of and addition to national indexes; eventually, a national computerised index based on the local registers (which are the more accurate, not having been copied). This is after only two minutes' reflection. Please write to ONS with your own views, remembering that everything has a cost, which will have to be born by someone.

TRACING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY IN NORTHUMBERLAND AND COUNTY DURHAM

by Geoff Nicholson

CHURCH OF ENGLAND AND PARISH REGISTERS - (B) TRANSCRIPTS AND INDEXES

Last time I told you about what you might expect to find in a Church of England Parish Register. That's very useful, I hope, if you can access them, but what if you cannot? Actually, unless either you are an archivist or else you have a very good reason indeed, you will not normally be allowed to use the original books. Just wanting to look up an entry to help with your family history, is not regarded as a good reason at all! This is because the prime job of the archivists, in whose keeping are all the older registers, is to preserve the books, and that means keeping them away from the wear and tear of being handled as well as from the acid which we all have on our finger-tips. The archivists do have to make the books available to the public, but that is priority number two. They get around this by having microfilm copies made, which is why a visit to the Record Office usually means a session sitting at a microfilm reader, which we will need to have booked well in advance.

Once a microfilm copy has been made there is no limit to the number of copies which can be run off from one negative, so filmed copies of registers may be found in several different places - Public Reference Libraries often have the registers for their own districts, and those for most districts can be obtained via the LDS Branch Libraries, to be found all over the world. Repositories such as Tyne and Wear Archives Department, which is not the Diocesan Repository for any Church of England Diocese, can nevertheless have filmed copies of all the Parish Registers in their own district, even though there might nowadays be parts of more than one Diocese within that district.

So we all use copies. These microfilms are modern facsimile copies and it is easy to assume that they are perfect, but of course they are not, and neither is any copy of anything. The main way in which microfilm copies can be imperfect is if some pages have been omitted in the filming. This happens more often than most people realise and every time it does there is a possibility that you will not be able to see the entry you seek. Sometimes the film itself is of poor quality or even physically damaged. In any of those cases all you can do is complain and ask to see the original book. Depending on how upset you appear to be, what time of day it is and various other factors you may be lucky and have the book brought to you. Alternatively you may well be told that an archivist will go and look at the book and then tell you what is in it, which may not be as satisfactory, but it does save that wear and tear I have mentioned.

What other copies are there? There are many, the first

and most important being the Bishops' Transcripts. When the word "transcript" is used it should mean simply a verbatim copy, with nothing added or left out, and with everything in the same order as in the register. The Bishops' Transcripts (known as "BTs") are contemporary copies of the registers, made each year and handed in to the Archdeacon at his annual Visitation. The Archdeacon is a senior Church Dignitary, ranking next below a Bishop and there are often about two Archdeacons in a Diocese. Part of the Archdeacon's job is to see that the parishes are being run in a proper and orderly way, and that includes the keeping of the parish registers. Each year he holds his Visitation - not that the parish officials are visited by him: no, they have to go, with their records, to a place which he appoints so it is they who do the visiting! For many years a copy of all the entries made over the previous twelve months in each parish register had to be handed in at the Visitation. This used to be called the Archdeacon's Court, hence the phrase often seen in the margins of parish registers "Handed in to Court, March 25th 1795" or some such year.

In theory the BTs should be an exact copy of what is in the parish registers and, for years in which an official form has been required, they often are that, as they have been made on the same forms. However, the early BTs have been written on all sorts of materials, from outsize sheets of parchment to literally the backs of old envelopes. As they are annual lists, made to be handed in at the Visitation, which is usually on 25th March (Lady Day, the "New Year's Day" of the Julian calendar), they naturally run from 26th March of one year to 25th March of the next year, which has been known to confuse the unwary.

BTs were first required in about 1600 and many Dioceses do have collections of them dating that far back. They tended to go out of use when Civil Registration was introduced in 1837, although some older clergy continued to produce them, as they always had done, until they themselves retired and there are a few parishes in the north-east of England whose BTs extend into the 20th century. Unfortunately the picture is not as rosy as that at the other end of the time spectrum. There are no surviving BTs for any parishes within the Diocese of Durham for any period earlier than the 1760s. Even then they tend to be very patchy until about the 1780s and gaps of a year or two may be found at any time. The BTs for Durham Diocese are kept with the rest of the Diocesan Records in Durham University Library, Archives and Special Collections, on Palace Green, Durham, where they have been sorted so that instead of one collection per year, containing the BTs for every parish but only for that one year, there are now a set of collections, one for each parish, containing all the surviving BTs for that parish.

In theory, then, the BTs are a perfect copy of the parish register. In most cases that is so, but not always. Frequently the parish registers include information not to be found in the BTs. Perhaps we can blame a tired, careless, overworked or plain lazy Curate for skimping on the midnight oil, when he has got behind with the work and the Archdeacon's Visitation is the next day. I think we can assume that a tedious, boring chore like writing out the BTs would be given to the newest Curate in the parish, and not done by the status-conscious Vicar or Rector. Sometimes the BTs include information not to be found in the parish register, or anywhere else. One might wonder how that can be. The answer is that the BTs have not always been copied from the register, but have often been taken from an intermediate notebook kept by the parish clerk, which he has used to write up the register, possibly on a weekly basis. It could be that not all the information in the notebook has found its way into the register but it has all been put into the BTs. Sometimes information such as the exact age at death of some elderly parishioner is better-known by the time the BTs were written than it was at the time the original register was compiled. Sometimes that sort of thing may even apply to the paternity of illegitimate children!

The next set of copies of parish registers with which we should concern ourselves is those produced by the Parish Register Societies which sprang up in Victorian times. Most counties or Dioceses had one of these, though very few have survived the inflation and World Wars of the 20th century. Of these, the Durham and Northumberland Parish Register Society (DNPRS) is typical. It was founded in the 1890s and by the time production costs had caused it to cease to be viable, in 1926, it had published almost 40 hard-back volumes of parish registers. None of those, however, contained entries after 1812, the last year before Rose's Act brought in the standard forms for recording baptisms and burials. The published books, although in theory usually edited by the then incumbent of the relevant parish, were actually compiled under the supervision of the Society's Secretary, Herbert Maxwell Wood, to whom this society and local family historians in general owe a great debt.

When the DNPRS ceased to exist, however, it did have many, many volumes of unpublished parish registers. Wood and his friends seem, on the whole, to have worked out from Tyneside, northwards into Northumberland and southwards into Co Durham, and had transcribed something like 80% of the pre-1812 registers from the region, those not transcribed being mainly, but not entirely, on the fringes - in the north of Northumberland and the south of Co Durham. These were all presented, as a wonderful gift, to Newcastle Central Library, where they still remain, as the core of an excellent collection of parish register transcripts, which has been added to over the years, not least by more modern transcribers associated with the NDFHS. With the usual proviso that no transcript is perfect, the Wood Transcripts, as these are known, are on the whole very accurate. Having been compiled about a century or so ago, when the registers were possibly fresher than they are now, they can sometimes provide a reading of parts which cannot be easily read on

modern microfilms - although on the other hand Wood did not have the benefit of ultra-violet lamps which can sometimes bring up a difficult section of the originals. Some of the Wood Transcripts are typed out but most are hand-written, usually in Wood's own hand, which is comparatively easy to read.

In addition to records of events taking place within the parish church itself, some of these transcripts also include notes of the baptisms of the children of Dissenters, given to the Vicar by either the parents of the children or by the Dissenting Minister himself. These lists are especially useful for families in the northern part of Northumberland, where a large proportion of the population were nonconformist: more of that next time. Many of the Wood transcripts also include material entered into the parish registers, other than records of baptisms, marriages and burials. This is usually "Parish Chest" type material - notes of the imposition of church sashes, Churchwardens' Accounts, notes of the Inductions of new clergy, extracts from the Wills of persons leaving charitable legacies to the parish, etc. It always makes for interesting reading, even if it does not refer to your own family!

The Wood transcripts have been used as a source for several other projects. As they were compiled, Wood sent the marriage volumes of them on loan to his friend Percival Boyd, who was then working in London, compiling his county-by-county "Boyd's Marriage Index" for the Society of Genealogists. The Co Durham and the Northumberland volumes of that index were based on the work of the DNPRS and Boyd's carbon copies of them are now also in Newcastle Central Library. The Wood transcripts are understood to have also been used in the compilation of the early editions of the CFI (the predecessor of the IGI - see later). Many of the original Wood transcripts have recently been commercially microfiched, thus providing a useful source of information for those who cannot visit Newcastle.

Around the time the DNPRS were publishing their volumes, others were also being produced by a handful of individual clergy and also by the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne. These are also to be found in Newcastle Central Reference Library and on the whole they also tend to be reasonably accurate.

Since Wood's time, many other people have produced transcripts of Church of England parish registers, which may be found in e.g. Newcastle Central Reference Library or the NDFHS's own Bolbec Hall Library. Among them are those by WE Rounce (marriage indexes, not transcripts, and mainly for Co Durham parishes, though a few from Northumberland: they usually end in 1837 but those for South Tyneside parishes often go later - use with care) and Dr K Mitchell (for Northumberland parishes roughly SW of a line passing through Stamfordham: they go up to 1851 and some have been published on microfiche by the NDFHS).

Apart from these transcripts, a lot of work has also been done on indexing parish registers. The published volumes of the DNPRS all have name indexes but these must have been added immediately before publication

as, on the whole, the Wood transcripts do not have indexes (a few have partial indexes, which are best ignored as they can mislead). Percival Boyd's county-wide marriage indexes (to 1837 but the local ones have very few entries after 1813) and WE Rounce's marriage indexes for individual counties have already been mentioned.

A major index is, of course, the International Genealogical Index, or IGI, produced on a county-by-county basis, by the Mormon Church. That is available very cheaply as a set of microfiche, and a version of it is also now available on the Mormon "Family Search" pages of the Internet. It includes only baptisms and marriages - no burials - in one alphabetical list for each county, with no set starting date but with a theoretical cut-off date of 1882 (the last edition was in 1992 and there is supposed to be a "110-year rule"). However, it does include a few later entries referring to the Mormons' own families, submitted by individual members of that church at a time when information was mainly being entered from that sort of personal source and not from organised programmes of parish register extractions. These go back to the early days when the index was known as the CFI (Computer File Index).

I cannot emphasise too often that the IGI must be used with great care. It is based on only partial entries. That is, it will give the names of the father and mother at a baptism, with the mother's maiden surname if that is included in the original entry, but it ignores other details which may be present in the original, such as the address and the father's occupation. When dealing with a fairly common surname it is very easy to be led in the wrong direction by such an index, by confusing two fathers with the same first name and surname who happened to be producing children in the same parish at the same time. Beginners using the IGI for the first time are often so impressed by the sheer number of entries that they assume that it includes "everything". It does not, of course, and has many gaps, particularly with post-1913 events and with those in nonconformist churches. Even its coverage of pre-1813 Church of England registers is far from complete. Things are made worse by the list of what is and what is not on the IGI being put on separate microfiche, which are rarely consulted by enthusiastic searchers, keen to get on with their search. Those fiche, the "Parish and Vital Records Listings" or PVRL fiche, are supplied free with every IGI order, and so available wherever the IGI is. However, they are themselves not the easiest things to make sense of, and simply consulting them without spending time to study them, can often leave one even more confused. There are also "How to use the IGI" fiche, which are even less used. It is only too easy to think that just because one knows the alphabet one can use any index there is. It is always necessary to read the instructions and the small print, to find exactly what the scope of the index is and what rules and limitations the compiler has imposed on it.

Many other indexes have been produced recently, both by this Society and by a range of commercial microfiche publishers. They are all useful and on the whole they are all reasonably reliable. However, if there is a distinction to be drawn it is between those

which follow the lead of the IGI and index simplified, and so possibly misleading, versions of the actual entries and those which include all the information in the original entries. If the seller doesn't tell you about this, then ask before you buy! Most of the plethora of such indexes are ones which cover one period for one individual parish, but there are also some available which cover groups of neighbouring parishes. The only "whole-county" parish registers indexes available are (1) the 1813-37 marriage indexes for each county, published by the NDFHS and (2) a similar set of 1813-37 burial indexes produced by a commercial publisher.

Many indexes are now available in one way or another, on the Internet, and this trend is one which can only increase as time goes by. The very useful GENUKI ([GENEalogy, UK and Ireland](http://www.genuki.org.uk)) pages for Northumberland and for Co Durham both have indexed parish register material on them, but as yet it is only a tiny proportion of the potential number. The material for the handful of Co Durham parishes which are represented can be downloaded, but that for Northumberland ones has to be accessed by interrogating a database to which the user does not have full access. Certain web sites devoted to the local history of particular towns and villages also include parish register material.

While on the subject of computerised indexes, mention must be made of the potentially useful "Vital Records Index - British Isles" (VRI-BI), another production of the Mormon church, this time on CD-ROM. This is rather like a searchable version of the IGI but it has far fewer entries. I think of it as those entries which one might expect to have been included in the next edition of the IGI if there were to be one (I understand there is not, as the computerised "Family Search" site is to take over that function). Again, therefore, I have to warn that it should be used with all the caution that I recommend when dealing with the IGI. Actually the number of entries on it for Northumberland is small and for Co Durham even smaller, as in each case only a few registers are covered, and most of those are not Church of England parish registers. The VRI-BI is advertised as having over five million entries, a number which can easily impress, but remember that they are spread all over the British Isles and over three hundred or more years, so for each year the allocation to any one county will be small. Divide that by the number of parishes in a county and you will see that even with a uniform spread you cannot expect anything spectacular. Add to that the fact that the NE of England seems to have had a raw deal (I'm not complaining: we had a very good coverage in the early IGIs, thanks to HM Wood, and it must be someone else's turn now!) and you will see that your chances of finding what you seek from this source are not great. However, I do realise that there are many hundreds of entries from this region and if one of them is what you have been seeking for years, then it will be really spectacular - for you.

Many NDFHS members are currently participating in the "Shroud" programme, organised by the Federation of Family History Societies, which will eventually result in there being a large burial index for each county, parts of a series which will ultimately cover the whole country.

THE ORIGIN AND HISTORY OF THE AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURERS - SHORT BROS.

by Eric Herbert

The Short family can be traced back to John Short, a cattle dealer of Tweedmouth, Northumberland, and his wife Margaret.

