

Vol 25, No 2

Spring 2000

Editorial .....	2
Not worth the Candle .....	2
Letters to the Editor .....	3
Safety Last .....	3
News .....	4
Reviews .....	6
Where was Margaret .....	6
Brierton Folk in a Durham Rent Collectors' Account of 1607-8 .....	7
Untimely End .....	8
The Euphrosyne .....	9
Tracing your Family History in Northumberland and County Durham .....	10
Durham Militia .....	13
My Aunt Mary .....	14
Irish Workshop at Bolbec Hall .....	14
Work this one out! .....	14
Crew Lists and "CLIP" .....	15
Plucked from the Darkness .....	16
Must be Global Warming .....	17
Berwick Riots over Corpses .....	17
Adventures in Family History .....	18
Captain William Bergen of Blyth .....	19
The 1881 Census .....	20
Durham Consistory Court Wills: 1858 .....	22
Twenty Years Ago .....	23
Members' Interests and Queries .....	24
Accounts .....	28
Adverts .....	30
Diary .....	32

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.

ALL ITEMS IN THIS JOURNAL © 2000 NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY AND ITS CONTRIBUTORS.

## ANNUAL General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the  
**Annual General Meeting**  
of the  
Northumberland and  
Durham Family History Society  
will be held on Tuesday 13th June  
at 7.30pm  
at Bolbec Hall in Newcastle.

## WANTED PLEASE!

**BOLBEC HALL** needs more **VOLUNTEERS**  
to staff the Centre and help new members.  
Monday mornings and Tuesdays especially, but  
offers for any weekday will be much  
appreciated. Shifts last 3 hours, 10am-1pm and  
1pm-4pm. Please contact Sheila Senior or  
Gerry Langley.

**INDEXERS** for various ongoing projects, e.g.  
merging two large card indexes bequeathed  
by Don Mason and Bill Rounce; transcribing  
parish registers in Record Offices; inputting  
data (very easy!). Please contact Gerry Langley  
at Bolbec Hall if interested.

## EDITORIAL

Tanfield (County Durham) registers are missing from before 1719. When I started researching my wife's family in the early 1970's, I thought that perhaps the registers had been started in 1719, and earlier Tanfield records might be found in the registers of the mother church at Chester-le-Street. A few checks quickly revealed, however, that a register dating from 1586 had existed and did still exist at the time Fordyce wrote his *History of the County of Durham* in the 1850's. But by 1894, according to Welford's *History, Topography and Directory*, "the parish register (had) been lost or destroyed up to 1719".

The further back in time one attempts to trace a family, the greater the number of Tanfields appear, where registers have been lost for ever. This challenge to the family historian's hopes of success is often difficult to meet. Some families owned land, or left wills, or otherwise distinguished themselves, bequeathing non-parochial records to their grateful descendants. But for each one of these fortunate cases there were scores of humble tillers of the soil, and in Durham hewers of coal, for whom the parish registers were the sole permanent records of their existence.

It must be acknowledged that, in the case of such families, the loss of the registers more often than not means the loss of all record of a family beyond a certain point in time. The family tree must stop there. How many of us can accept this, though? I have often wondered how many pseudo-genealogies have been constructed that rely on families of the same name being researched, but in parishes neighbouring a place whose records have been lost. The important question of research standards arises here.

One highly stringent set of research standards was set by Smith & Gardner (*Genealogical Research in England & Wales, Vol III, pub Bookcraft Inc 1965*). Writing in pre-IGI days, they recommended that parish-by-parish searches be undertaken within a five-mile radius of the parish where an event is recorded as having taken place, so as to discover possible conflicting entries. 'If any of these parishes have registers missing for the period needed, the search of the area has not been made'.

With the IGI, the same idea must surely apply. Take a search in the IGI for a Tanfield family pre-1719. Let us suppose it reveals a likely family in nearby Lanchester or Chester-le-Street. There are no wills or other supporting evidence. What justification is there for assuming that this is the family being sought? The answer must surely be: none whatsoever, if standards mean anything at all. The search has not been properly made because one vital section of the records was lost and can not be replaced.

I do hope to hear from readers on the topic of standards. The kind of questions I should like to pose are: should we mistrust everyone else's research? It's our hobby, so shouldn't we just please ourselves? If we are to have standards, how stringent should they be? After all, is genealogy really a science? I should especially like to hear from any readers who have succeeded in disproving previous genealogical work, from published pedigrees for example. In the end, I suppose each one of us must be his or her own severest critic.

## NOT WORTH THE CANDLE

This public acknowledgement of fault is typical of the kind of valuable record that can be found serendipitously as one leafs through old newspapers. The paragraph below supplies an exact date, place of work and occupation for two men, as well as throwing a little light on their character. Unindexed newspapers contain huge amounts of family history still awaiting discovery.

- Ed.

From the *Newcastle Courant*, 8th April 1826

### CAUTION TO PITMEN

We whose marks are hereunto subscribed, being bound Pitmen to the Owners of Backworth Colliery did, contrary to Orders, make use of a Candle in a dangerous Part of the Mine, where *Safety Lamps* only were directed to be used, and by so doing put the lives of upwards of *One Hundred* of our Fellow Workmen to most imminent Danger. For such Misconduct our Masters had us apprehended and examined before the Magistrate, who, but for the Intercession of our Employers, would have committed us to hard Labour in the House of Correction for three Months. In Consideration, however, of our former good Behaviour and sincere Contrition, they had consented to withdraw Proceedings against us, upon our thus publicly acknowledging our Crime, and paying all Expences attending the same.

Alex. BARRAS, X his Mark. James OLD, X his Mark.  
Witness, John OLIVER, John HUNTER.  
Backworth Colliery, April 5th, 1826.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### FAMILY BIBLES

Mrs Margaret Alexander of 15 Fairlands West, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear SR6 9QY writes:

I have bought the following books over a period of time at South Shields Flea Market, and would like to pass them on to family members. I feel so sad when I see these obviously cherished books at the Market and would love to return them to anyone who can prove a relationship, for the price that I paid.

#### Small Hymn & Prayer books in a case:

Nellie Fenwick, 7 February 1912; Jenny Adams, South Shields, Christmas 1914.

#### Small Bibles:

Ann Barrow, South Shields, 22 February 1853, containing details of the Anderson family. Margaret Ann Lambert, 8 January 1884. Mary Richardson, Low Fell, 1859. AJ Wilson, Christmas 1881.

#### Soldier's Bible:

Sapper JE Armitage, France 1917.

#### Large Bible:

Dobbin family 1879-1894.

#### Autograph Album bought in Alston.

There is no name, but it was presented by M Grieve, 7 March 1888. Names include Vaux, Simpson, Bowmaker. It appears to have a Sunderland connection.

### THOMSON FAMILY BIBLE

Mr RC Davison, of 'Aisling' 67 Shore Road, Kircubbin, Newtonards, Co Down BT22 2RP, Northern Ireland, writes:

I am helping some American friends research the family of William Thomson (the Ulster spelling of the name) who became Baron Kelvin. In a book published by Sylvanus P Thompson in 1910, *The Life of Lord Kelvin*, there is a mention of a family Bible then in the possession of a James Thompson of Newcastle upon Tyne. This James was a grandson to Lord Kelvin's father, also called James. I am sure that this Bible, if

found, could prove very helpful in providing information on the family c1700-1800, the period being researched.

If any of your readers believe they may be researching this branch of the family, or have any knowledge or ideas as to where this Bible may be, I should be more than grateful for the information.

### DICKINSONS IN THE ATTIC

Mrs Chris Sibbald of 18 Horseguards Drive, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 1XL (email: [chris@sibbald.demon.co.uk](mailto:chris@sibbald.demon.co.uk)), writes:

In her article 'Newham School Accounts. Or, what have you got in your attic?' (NDFHS Journal, Summer 1998, Vol 23 No 2), Sue Horsman explained how, in her father's attic, she came across a register of children attending Newham (Northumberland) School between May 1839 and May 1840.