Their second son William, who was born in December 1803, can later be found on the 1841 census for East Holywell Colliery, Northumberland, where he was living with his wife Maria and seven children. Ten years later, on the 1851 census, another son had been born, but William and Maria were not at home. They were found staying with their second son Andrew and his young family in nearby Earsdon. William was shown firstly as a house carpenter and then as a joiner/grocer. We now have to follow the seventh child, Samuel, who was born in 1840.

Samuel Short, like his older brother William, became a mining engineer and sank the shaft, and later became the manager, of Little Chilton Colliery in Co Durham. He married Emma Robinson from Derbyshire, and their first son, Horace Leonard, was born at Little Chilton in 1872. Whilst still an infant, Horace suffered a head injury which resulted in meningitis followed by abnormal brain development and a large deformed forehead. He survived however, and in 1875 another son was born and named Albert Eustace (always known afterwards simply as Eustace). Soon after this the family moved to Derbyshire, where Samuel became chief engineer at the ironworks at Stanton-by-Dale. A third son, Hugh Oswald, was born in 1883 and he also was known by his second name, Oswald.

Horace was an extraordinary scholar. He soon outstripped his teacher's ability to construe Latin and was able to solve mathematical problems at sight. On leaving school, Horace was employed at the Stanton ironworks, but in 1890 after two years there, he set off to see the world and visit his uncle William, who had emigrated to Australia and was responsible for sinking the first two shafts at Newcastle, New South Wales. On arrival in Australia, Horace wrote home with a full account of his many adventures, not knowing that his father, consumptive for many years, had died in 1891, leaving the family nearly penniless. In 1893 his letter was published in the local Chesterfield newspaper and a fund was set up to raise money to enable Eustace to set off and search for his brother.

They eventually met each other in Mexico where Horace was a silver-mine manager. In 1895 Eustace returned home with £500 and a promise from Horace that he would follow as soon as he could wind up his affairs. Eustace, Oswald and their mother moved to London where they used the money to purchase a coal merchant business. A year later Horace returned

bringing with him a sound-amplifying device that he had invented and wished to patent.

It was now that Eustace and Oswald became interested in ballooning and they rented two arches under the LBSC Railway at Battersea Park, conveniently located next to the gas-works. They designed and produced many types of balloons both for racing and touring, and thus came to know the active members of the Aero Club of the U.K. - such as the Hon. Charles Rolls and the Hon. Claude Brabazon.

Horace, however, was convinced that ballooning was a dangerous pastime as the craft were incapable of being steered accurately. Instead, in 1903, he moved to Newcastle upon Tyne and became personal experimental engineer on steam turbine development to the Hon. Charles Parsons.

In America, the Wright brothers had made over 150 powered flights since their first in December 1903 but little interest was shown in their invention by either the U.S. government or manufacturers. In August 1908, Wilbur Wright arrived in France with his aircraft and gave demonstration and passenger flights from a site near Le Mans. On hearing about these successful flights, Eustace and Oswald decided to give up ballooning and to start building aircraft, but they realised that they would need Horace in the new venture. Parsons were prepared to release Horace from his contract, and the new partnership of Short Bros. was registered at Battersea in November 1908 with a capital of £600 subscribed equally by the three brothers.

Wilbur Wright had neither manufacturing facilities nor even any drawings of his aircraft, and he readily agreed that Short Bros. should have the British rights to build an initial batch of six aircraft. Needless to say, all were spoken for by members of the Aero Club before they had been built.

Thus began the story of Short Bros. who can justifiably claim to be the world's first aircraft manufacturing company. Today they are part of the Canadian transport and aerospace conglomerate, Bombardier Inc., but are a major international aerospace company in their own right, located at Queens Island near Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Sources:

Short Aircraft by Chris Barnes

Flying into the Future by Michael Donne

Editor's Note: Eric Herbert, who researched the earlier generations of the Short family, can be contacted at: 5 Meadow Hill, Duns Road, Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 1UB.

INDEX TO VOLUME 23

This index has been prepared by Olive Trewick, Gwyn de Jong and Allen Gofton, to whom the Society is, once again, indebted for their efforts.

Page numbers refer to Volume 23: 1-36 (Spring 1998), 37-72 (Summer 1998), 73-108 (Autumn 1998) and 109-144 (Winter 1998). Please remember that a name may occur several times on a page.

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ESTATE RECORDS AS A SOURCE OF FAMILY HISTORY

by Gerry Langley

Records of large Estates and their owners can be used to provide a valuable source of information to the family historian. In order to be so, it is necessary to be aware of the estate where the progenitor resided, and where they worked, and to understand exactly what such records comprise.

The sources of information regarding residence of ancestors are many and varied. Addresses may be obtained from various censuses taken every 10 years from 1841 onwards. It soon becomes obvious when addresses are contained within an estate, and often occupation provides a further clue as residence is often tied to work. Local directories and histories are also a useful source of information in such cases. Tithe awards and land tax records can also supply information on residence.

Once an area is established the next step in the process is to ascertain where the records lie. The greatest problem with Estate Records is that they usually lie with the owners of the land and access to them is often restricted, either by the owners not releasing them, or by there being a charge for access to the papers. Fortunately, however, papers are now being deposited with local County Record Offices in ever great quantities. Their condition and care are being secured and their accessibility is increasing.

The basic classes of records are: (a) the records of the Estate Land and its management; (b) records of the businesses on and outside the estate in which the owners were engaged; (c) the personal papers belonging to members of the family. In addition the large estates often supported other enterprises on behalf of the area viz: Schools, libraries and other benefactions of value in the edification (horrible word) and education of the population.

The records are again sub-divided. The Estate records may contain details of surveys of the estate, leases of land within the estate to tenants who then work the land, details of rentals, account and day books. The Business records will outline interests, financial and otherwise, outside the estate in which the owners are engaged.

The Estate was based upon the land and what it produced in both revenue from lettings and sale/exchange of produce. Much of the land was leased to others to work for rental whilst the remainder was used by the owner to provide food etc. for the family and employees. As a result of this the owner required to know the size of the various plots of ground, and their value both real and annual.

To achieve this the estates were surveyed regularly, and it is to those surveys that the researcher should first turn. The surveys take various forms but generally they contain a listing of all the land within a parish or

manor, or of all the land owned by the commissioning owner. This point is important as the commissioning owner would not wish for a detailed survey of land not his own as this would be a waste of money. This was particularly so when the owner of the land was not the Lord of the Manor. Further a large estate would own land in various parts of the country originally gained through grant from the Crown, inheritance and entail, marriage portion and outright purchase. An owner would often infill small parcels of land surrounded by his own, by purchase in order to "tidy up" the holding, and in an effort at rationalisation.

The survey usually included a detailed plan of the area including the shape and size of the various parcels of land together with a note of the use to which the land was put. If the land was leased out the details of the lessor and also the value of the rental would be recorded. The lands were regularly re-surveyed, usually after a death when they were part of a will, or on sale of the land or as a precursor to a revaluation (upwards) of the rent. In addition, estates were re-surveyed either following enclosures, or in anticipation of enclosure.

The lessors of the land may not have been the persons working the land, as sub-letting was often practised and therefore the person named in the Estate Records may not have lived in the area at all. In other cases the opposite may well be the case. Sub-tenants may not be mentioned in the records but actually resided in the area and worked the land. Tenants of the land may also have placed employees in charge of the land who resided in the houses, but who were not mentioned. Care must therefore be taken not to assume that people were not in a village or settlement because they do not appear in the records of the estate. The converse is also applicable. Persons mentioned as tenants may not actually reside in the area.

Surveys seem to give an accurate source of information regarding individuals, the land holdings and tenancies, but that is not always the case. The surveyor often seemed to provide an accurate description of the land, but it becomes obvious that in some cases he copied a previous survey, ascribing to it his own interpretation, continuing the mistakes of his predecessor. A comparison with the contemporaneous censuses shows surprising discrepancies. This is because the surveys under-record the number of houses in the village and take no account of anyone not associated with the land. They will not be as useful as independent surveys such as enclosure awards or tithe apportionments. They seriously under-record individuals, because they do not pick up families and households and do not account for non-agricultural individuals.

The estates also owned houses and other buildings, e.g. public houses, blacksmiths shops, etc. which were rented out to tenants who undertook the business. The

records of such rentals form a valuable source of information, particularly where more than one generation can be traced as lessors of the property. Indentures show that business was not a male preserve in past centuries. The age of female assertiveness is not as new as some would have us believe. Rental Listings show the lessors of the land, their holdings and the rentals together with when due and arrears owing. A series of such listings over time will show the lettings and re-lettings of the relevant properties together with the dates of change. Where it is apparent that a property passes from one member of a family to another, search should be made for the relevant family crisis/occasion causing the change. For example, a son succeeding to his father could indicate the death of the father.

The next class of records are the estate accounts which detail the income and expenditure of the estate. From these can be determined to whom payment was made for external services provided, and from whom payments were received and for what. Included in these records are the day books of the estate which list the employees, usually by name, and outline the type of work undertaken and the payments made to them. Many of the employees were of a temporary part-time nature e.g. at harvest time, and the details provided often show whole family groups. A page of the day book for work at Capheaton on the Swinburne estate covers a fortnight, showing workers grouped by trade and their individual tasks. The fact that there are three Watsons in the joiners department, four Carricks in the masons, and three Lamberts in a third group, indicates the strength of these records as a source for the genealogist. The detail which must become available as a result of such concentrated information are of inestimable value to the family historian. A series of accounts extending for many years can often provide details of several generations of a family. In addition, the business papers of the estate will also provide details of the non-agricultural enterprises undertaken by the owner.

Many estates derived income from business, particularly mining of coal, lead, tin, and iron ore. They also owned tracts of wood and were instrumental in milling of grain, sawyers of wood, and diverse other enterprises. At the height of the 19th century coal trade the Lumley estate employed over a thousand men in mining alone. The wealth of information involved in accounts for such enterprises is immense.

The estate papers also include employment details of the staff of the estate including their sources. Estates often imported senior staff, such as managers, gamekeepers and the like from other parts of the country because they were thought to show impartiality when dealing with the employees. Frequently they transferred between areas owned by the same landowner on "promotion". At other times they were outside appointments on recommendation from the owner's friends and business acquaintances. The letters of recommendation, appointment and details of remuneration agreed can be fascinating and

provide evidence not only of the area from which employees come but often details of the family which they bring with them. During the haymaking season, weekly work details from a journal show the work of female and child employees.

Also included in the Swinburne Estate papers are a number of indexes of people which could be interesting, particularly as they would appear to be a series of names and addresses of persons associated with the estate.

Business correspondence can also provide sources of family attachments. A case in point are copies of correspondence between Jacob Glenwright in Kingston, Jamaica, and John Bell of Hexham, from the Allendale papers, in which Glenwright is endeavouring to pay monies to Bell. In the letter Glenwright makes reference to his father and brother whom he names as Jacob and George respectively. I feel that it is safe to assume the order of names as it is unlikely that two living brothers would both be named with the same Christian names.

Diaries and personal correspondence of the family often provide insights into the life of the family and the servants and can be a source of information regarding their appointment and employment. Ladies' maids, nannies and governesses were often recommended by the ladies of the houses to friends and acquaintances when their usefulness was at an end, e.g. when the children were grown up. Such recommendations can often explain how ancestors crop up in unexpected places. Another source from personal correspondence is shown in a letter to the Swinburnes which contains details of the reprieve of two men, William Pearce and Richard Williams. Such information provides the clues for further enquiry into the reasons for their sentences in the first place.

Often included in Estate Records are details of schools supported by the family. Registers can be a valuable source of information regarding the scholars and their families as they can contain details of parents and addresses of the family. Series of registers can be used to build up a picture of the children of a family over a period of years. Also included in such records may be Journals or Day books outlining the ongoing business of the school. Landed families often supported other parochial activities and records of local penny libraries etc., where available, can provide further sources of family history information.

In conclusion, whilst not being a front line source of information, once a family has been associated with a particular landed family or estate, the records of that family or estate can provide valuable information to put flesh on the bare bones of dates and occurrences, and can provide clues as to where and why families and family members moved, thus supplying the missing links in Family Histories.

Editor's Note: The Swinburne Estate papers are available at Northumberland Record Office.

KEEPING TABS ON RECORDS

by Ron Nubley

Ron Nubley's piece will I hope serve as an encouragement to readers to write to me with ideas, perhaps even articles, on computer-related topics - especially if linked to research in our region.

At some stage we need to put our records into some semblance of order. Pencil, paper and rubber offer the cheapest - and sometimes the most effective method. A typewriter can be useful. However, this will eventually involve physically cutting and pasting onto new sheets as the number of records increases.

For those owning a personal computer, there are a number of database applications which can be tailored to meet particular needs; there are also applications specifically designed with the family historian in mind.

This article describes a simple but effective way to use a wordprocessor. A dedicated word processing machine, or a PC with a wordprocessor application, will do the job equally well. There is no need for a sophisticated program; almost all should meet the minimum requirements:

- reasonable disc storage space for the finished product;
- character search - preferably with an exchange character facility. It would also be useful to search on a global basis, i.e. across all, or selected documents;
- 'cut and paste', enabling movement of text within a document and between documents, including text deletion.

DOCUMENT

A document is defined as a storage space for keeping together all records relating to one family name. The records need not be directly related to each other, and may consist of single names, family groups, or several family groups linked into generations of one family. Where only one family name is being compiled, one document will suffice. Where many family names are involved, some naming system will be needed to identify documents, bearing in mind that some applications will not cater for titles longer than eight characters.

FAMILY GROUP

The family group consists of the husband who is deemed to be the *head*; the partner, his *wife*; and all children, *issue*, by each wife. If there is no issue from a particular head the marriage should not be classed as a family group. Any alleged illegitimate children should be included in the family group - provided that the parents eventually married. If there is no marriage, then details of the allegation should be entered against the named issue within a family group. Similarly, details of illegitimate children should be entered against the female issue within a family group.