The name Margaret Dickinson leapt out at me as I read the article. Could this be my husband's great, great grandmother as a child at school in Newham? A quick scramble through the relevant file and BINGO, it certainly was.

Sue Horsman later put me in touch with Brian Moon who had also contacted her as a result of the article, and whose wife is descended from the same family. Furthermore, during the summer of 1999 I received an email from a Jim Dickinson of New Jersey, USA, who is also of this widespread family. Since then there has been constant three-way traffic between the three of us.

We are all most grateful to Sue Horsman and the NDFHS without whom our family history would be much less complete. What have you got in your attic? Please write about it and share the information. You never know what train of events you may set in motion.

Chris and her correspondents are all related to brothers Patrick (1763) and Robert Dickinson (1770) - Ed.

## SAFETY LAST

From the Tyne Mercury, 20th June 1826

I, the undersigned, acknowledge that I screwed off the top of my Davy Lamp through carelessness on the 9th. Instant, in the return air from the foul goaves in the King Pit of this Colliery, contrary to the express orders of the Viewer and Overman, by which a fatal accident might have occasioned. I hereby acknowledge the impropriety of my conduct, and ask pardon of my masters and fellow workmen, whose lives were endangered by my negligence...

James PEARSON

Witness, John APPLEBY, Viewer, John PATTON, Overman.



## SILVER ANNIVERSARY OPEN DAY

*Tyne and Wear Archives Service*

On Saturday 25th March 2000, Tyne and Wear Archives Service is staging an Open Day as part of its 25th Anniversary Celebrations. Members of the public are invited to join staff for a day of talks, tours and workshops - and the rare chance to take a behind-the-scenes peek at the work of the Service!

Activities will run from 11.00am to 4.30pm, comprising introductory presentations and a series of workshops. Sessions planned include Archival Conservation tours and demonstrations, Genealogy for Beginners, Tracing the History of a House, Palaeography, Visual images workshops, and a session for parents and schoolchildren (concentrating on the 'Gory Bits' of history!). Those interested in taking part in any of these groups will be able to sign up for them in advance by contacting the Public Search Room (see below). Guided tours of the building and an 'Ask the Experts' panel will also run throughout the day, although we will be unable to open the Search Room for normal use.

Representatives of the Northumberland and Durham Family History Society will be joining archives staff for the day, and we hope to involve other similar local groups too. Anyone interested in participating in this capacity should contact Katherine Taylor or Jennifer Davidson as soon as possible (see below):

For more information about the Open Day, including times, and to book workshop places, call the Search Room, tel 0191 232 6789 ext 407.

We look forward to seeing you in March!

## SUNDERLAND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY CENTENARY

Sunderland Antiquarian Society is celebrating its hundredth birthday in 2000. A splendid centenary Journal has been published. Articles range from football to the famous, Music Hall to missing persons, convicts to Coats of Arms, and John Wesley to what the emigrant should take to Australia in 1852.

Of especial genealogical interest to members is a list of all Sunderland-born sailors at the Battle of Trafalgar with their ships; unique records on the granting of 19th century coats of arms, activities of the press gang in the town, and lists of convict ships built in Sunderland with the record of their human cargo transported to Australia.

The centenary Journal may be obtained from the Secretary, Mrs VM Stevens, 16 Grizedale Court, Seaburn Dene, Sunderland SR6 8JP. Price £7.95 by cheque made out to: Sunderland Antiquarian Society.

## HERRINGTON HERITAGE

Any members with connections in East, Middle and West Herrington may be interested to know that Herrington Heritage have this month produced a book, mainly of old photographs. It may be obtained from Douglas Smith, 7 Crow Lane, Middle Herrington, Sunderland. Price £3.50 by cheque to Herrington Heritage.

## SMALLPOX DATABASE

Do you have anyone in your family who died from smallpox?

Professor RA Shooter is compiling information about instances of smallpox in Britain on behalf of the Jenner Educational Trust. Any information you have about relatives dying from this disease would be appreciated by him, and would be added to his database. He can be contacted at Eastlea, Back Edge Lane, The Edge, Nr Stroud, Gloucs GL6 6PE.

*Editor's Note:* This item was supplied by NDFHS member Chris Sibbald (see 'Letters' page), whose relative Ralph Cole Stonebanks died from smallpox in 1852 aboard the *Jane Lucy* from Shields, whilst on voyage in the Mediterranean.

## NORTHUMBERLAND RECORDS OFFICE

There has been much speculation concerning the possible resiting of the Northumberland Archives, with the aim of bringing together those records held, at present, separately at Morpeth Records Centre and Northumberland Record Office. Fifteen sites have been considered, out of which some land adjoining the Woodhorn Colliery Museum near Ashington is the most favoured by the Council authorities.

Gerry Langley has been appointed to observe the preliminaries on behalf of the Society. Three open meetings are being arranged at which the public will be able to express their views. Dates and venues will be posted at Bolbec Hall when they become known, and will doubtless be made available in the area's media. Because of the long interval between the *Journal's* copy dates and its appearance, it may not be possible for us to publish details of these or any other meetings before they take place. Members are best advised to keep in touch with events via the Society's Web-site, Bolbec Hall, their own councillors if resident in Northumberland, local media, and County Hall, Morpeth.

It should be noted that no decisions have been taken involving any expenditure of funds.

The microfilming of parish registers by the Genealogical Society of Utah (Mormon Church) is now well underway at Morpeth Record Centre. Extensive



quantities of several classes of record have been identified for microfilming. Presently, work is underway on school records. It is likely that the project will continue until at least the end of February.

Northumberland Record Office has received some exciting new records since the last edition of the journal. In particular, the records of Jesmond Holy Trinity Church have been deposited (ref: EP.213). Originally a daughter church of Clayton Memorial Church, it was extended and consecrated in 1922 in memory of those killed in the First World War and became a Parish Church in 1926. Among the records are marriage registers from 1922 to 1972 and a baptism register from 1905 to 1944, as well as P.C.C. minutes and correspondence relating to the formation of the new parish.

If your ancestors cannot be found in parish registers, it is usually worth checking in non-conformist records. A baptism register for Middleton United Reformed Church, 1882-1991 has recently been accessioned along with two communicants rolls covering the period 1915-1992. Middleton (sometimes found as North Middleton) is now merged with Bavington United Reformed Church. In addition, a large quantity of records relating to former Presbyterian churches in Northumberland have been transferred to Northumberland Record Office from The United Reformed Church History Society. Many of these contain information relating to the family historian. However, it is likely to be several months before they are catalogued and made available to members of the public.

School records are another fascinating source for genealogy and for information on social conditions more generally. The Kirkhaugh School Log Book, 1873-1932 (Ref: CES 171/1/1) has been recently deposited.

While the above records can all be seen at Morpeth Records Centre, an important new deposit, which can be accessed at Melton Park, is the Red Row Working Men's Club Archive (NRO 5385). Along with minute books dating from 1904 to 1993, there are pass books for over 600 members which have been indexed alphabetically. For anyone with connections with this area, these volumes are a fascinating resource. A detailed list can be found in the general catalogue. Another exciting new deposit to Melton Park is the records of The Blyth Harbour Commissioners (Ref: NRO 5451). Again, this is a voluminous collection comprising approximately 200 archive boxes. It is likely to be several months before a catalogue to the collection is available.

#### NEW NATIONAL WILLS CENTRE

*The following is the edited text of a news release forwarded by the FFHS (Federation of Family History Societies).*

##### **Contract sealed for Probate Records Centre**

A new Probate Records Centre took a step nearer today, with the signing of a PFI (Private Finance

Initiative) contract to provide new, purpose-built, accommodation to store the nation's wills.

The Civil Service has awarded the contract for the 116.7 million project to Hays Commercial Services Ltd. The scheme will provide improved storage for wills and other probate documents, and better retrieval systems for people trying to gain access to old records.

At present probate records are stored in District Registries up and down the country, and facilities at the two main storage points in London are increasingly cramped. There are concerns over the poor quality of the existing storage facilities, and also with the difficulties often encountered by the public in getting quick access to stored records.

A specially convened working party recommended that a national centre should be established, with improved facilities and better IT links with District Registries. Following the signing of the contract, the next phase will see the removal of some probate documents to the existing Hays storage facilities while the new store is being built. At the same time, Hays will commence their retrieval service, which will provide better access to old records for the public. This phase commenced in August and was expected to have been completed during February 2000. Completion of the new store with transfer of all documents is expected to take place by November 2000. Throughout this period Hays will continue to provide a retrieval service.

#### NEW FICHE

We draw readers' attention to the following new fiche available via our publications list in this *Journal*.

**PR 257** Middle Street Mission, North Shields, Baptisms, 1874-1919. Transcribed by Victor & Noreen Percy, indexed by Moira Furness.

1 fiche £2.00, o/s £2.40

**PR 258** Gosforth United Methodist Church, West Avenue, births & baptisms 1927-1951. Gosforth Woodbine Road, Primitive Methodist Church, births & baptisms 1918-1930. Transcribed by F Furness.

1 fiche £2.00, o/s £2.40

**PR 259** Durham City, St Margaret of Antioch, burials 1653-1720. Transcribed & Indexed by M Johnson.

1 fiche £2.00, o/s £2.40

**PR 260** Sallyport Meeting House, Newcastle, births & baptisms 1759-1785, 1786-1823. Carlisle Street Chapel, births & baptisms 1824-1837. Transcribed by Moira Furness.

1 fiche £2.00, o/s £2.40

**PR 261** Chollerton & the Chapelry of Birtley, burials 1664-1851. Typed by Anne Hardey.

2 fiche £2.50, o/s £2.90

**MS 440** Tynemouth Workhouse Registers, Index 1873-1898. Transcribed by Lilian Fraser & Audrey Florence.

2 fiche £2.50, o/s £2.90

MS 441 Tynemouth Workhouse Registers, Index 1867-1902. Transcribed by Lilian Fraser & Audrey Florence.

2 fiche £2.50, o/s £2.90

### JOHN SIMPSON KIRKPATRICK

On Anzac day, 25 April, Australians and New Zealanders commemorate the first landings at Gallipoli in 1915, and remember their war dead. An article in *The Times* (5 November 1999) describes how on this coming Anzac Day, the Anzac Day Committee will replace its traditional slouch hat badge, sold to raise funds, with a badge showing a heavily bandaged soldier held on the back of a donkey by Private John Simpson Kirkpatrick.

Jack Simpson, as he is best known, was a South Shields man who displayed amazing valour during the Gallipoli campaign. Having left South Shields for

Australia as a teenager, he joined up as a stretcher bearer and at Gallipoli, for 24 days, with complete disregard for his own safety, used donkeys to help carry wounded men back from the front-line. In Australia 'the man with the donkey' is a national hero, although his story is little known in Britain outside his native South Shields, where a statue was erected to him a few years ago.

Jack Simpson fell to a burst of machine-gun fire on 19 May 1915. By then he is thought to have brought some 300 men to safety. Diane Burke, spokeswoman for the Committee, is quoted as saying: "If you had to pick one person to represent Anzac day, Simpson would be that person".

Members possessing a computer and modem can find out more about Anzac day at [www.anzacday.org.au](http://www.anzacday.org.au).

## REVIEWS

*Out of the Ordinary - A cornucopia of unusual Northumberland Parish Register entries.* J Ken Brown, pub Kingpin 1999, ISBN 0 9524750 9 X, A5, 24pp. £2.50 at Bolbec Hall or £2.80 including p&p, from: Kingpin, 21 Meldon Way, Hanover Estate, Winlaton, Tyne & Wear NE21 6HJ. Cheques payable to M Southwick.

Ken Brown, for many years a professional genealogist, has amassed this collection of strange, amusing, or unusual entries, mainly from Northumberland parish registers, with a few from Durham. Sudden and often violent deaths, misbegotten children, and society marriages; baptisms of slaves and foundlings; tumbles from horses and deaths by lightning-strike; all feature within the pages of this slim volume.

Ken has researched some of the incidents to throw light on the bare facts of a number of entries. Although there is no index, the entries are arranged in parish order.

*From Quills to Computers - A History of the Newcastle*

*upon Tyne Incorporated Law Society.* Ronald I Duncan, pub Northumbria Law Press 1998, ISBN 1 873298 34 X, hardback, 126pp. No marked price.

This book celebrates 150 years of the Newcastle upon Tyne Incorporated Law Society which was formed in 1826 and exists to the present day. For family historians its main interest lies in the background history of the solicitors with whom many of our ancestors would have had dealings at some point or other during their lives. There are several pages on the legal profession as it was in Newcastle in the 18th century, and successive chapters deal with the historical development of the role of the solicitor in Newcastle.

Many of the better known lawyers, especially from the 19th century, are mentioned individually and the book is well illustrated. There is no index. I would recommend readers to borrow it from their local library as a first step before possible purchase.

## WHERE WAS MARGARET?

From *The Tyne Pilot*, 20th May 1842

MARGARET FAUMS formerly MARGARET HUTCHINSON

Or her CHILDREN, now or late of SOUTH SHIELDS, will, on Application to us at Stokesley or Guisborough, Yorkshire, or to Messrs HARDCASTLE and H BRUNTON, Commission Agents and Auctioneers, 3 Norfolk Street, Sunderland, hear of something considerably to her or their advantage. An ample Remuneration is offered to any Person furnishing such information as we require respecting the said MARGARET FAUMS and her children.

JACKSON & WEATHERILL, Solicitors  
Stokesley, May 14th, 1842.

# BRIERTON FOLK

## IN A

### DURHAM RENT COLLECTORS' ACCOUNT OF 1607-8

by Linda Drury, Durham University Archives & Special Collections

Do you suspect you had ancestors in Brierton, County Durham in the time of James I and VI? Perhaps they figure in one of a series of accounts drawn up and put together for Lord William Howard and his wife Lady Elizabeth, of Naworth Castle, Brampton, Cumbria, in 1608. Elizabeth was a daughter and (following the death of brother George) co-heiress of Lord Thomas Dacre of Greystoke, Naworth and Gilsland, Cumbria. Her marriage to William brought into the same ownership eleven manors in Northumberland, ten in Yorkshire and four in County Durham. The four Durham ones were Brierton, Neasham and Upper & Lower Coniscliffe. Having rentals of all these scattered places gathered together, highlights the similarities and differences of organisation between border areas till recently near an unfriendly country with a separate monarch and places further south, possibly less disturbed or apprehensive.

While Neasham and the two Coniscliffes lie inland on the river Tees, Brierton lies some 20 miles away to the north-east, near the sea and the sea mists, some 5 miles south-west of the old port of Hartlepool. Perhaps because it was relatively isolated from their other holdings, the Howards did not long retain Brearton, which had once belonged to the Bruces. By Charles II's time Sir William Blackett had acquired it.

The landlord and lady were a colourful pair. Lord William Howard was the third son of Thomas 4th Duke of Norfolk and he married Lady Elizabeth Dacre in 1577 when he was 13 and she 12. The pair were step brother and sister, the 4th Duke having married Elizabeth Leburne, widow of Lord Thomas Dacre. To complicate matters further, Elizabeth's sister Ann married her step brother also, Lord William's brother Philip, Earl of Arundel. William and Elizabeth had the nicknames of "Belted Will" or "Bold Will" and "Bessie of the broad apron", referring to their broad acres of inheritance, but those acres had to be won.