LAYOUT

The layout and order of text is a matter of choice for the user. However, the following are recommended:

- a line space should be allowed between each family group;
- a line of characters between generations e.g. "=". Numbers can be used to identify the actual generations but these will need to be adjusted whenever new generations are added to the beginning of the trees;
- a different line of characters after the last family group e.g. "***". This will separate unconnected groups;
- the single "***" character simply prefixes each issue in the family for clarity. Numbers can be used but will need to be adjusted when new-found issue is added to the family group.

LINKAGES

This system is based on individual family groups, with pointers enabling linkages with other family groups in the same document. This linking is used to compile a family tree. The "=" character is the pointer to the next generation, so that the number of pointers in any one generation equates with the number of family groups in the next generation, where the family groups should be in the same sequence as the pointers in the previous generation.

Brackets can be used to link married couples within the same document e.g. (3) after a male name links with (3) after a female name. Similarly, (a) after a male name links with (a) after a female name but in a different document.

RECORDING DATA

Full details for a person consist of a series of statements. A well-structured detail is one which can be easily understood without the use of the words 'he' and 'she'. Abbreviations are a matter of choice - the aim should be consistency. Readers will no doubt determine their own methodology. For this reason the print-out shown below can be used as a guideline. The printed listing is taken from an actual family tree.

Thomas RIPPON; buried 1617 at Lanchester; yeoman farmer at Ragpethside 1598-1617; churchwarden of Lanchester 1599 and 1605; member of the 'four and twenty' at Lanchester 1612-17; will dated 23 Feb 1618, proved 1618; inventory taken 2 Apr 1618 married 1st. abt 1589, -----

issue:

= * John; bapt 14 June 1590 at Lanchester

* William bapt 5 Oct 1592 at Lanchester; a legatee under his father's will 23 Feb 1618; living in Cornsay in 1652; churchwarden of Lanchester 1652; buried 20 Mar 1672 at Lanchester; had issue

* Thomas; born abt 1594; named in his father's will 23 Feb 1618

* Robert; bapt 10 May 1599 at Lanchester; executor of his father 23 Feb 1618; living at Rackwoodside 1648 and 1656; churchwarden of Lanchester 1656; may have been of the Ford 1659; married Margaret -----; buried 11 Jan 1670 at Lanchester; ?issue

* George; born abt 1601; executor of his father 23 Feb 1618; of Lanchester 1651 and 1664; overseer of the poor 1652; churchwarden 1665

* Elizabeth; born abt 1605; executrix of her father 23 Feb 1618 married 2nd -----; wid. of ----- JACKSON

John RIPPON; bapt 14 Jun 1590; died abt 1642 eldest son; yeoman farmer at Ragpethside 1617-42,

churchwarden of Lanchester 1621 and 1628; married Margaret; buried 20 May 1670 at Lanchester, dau & heiress of Humphrey TAYLOR issue:

= *John

= *William

* Elizabeth; buried 22 Feb 1686 at Lanchester

= * Thomas; born abt 1640

The first entry in any tree will be one family group. In the example only John is known to have had named issue. He will be the first (and in this case the only) "head" in the next generation. This John had three sons who had named issue. The first "head" in the third generation will be John RIPPON, followed by William RIPPON and Thomas RIPPON.

Editor's Note: Ron Nubley's address is: 66 Alderside Crescent, Lanchester, Durham DH7 0PZ.

GRANDPARENTS

by Blanche Endean

High Heworth⁽¹⁾ existed simply as a pit village, and there lived my maternal grandparents⁽²⁾, a long walk from where we lived in Felling-on-Tyne through planted fields where the wind blew the growing cereal into waves. A bus ran from Felling square but what were legs for - even short fat ones like mine? We walked across a cobbled lane to the mine mouth, side by side with the Great War Memorial, a soldier leaning on his rifle and enclosed by a crown of iron thorns.

The pit entrance looked fearsome and I always gazed the other way and tried not to hear the screaming noise of the screening machine. The wagonway ran by the side of the entrance and at the back of Grandad's colliery house.

You stepped straight from the flagged street into the living room. I used to lie on the clippy mat pulling at bits of Gran's old coat, Auntie's red woollen dress and a variety of cast-off clothing, cut up and "progged" into sacking. There always seemed to be a mat "in". No t.v. or radio, just family and neighbours gathered round a table with the mat frame on it, all provided with a "progger" and clips of material, talking through mouthfuls of black bullets and fortified by cups of tea. What a feast of friendship. I remember the huge roaring fire in the shining black-leaded stove with the "silver" bits reflecting the flames. There were always socks drying on the burnished rail, under the bobbled mantel-piece edge. Pit work meant wet feet in those days. A painted settle occupied the chimney corner. It felt and looked so much like pale chewy toffee I often gave it a surreptitious lick.

There were no easy chairs but nobody complained. A door opened into the huge larder which had a most dry distinctive smell and one I can still savour,

compounded of damp, bread and white cloths which protected everything. The water cooled in a large brown crock with a well scrubbed wooden cover and a tin dipper. No stairs were visible, but a ladder pulled down into the living room and gave access to the bedrooms above.

In that comparatively small house Grandad and Grandma brought up eight children⁽³⁾. The youngest, Anderson, died tragically⁽⁴⁾ in a pit accident just before my birth. Tall, curly-haired and handsome, he was brought home to his mother with his head crushed between a tub (a coal wagon) and the coal seam roof. Grandma never recovered from his death. The shock brought on diabetes, but she didn't keep to her diet and with no insulin available she developed gangrene and died.

She used to visit us in her severe black straw hat which looked like an admiral's. Her thin bony face was sombre, but she always brought us a poke of store sweets, grey paper rolled into a cone and filled with boiled goodies. We didn't get many treats and really looked forward to her infrequent visits.

The colliery-owned house was part of a square with a tin chapel at one end for the Non-Conformists. Down the centre were the rows of dry closets, and nobody went unnoticed about his or her business. I loathed going to the "netty" and hated the high wooden box and dreaded the enormous hole over which I had to perch. If I ever imagined Hell it looked like the inside of a dry closet, and when I listen to people protesting about dirty work I think of the men who came around and shovelled the mixture - everyone threw the ashes from the fire down the privies - into carts. No such luxury as toilet paper, but at least reading the bits of

newspaper cut into squares and hung on string for convenience took one's mind off the dangers of sitting suspended.

Grandad Greener, a small sturdy man, ruled his household sternly. He began work down the pit when only 11 years of age and finished working at 74. Always scrupulously clean and well-dressed even when he went to the mine, he attired himself for his shift in front of the blazing fire. Over the soft grey flannel shirt he wore a fustian waistcoat, neatly buttoned. His just below knee length trousers were secured with crossed tapes and then he drew on long hand-knitted socks which covered his knees. On went the heavy pit boots and a neckerchief under a dark buttoned jacket. Complete with his 'bait' tin, containing a bacon sandwich and his tea bottle, again made of tin, and his pit stick⁽⁵⁾, a rough pole with a round disc at the top, he was ready for work. When arrayed to go out in his best navy melton cloth overcoat, white silk scarf and hard dark bowler hat, he carried a beautiful walking stick with a carved ivory handle. A man of few words, he obviously believed in the maxim children should be seen (if necessary) but never heard.

I stood in awe of him and I don't believe thought him human until as an old man, he lived and died with us. He never approved of me and once said, watching me fooling about, that I was as "mad as a fiddler's bitch"! Whatever that meant I knew it wasn't a compliment.

Grandad Thomas and Grandma FE Teasdale⁽⁶⁾ (Dad's parents) lived at No 11, a flat at the top end of George Street, Felling, and when I started school I called each day on my way home to dinner. I would walk up Gran's back outdoor stairs, through the scullery into the living room say "Hello Gran", and run out again down the carpeted stairs. I hadn't time to do more as it was quite a walk from and to the 'High Board' school.

If I knew that Grandma was making "tattie hash" I contrived to stay for dinner. She would simmer a marrow bone overnight with split peas, and to this she added lots of onions and lots of potatoes, grated and diced and lots of pepper and, less liberally, salt. I suppose the most important ingredient couldn't be bought for money and this was my Grandma's presence. I needed no other benediction.

I had Sunday dinner with Gran, Grandad and Auntie Doris⁽⁷⁾ for years. Grand and I ate Yorkshire pudding with the meat, gravy and vegetables and then we had the pudding again separately with jam and milk.

Grandad and Grandma were country folk, both brought up on farms. Grandma said "thee" and "thou" when she talked in her soft Durham⁽⁸⁾ accent. Her dark luxuriant hair never lost its colour and progressed from a bun to a bob, then to a roll and frizzed side pieces. She liked good clothes and spent far more on them than she should have done, so Mum always said.

Grandad was a saint. A tall, quiet, heavily moustached man, he had a slight cast in one eye which made it difficult for me to know where to look at him. His life he devoted to his Lord⁽⁹⁾ and in his gentle compassion ministered to all those "laid by" with sickness or other

circumstances. A strict teetotaler, he kept a roll of members of the Temperance Society⁽¹⁰⁾ framed on the wall. I hated this because at the top of the list glared a huge baleful eye which swept around the room. It seemed impossible to escape its searching stare.

Having seen the misery drink and gambling could bring to families, Grandad would not countenance playing cards, and so at Christmas when the family gathered gloriously together, the older members waited until Grandad retired (early as usual) and then played 1½d nap all night.

These recollections are part of a longer account entitled 'Frances Elizabeth's Granddaughter' written in the early 1980's by Blanche Endean nee Teasdale, born in Felling-on-Tyne in 1919. Later she became the wife of Arthur Endean of Worthing where she died in 1993.

She was the sister of Rev Tom Teasdale, retired Methodist Minister, of Netherleigh Lodge, Firby Road, Bedale, North Yorkshire, who has other extracts from his sister's reminiscences of life in Felling in the 1920's and early 30's, copies of which he would be willing to supply to readers with particular interest who contact him with a large self addressed envelope.

Titles available are:

*Games and Pastimes;
Life at 51 George Street; Neighbours;
Coldwell Street Primitive Methodists; Schooldays;
Monday was Washing Day - the weekly routine*

- 1 Prior to this, generations of the Greener family lived in Burnhope, Ovingham and Ryton.
- 2 John Greener (1861-1943) and Rebecca, formerly Hobkirk (1864-1925) were married in 1881.
- 3 Seven of these are known: Stephen b.1883; Ellen "Nellie", amateur clairvoyant, b.1885; John 'Jack' b.1889; Annie b.1891; Isabella b.1894 m. Albert Teasdale in 1918; George Anderson b.1905; Elsie b.1906.
- 4 George Anderson's death certificate dated 12 November 1919 reflects the perils of pit work. Blanche Teasdale was born 15 December, 1919.
- 5 As a Deputy Overseer John Greener used his stick with its copper disc for tamping the shot into the hole drilled into the seam before blasting.
- 6 Thomas Teasdale (1871-1943) one of four brothers, fell farmers in the Medomsley area. He was sometime Miners' President at Felling Colliery. He and Frances Elizabeth, formerly Bell (1871-1950) unofficial midwife and 'layer out' in Felling for many years, were married in 1892.
- 7 Doris b.1913, the youngest of the Teasdale children, married Tom Wise of Felling. Albert, father of Blanche Endean and Rev Tom Teasdale of Bedale, N. Yorkshire, born 1893 and Jennie b.1900 married to Jack Stainthorpe of Low Fell were the other offspring.
- 8 Frances Bell's birth was registered in Ashton, Lancashire.
- 9 He was Circuit Steward, Society Steward at Coldwell Street Methodist Church for thirty years and a member of Felling Free Church Council.
- 10 Felling Branch of the Sons of Temperance of which he was a Chairman and, in later years, Auditor.

1881 CENSUS - THE OLDEST PEOPLE

by Brian Legg

Searching for information in the 1881 census has become much less time consuming now that a transcript is available on CD-ROM, courtesy of the Mormon church. In my ancestry there is a relation who is recorded as dying at the age of 105 in 1800 and, to put this into context, I thought that it might be interesting to find the age profile of the population at the time of the 1881 census and to find the oldest people then alive.

A blanket search of the whole country (total population 29,945,719) gives 223 people recorded as being age 100 or more. Of these, 192 are age 100-104, 15 are age 105-109, 6 are age 110-114, 6 are age 115-126 and 4 are age 143-181.

Before informing The Guinness Book of Records, it was thought necessary to check a microfilm copy of the original records at the Family Records Centre. The oldest fifteen people were judged not to be so, because of transcription errors, leaving Mrs Ann HOWARD in Kendal, Westmoreland, as probably the oldest person at 110 years old (RG11-5212-64). She was a British subject, b in B.....land (not Borneo, as in the transcript).

After elimination of the individuals with transcription errors, the distribution of people age 100 or more, in the geographical divisions as defined on the CD-ROMS, is as follows:

Area	Population	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	Tot	Irish
London (Middlesex)	2,921,388	6	4	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	13	2
Greater London East	2,444,360	5	3	2	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	13	1
Greater London West	2,422,039	7	1	-	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	13	3
South West	2,431,862	4	-	2	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	10	1
East Anglia	1,962,402	5	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	8	1
East Midlands	1,911,785	6	4	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	1
West Midlands	2,384,772	8	3	2	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	17	2
N. Central (Lancashire)	3,466,806	6	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	8	3
Yorkshire	2,894,721	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	2
North Borders	1,790,976	11	1	5	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	20	6
Scottish Highlands	1,600,854	25	6	4	2	1	1	1	-	2	-	-	42	-
Scottish Lowlands	2,145,723	10	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	5
Wales	1,568,031	10	4	3	4	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	27	-

With small numbers such as these, interpreting apparent differences is fraught with difficulty, but, on the basis that the ages given are truthful, some observations seem clear-cut. Of the above 207 people, 9 of them were born abroad (4.3%) and 27 of them were born in Ireland (13%), both values being disproportionate to the general population. People in the Scottish Highlands (all b in Scotland) appeared to live longer than people in the most industrialised areas such as Lancashire and Yorkshire.