The heiresses Ann and Elizabeth Dacre had the proverbial wicked uncle in Francis Dacre, their father's younger brother. The girls had had a brother George, who survived their father but died young following a fall from a vaulting horse. Francis claimed the Dacre inheritance and did battle with his nieces in court for years on end.

The matter was further delayed because William and Elizabeth were Roman Catholics of whom Queen Elizabeth was very suspicious. William spent some time in the Tower of London, as did his brother Philip

who died there, so for many years these two brothers and two sisters had most unhappy lives.

It was not until 1593 that Elizabeth and William received, at a price, her inheritance and not till 1603, the year Queen Elizabeth died, that they were able to leave her surveillance at their house in Enfield Chase near London and return at last to the north, where the 1569 rebellion again at Queen Elizabeth had begun. They went to Thornthwaite in Westmorland to plan their long cherished works at Naworth Castle. These were ambitious and needed a fair proportion of the rents from their estates, including the rents from the families at Brierton.

At Naworth Castle the great hall was heightened, a library and other new rooms built and the defences strengthened. This cost a lot and perhaps this beautifully written and handsomely produced rental for 1607-8, on which this paper is based, was made specially as part of an exercise to see what cash and other resources they had to use. The new king James I appointed William his Warden of the Western Marches about 1605, a career he pursued with gusto and success and at considerable expense. Bessie and Will eventually died in 1639 and 1640, leaving a large family.

This rental, which belongs to Ushaw College, County Durham (mss 95) describes the extent of their estates. Their household books, estate papers, maps and many of the books from William's library are now in Archives & Special Collections, Durham University Library. From these one can see the names of those who served them and of their many tenants. At Brierton they employed Robert Emerson, one of their tenants there, as deputy bailiff. The bailiff himself was Lancelot Salkeld Esquire, who was the bailiff of the two Coniscliffes. Emerson rendered account for Brierton and listed his neighbours. There were about 748 acres of land at Brierton Manor. In 1607 the land was divided into seven farms all paying the same rent of 66s 4d per annum (£3.32). The men who held these were John Emerson, Thomas Emerson, Robert Emerson, Cuthbert Ranton or Rainton, Christopher Stoddard, John Cawe and one Twydall or Twedde with his or her first name blank, suggesting this was a non-resident tenant with the land sub-let to someone else. There were also three smaller parcels of the manor, one held also by Thomas Emerson for 3s 4d, another also by John Emerson for 4s 8d and the last by John Lakenby for 9s. (James Lakenby had been vicar of the parish till he died about 1575.) The tenants together paid the rent of the bakehouse and smithy at 19s 1d. These eleven rents totalling £25 0s 5d were due to be paid to Robert Emerson the Howards'



deputy bailiff, on Lady Day, 25th March and Michaelmas, 29th September. It would seem the Emersons ruled the roost!

The existence of seven identical rents and the absence in the account of a section on old fixed rents suggests that the landlord had deliberately reorganised this manor and created these new holdings, all very similar, which must have comprised about 100 acres each. The demesne of the manor is not mentioned separately, so was probably included in one or more of the holdings. The seven similar holdings must have been made quite recently as not enough time had elapsed for different values to become apparent, rents altered or one tenant to acquire even more of the holdings. It is likely that the villagers had sub-tenants or tenants running the bakehouse and smithy, whose names we are not given here. We do not know if this smithy and bakehouse served other villages also. If only Brierton, then neither might have been a full-time job, so perhaps the smith ran the bakehouse too. Finding the various fuels for both the smithy and bakehouse would have been a time-consuming job even if there were only one firing a week.

In the section headed for proceeds of the manorial court for the year, it states that there were none. It could be that the manorial court which had regulated the communal life of this manor in the middle ages had become unnecessary as little official communal life remained, just the bakehouse and smithy which were now farmed out by the landlord to the tenants as a body. The two grazing moors in the manor, Brearton and Brockley moors, the communal grazing of which in the middle ages would have been regulated in the manorial court, are given no separate or any other mention in this account. It is very likely that these moors were included in the land divided up into these neat holdings, which are such a feature of this account.

As for the arrears still due on his account, Robert Emerson explains that the 69s 1d due should have been paid by George Hulbacke or Hubbock who had held a holding in Brierton in 1601-2 and (we learn later) had had it ploughed by the late John Emerson.

None of the people mentioned at Brearton left a will, though the family names crop up in neighbouring places, suggesting that some Brearton landholders may not have lived there. However, we do have one will from the previous generation, Thomas and John Emerson's father John Emerson, husbandman, who died in 1597 having made his will when sore sick in his house in Brierton, leaving an unnamed wife, sons Godfray, John and Thomas, and daughters Margaret and Elynor. His will and inventory paint a picture of a

comfortable life. His husbandry, on what was probably about 100 acres, was diverse: oxen for ploughing, cattle, horses, pigs, poultry, rye, wheat, barley, oats, peas, hay, implements, butter and cheese. We see later the sheep grazing with him were someone else's. Indoors were the usual brass and pewter dishes, beds, chests, etc, with spinning and carding gear and a load of coals, all worth £93 11s 8d.

The list of people to whom he owed money or owed to him shows his contacts and activities in the area and his dealings with the other villagers. He was due to pay three sums to Francis Emerson at set dates, which looks like a loan. Other smaller debts are for oats, iron, etc, and mention Alexander Snawdon, Isabel Micheson, Simon Emerson, William Crowe, John Robinson, Gilbert White's wife in Durham, Mr Bell of Hartlepool, iron merchant, James Eates (Yates) and Francis Jackson. Those who owed money to him were Robert Gibson for oats, George Hubbock and Robert Rickaby for ploughing, carting and lent money, Thomas Brafferton for sheep grazing and Francis Jackson for oats and peas supplied to him and doubtless home grown. John Barker owed him for various items including two dough shelves, so perhaps Barker ran Brierton bakehouse. John Emerson was obviously a man who diversified the way he made his living and could turn his hand to many jobs.

When he made his will his witnesses were Cuthbert Rainton, a main Brierton tenant, and Robert Waler, perhaps his servant or a sub-tenant. The four indifferent men who made his inventory were Robert Emerson, Simon Emerson, Cuthbert Renton or Rainton and John Crowe, probably all neighbours.

Around 1600 Brierton was obviously a small community. Only eight tenants are named who, with their households, made up the population. John Emerson's household in 1597, according to his will, comprised eight people: himself, his wife, five children and one servant. However, in later years the numbers went down. In 1642 among those over 18 years old in the whole parish of Stranton, of which Brierton was only part, there were only three Emersons, Christopher, George and Robert. There was a George Crowe, a Robert Lakenby, an Edward Renton and a Henry Twedell, but no Stoddarts or Walers.

By 1801 only 22 people lived in Brierton but by 1851 it had risen to 33, still less than what it must have been in 1607, but with a better standard of living, as the eleven or so holdings of 1607 had coalesced into three large farms. However, the names of the local families found in Brierton in 1607 had all changed by 1851.

## UNTIMELY END

*From Alnwick, St Michael's Burial Register.*

James Taylor, Cannongate, weaver. Killed by accident when rejoicing at the Capture of the Dutch Fleet.

Died 5 Sep, Buried 7 Sep 1799, age 44 years.

## 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 EUPHROSYNE

by Moyna Harland

My husband's great grandmother was Ann Knox, born in Hartley in 1822, the daughter of John Knox, a seaman and his wife (née Bell). By the 1841 census the Knox family had moved to Tynemouth, and Ann was a dressmaker, living with her parents in Bedford Street, though on census night her seafaring father and brother Thomas were at sea. Ann married Roger Fair, another mariner, in 1850, and, apart from noting the marriages of her three sisters and two brothers, the burials of two small brothers, and the deaths of her parents John and Ann, I did little further research on the Knox family until last year.

With the arrival of the English wills indexes at the Western Australian Genealogical Society's Library, I spent several happy hours trawling through them, and then, one day, decided to see whether the Knox family had left anything. I knew that one of Ann's brothers, Thomas, had, after leaving the sea, become a shipowner, so perhaps he had made a will. Sure enough, he had, a very interesting document it proved to be, for it opened up a wonderful field of research, still not completed. In his will he mentions his nephew Joseph Henry Creigh, son of his "late sister" Margaret. I knew that Margaret Knox had married a mariner, William Grainger Creigh in 1852, but that was all, so I ordered the 1861 census for Tynemouth and found Margaret living in Rudyard Street. With her was her son John Knox Creigh 7 and William 1 (Joseph Henry was born the following year). Husband William was, presumably, at sea. So Margaret was alive in 1861 and dead by 1875 when her brother made his will. A search through the GRO death indexes, backwards from 1875, showed very few Creighs, so it didn't take long to find Margaret Bell Creigh's death in 1867. What was surprising was that it was registered in Falmouth, Cornwall. I could hardly wait for the certificate to arrive, but when it did it only served to open up a veritable Pandora's box. Margaret Bell Creigh was "found exposed in Falmouth Harbour" on the twenty-fifth May 1867. She was rightly described as the wife of a master mariner, wrongly described as "about 50" (she was 37), and the cause of death was given as drowning by the upsetting of a boat. The informant was the Truro coroner and the death was registered on August 15th. This posed all sorts of questions . . . why, when the body was found on May 25th was the death not registered until August 15th? What on earth was Margaret doing in Cornwall? Perhaps the family had moved there between 1861 and 1867. A letter to the Falmouth Library led to another letter to the Cornish Studies Library at Redruth, but no trace of the death and inquest for Margaret could be found in the local newspaper from late May to the end of August 1867. Nor could a local researcher come up with anything. What an impasse. Here was this mystery, and poor Margaret kept impinging on my other research interests to the extent that everything else seemed

unimportant compared to discovering what had happened.

The moral of this, if one wants a moral, is that one should always go back to base. Thanks to several kind people I was eventually directed to the North Shields Library Local Studies section, to whom I should have directed my enquiries in the first place. Their card index showed several references to Margaret Bell Creigh's death which had appeared in the *Shields Daily News*, and when the photocopies arrived they told a tragic story.

William Grainger Creigh was master of the *Euphrosyne*, a barque of 387 tons owned by Thomas Knox, Margaret's brother. The *Euphrosyne* was on her way back from a trip to the Black Sea where she had taken on a load of wheat at Taganrog. Margaret and her six-year-old son William had accompanied Robert on the voyage, which had left the Tyne in June 1866, bound for Malta. On March 17th, as the vessel was off Falmouth, a terrible gale forced her to anchor about half a mile off shore, and she was riding out the storm when an Italian ship in trouble was driven across the *Euphrosyne*, breaking both chains. The masts were cut away, but the vessel was being driven towards the harbour and in danger of sinking, so all hands were ordered into the longboat, which was rowed towards the shore and safety. Unfortunately one of the crew of the *Euphrosyne* had not escaped and cried out for rescue, so the longboat returned for him and, in doing so, capsized on the cable. All the occupants were thrown into the sea. Only three survived, the master William Grainger Creigh, the mate William Brown and an apprentice James Cullard. Eleven drowned, including Margaret and her little son William. Three bodies were found soon after, those of James Smith aged 16 of Edinburgh, John Rowley aged 21 of North Shields, and William Hagers aged 22 of Hamburg, and an inquest on their bodies was held on March 20th at Falmouth. The remainder of the crew who died were boatswain John S Newman (41) Yarmouth, Thomas Newman (47) also of Yarmouth, William Mortimer (47) Bristol, John Richardson (23) Perth, August Sterling (25) Heligoland, Alexander Doctor (16) North Shields. Ironically the *Euphrosyne* was saved.

The *Euphrosyne* was not the only vessel to strike trouble during the gale, and several others were lost or damaged, with many drowned. The barque *Marmion* of North Shields broke up and went to pieces, and the master George Davis of South Shields died from exhaustion and cold after being landed, as did the mate. The *Atlas* of North Shields dragged her anchor and was driven on to the shore, with six feet of water in her hold. The *Times* of March 19th reported the gale at Falmouth as being "one of the most fearful ever remembered" with a loss of life "unprecedented for

fifty years", due in part to the large number of vessels in port, or riding out the storm just outside the harbour, "not less than 250 being in the roads and harbour".

On March 18th Thomas Knox, the *Euphrosyne's* owner, wrote from Falmouth to his brother-in-law Roger Fair in North Shields, telling him of the tragedy and asking Roger to console "our poor old mother on this melancholy occasion". Mrs Knox of Nile Street was caring for Margaret's two surviving children. According to Thomas' letter his sister had, after a "long bad voyage" intended to come home from Falmouth. Margaret's body was found in Falmouth Harbour on May 25th, over two months later, and her death registered on August 15th. I don't think little William's body was ever found. On September 4th 1867 William Grainger Creigh, widower, married in Holy Saviour's Church, North Shields, Alice Buck, widow of the late Captain Francis Buck of North Shields, and five days later, on the 9th, the barque *Euphrosyne* was auctioned in North Shields. William G Creigh went on to become master of the Newcastle vessel *Retriever* in 1869 and 1870, and in November 1870 this vessel also went ashore, this time off Lowestoft in Suffolk, on her way from sunderland to Lisbon with coal, but two tugs were able to get her off.

William's rather precipitate marriage to Alice does not appear to have been a success, for in the 1871 census he

and son Joseph Henry were living as lodgers with William's sister and brother-in-law, Isabella and Thomas Heaton. John Knox Creigh, his eldest son and a crewman on the barque *Aspirant* had drowned at Queenstown on March 21st 1871, adding to the woes of this unfortunate family.

William died on February 21st 1872, and his death was registered by a neighbour who gave his name as William George Creigh instead of William Grainger. In his will he makes no mention of Alice, and she remarried on January 26 1873 at Holy Trinity Church, North Shields, her third husband being a widower innkeeper names Robert Young Watson. Alice died in 1882 and Robert in 1884.

After his father's death in 1872 I can find no clue as to what happened to Joseph Henry. He was only ten years old, having lost both parents and all his siblings, as well as all four grandparents. He was certainly alive in 1875 when he was mentioned in his uncle Thomas Knox's will, and I would very much like to find out what happened to him, for Margaret Bell's sake.

*Acknowledgements:* North Shields Library, National Maritime Museum, Lilian Fraser, Ernest Pearson, Agnes Rickelton, Cornish Studies Library Redruth, G Allen

*Editor's Note:* Mrs Harland's address is: PO Box 205, PALMYRA, Western Australia 6157.

## TRACING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY IN NORTHUMBERLAND AND COUNTY DURHAM

by Geoff Nicholson

### NON-CHURCH-OF-ENGLAND REGISTERS

Although the authorities of the Established Church (of England) would have liked the C of E to have had a monopoly of religious worship in this country, there have always been dissidents who have preferred to go their own way and so, although founded in controversy and, often, struggle, many groupings have developed outside the Established Church. There is a tendency by many people to refer to any non-Church-of-England church as "nonconformist" but, while that that may seem an acceptable description for those which do not conform to the Established "norm", technically it does not really cover all of them. I therefore use the term "non-Church-of-England" for them all.

Of the many non-Church-of-England churches which have been present in England at one time or another not all have been represented in the North-East of the country, and some have appeared here only comparatively recently. I shall therefore confine myself to groups of which there are know to have been sizable congregations within Northumberland or Co Durham a century or more ago.