In Northumberland & Durham the oldest people found were as follows:

Name and Age	Residence	Birthplace	Reference (RG11)
ANGUS, John (100)	Haltwhistle, NBL	Summersfield, DUR	5109-25
APPLEBY, Thomas (102)	Hetton le Hole, DUR	Haughton le Skerne, DUR	4976-57
BANFORD, Elisabeth (102)	Horton, NBL	Leicester	5093-83
BOURK, Bridget (100)	B'wearmouth, DUR	IRL	4987-93
BRISTOW, Margaret (102)	Westoe, DUR	So Shields, DUR	5013-31
BUTTERWICK, Tom (102)	Dalton Piercy, DUR	Stokesley, YKS	4905-03
COSTELLO, Frances (100)	Wallsend, NBL	IRL	5072-69
HALL, Mary (100)	Longbenton, NBL	Co Down, IRL	5084-89
HOOK, Andrew (102)	Usworth, DUR	Belford, NBL	4984-95
KELLY, Ann (100)	Newcastle, NBL	IRL	5060-86
WILKINSON, Alfred (103)	Bishop Auckland, DUR	Newburn, NBL	4913-09

Dr Brian Legg, 25 Spencer Avenue, Coventry CV5 6NQ E-mail: BriLegg@leggtronix.freemove.co.uk

THE KNIGHTONS OF FENCEHOUSES

by Alan Oliver

In 1873, a family arrived in the one-time mining village of Fencehouses, County Durham, whose influence was to alter the lives of many people in the village and, to some extent, the shape of the village itself; these were the Knightons.

The family stemmed from Huntingdonshire where, along with neighbouring Cambridgeshire, they had wandered looking for work, usually of the agricultural labourer variety. Having little success, they came North seeking their fortune in the mines, coking plants and foundries of County Durham.

The head of the family was Henry Knighton, born in Little Gidding in 1832, whose father before him was a farmer from Great Gidding. Henry married Louisa Underwood in 1856, and then his wanderings began. The family can be traced in Huntingdonshire at Upton, Sawtry St Judith and Great Gidding, and in Cambridgeshire at Hillrow Causeway, Haddenham, Aldreth and Ely.

The Knightons had eight children (seven of whom were boys), whose numbers were to be, tragically, reduced to six. The first disaster occurred in 1868, when the family was living at Haddenham, where Henry Knighton was working as a horsekeeper. His son, George Edward, who had been born in Little Gidding in 1866, was scalded to death when he tried to drink water from the spout of a boiling kettle. Following this, Ernest Edward, who had been born at Aldreth, Cambridgeshire in 1873, died of 'convulsions' in December of the same year, in the Dubmire area of Fencehouses. It was through his death that the year of arrival of the Knightons into Fencehouses can thus be pin-pointed.

Once settled in Fencehouses, Henry Knighton first found work as groomsmen for Vincent Charles Stuart Wortly Corbett, JP, chief mining agent to the Marquess of Londonderry, who resided in the 'Big House' in the Blackboy area of Fencehouses. Now that the family had found work and a home in Fencehouses (which at that time would probably have gone under the name of Morton Acres), Henry and Louisa Knighton's sons sought work in the mines; some as miners beneath ground, and one as a blacksmith. Their eldest son, James Underwood Knighton, was involved in the sinking of the shaft for one of the Seaham mines.

The family worshipped at St Andrew's Church, Chilton Moor, Henry Knighton having been brought up in the Church of England at Little Gidding, where his father had been a churchwarden. Henry did not continue long with Corbett's, moving to the Hopper Ironworks. This company provided a new clapper for Big Ben when the original had shown signs of metal fatigue. After some

time, Henry moved to Hopper's brick-works, where he worked until his death at the age of 54.

Before Henry's death, two of the sons, Samuel John and Arthur William, had broken away from the family's Church of England tradition, moving to the United Free Methodist Church, which was also in the Chilton Moor area of Fencehouses. Here there also began a movement towards Independent Methodism, and the two Knighton brothers became caught up in it. At first, meetings were held in a house in Britannia Terrace, in the Bank Head area. As the congregation grew, meetings moved to the smithy opposite the Britannia Terrace house and then, when that proved to be too small, to the adjoining joiner's workshop. These two buildings survive today, as the Britannia Garage.

It became necessary to find a permanent building for an Independent Methodist Church. With money borrowed from the Co-op, the building of Bank Head Independent Methodist church began, and it was finally opened for worship in 1887. Samuel John Knighton's name appears on the deeds as one of the trustees.

One tale that is told concerning the opening-day involves Sam Spears, a local drunkard, who came with some of his cronies with the intention of disrupting the opening services. A miraculous conversion appears to have taken place, for Sam from that day onwards devoted his loyalties to the Church, and became an Independent Methodist minister. His sons, Herbert and Sam junior became ministers in turn and his granddaughter Gwen is currently President of Bank Head Independent Methodist Church which, if her grandfather had had his way, may not have existed.

Arthur William Knighton's influence in the church grew after his brother Samuel had left the area. He worked as a miner at the Lambton D Pit in Fencehouses, married Margaret Jane Carr, and had a large family of ten children, all of whom in their turn were an influence in Independent Methodism, becoming ministers or teachers, to such an extent that up to the late 1960's or early 1970's, local people did not recognise the church by its proper title, referring to it instead as Knighton's Chapel.

Sadly, no-one of that name worships at the church now, but although numbers are few, the church that the Knightons helped to found lives on.

Editor's Note: Mr Oliver has much information on the Knighton family of Fencehouses which we are unable to print through lack of space. His address is: 56 St. John's Drive, Bilton, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG1 3AG.

FROM PAST TO FUTURE IN OUSEBURN

by Ruth Milne

*"Time present and time past
Are both perhaps present in time future,
And time future contained in time past"*

T.S. Eliot

Newcastle group members have enjoyed a varied programme since the group's formation last year. A recent outing to explore the Lower Ouseburn Valley under the guidance of Mike Greatbatch, Heritage Manager for the Ouseburn Partnership, gave an excellent opportunity to appreciate ways in which people's interest in times past can help to enrich the lives of present and future generations.

After assembling outside the Ship Inn, we viewed the impressive bridges which span the Ouseburn - down near the level of the burn is a good vantage point to study them. Crawford's Bridge was built in the 1750s, and is now "listed". (The name of the bridge is a reference to Thomas Crawford who owned property in the area in the early 19th century.) The Byker Road Bridge was built across the Ouseburn Valley in 1878, to improve access to the developing suburbs in the east of Newcastle, and the main road route to the river mouth and the coast, and was a toll bridge until 1895. The present Ouseburn Rail Viaduct is an 1869 reconstruction in wrought iron of a previous laminated timber viaduct constructed by John Green of Newcastle in 1837-39. The contrast between the soaring brick arches of the road bridge, the iron work of the rail viaduct, the concrete of the modern Metro bridge and the stonework of Crawford's Bridge far below helps focus the idea of past, present and future being linked. The landscaping over the culvert containing the Ouseburn, and the City Farm, almost under the arches of the tall bridges, both offer present and future community use to the area.

Walking a short distance along the side of the burn towards the river enabled us to see a range of imposing 19th century warehouses and mills, including one building designed by John Dobson, reminders of past industry in the Ouseburn Valley. Lead, iron, soap, glass, ceramics and confectionery have all been manufactured in Ouseburn in the past. The unhealthy working environment of the workers in the lead factories in particular caused one London newspaper to publish an article in 1892 headlined "White Cemeteries - How Women Are Poisoned". The lead factories are now gone but some of the other industrial buildings remaining are being put to new use as workshops, bringing fresh activity to the area. The terraced housing and shops which existed near Crawford's Bridge was demolished by the 1960s, but the Ouseburn Heritage Group is working to create an archive of old photographs and memories to bring the past of the community to life,

with the help of people who once lived or worked in the valley.

The Victoria Tunnel is a fascinating reminder of the industrial history of the Lower Ouseburn and of Newcastle, and we were able to venture a short way into the tunnel, equipped with hard hats and torches. The tunnel was built between 1839 and 1842 to allow laden coal wagons to run by gravity approximately two miles from Spital Tongues Colliery to staithes on the Tyne near Glasshouse Bridge. The empty wagons were hauled back up by means of a stationary steam engine. Short sections of the tunnel remain undisturbed and we were able to go into the lower section from the Ouse Street entrance and admire the craftsmanship of some of the Victorian workforce of 200 who built it. To us the tunnel was surprisingly airy and dry, a cool retreat from the heat of the sun outside, but we marvelled at the thought of the skill, hard work and discomfort which must have been involved in its construction. The overall engineering control of the construction was the responsibility of a Mr Gillespie. John Cherry, a lead miner from Yorkshire was in charge of the tunnelling, and the brick and stone lining was by a Newcastle builder, David Nixon. The bricks arched overhead were just high enough to allow for the passage of the wagons. We were able to see the concrete blast walls, installed as part of the preparations to allow sections of the tunnel to be used as air raid shelters in World War II, but apparently the tunnel was not a very popular refuge with the people of the area - possibly because of its small height and width. The culvert over the Ouseburn, also converted as a shelter, was bigger and more used.

The final part of our Ouseburn trail led us to St Ann's Church, and very welcome tea provided by ladies there. For some of us it was a first visit to St Ann's. Pictures of Newcastle in the past show the church standing in fields on the banks of the Tyne. Now, having been surrounded by a succession of types of housing, and seen the ebb and flow of trade and industry on the riverbanks, more recently it has seen the Quayside redevelopment. But the church is stunning. It is an elegant Georgian building, designed by Newcastle architect William Newton and consecrated in 1768. Earlier in the 1990s it was discovered to be subsiding. The people of St Ann's, determined to preserve the church for present and future generations for worship and community life have raised £250,000 to remedy the subsidence, and adapt and decorate the interior of the church. On a bright summer afternoon the church interior had a quality of light and calm which offered a valuable place for rest and reflection in the heart of the city.

For a few minutes, James Alder, who was born and grew up in the area near to St Ann's, talked to us about

his childhood memories, as the son of a docker in a busy local community and about what the churchyard surrounding St Ann's had meant to him as a child - "It was a park". Now there are plans (if sufficient funds can be raised) for a programme of environmental improvement of the churchyard. James, an artist, has donated a rather special book of his illustrations, "The Birds and Flowers of the Castle of Mey", to be raffled via Ouseburn Heritage to raise funds for the project. James talked about his belief in the importance of linking the past and the future - the present is over in an instant - which underlies his support of the project. As family historians, who spend time looking purposefully around graveyards, some of which are not so well cared for, the project sounded well worth supporting to help ensure a quiet, beautiful enclave surrounds this church in the city for present and future generations to appreciate and respect.

Members who have photographs or memories of living in the Ouseburn area (perhaps of being in Victoria Tunnel during the war!) or anyone who wishes to

support the Ouseburn Heritage Project, might like to contact Mike Greatbatch, Heritage Manager, The Ouseburn Partnership, Unit 18, The Off Quay Building, Foundry Lane, Ouseburn, Newcastle upon Tyne NE6 1LH. The Ouseburn Partnership publish an excellent "Ouseburn Heritage" newsletter three times a year. Some of the places and topics mentioned in this report have been featured in detail in the first two issues of the newsletter. Anyone who wishes to support the work at St Ann's in particular could get further information by writing to the Treasurer, Angela Pendrich, 9 Tilburn Close, Victoria Glade, Newcastle upon Tyne NE7 7FQ.

If you would enjoy finding out more about the bridges and tunnel and Tyne and Wear's surviving industrial heritage look out for a publication from the Tyne and Wear Specialist Conservation Team called "A Guide to the Industrial Archaeology of Tyne and Wear", compiled by Ian Ayris and Stafford M Linsley, ISBN 1 85795 0267.

RENTAL OF SIR JAMES CLAVERING, BART. FOR THE YEAR 1740

This is a document included amongst 33 papers belonging to William Ettrick of Bishopwearmouth. It seems to be a stray document as the remainder of the papers deal with a tithe dispute with the Rector of Bishopwearmouth in 1704-13. It records the yearly rents and, on occasion, arrears due. Names only are given here.

John Armstrong, Swallwell	Jno. Stevenson, Dunston	Widdow Watson, Swalwell
John Atkinson, Goosmoor	Ns. Spencer, Hagg Hill	Mr. Pert, Weardale
Hugh Park, Swallwell	Rc. Hepple, B'field	Wm. Brown, Byermoor
Mr John Barrass, Whickham	Wm. Hepple, B'field	Jos. Williamson, H.W.
Jos. Milburn, Swallwell	Jno. Linsley, Swalwell	G. Swinburn, E. Bridge
Mrs Bell, Swallwell	Richard Turner, Shibden	R. Forster, Whickham
Blands of Whickham	Jno. Nixon, Swalwell	A. Whaley, Ridlamhope
Andrew Brack, Swallwell	Jno. Olever, Swallwell	Geo. Bowes, Esq.
Mrs Crowley, Swallwell	Wm. Ancrum, Weetwood	Thos. Pescod
Bullerwells of Lintford	Thos. Maddison, Swalwell	Jos. Wealery
John Haswell, Sheerburngreen	Widow Bambrough, Swalwell	James Chilton, Bla. Fyery
Thos. Cockram, Swallwell	Thos. Anderson, Swalwell	Thos Downing
Jno. Pescod for ye Dockheath	Thos. Brooksbanks, Swalwell	Jno. Thompson for Scotchwood
Jno. Laidler, Batehouses etc.	Alexander Carr, Swallwell	B. Landing
Mr Robt. Morley, Dunston	Walter Blackett Esq.	Henry Hancock
Cuth. Maxwell, Swalwell	Jno. Hopper, Swalwell	Matt. Southern
Matt. Newton, Swallwell	Jno. Bainbridge, B. Houses	Geo. Wheatly
Jno. Newton, Swalwell	Thos. Robson, Felside	Widow Bulmer
Jno. Richardson, Burngreen	Jos. Kell, P-Boat land	Sam. Newton, C. Bank
Geo. Taylor, Swalwell	Widow Rutlish, Swalwell	Dro. Beckley
Jno. Richardson, Pauston birks	Jno. Parker, Swalwell	Sam. & Wm. Newton of House N.
Jno. Thompson, Swalwell	Widow Raw, Swalwell	Wm. Newton for Byermoorlane
Geo. Stokoe, Windy Hill	Wm. smith, Axwells	
Wm. Smith, G.L. Lane	Jos. Carr, Emley	
Jno. Seamer, Axwells	Thos. Robson, Emley	
Emmerson Smith, Dunston	Eliz. Teasdale, Emley	
Ja. Sadler, Wood House	Mary Keenleside, Emley	

Editor's Note: This list has been submitted by D.W. Smith and appears by courtesy of the Sunderland Antiquarian Society.