A good survey of which pre-1837 registers exist, both C

of E and otherwise, and of where they can be found was published in Vol XI, Part I of the National Index of Parish Registers (NIPR: Society of Genealogists, 1st edition ed CP Neat, 1979, 2nd edition, ed DG Mason 1984). Although now slightly out of date in some respects, nevertheless this work is still a very useful guide.

### A - ROMAN CATHOLICS

In accordance with general usage I shall refer to Roman Catholics simply as "Catholics" even though the Church of England also claims to be a Catholic church.

For many years after the reformation Catholics were persecuted and fined as recusants (those who refused to attend their parish church). The pressure on them was released only slowly, in many stages and it was not until the 1830s that they achieved full emancipation. The earliest Catholic presence tended to be in missions attached to the estates of wealthy Catholic landowners: many local landowning families remained Catholic in spite of all the persecutions and were willing to shelter priests. Some of the earliest of them are known to us only through the confirmation tours of Bishop Leyburn in 1687 (see articles FJ Vaughan in JNDFHS Vols 2 & 3). Church registers, usually kept in simple Latin, came a



little later, the earliest from this region being that of Stonecroft, a Dominican mission in the Newbrough/Hexham district, under the protection of the Gibson family, which was founded in the 17th century and whose registers date from 1715. They have been published by the Catholic Record Society (CRS, Vol 26).

The earliest Co Durham Catholic registers are those of the Chapel of Secular Clergy in Old Elvet, which date from 1739. In each case the mission will have been founded many years earlier but there are no surviving registers covering the earlier years.

Apart from those published in Vols 7, 14 and 26 of the CRS, some early Catholic registers were deposited with the Register General in 1837 and are now in the public Record Office in Kew. Microfilms of the local registers so deposited are available in local County Record Offices. After many years of non co-operation with family historians, local Catholic authorities relented a few years ago and began depositing registers in the County Record Offices, including Tyne and Wear Archives Department which, because it is not a Diocesan Repository, has no original C of E registers (though it has microfilms of those from its area) but which has many non C of E originals.

Early Catholic registers tend to include lists of those confirmed and sometimes of those given the Last Rites, as well as baptisms. Catholics were usually buried in the local parish churchyard and so there are no burial registers other than the C of E one. Similarly marriages until 1837 would always be in the C of E and if Catholics had a pre- or post-nuptial blessing in their own church it would not normally have been recorded in the register. On the other hand, Catholics do usually record the names of godfathers and of godmothers at baptisms and as they were often close relatives that can sometimes provide useful clues.

We should remember that until the rush of Irish immigration in the 19th century, local Catholics were mainly the major landowners and their servants. Also, there are many records of Catholics which were created as an indirect result of their persecution and which are outside my present scope, which is confined to church registers. Pre-1837 catholic registers survive from 38 different churches or missions in Northumberland or Co Durham.

A useful publication is "Catholic Missions and Registers 1700-1880, Vol 4: North East England" by Michael Gandy 1993 (ISBN 0 9520535 4 3). Also useful is the NIPR and, for a history of some Co Durham churches, see "Parish Histories from the Northern Catholic Calendar" (Durham County Local History Society Documentary series, 1986, ISBN 0 902958 08 9).

## **B - PRESBYTERIANS**

Presbyterianism was largely the creation of John Knox, the fervent founder of the Church of Scotland, and so it is seen as the church of the Scots. Nevertheless, let us not forget that there was an English Presbyterian Church as well as the Church of Scotland and those branches of the Church of Scotland in England ("Scotch churches"). Because of prolonged Border warfare, coupled to some extent with the drift to the industrial towns of the south of the county having left a "vacuum" behind, by the mid-eighteenth century a very large proportion of the population of the northern part of Northumberland were of Scottish origin and therefore Presbyterian. They were served by many churches, all of which have baptism registers, usually

dating only from the mid or late eighteenth century. Other concentrations of Presbyterian churches are to be found in our local ports - at various points along the Tyne, on the Wear etc, evidence of the ubiquity of the Scottish seafarer.

Some Presbyterian registers are to be found in local County Record Offices but others were deposited either with the Register General in 1837 or with Dr Williams' Library in London. Many of those deposited in Dr Williams' Library were transcribed by the late Don Mason and are available in that form in local County Record Offices and reference libraries. Some have been commercially microfilmed. From Northumberland or Co Durham the registers of 63 pre-1837 Presbyterian churches are known.

Presbyterian registers themselves are confined to those of baptism but sometimes there are "Session Minutes" along with them. These record various matters relating to the congregation, including the admonishments of unmarried mothers. Sometimes notes are included of certificates received from new members who had recently arrived from some Scottish parish, bringing references from their old Minister with them and sometimes such references were given out to members of the local congregation who were leaving for distant places.

It must be remembered, however, that whereas in Scotland the "Kirk", being the Established Church, had a parochial organisation similar to that of the C of E in England, it had nothing like that south of the border. The districts served by Presbyterian churches in England had no official boundaries and members might travel for miles, passing the doors of several Presbyterian churches to reach the one they wished to attend. This might be partly explained by an attachment to a particular Minister but it must also have been influenced by the many divisions and sub-divisions of Presbyterianism. Various Secession Churches were founded over the years and these might come together again into Associate or United Secession Churches. Add to that the effects of the Burgher and Anti-Burgher controversy and you will see that Presbyterians were a very fractious lot indeed! If searching for a Presbyterian family, then, be sure to look at the register of every Presbyterian church which could be reached in a long day's journey.

## **C - METHODISTS**

Methodism is a study in itself, being the only grouping which has had more splits and re-unions than the Presbyterians. John Wesley, its founder, always intended that his followers should be simply a "ginger group" within the Church of England, so it was not until the C of E rejected the Methodists by not recognising the ministers ordained by Wesley, that Methodist churches were created. From the beginning Methodists relied on the idea of the "circuit", or large district, which would be run as one unit. Within a circuit there might be more than one church, plus meetings held in private houses, and while there was usually at least one full-time Minister for each circuit, many services were taken by lay preachers who were part-timers, often holding down arduous jobs during the week and then travelling miles on foot or horseback to preach around the circuit each Sunday.

Methodist registers may therefore be found in various places. County Record Offices are one, of course, but since, as with all non C of E churches there is no legal compunction for Methodists to deposit their registers, they may also be found in individual churches, in the

circuit safe, deposited with the Register General in 1837 (microfilm copies in local Record Offices) or deposited at the Paternoster Row Methodist Registry in London. The John Rylands Library in Manchester also has a large collection of Methodist material.

The situation with respect to Methodism is made more complex by the large number of splits between different "Connexions" and the subsequent partial reunions. The first split was when the Primitive Methodists left the Wesleyan Methodists in 1797 and the whole of Methodism was not reunited until 1932. In some cases one whole church, with its Minister and all its congregation might change allegiance, but still continue to use the same register, which would begin as the register of one Connexion and finish as that of another, making matters even more confusing. Circuit boundaries were never stationary for long, thus providing another source of complexity.

Methodism flourished in those districts which had been neglected by the Church of England. That neglect was often because the C of E was centred on old, mediaeval villages which had been the centres of population when the churches and their parishes were first established in the Middle Ages. The system had proved inflexible and as a result many newer centres, particularly industrial ones such as coal mining villages, were miles away from the parish church. The Methodists were not slow in setting up churches in such places and the typical north-east pit village would have a Wesleyan church at one end and a Primitive one at the other. As a result, Methodism became thought of by many as the "church of the pitmen", though it was strong among other miners, such as the lead miners of Weardale, and in other industrial areas such as on Tyneside and among the fishermen of the north Northumberland coast.

In 1837 our region had 15 Wesleyan Methodist circuits, 10 Primitive Methodist ones and 5 of the Methodist New Connexion. Although some Methodist registers have been published on microfiche by the NDFHS and commercially, there is a vast amount of work remaining to be done in that field.

#### **D - SWEDENBORGIANS**

The Swedenborgian, or "New Jerusalem" church has the distinction of having been founded in 1787 by a Northumbrian, Robert Hindmarsh (1759-1835), a native of Alnwick and a follower of the teachings of the Swedish philosopher, Emanuel Swedenborg (1688-1772: see JNDFHS Vol 15 p92 "Emanuel Swedenborg and the Northumberland connection" by FS Hindmarsh). It had three congregations locally, in Westgate Street, Percy Street and in the Butchers' Hall in Blackfriars, all in Newcastle. Their first register, which was deposited with the Register General in 1837, begins in 1808. Some of its registers have been published commercially on microfiche.

#### **E - THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)**

Quakers locally became strong in the Pennine Dales, particularly in Teesdale and Allendale. The Teesdale Quakers spread out to have meetings at Staindrop (Raby) and also on Teesside (Stockton and, later, Darlington), as well as in the larger towns. Their organisation was in "Quarterly Meetings", to which delegates went from "Monthly Meetings" which themselves were made up of delegates from "Preparative Meetings", at the most basic level. On the whole, not many records survive of Quaker births (they did not believe in infant baptism), marriages (although they were an exception to Lord Hardwicke's Marriage Act and so allowed to hold their own weddings) or

burials (usually in their own burial grounds). Many of the collections of Quaker records in local County Record Offices consist entirely, or almost so, of the Minutes of their meetings. Sometimes it is possible to catch a glimpse of an individual there, however, such as when persons were selected to represent the congregation at the monthly meeting or at some other meeting, or when persons were appointed to "speak with" some member who had lapsed.

Locally, in the early 19th century Co Durham and Northumberland were each Quarterly Meetings with a total of about half a dozen Monthly Meetings, but it is not possible to be more precise as the situation was complicated by new formations, closures and transfers, sometimes across Quarterly Meeting boundaries.

Amongst the few good sets of Quaker "births, marriages and deaths" registers which survive locally, mention should be made of that of Cotherstone Preparative Meeting, in that part of the former North Riding of Yorkshire which became part of Co Durham in 1974. That is an excellent record of the relationships of the members of that congregation, including biographies of some of their more prominent members. As if to make up for the lack of surviving registers, many Quaker families kept very good genealogical records of their own relationships, some of which were collected, researched and published by Foster in the 19th century - copies are in Newcastle Central Library and other places.

Like many nonconformist groups, Quakers believed strongly in self-help and in living out their religion in a frugal, hard-working life, with strict honesty in all they did. That led many of them to become successful in a variety of businesses, particularly on Teesside where the Pease and Backhouse families of bankers were behind many enterprises, including the Stockton and Darlington Railway, and where further west in Teesdale the London Lead Company which ran the local lead mines was so Quaker-dominated it was known as the "Quaker Lead Company". It was so prominent in the life of Middleton in Teesdale that it must have provided a strong incentive for local people to become Quakers. On Tyneside, the Winlaton iron works was founded by Ambrose Crowley, a Quaker from the west midlands, in the 1690s, and though he doesn't seem to have tried to convert his workforce, there is definitely a Quaker philosophy behind the "laws" by which he regulated the lives of his workers. In the 19th century the Clapham family who owned chemical works and ships, were also Quakers, of Yorkshire extraction.

#### **F - JEWS**

Only two places on our region, Newcastle and Sunderland, have had sizable Jewish congregations in the 19th and 20th centuries. Many of the records of the Newcastle congregations, which have had various synagogues over the years, are now in Tyne and Wear Archives. The Sunderland Jewish community were split by serious controversy between the Orthodox and Reform branches of that religion in the nineteenth century. Their history, including a transcript of some of their registers, was published in the 1960s by - Levy.

Jews, like Quakers, were an exception to the rule in Lord Hardwicke's Marriage Act that all marriages had to be a Church of England parish church, so there ought to be registers of Jewish weddings.

1 With a handful of notable exceptions, particularly that of Fr W Vincent Smith, NDFHS Chairman from 1976 to 1978.

# MILITIA ENTRIES FROM EAST LoTHIAN

THE CREW LIST INDEX PROJECT

Mr Leslie Harris, of 35 Kings Avenue, Longniddry, East Lothian EH32 0QN, has been hard at work listing all the military personnel who appear in the Old Parish Registers (OPRs) of East Lothian for the period of the Napoleonic Wars 1795-1815. Most of the men concerned came from Scottish regiments, but he came across a number from the Durham Militia, with one from the Northumberland Militia, and has kindly sent them to us. We list them below. The full list of all military entries from the Registers will be deposited in the Library at Bolbec Hall.

It is worth remembering that men from Northamptonshire and Islandshire in North Northumberland would have served not in the Northumberland, but in the Durham Militia, as these areas were part of County Durham until 1844.

The full dates can be obtained from the International Genealogical Index (IGI) or the Scottish OPRs on microfiche, and of course, the original registers may contain further information and must be consulted if any entries seem relevant to the researcher.

All entries refer to the Durham Militia unless otherwise indicated.

## EAST LoTHIAN PARISH REGISTER ENTRIES - DURHAM MILITIA 1795-1815

### ~ MARRIAGES ~

Name	Rank	Parish	Date	Spouse
ANDERSON, Joseph	Private	Inveresk	Feb 1812	Martha COOPER
ANDERSON, William <sup>1</sup>	Soldier	Haddington	May 1797	Margaret HUNTER
CUNDALL, Francis	Private	Prestonpans	May 1811	Jean BAXTER
FINKELL, Moses	None given	Prestonpans	Nov 1811	Ann CLAXTON
GIVAN, George <sup>2</sup>	Soldier	North Berwick	May 1797	(Name not supplied)
GREY, John	Private	Tranent	Jan 1813	Christian THOMPSON
GRIEVESON, Ralph	Corporal	Tranent	Nov 1811	Rachel PENNYCOOK
LEE, John	Private	Tranent	Oct 1811	Elizabeth BARCLAY
MATHER, John	Sergeant	Inveresk	Mar 1811	Mary WHITE
PATERSON, Robert	Private	Inveresk	Apr 1812	Jean CLEPHAN
SANDERSON, Thomas <sup>3</sup>	Soldier	Haddington	May 1797	Euphan READDIE

### ~ BAPTISMS ~

Note: The parents' names only are given in this database, but the child's name can be ascertained by examining the OPRs on microfiche, or by consulting the IGI.

HARBERT, Matthew	Private	Prestonpans	Jul 1811	Jean HARBERT
HAYS, John	Soldier	Prestonpans	Oct 1811	Catherine SINGLEWOOD
LEE, John	Private	Tranent	Sep 1812	Elizabeth BARCLAY
LESSLIE, Peter <sup>4</sup>	None given	Tranent	Mar 1799	Margaret YORSTONE
McKAY, Charles	Private	Tranent	Mar 1812	Ann HORTON
PATERSON, Robert	Private	Inveresk	Apr 1812	Jean CLEPHAN
RENSHAW, William	Private	Prestonpans	Sep 1811	Elizabeth ATTY
WEATHERILT, Charles	Sergeant	Tranent	Apr 1814	Anne REID
WHITEFIELD, Mason	Soldier	Prestonpans	Jan 1813	Agnes PLAIN
WOOD, Joseph	Private	Tranent	Nov 1811	Mary HODGSON

### ~ BURIALS ~

JAMES, John	Private, buried at Inveresk, Apr 1811
LIGHTOW, William	Private, buried at Tranent, Jun 1811

One entry from the Northumberland Militia:

Marriage: GOODISON Joseph, Soldier, Northumberlandshire (sic) Militia, at Haddington, Nov 1813, to Elizabeth LANDERS.