KNOW YOUR PARISH - SILKSWORTH

by Douglas W Smith

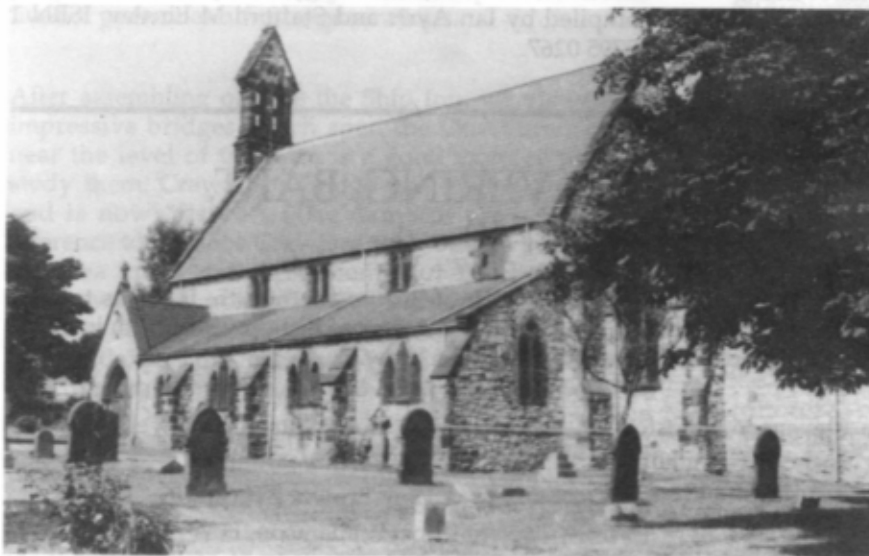
The name of the modern township of Silksworth, near Sunderland, came from the ancient village of Old Silksworth nearby. This in the 19th century contained a row of cottages, a Post Office, gardens, a couple of farms and a schoolroom clustered round the two 'big' houses - Silksworth Hall and Silksworth House. The former from Medieval times belonged to the Lords of Horden then passed through Middletons, Ettricks and Robinsons with only one break in succession. It was demolished in 1903 when a new Hall was built by the shipbuilding family of Doxford. Silksworth House dates from 1780, belonging to the Beckwith family and later the Doxfords after whom it is now named. There was also an ancient chapel of St Leonard here until the

development of the place. A dispute between him and the early Miners' Union led to the famous eviction strike of 1891 when he attempted to throw the miners and their families into the street - this in February! An account of this can be found in the book *"Out All Out"* by DW Smith which is obtainable from the Sunderland Central Library. It carries lists of those evicted.

The village, despite the fact that the original population was almost entirely immigrant, held rich community traditions. There was a strong temperance movement, Territorials with their Drill Hall, a local cinema, co-operative store and other shops, a handful of farms,

Church Mission Room and Miners' Hall. Hence it was largely self-sufficient and with practically the whole community employed in the colliery, Sunderland but three miles away had little impact until well into the 20th century. The pit closed in 1971.

The Anglican Church of St Matthew was built just as the colliery began. Its registers begin in 1872. Before this, entries must be sought in Bishopwearmouth. The Roman Catholic Church named after that ancient chapel of St Leonard by the foundress Mrs Beckwith, also dates from this time. The registers begin September 1873 and for a time carried entries also for Ryhope. The registers of these churches are on microfilm in Durham Record Office and in Sunderland Library.



St Matthew's Church, Silksworth (Photo by P Thirkell)

Reformation. As long ago as 1814 Robert Surtees, the historian, lamented the size of this "wide and populous parish" (i.e. Bishopwearmouth) commenting that the ancient chapel would have supplied a deficiency not easy to replace. It was to take a long time to remedy this and parishioners had to travel in all weathers into Sunderland where a Silksworth pew was reserved in Bishopwearmouth Church. Eventually a schoolroom was built in 1852 where Sunday afternoon services might be held. This continued as the village school until the mid-1950s.

But it was the sinking of a colliery in rich coal seams that established the modern village of "New" Silksworth by 1870. At first a row of houses was built near the pit but thereafter houses were constructed a mile away almost adjoining the other village of Tunstall. Indeed, for the first few years, the village was called New Tunstall. It was a model colliery village of its time, surrounded like a medieval town by a brick wall.

The whole project was financed by the owner, Lord Londonderry, who played a prominent part in the

Three Methodist Churches existed. North Street Wesleyan Chapel was opened in 1879 and continued until demolished in 1973 when the nearby Weightman Memorial Hall was converted into a chapel. Seaham Street (Primitive Methodist) opened in 1898 and closed in 1964. An Independent Methodist Chapel (originally Ebenezer Christian Lay Chapel) opened in 1883 and continues to the present.

There is a flourishing Local History Society in Silksworth which has already produced commemorative mugs and china as well as three booklets - photographs, colliery history and history of the streets and shops. Members have also copied all the monumental inscriptions for the large churchyard at it St Matthews' and the entire 1881 Census has been indexed. Further information may be had from Mrs D McKeown, 38 Somerset Cottages, Silksworth, Sunderland SR3 1BX.

Editor's Note: Doug Smith's address is 'Simonburn', 7 Crow Lane, Middle Herrington, Sunderland SR3 3TE.

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 24th December. Please include your membership number with any correspondence and print names to avoid errors. There is no restriction on how often you may submit items but please try to be brief, as, the shorter the items, the more we can print.

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

0471 Mrs R. HUNTER, 'Holly Lea', 123 Fendalton Road, Christchurch 8001, New Zealand

Still researching Mary Ann ALLISON, the single daughter of Edward Allison, born 1853 Alnwick, died 12 Oct 1928 - but where? A Mary Anne Allison died in Portsmouth 4th quarter 1928 and a MA Allison died at Houghton-le-Spring in the Spring of 1928. She had a companion who lived in Durham from 1892 onwards. Mary Ann's parents both died when she was young and their family was reared by various family members countrywide: Mary Ann may have been raised in Tonbridge Wells and was either a lecturer or teacher as she had a degree. She was related to a GLADSTERNE/GLADSTONE family, some of whom emigrated to Northern Ireland.

1286 Mrs MURIEL ATKINSON, 69 Paddock Green Crescent, London, Ontario N6J 3P6, Canada

Seeking information on Cuthbert RAMSAY, born Heworth 1775, married 1798 Heworth to Mary TINN, born 1780, daughter of John Tinn of Gateshead. They had children born Heworth: Thomas 1799; Cuthbert 1804; Dorothy 1811; Robert 1813; Alice 1815 and Matthew 1819. Their eldest son Thomas married Margaret ANDERSON at Jarrow in 1820. Both Cuthbert and son, Thomas, were quarrymen at Blue Quarries and lived at Windy Nook. Last relevant entry in Heworth registers was baptism in 1822 of Margaret, daughter of Thomas and Margaret. Dorothy Ramsay married Thomas HARDING at Newcastle, St Andrew in 1832 and by 1851 they were at Easington but unable to find any other members of the Ramsay family. The 1841 Census film proved to be unreadable; would welcome any clues to the family's location after 1822.

1994 Mrs P BULLEN, 31 Herne Bay Road, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent CT2 0NJ

Seeking information about Richard John AVERY of Sunderland, listed as a baker on his son's marriage certificate in 1843. Richard John was the father of Richard John Avery who married Mary Ann JOHNSON at Holy Trinity, Sunderland in 1843. They were both 'of full age' and lived at Grey Street and Mauds Lane respectively. Any information on the Averys of Sunderland would be welcome. Willing to search the Kent indexes in exchange for help in searching those of Sunderland.

2126 Mrs D FAWCETT, 22 Broom Road, Lakenheath, Suffolk IP27 9ES

Seeking information on Edward CORR born c1788 Ireland, came to the North East c1845. He had two known sons: John who married Catherine GORMAN at Felling 1855, and Henry who married 1855 to Margaret ARMSTRONG. There was also a Catherine Corr who married Patrick TRAINOR in 1849; was she of the same family? All the marriages were at St Patrick's chapel, Felling. Edward died 1859 at High Felling aged 74. Associated names: GRIFFIN, McCABE and MEADOWS.

2339 Mr R GARRICK, 6 Kingston Close, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear NE26 1JW

Seeking information on William CHARLTON, shown on 1851 Census as an engine fitter aged 31 years living at Wesley Street, Newcastle with wife Mary aged 33. Their daughter Elizabeth was born at Windmill Hills, Gateshead in 1853.

2581 Mrs BARBARA VOKES-WINDWARD, Caracknore Hard Lane, Marchwood, Southampton SO40 4UT

Searching for information on the mother of David BROWN, born c1851 Amble, Northumberland, police constable at Bishop Auckland in 1874 when he married Mary Ann THOMPSON. Father William Brown, labourer, died at Westgate, Newcastle 1927 aged 76. Also parents of John ILEY born 1836 Wolsingham, coalminer, married 1862 to Frances WATSON, born 1840. Their children: George, John and Elizabeth (all born Wolsingham), Francis, Frederick Newyears (both born Bedburn), Albert (Wolsingham), and Meggie.

2942 DENIS ROWAN, 1 Beaumont Terrace, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 1AS

Searching for ancestors of: 1) William ROWAN (ROWENS) and wife Sarah, both buried at St Michael's, Alnwick - Sarah 1781 and William 1783. There is a connection with Berwick and possibly Auckland St Andrew. 2) John

DUNN, policeman, husband of Margaret SWALLOW. John died 1849, possibly drowned, and was buried at Whittingham. Death not registered in GRO Indexes. Where would police or coroner's records be? 3) Francis Mathew PATRICK, licensed victualler born 1831, married Mary Ann. They lived in Tottenham (Edmonton), possibly the 'Rose and Crown' in the High Street. Francis may have been the son of Samuel Patrick but where was he born?

2999 Mrs CHERYL MAXWELL, 102 Bay Road, Bolton Point, New South Wales 2283, Australia

Seeking descendants and forebears of James Thomas BARRY born 1838 Tudhoe, Durham, married Elizabeth BINKS 1866 Stockton on Tees. They had eight children: Joseph T. (1869), Margaret J. (1870), Mary E. (1875), Sarah E. (1876), Annie (1879), John W. (1880), James (1881), and John T. (1888). On 1881 Census they were at Rogerson Terrace, Croxdale Colliery and by the 1891 Church Street, Walker.

3029 NORAH GS WANLESS, 1 Blind Lane, Chester-le-Street, Co Durham DH3 4AF

Information wanted on the birth and death of Captain Nicholas ANDERSON (or ANDERSEN), master mariner, as he is described as "of Gottenberg". He married Jane FRENCH 1805 at All Saints, Newcastle. Also, is there any connection between Miss Elizabeth French born 1832 Seaham Harbour, confirmed at Bishopwearmouth parish church and died Byron Terrace, New Seaham aged 96?

3261 Mr COLIN WANLESS, 15 Hillcrest, Ashington, Northumberland NE63 9SH

Seeking birth/baptism and burial details of George WANLESS who married Elizabeth BATEMAN 1772 at Alston, Cumberland. Elizabeth, a widow, was buried in 1817 at St Peters, Wallsend.

3307 MICHAEL PARKER, 44 Lime Tree Avenue, Bilton, Rugby, Warwickshire CV22 7QT (email: hogspark@pipemedia.co.uk)

Seeking a grave plot plan for Westgate Hill Cemetery, Newcastle. Has anyone ever seen one please? Also seeking the descendants of Samuel Henry PARKER and Mary Ann (LENNOX) married St Mary, Whickham 1877, and their daughters, Margery Jane Parker and Gertrude Parker, both baptised St Nicholas, Dunston in the 1880s.

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

Seeking information on the ancestors and descendants of William ARMSTRONG and Hannah PORTEOUS who in 1924 were living at George Street, Elswick, Newcastle. They had five children: Leo (1916), Thomas H (1919), Richard G. (1922), Henry L (1924) and Margaret (1927). Only descendants of Henry are known. Information is sought on the other four children.

3699 Mrs M MARSHALL nee WALLACE, 38 The Avenue, Eyemouth, Berwickshire TD14 5EB

Looking for descendants of James (Jim) and Sarah (Sally) MAWSON (nee CARTER). They married 1896 and had children: John (bapt 1900), Matt (bapt 1901), Jim (bapt 1904) and Annie Ethel (bapt 1905). Jim was a coal miner at Pittington, Co Durham before he and Sally moved to Sherburn Hill. Have traced three elder brother's descendants: Robert (1855), John (1863) and George (1871). What happened to Kitty WALLACE nee Mawson, born Pittington 1894, married Henry Wallace 1913? Left husband and five children in 1925/6 and believed to have moved to North Shields. Last seen 1944/5.

4086 Mrs ANN DOUGLAS, 25 Fieldhead Paddock, Boston Spa, Wetherby, West Yorkshire LS23 6SA

Looking for the birth and death of William FORSTER born c.1803. The 1851 Census indicates Houghton-le-Spring and the 1861 Census Stanhope. He married Susannah CARR in 1835 at Hexham; children: George (1836 Whitley Chapel), William (c1840), Susannah (1841 Hexham), Isabella (1848 Iveston), Henry (1850 Haydon Bridge), John (1853 Dipton Mill). Wife Susannah died

Fellside, Hexham in 1873. Also looking for the marriage of Joseph DONKIN, born 1876, to Margaret late SEDGEWICK, formerly TIPLADY; children: Elizabeth (1886), Arthur (1891) and Alfred (1894), all born Sunderland.

4145 Mrs THELMA BEATY, 37 Queens Crescent, Putnoe, Bedfordshire MK41 9BN

Seeking help with a WANLESS/MARSHALL connection in Sunderland with my Wanless/COOPER family in Durham City. Jane Cooper, formerly Wanless, of Durham City was visited during the school holidays 1895 by a young relative Annie or Jennie Marshall from Sunderland. Jane Cooper's father was William Cathron Wanless, shoemaker of Durham, whose children were: Thomas Cathron, James Cathron, Mary Ann, Jane (born 1858) and Robert. Having difficulty in finding William's parents but he may have been born in Sunderland c1824.

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

Has anyone a Matthew CHARLTON in his/her family tree who was born on 10 June 1852 at Middleton in Teesdale to Margaret THOMPSON and William Charlton of Newlandside, Stanhope? He appears in the 1881 Census of Crawe Howle, Copley with his mother now Margaret ALLINSON and her husband Thomas Allinson and grandsons Joseph and Nathan Charlton. Any information relating to marriage and/or death would be appreciated.

4622 Mrs MJ NICHOLSON, 39 Links Road, Cullercoats, North Shields, Tyne & Wear NE30 3OY

Would like any information regarding great grandmother Mary KELLY, who lived in Nuns Lane, Gateshead in 1863; she married a Michael HUNT. Also god parents John and Bridget O'BRIEN, William and Catherine MONAGHAN, Mary ROONEY. Other names associated with the Kelly family included Marie MAGUIRE, James SNEE.

4903 PATRICIA SCOTT, 27 Shaftesbury Avenue, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear NE26 3TD (email: pat@cuschat.freeserve.co.uk)

Information needed on Edward JOHNSON born c1840, son of William Johnson a tailor of Newcastle. Edward was a Freeman of Newcastle, like his father, in the Tailor's Guild although his occupation was a tobacco spinner. Edward married Jane JOBLING 1865 and lived mainly in Orchard Street, Newcastle with their eight children. By 1903 Edward was living in Hanover Street, Newcastle.

5330 GORDON WALLACE, "Baccara", 1 Park Close, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 8ND

Seeking the whereabouts of Robert BRAMWELL/BRAMMER and his wife Ann nee HENDERSON after sons William 1810 and Matthew 1812 were born at Alston. William above and his wife Sarah nee ARMSTRONG, born 1812, resided at Alston in 1861. By 1871 they had left Alston Moor, but for where? Possibly at Evenwood, Co Durham or Westgate/Elswick area of Newcastle. They should be with their youngest children: Mary 1848, Hannah 1851, Elizabeth 1856 and Margaret Jane 1859. On the 1881 Census, Sarah is a widow living with daughter Mary at Diana Street, Westgate, Newcastle and Elizabeth and Margaret Jane were servants in the Elswick district.

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

What was the connection to the DIXON family of Tynemouth and Newcastle of: Stephen AYNLEY born 1799, 5th son of John Aynley, farmer of Seatonville, native of Simonburn and Elizabeth WOOD of Woodhorn? Did he move to North Shields? Did he become a farmer? When did he die? Also seeking, from 1854 onwards, brothers John Hardinge VEITCH born c1842 and Thomas Kelsey Veitch born c1847, both Durham City. They were living at Bedford Street, Bishopwearmouth at the time of the death of their father, John Hardinge Veitch, newspaper proprietor and editor of *The Sunderland Examiner* in 1854. Their mother was Isabella KELSEY born Chester-le-Street.

5635 IAN BLENKINSOPP, 73 Whitestile, Seaton, Cumbria CA14 1ID (email: ian.blenkinsopp@talk21.com)

Engaged in a One Name Study of the HANDYSIDE family and would be pleased to exchange information with others. Is there anyone who has connections with James and Ann ALDERSON who were resident at William Street, Bishop Auckland in August 1915; I have important family news for them.

6026 Mrs AUDREY PORTER, 88 Warwick Road, Lytham St Annes, Lancashire FY8 1XL

Can any member help with information regarding the German swordmakers of Shotley Bridge? Great great grandfather George MOLE was born in Shotley Bridge in 1820, son of George Mole and Eleanor PROUD who married at Muggleswick in 1812.

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

Are there any members in the South West or London areas who would be prepared to undertake a small amount of research in Gloucestershire (Record Office) or London (Family Records Centre, Greater London RO) in exchange for research in Tyne & Wear or Durham?

6833 WILLIAM MUSTARD, 5 Russell Place, High Street, Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO21 1UJ

Seeking information on the family of Joseph WRIGHT of Wallsend, born 1910, died 1971 age 61, buried at Holy Cross Cemetery, Wallsend. He was a boxer and used the name "Young Joseph". His brother also boxed in the name of ROGERS during the period 1927-1933. The GRO indexes for 1920 show only two Joseph Wrights born in the area, one in the 1st quarter and the

other in 4th, and only two marriage in 1932 to girls named RITSON and TAYLOR. It is recorded that Joseph Wright was a Roman Catholic and he died in Marie Curie Centre at Newcastle. Any information please.

6853 Mr RW AYRE, 102 Chester Avenue, Beverley, East Yorkshire HU17 8UX

Looking for information on Joseph WALTON of Westgate, Weardale (1796-1860). Known to be a farmer at Westgate, he married Frances BAINBRIDGE in 1821. Known children: Mary born 1823, John 1825 and Joseph 1829. Who were Joseph's parents?

7047/7048 PETER and MARJORIE PHELPS, 'Gilgara' 8 Gardenfield, Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire NN10 8LP

Seeking the birth, parents and siblings of Robert NELSON who married: 1) Ann BLAICKLOCK 1736/7 and died 1737/8 and, 2) Anne VINT 1739, both marriages at Barnard Castle. Also seeking information about James SNOW, son of James, married Barbara LUKE, daughter of James, 1858 at Brancepath. Their son James married: 1) Mary Elizabeth LIN(DISLEY 1882 at Low Spennymoor, and 2) a spouse, name not known. James and family spent some years in Schuylkill Co, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

7188 Mrs MAUREEN EVANS, 27 Carew Close, Yarm, Cleveland TS15 9JT

Researching the following names: BARTHOLOMEW (Howdon and South Shields); BIRD, CHAPMAN, COWAN, HENDERSON, ROWE and WALKER (Gateshead); CHARLTON (Rothbury); DODDS, DUFFY, FERRIER, READER and SNOWDON (Newcastle and Gateshead); JOHNSTON (Armthwaite and Gateshead); LOVELL, PICKERING and WADDINGTON (Newcastle), and STOR(EY) (Rothbury and Gateshead).

7204 JOHN HARRISON, 12 Epsom Close, Great Knowley, Chorley, Lancashire PR6 8TS (email: cejharrison@cwcom.net)

Researching the following families: FARRELL (Chirton, North Shields, Whitley Bay, Tynemouth) 1850 onwards; HARRISON (Whitley Bay, Chirton, Westoe, Tynemouth, Wallsend) 1800 onwards; CORNFORTH (Tynemouth) 1870 onwards; MARTIN (Tweedmouth, Newcastle) 1800-1900; SCOTT (Tweedmouth) 1800-1850; RUTHERFORD (Bamburgh, Derwenthaugh, Chirton, Percy Main, Tynemouth, Newcastle) 1750 onwards; THOMPSON (Swalwell, Percy Main, Tynemouth, Newcastle) 1800 onwards; PORTEUS (Felling Shore, Hebburn, Newcastle, Percy Main, Gateshead) 1800 onwards; DOUGLAS (Newcastle) 1800-1900; ASHBY (Hartlepool) 1830-1860; BOWER (Middlesbrough, Hartlepool) 1850 onwards; CALVERT (Hartlepool) 1850 onwards; FARROW (Hartlepool) 1820 onwards; LINDRIDGE anywhere, anytime; MACKLAM (Hartlepool, Hart, Durham) 1800 onwards; TAYLOR (Hartlepool) 1890 onwards.

7240 ALAN KEMP, 66 Polworth Road, Brunton Park, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 5NE

Attempting to find a connection between James CARTWRIGHT and a Cartwright family living at Diana Street, Westgate, Newcastle in 1881. The family appear to be travelling people as each of the six members have a different place of birth. A grandson George Cartwright aged 4 is shown as born at Theerbothenten, Northumberland. Can anyone suggest where this might be? James Cartwright is shown on 1881 Census at 15 Victoria Place. Can anyone enlighten me as the exact location? It is on the Census as being near Clavering Place and the Lit & Phil in Westgate Road but there don't seem to be any records after 1885.

7368 SUSAN CORCORAN HAYES, 3806 West Armour Street, Seattle, WA 98199, USA

Seeking descendants and on the family of Joseph William BELL (1821-1881), confectioner, and his wife Ann (b1829) nee SIMPSON, of Newcastle upon Tyne. Couple appears on 1881 Census living at 13 Picton Place with children Sarah Annie (1857), Arthur W (1864), Philip H (1866) and Emma Jane Simpson (1838), sister of Ann. Another daughter Charlotte Gertrude (1861) was living in Northampton with Ann's sister Sarah and her husband Thomas ARNOLD. Joseph died in June quarter 1881 and family moved in 1883. Where did they go? Also seeking descendants and information on family of Thomas Smith SALTER (1850), iron merchant, and his wife Margaret (nee SQUIRE), of South Shields. Thomas was son of Thomas Pritchett Salter and Mary SMITH and Margaret is daughter of Jabez Soars Squire and Mary Ann FIRTH. They had seven children: Thomas Jabez (1876) who married Alice Mary NEWTON in 1902, John William (1878), Arthur Augustus (1882) married Lena JOHNSON in 1906, Edward Squire (1884), Florence Mary (1885) married John Samuel WRIGHT in 1908, Albert Victor J (1887) married Isabella BROWN in 1909 and Septimus Wilson (1890) married Mary Baldry PIPPERT in 1915.

7401 PAMELA TATE, 47 Beaconsfield Place, Aberdeen AB15 4AB

Researching the TAIT/TATE side of my family pre 1800 in the Holy Island or Sunderland area - but for nearly 20 years I have been 'hitting a brick wall'. Earliest found is a baptism of William Tait son to Joseph and Sarah Allison at Holy Island in 1813. No marriage record found and would welcome suggestions for the less obvious sources. The births of siblings are in Sunderland and the name is then spelt Tate. Have traced the maternal side to the Holy Island area but Joseph Tait remains a mystery. Suggestions warmly welcomed to break through this 'dead end'.

7405 Mrs JACKY KENNEDY, 22 West Lodge Crescent, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD2 2EH

(e-mail: jackykennedy.demon.co.uk)

Seeking the marriage of James GRAY born c1852 and Maria PEARSON, late CRAIG, born c1847. Maria was from Jarrold and James from Hempstead, Norfolk. The couple lived in Westoe, South Shields and had children: George, Ada, Emma, Ethel and James. Is anyone researching the OXBOROUGH and/or WOODHOUSE families who moved to the Willington Quay area, from Suffolk, probably in the 1870s? Before this I believe they came from Suffolk and Norfolk respectively.

7479 Mrs SALLY GIBSON, 63 Station Road, Hatfield, Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN7 6QN

Can anyone confirm or disprove that Joseph **STOKOE** and Ann **SUTHERLAND**, married 1790 St Nicholas, Newcastle, were the parents of Joseph Stokoe, born 1791, who married Alice **COATES** in 1811 at All Saints, Newcastle? Seeking the parentage of Joseph Stokoe and Ann Sutherland. Does anyone have knowledge of the whereabouts of James **RIDLEY**, coal miner, between 1822 and 1879? He was born at Wylam, baptised 1822, son of John Ridley, shotmaker, and Mary, possibly **CHAPMAN**. Possible siblings Eleanor 1812, John 1814, Mary 1817 and William 1820. James Ridley allegedly married four times and had twenty four children. He married Barbara (Ann) **BROAD**, otherwise **HAWKINS**, in 1879 at Gateshead. Both were living in Felling but they returned to Wylam where James died 1892 aged 71 years. Has anyone found on the 1891 Census a George Armstrong **BURNS** aged 5, son of Henry Burns and his wife Jane nee **ARMSTRONG**?

7496 Mrs M CALLAGHAN, 11 Doddington Drive, Cramlington, Northumberland NE23 6DE

Seeking information about James **SCOTT**, perhaps known as James Caverhill Scott, waterman of Newcastle. Children: Martha married Thomas Abram **HORNSBY** in 1901, John married Mary Emily Hornsby in 1927, Sarah married William **BROWN**, James, Edward Robert, Thomas and Mary who had an illegitimate son raised by Martha and Thomas Hornsby.

7670 MIKE INGOE, 5 Folly Yard Cottages, Greenside, Ryton, Tyne & Wear NE40 4SE

Seeking information on the family name **INGOE**. Would like to hear from anyone with an interest in the surname for family research. Located descendants who lived at Horsley, parish of Ovingham in mid-1700s, and also the South Shields, Westoe and Jarrow area.

7942 Mr L TARN, 40 Wallace Street, Glenelg East, South Australia 5045, Australia

Looking for information regarding Jane **HARRISON**, born Pelton, Co Durham 1858, daughter of David Harrison, innkeeper of Newcastle, married Mark **TARN** in 1881 Newcastle. Also George **POTTS**, father of Sarah Potts born c1856.

7880 BRENDA HARRIS, Rose Cottage, Chalk Road, Walpole St Peter, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire PE14 7PH (email: brenda.harris@virgin.net)

1) William **HODGSON** (possibly known as John), born c1797 Monkton, weaver 1818-24, married Isabella. Children: Thomas 1817, William Hunt 1820, Isabella 1822, Stephen 1824, all born Monkton. Widowed 1824 and remarried Jane **ROBSON** in Newcastle 1826. Children: John 1827, George 1830 and Jane 1833, all born Gateshead. Worked as linen manufacturer, possibly in High Bridge, Newcastle until drowned at Tynemouth in 1833. 2) William **LYNN** from Medomsley, born c1753, married Sarah **GREENWELL** at Chester-le-Street 1778. Sarah's family were from Floters Mill on the Lumley Castle estate but unable to trace William further back. Any information on Floters Mill, Breckon Hill, Lumley Forge or Lumley Castle estate at that time would be appreciated.

8002 Miss LM HOWSTAN, 27 Carnforth Gardens, Gateshead NE9 6YH

Seeking information regarding John **HOUSTON** who was vice chairman of Blaydon UDC from March 1914 until elected chairman in May 1914.

8069 Mr LD WILSON, 18 Somerville Drive, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 3JT

Seeking information on Bracey Robson **WILSON**, Watson Wilson, Barbara **ROBSON** and Catherine Anne Teresa **OSBORN**, all believed to be from the Bishopwearmouth area. Watson Wilson married Barbara Robson 1811 at Bishopwearmouth and they had a son Bracey Robson Wilson 1812 who became a master mariner. Bracey married an Elizabeth and they had a son William Robson Wilson 1835 Bishopwearmouth who later married Catherine Anne Teresa Osborn born 1843, daughter of Bernard Osborn, and living at Bonners Field at the time of her marriage.

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

Seeking information on the following families: 1) Alexander **LANDLES** born in Scotland c1853 with father James Landles. Alexander Landles and family in South Shields on the 1881 census. Would like to find James Landles. 2) Peter **JOHNSON** married Jane **ANDERSON** 1869. Peter believed to be from Scotland and settled in the South and North Shields areas. Would like to find out about Peter Johnson who on his marriage certificate was a mariner, then according to son Henry's marriage certificate in 1902 was a missionary. Peter Johnson's father was Henry Johnson and deceased by 1869. 3) John **TAYLOR** son of James Taylor both mariners. Mary Taylor mother of John Taylor and other children lived at Academy Hill, South Shields according to the 1841 Census. Also researching William **HAILES** and wife Mary at South Shields on 1841 Census. His son William married to Isabella **MORRISON** c1854.

8292 DAVE CAIZLEY, 10 Chandlers Road, St Albans, Herts AL4 9RS (email: dave.caizley@lloydsudt.co.uk)

Seeking help locating **CAIZLEY** strays from 1841 census. Dorothy 57, not at home at Laygate Lane, South Shields. Later described as from Scarlett Hall Co Durham; Where is this? John 23, a tailor with wife Jane and daughter Sarah. Certain to be around St Hilda's South Shields. Alexander 28 possibly in Darlington and likely a shoemaker or cordwainer. Having problems locating marriage of John Tully Caizley to Elizabeth Ann **DECHON/DECHON** born c1851. Can anyone help with either marriage or correct spelling for her? Happy to hear from anyone who has encountered Caizleys in their tree.

8380 LES DODDS, 59 Woodlands Road, North Seaton, Ashington, Northumberland NE63 9TS

Seeking information about the following: George and Margaret **DODDS** (nee **BREWIS**) who married Norham 1770 and any descendants. Their son

Robert born 1778 married Mary Ann **FLYNN** at Norham 1803. Looking for information regarding her parents. Her father was Patrick and may have been known in the area as Peter or Patrick the painter.

8426 Mrs AUDREY LOTHIAN, 26 Bath Terrace, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 1UH

Information sought on forebears, siblings and descendants of Robert **TWEDDLE** born 1848 Seaton Sluice, and his wife Jane nee **MUSTARD** born 1850 Seaton Sluice.

8466 MICHAEL BALL, 16 Allan Street, Nelson, New Zealand (email: mikeball@netaccess.co.nz)

Seeking information on the following: 1) George **GRAY** born Newcastle c1861 son of William Gray, printer/compositor, born 1863 in Durham, and Isabella **DODDS** born 1842, Durham. George Gray married Cicely Jane **SMITH** aged 28 at St Matthew's, Newcastle in 1891. They had 2 children Elizabeth (1892) and Cicely (1893). No further information has been found about Cicely Jane Smith. George Gray died in the workhouse in Newcastle in 1934 but no record has been found of his length of stay or why he was admitted. 2) George Gray born c1804, Sunderland Bridge, Co Durham, quarryman and later papermaker who married Ann **BULMER** at St Oswald's, Durham in 1826. Children: Margaret (1826), Catherine (1828), Martha (1829), Elizabeth (1831), Mary Ann (1834), William (1836), George (1838), Sarah (1841), Sarah (1843), Thomas (1846). 3) Ralph **SWAN**, shoemaker in Norham, born in Tillmouth, Northumberland c1777 died 1852 aged 75 at Norham. Ralph married Mary c1808. She was born c1787 at Tillmouth and died at Norham in 1860. Children Sarah (1810) and Robert (1813) in Newcastle and Dorothy and Jane (1833) in Norham. 4) Robert Swan, shoemaker Norham, married Eleanor c1843. She was born at Ford or Berryhill c1812. Children: Mary (1844), Ralph (1847), James (1851), Sarah (1853), Dorothy Jane (1857).

8473 Mr A EVANS, 62 Dene Road, Wylam, Northumberland NE41 8HB

Researching the **HENDERSON** family. John Henderson, tile maker, born Newburn 1790, married Ann who was born Wylam 1794. They moved to Bishopwearmouth and had at least four children: Mary, Christopher, Ann and John, a brickmaker born 1824. John married Mary **GOURLEY** and they had three children: Isabella, Elizabeth and Mathew born 1847. Mathew was a blacksmith at Hamsteels Colliery married firstly Eliza **DAVIS** and had five children: Elizabeth, Joseph, William, Mary Ann and James who was born 1882.

8511 Mrs C JACKSON, 4 St Scholastica's Abbey, Teignmouth, Devon TQ14 8FF (email: cjackson@eclipse.co.uk)

Looking for information on William **SHEPARD**, mariner, born in Bristol (his father also called William), who married Ann **MATTHEWSON** in 1851 at Tynemouth and had children Isabella, Sarah, Emma, William and Joseph between 1853 and 1872. Joseph's second marriage was to Alice Ann **ADAMSON** 1912 at South Shields. Would appreciate any information on descendants of above and William and Joseph's seafaring careers.

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

Seeking the birth c1822 of William **SABOURN**, son of Robert, pilot and fisherman, of Cullercoats. Also, the birth of Thomas **HINDSON** c1853, son of William, stonemason, of Newcastle. He lived Westmoreland Terrace, Newcastle at the time of his marriage to Margaret Sabourn in 1873 but unable to find him on the 1871 Census.

8600 CHARLES SCOTT, 3722 Rockdale Drive, Dallas, Texas 75220, USA

Searching for descendants of George and Rebecca Henderson **SCOTT**, married 1858 at St Giles, Durham; children: Martin (born Newcastle), Francis, Henry, Margaret, George, William, Charles and Frederick (all born South Hetton) and Grace (born Trimdon in 1881). The family is known to have settled in Houghton-le-Spring where George died in 1912. It is not known when Rebecca died but, at some time, he re-married to Sarah Jane **OASNE**. They produced two daughters, Hannah Oxley and Annie Brown.

8657 Mrs MAUREEN HOLLIDAY nee **KINDRED**, 'Seacroft', 43 Windmill Lane, Northam, Bideford, North Devon EX39 1BZ

William **GOURLEY** was the publican of 'The Bird in Bush' pub in Pilgrim Street, Newcastle in the 1800s. Has anyone a picture of this pub before it was pulled down?

8739 Mr DAVID McANELLY, 92 Regent Farm Road, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 3HD

Would appreciate any information on Rebecca **DODD**, baptised Alston 1792, daughter of Thomas Dodd, mine agent to the London Lead Co. Unable to find her marriage but father's will suggests she married before 22 Feb 1816. She was a witness at her brother's wedding in May 1814 and signed as Rebecca Dodd. Presume her marriage was between these dates.

8744 Mrs IM KEMP, 24 Aldborough Way, Parkside, Leeman Road, York YO26 4UX

Looking for a link between the **GLEN** family of Ryton and South Shields and the family of Alice **LIDDELL**, the inspiration of Lewis Carroll's 'Alice in Wonderland'. Great grandmother Mary Ann Glen was a daughter of John Glen, master mariner of Sunderland; she married Edward Liddle, butcher of High Street, Sunderland. John Glen married Susannah **SAVAGE** in 1827. What sort of ship would John have been a master on? How could I find out more information about him?

8758 Mrs JENNY DeANGELIS, Aptdo 622, Lloret De Mar, Girona 17310, Spain

Looking for Leah **HIRST**, who 'disappeared' after the 1881 Census for Stranton area of Hartlepool. She was Leah **HEATHERINGTON** born in Allendale c1833 and married: 1) Thomas **CLEMENTSON** c1856; children: William born 1856 and Joseph 1859. 2) John **STOBBS** c1862; children: Elizabeth Jane born c1863 and John Thomas c1864, all born in the Allendale

area. Leah then moved to Middlesbrough area and married: 3) Edwin HIRST in 1868 at Stockton Reg Office. They had one child: Annie Hirst, born 1871. All the children above shown on 1871 Census with Leah and Edwin. Edwin died between 1871 and 1881 Censuses, Leah shown on 1881 Census at Stranton as a widow. Daughter Elizabeth married George SANDERSON and lived at Stranton on 1891 Census. Annie Hirst was living with Lizzie and George. Leah's son William Clementson married a Francis and they had son Thomas aged 1 on 1881 census. Annie Hirst later married John SMITH, a mariner of Hartlepool. Leah not found on the 1891 Census for the Hartlepool area. Could either of her sons, John Stobbs or Joseph Clementson, have gone to work in the Consett iron works and perhaps Leah went there to live with him?

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

Research interests: Joseph COOPER and Isabella BELL born c1830s; daughter Mary Jane (1860) at Castlesides, Muggleswick. She may have had a sister Elizabeth. Mary Jane married 1876 to George NUNN at Wolsingham. They moved to Middlesbrough and lived and died in the North Ormesby area. Also interested in Thomas WATSON born c1810 at Bowsbarn, Co Durham; married Johannah/Hannah ATKINSON of Wolviston c1830s. They lived at Houghton-le-Spring in 1841 and 1851 and he was a master mason. Cannot find them on the 1861 Census although they may have moved to Middlesbrough.

9013 Mrs PJ 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.

9032 GRAHAM GALL, 15 Leigh Park, Datchet, Berkshire SL3 9JP (email: graham.gall@btinternet.com)

Seeking information about ancestors or descendants of Peter ANDERSON, born 1790 at Norham, later a farm steward at Ruffington, near Twizel; wife Mary and children Peter, Elizabeth, Mary, Richard, all born Tweedmouth in 1820's. Daughter Elizabeth married Alex FALCONER, then James GRAY, ending life at Horton in the 1890's.

9037 Mr SJ OSBORNE, Manor Cottage, Sleepers Hill, Winchester SO22 4ND
Searching for Leonard, Anthony and William STEPHENSON of Staindrop c1780. Also any BOWERBANK of same area. Any further details of the children of Anthony Stephenson and Jane TOWARD who married Hamsterley, Bishop Auckland 1803; their children: Thomas 1804, Anne 1805, John 1807, Anthony 1809, William 1810, Jane 1813 and Elizabeth 1817 - all born Hamsterley.

9039 Mrs P.A. DODSON, Poppygate, 2 The Loke, Cromer, Norfolk NR27 9DH

Information sought on ancestors and descendants of William and Jane (nee CALVERT) GORDON of Piercebridge, Co Durham, who married 1855. Was William's mother's maiden name Calvert? Also, descendants of George HEAVISIDE c1735 Stockton on Tees.

9081 DON CROZIER, 10 Crowood Lane, Ramsbury, Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 2PT

Seeking forebears and siblings of James CROZIER who, according to 1871 Census, was born at Alnham, Northumberland in 1834; he died 1878 at Bishopwearmouth. At the time of his death he was a serjeant in the Sunderland Police. He married Anne Doig DUFF in 1868; she died 1874.

9088 & 9089 KATHLEEN and STANLEY TOUGH, 5 Discovery Court, Duxford Park, Sunderland SR3 2EY

Researching our families: TOUGH (Sunderland but originally Aberdeenshire), CALVERT, CHARLTON, NOBLE, HUTCHINSON, WALLER, PEARY, TOWERS, JOHNSON, FASEY (Nottingham area but originally Stourbridge), HOUSLEY (Annesley, Nottingham), CROCKETT (Stourbridge).

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

Looking for information about the forebears of William JACKSON, master mariner, born c1810, and his wife Alice 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.

9123 Mrs R MORAN, 41 Castleton Road, Hartlepool, Cleveland TS25 1EF

Researching MORAN/HUGHES/McNAMARA family. Michael Moran of Framwellgate married Mary Hughes of Felling at Durham in 1882. Children: Michael 1883, Anna 1884, James 1886, John and William 1888, Alice 1889, Catharine 1891 and Patrick 1893. Michael Moran of Langley Bridge, Brandon married Elizabeth McNamara of Lawsons Terrace, Durham at Durham in 1907. Children: Thomas (Michael) 1910 Durham and William 1913, Alice 1915, Michael 1917, John 1920, Elizabeth 1922 and Mary Patricia, all born South Shields. Thomas (Michael) Moran married South Shields 1934, Alice in London 1937 and Elizabeth in London 1950).

9147 DORIS C SHUMWAY, 2501 N Bell Avenue, Apt 116, Denton, Texas 76201, USA

Seeking information on Mary MARLEY and John CASS son of John Cass and Jane GRAY. According to his obituary John Cass was born c1840 and later married Mary Marley who was born in Sunderland. John and Mary had three sons, John Robert (later an Episcopal Priest), Chris, who in 1928 was a doctor in Bolton, England, and William (Willie) who was a doctor residing in Montreal, Canada. They also had a daughter, Annie who died in 1931. John Cass was an Episcopal Priest and was well known in Jamaica where he established a church. Would appreciate any information.

9152 STEPHEN FINEREN, Yew Tree Farm, Onston Lane, Crowton, Northwich, Cheshire CW8 2RG

Seeking information on James Connell FINNERON, born 1858/9 in either Sunderland or Elvet, Durham. His mother was Elizabeth Finneron but there is no information about the father. On the 1881 Census he was a convict at Portsea, Hampshire under the name of James Finneron. In 1887 he married Bridget CUMISKEY/ CUMISKEY (born 1861), at Esh Colliery, Co Durham. His Aunt Judy (widowed) lived in Esh at the time of the 1881 Census in North Street. Her children were Thomas, Mary (both born in Willington), Martin and John, they may have used the FINNERAN spelling at this time. Can anyone help with any information from the 1861 and 1871 Census to shed any light on these people?

9157 ISABEL EMPSON, 22 Hillcrest, Kirby-le-Soken, Essex CO13 0EB

Trying to find the birth of William WILSON or HUTCHEON in 1864 at North Shields, possibly the son of Alexander Wilson (born 1836 Scotland) and Margaret (born 1832 Walker). William, living Ellison Street, Hebburn Quay, married using the name Hutcheon in 1888 at South Shields RO to Mary CUNNINGHAM (born 1867 Deptford, Surrey), daughter of James Cunningham and Ellen HENDERSON. William gave his father as Alexander Hutcheon and all his children were given that surname: Margaret 1889, William Todd 1891, James Fairweather 1892, Fred 1894, Ralph 1898, Eleanor 1900, Lily and Mary 1902. However, on the 1891 Census at Cuthbert Street, Hebburn William used the name Wilson. In 1928/9 he was known to the police as William Wilson. His son William Todd Hutcheon, a Scots Guard, sent a postcard from France in 1914 addressed to William Wilson and signed William Wilson. He had a brother John, born 1865, who remained a Wilson. Would also like to find the marriage of his parents. On the 1891 Census his mother was shown as a widow after the death of Alexander Wilson 1886 at Hebburn.

9164 Mrs N HERON, 11 Thorphill Way, High Grange, Billingham, Cleveland TS23 3UN

Seeking parents, birth date (c1800) and siblings of Mary OLIVER who married Mathew TURNBULL at Hamsterley 1820, or any information about the Oliver family in the area at about that time. Also, STANDGRANGE, or similar name, in Lanchester area in the 1780s. Can anyone tell me anything about this place?

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.

9200 PATRICIA A. ELLIS, 6 Cecil Close, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 1RW (email: r.ellis@ndirect.co.uk)

Looking for details of Joseph MOSES and his wife Jane TENNANT. They lived in Crook, Co Durham when their son Anthony Moses was born in 1856. Cannot trace Joseph and Jane's marriage details or birth records in GRO indexes back to 1837. Anthony Moses married a Mary Ann EDEN and they had a daughter Sophia Jane. A witness at their marriage was an Elizabeth Moses. Was this an aunt or a sister?

9201 RICHARD C. ELLIS, 6 Cecil Close, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 1RW (email: r.ellis@ndirect.co.uk)

Looking for details on Benjamin MITCHELL, tin miner, apparently deceased by 1876. He had a son Benjamin Mitchell in 1850, who was living at Broom Park Colliery near Durham in 1876 when he married Elizabeth Jane ELLIOTT. Benjamin and Elizabeth Jane had a son Benjamin who was born in 1876 at Harvey Street, Consett. Would appreciate any information.

9204 Ms PAULINE A MARK, 74 Hillhouse Road, Stone, Kent DA2 6HQ

Researching the MARK family and have come across the following MI at St Bartholomew's, Tweedmouth: "Margaret and Robert CARR, late of Morton. Margaret died 1796 aged 78, Robert died 1801 aged 81, Thomas grandson died 1797 in his seventh year". On the reverse: "In memory of Margaret daughter of Thos & Eleanor Mark of Morton who died 1809 aged 26. Also John died 1814 aged 38 years. Also Margaret, Dorothy and Eleanor children of the above who died in infancy". Can anyone provide the link or provide any further information, please?

9250 Mrs J MOSS, 22 Broad Walk, Hockley, Essex SS5 5DD

Seeking information on the family of John STOKOE who had a son John Edward born 1848/50 at Hexham. John Edward was married twice, first wife's name not known but the 1891 Census shows they had three children: Margaret 20, John 16 and Isabella 13. Second wife was Margaret Elizabeth ARMSTRONG, 28, and was born Washington c1863. They had three children: Middleton 3, William Mews 1 and Ann 3 months.

9254 Mr J BRUCE WOOD, 16 Kereru Street, Maunu, Whangarei, New Zealand

Seeking information and descendants of: Robert WOOD, collier, born c1817 Hetton, Co Durham, died 1878 Gateshead, married Margaret SCOTT c1836. She was born c1816 Spittal/Tweedmouth, daughter of Thomas and Isabella Scott of Spittal, pitman. Their known children, born Doddington: Isabella Jane c1836, George c1838, Thomas c1843, Andrew c1845, Robert c1849 (died 1856 aged 7 years at Hazlerigg) and Margaret 1853 Hazlerigg. Another son, possibly a founding, also called Robert, was 'adopted' c1856/57. On the 1871 and 1881 Census they were living at Windy Nook, Heworth. Thomas married Elizabeth PARKINSON c1874, collier. Known children: Edward c1874, Robert c1877, Margaret c1879, Thomas c1881, Elizabeth c1886. Andrew, collier, married Margaret c1874; known children: Susannah c1874, Jane Ann

c1879. Margaret (single) had a son Adam c1871. Robert, the adopted founding, married Jessie SUMMERS 1881; children: Margaret Ellen 1882, Elizabeth 1885. They emigrated to New Zealand in 1887. Also looking for information and descendants of John Summers, born c1821 Acklington, died 1868 Wallsend, collier. Married first wife Jessie McILNVERAY c1848, possibly in Scotland; children: Jane c1848, Thomas c1849, Margaret Jane c1853. Married second wife Elizabeth WILSON 1854 Kelloe; children: Margery 1855, Ellen 1857, John 1860, Jessie c1862, William Milburn 1868, James 1871. Elizabeth Wilson later married Ambrose PATTISON c1881 and lived at Windy Nook.

9258 Mr EDMUND JOHNSON, 6 Noober Court, Upper Haugh, Rotherham, South Yorkshire S62 7LH

Seeking information on John JOHNSON (born 1776/1781) Cramlington, married Margaret c1800-1816 (date and maiden name not yet found). Children: Robert (1817) John (1819) Dorothy (1825), Matthew (1827), George (1831), Lionel/Lial (1834) (baptised Lionel but became known as Lial). All were 'weavers' until the opening of Cramlington High Colliery in 1825, then became coal miners except Lial who became a train driver and married Jane WRIGHT in York in 1864. Are there any other weavers descendants who have information on the weaver community in the North East?

9266 MARTIN F DOWSE, 15 Peak Lane, Fareham, Hampshire PO14 1RP (email: mfdowse@hotmail.com)

Seeking information on: 1) the BRAGAZZI family of Northumberland and Co Durham. Elizabeth Bragazzi, born 1875 Newcastle, married John Wilson BOWEY in 1896. Her parents were Julio/Julino Bragazzi, cabinet-maker, and Elizabeth HOWE/HOWER/HOWES of Pilgrim Street, Newcastle. Julio Bragazzi is believed to have had a successful furniture workshop in Newcastle before it was destroyed by fire. 2) Mathew Wardle (Walter) Bowey born c1843 Houghton-le-Spring, customs officer, married Elizabeth Ann DANBY 1864 Wallsend. Their children: Annie M 1865, John Wilson 1869, William Danby 1871, Richard Wardle 1873, Alice J 1878 and Edith M 1880. His father in law, Benjamin Danby, was a butcher. 3) Mathew Bowey, innkeeper, born 1800-1805, married Mary GRABHAM, born c1805 Sunderland. Their children: Elizabeth, Jane, Matthew, Richard, Wilson, William c1837 and Mathew Wardle c1843/4. 4) Was 70 or 90 Headlam Street, Newcastle a common lodging house in 1882?

9288 JOHN F BAILEY, 36 Eltham Park Gardens, London SE9 1AW

Seeking information on: Joseph BROWN born c1690 who married Margaret BELL 1713. Their daughter Ruth Brown (bapt 1721, Gateshead) married James HACKWORTH 1751 Gateshead. Daughter Ann Hackworth born Ravensworth, bapt 1759 St Andrews, Lamesley. Ann married Thomas HALL, farmer aged 32 in 1788 at Whitburn. By c1800 they were living in South Brandon. Who was Thomas HALL? Was he baptised 1755 at Gateshead or Thomas Hall baptised St Hildas, South Shields 1756 who married 1751 St Hilda's? Did the Hall family come from Ryton in the early 1700s? Would welcome any information.

9290 Mrs G GARDNER, 4 Woodview, Four Oaks, Newent, Gloucestershire GL18 1LU

Looking for information on Gabriel HARDIE/HARDY, shepherd, born c1779 Fenton, who married 1808 at Bolton Chapel, Edlingham to Mary GRAHAM, born c1785 Ilderton. The parents of the above were: William Hardy/Hardie, farm steward, and Bielly (sic) GILLHOLM, and Joseph Graham of Ilderton, farm steward and Margaret RAE/RAY of Newham New Houses who married 1784 Bamburgh. Joseph and Margaret Graham were living at Fenham, Holy Island parish, in 1791-3.

9293 Mrs S METCALF, 6 St Philips Close, Middleton, Leeds LS10 3TR

Would appreciate any information on the following: John BOWDEN married Elizabeth BEE 1788 Houghton-le-Spring and they had seven children both between 1778 and 1793. James Bowden born 1793 Houghton-le-Spring married Dorothy GREENWELL born 1802 Pittington. The 1841 Census for Pittington shows James 48, Dorothy 39, John 15, Anne 12 and Jane 10. William Bowden was born 1847 Finchale Bank, Pittington; father James was a farmer. William, tailor, married Margaret BLACKSTAFF born London, in Edinburgh in 1875. Also, John CROFT born 1846 Greenfield, Lincolnshire married Ann born 1849 Leeds. Son Joseph born 1872 and daughter Sarah born 1876, both in Stockton. 1891 Census shows them living in Leeds.

9307 Mr TJ 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.

9312 JOHNATHON GASH, Carwood Farm, 22 Main Street, Witton Park, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham DL14 0DX

Looking for any information on the following: ALDERSON; Eleanor BARKER b1824; Danah BAXTER b1890; BRUNSKILL; CURRY; GASH; Thomas GELSON d1857; Elizabeth HALE b1826; Jenny Isabella HALL b1894; HARRISON of Coxhoe; Margaret HEDLEY b1820; Elizabeth HODGSON b1791; John HUNTER b1786; George Brunskill MOORE b1900; Ann MOSES (illegitimate) b1838; John OLIVER b1802; PARROTT; PETCH; POCKLINGTON; Esther RACE b1883; RE(A)DMAN; SEVER; SIVERS; SPARROW; Isaac THOMPSON b1879; WALTON; Hugh WILKINSON b1830; Thomas WILSON b1842; Thomas WRIGHT b1830.

9329 BARBARA SHORT, 47 Eastern Avenue, Swindon, Wiltshire SN3 1AE

Grandparents were Joseph DONKIN and Margaret (Cissie) MacKAY. The Donkins had a taxi cab business (previously horses and cabs) based at premises at Roker, Sunderland. Does anyone have photographs or memories of them? Margaret MacKay may have been born in Berwick, or maybe Brougham House; does anyone know of it? Also searching for ancestors of Frances FAIRLESS of Sacriston. Her father was a miner but how about siblings?

9395 Mr MEIKLE J SKELLY, 35 Dungannon Street, Ranfurly, Central Otago 9071, New Zealand

Researching the SKELLY family in Northumberland and would be grateful for any information, especially of the family of Robert Skelly and Jane VINT of Trewthitt married Rothbury 1666. Also Robert's brothers Luke and Mathew of Harup etc. Robert supposedly remarried an Isabella of Rennington in 1700 but I suspect this was his son, also Robert. Also need the pedigree of George Skelly born in Whittingham about 1716 who married Isabella POTTS in Rothbury 1744. Any detail/references that will help me 'colour in' Skellys from the Alnwick or Berwick lines between 1600 and the present would be most helpful. Would be glad to help with any research for members who are tracing immigrant ancestors in New Zealand.

9420 Mrs PAULETTE CATER, 8 Green Hall Park, Green Lane, Shelf, Halifax, West Yorkshire HD3 7TR

Seeking details of John FIELD born Durham City in 1850, son of George. He married Jane JONES in 1876 at Kidderminster and had children: Albert, John, William, Leonard, Ada, Edith and Olive. No death details but believed to be c1906 in Halifax. John's occupations included carpet weaver and publican. Other interests include: STONE and SHOOTER (Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire), SWEENEY (Ireland and Halifax), JONES (Staffordshire) and EDON (Huddersfield and Middlesbrough).

9422 ALFRED S MYERS, 137 Brook Lane, Sarisbury Green, Southampton, Hampshire SO31 7EU

Can anyone recommend a publication dealing with the Maling Pottery Works at St Anthony's on Tyneside, or give any information about Walker Celtic Football Club?

9436 ROBERT H POWELL, 24 Willington Road, Skellow, Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN6 8JE

Main interest is POWELL of the Hendon district of Sunderland through the 19th Century particularly: Elizabeth THOMPSON married Thomas Powell 1789. Their son Thomas, a shoemaker, married c1820 and had a son Thomas, a mariner who married 1847 to Jane TYSON, daughter of a shoemaker. The first Thomas Powell and Elizabeth also had a daughter Elizabeth who married 1820 to Thomas ALLAN. They had a daughter Elizabeth born 1847, died 1929, married Frederick William CRISP.

9438 Miss LIZ LEGGOTT, 60 Estcots Drive, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 3DB

Tracing the DYBALL family of Byker, Newcastle, particularly Mary Ann Dyball. Unable to trace the registration of her birth said to be 24 May 1882. The 1881 Census has a Dyball family in Byker, head of the household, Charles, the name of Mary Ann's father on her marriage certificate. A Margaret Ann Dyball aged 6 months appears in the household list.

9447 Mr J JOSE, 10 The Bungalows, Lon Tylwyd, Llanfarian, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 4UH

Seeking information on the whereabouts of the JOSE family who left Cornwall sometime between 1864 and 1874; Richard Jose and wife Caroline nee BROWN, daughters Kate and Mary Jane, and son Richard. Another son was born at Heaton in 1875.

HELP OFFERED

DAVID TONKS, 64 Deanery View, Lanchester, Co Durham DH7 0NJ (email: tonks@tesco.net)

NDFHS member David Tonks has been interested for a number of years in the study of the nineteenth century mining families and the communities in which they lived. His personal study area is the mining settlement of Brickgarth, Easington Lane where both his paternal great great grandfather, and maternal great grandfather lived. David is compiling a database of all residents 1827-1891, based on census records and baptisms, marriages and burials. Currently this consists of 6,200 people in 1,394 families. If you think an ancestor of yours might be there, contact him at the above address.

8476 Ms DOREEN ELCOX, 56 Lansdowne Gardens, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 1HH

Has a Freemasons commemorative aluminium mug engraved: 1826-1926 River Nile Lodge, Loyal Order of Ancient Shepherds. Willing to pass on to anyone with a personal interest.