1 Durham Rangers; 2 Durham Fencible Cavalry; 3 Durham Rangers; 4 Durham Rangers



# 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.*

## 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.

## WORK THIS ONE OUT!

All persons named below were living at Faversham in Kent in 1760, excepting only the former wife of the elder Cassick.

Old Harwood had two daughters by his first wife, of whom the elder was married to John Cassick the son and the younger to John Cassick the father. Cassick the father, had a daughter by his first wife, whom old Harwood married, and by her had a son, therefore Cassick's second wife could say: 'My father is my son, and I am my mother's mother, my sister is my daughter, and I am grandmother to my brother'.

*Printed with grateful acknowledgement to the Genealogists' Magazine, Vol V No 5 (March 1930).*

# CREW LISTS AND "CLIP"

## THE CREW LIST INDEX PROJECT

by Peter Owens

Who was dark and hairy, and went up and down? . . . Give up? . . . Well, one of my ancestors actually, or possibly your ancestor, if he was a seaman during the last century. How do I know? I used the Crew Lists and did some background research. What are Crew Lists, how do you use them and what has CLIP got to do with it? That's what this article is about; and also why great grandfather was going up and down!

Crew Lists for the late 19th century are packed with information about the seamen and their lives. They are the documents which were filled in for every voyage for a ship making a foreign trip, or every six months if the vessel was in the home trade, i.e. coasting or fishing. The main part lists the crew, giving their age, county of birth (though often the place of birth) and the name of the previous vessel on which they sailed. Often, the seamen themselves signed the register, so you can see your ancestor's signature. That is not all, however. The list shows the seaman's rank, such as mate, able seaman or ordinary seaman. This determined their pay, which is also shown. Other parts of the form show the food which was provided, sometimes in detail, though the quantities are often shown as "sufficient without waste". Also of interest are the voyages, which may be shown in detail, even for coasting vessels. The Crew Lists, and sometimes the Logs, for foreign-going ships are especially rich in colourful detail about the lives (and deaths) of seamen.

So from the Crew Lists, you can hope to find out roughly where your ancestor was on any day, who his companions were, what he was paid and even get some idea of what he was eating. The Crew List is also a vital basis for other research (about things like going-up-and-down). There can be few other records which give you such detailed information about the daily life of an ancestor. How do you use them?

If you know the vessel on which he sailed and when, it is relatively simple to locate the Crew Lists and obtain photocopies. It should then be possible to trace back his career over several years by tracing his "previous vessel", getting a copy of that Crew List, and so on.

Oh, if life were that simple! There has to be a snag. In fact, there are several.

The records for the period 1863-1913 are scattered. Most of them have survived, though unfortunately most managed it only by hiding in Newfoundland! Some years ago the retention of the documents for this period was in some doubt, and only far-sighted action by some County Archivists and the Maritime History Archive in Newfoundland eventually ensured their survival. As a result, 30% are in the United Kingdom and Ireland - at PRO in Kew, at the National Maritime

Museum in Greenwich and scattered over local Record Offices, though there are none in North-East England. The other 70% are in Newfoundland. There are various lists and reference books which will help you to track down the correct record office, provided you know the vessel on which a person served and the year. Once you know where it is, it should be possible, given time and perhaps some expense, to get a photocopy of the Crew List.

However, if you only know that a person was a sailor but are not sure where and when, you will hit the next snag. The only comprehensive lists are of vessels and the vessels' official numbers, and lists of Masters and Mates. There is at present no list or index to the names of ordinary sailors for this period, though, as explained below, CLIP will provide some hope in the future. In the meantime, there are only three chances. If you know the port from which he sailed and an approximate year, it may be feasible to search all the Crew Lists for that port for a limited number of years, if you can get access to them. You may be able to consult local indexes, such as those in West Sussex, Flintshire, Bristol and Somerset. The best chance is probably to use the 1881 Census Index which includes returns for ships. That is how I found the first maritime record for my great grandfather. At that time he was on a brig taking coal from Newcastle to Dartmouth. His vessel was probably riding out what the Meteorological Office Library described as a "tatty day in the Channel" in the comfort of Portland Harbour and was included in the census. Many other vessels may have been in port for the same reason.

Even having found one record, research may not be plain sailing. The chain of "previous vessels" is likely to break down, leaving no easy way on. Of course, the chain also only works backwards, so you cannot follow a person's career into the years following the first record you find. All you can do is to guess that he returned to the same vessel and look up the Crew Lists for that. Alternatively, he may have worked for the same Master on different vessels, so it may be worth tracing the Master's career (perhaps using indexes at PRO) and looking up the Crew Lists for the vessels he commanded.

As you can imagine, record office staff are likely to be gently discouraging if you ask about Crew Lists. The combination of problems means that many researchers will make limited headway at best, if they are able to make any use at all of these fascinating documents.

That is where CLIP comes in. CLIP stands for Crew List Index Project. The sheer volume of these records and the fact that they are scattered has prevented the making of any global index to the seamen's names up

to now, and it is unlikely that one will ever be fully completed. CLIP however is based on the idea that even a small chance is better than no chance at all. It aims to extract basic information (name, age, place of birth, previous vessel) for as many records as possible and to build a growing index on a national basis. You will then be able to look up a seaman's name and find out the vessels he sailed on and where the records are held. The data will be gathered mainly by local volunteers using methods similar to those used for the 1881 Census and other co-operative indexing projects. Individuals who have photocopies of Crew Lists will also be able to submit transcripts. The aim is to reach at least 100,000 names in three years time and to concentrate on one ten year period - 1873 to 1883 - to cover the 1881 census year, though data from any year will be included. Data quality will be an important aspect, with checking being at least as important as transcribing. The project is non-profit-making and is seeking to involve as many volunteers as possible, including not just family historians, but local and maritime historians too. If you have even a short time to spare, please remember that every little helps and contact CLIP at the address below. Then, in a few years time, we will have a solution to the problems described above.

So, what was my dark and hairy ancestor doing going up and down? Well, getting the coal into a vessel was easy - it was tipped down chutes from wagons on raised wharves. Getting it out again was harder and often involved using man-power before steam shovels became available late in the 19th century. The man-power often used the "jump", a set of high steps set up on the quayside. A rope ran from coal baskets in the hold, up to a gaff and down to the jump where it split into three tails. Three of the crew climbed up the steps, each grasped one of the tails as high up as possible and they jumped off, hopefully together. If the loading of the basket was right, their weight and an extra pull as they landed would be enough to raise the coal from the hold so that it could be swung ashore. They worked for three hours and then changed over with the crew in the hold. In this way, a crew of six, with the mate doing the weighing, would be well on the way to unloading the coal at the end of a twelve-hour day. I think my great-grandfather must have been tough!

*Editor's Note:* If any members are interested in finding out more about this project you can contact Peter Owens at 8a Standard Street, Crickhowell, Powys NP8 1BR.  
E-mail: crewlist@talk21.com

## PLUCKED FROM THE DARKNESS THE LATE JOHN DOXFORD

by Chris Millin, MP

*This article first appeared in the Daily Telegraph of 3 July 1999, having been originally written for the journal of the Sunderland Antiquarian Society of November 1999. We reproduce it here, in the Sunderland Antiquarian Society's 100th Anniversary Year, with acknowledgement and congratulations to the Society and our thanks to Chris Mullin.*

Some years ago, walking in Sunderland's Bishopwearmouth cemetery, I came across the graves of John and Mary Doxford 'of Bede's Terrace'. They caught my eye because it was unusual to see an address on a headstone and also because the names rang a bell.

I checked the Victorian Street directory and, sure enough, John and Mary Doxford were the original residents of my house. St Bede's Terrace, which has gone downhill a bit since John Doxford's day, was then one of the most desirable streets in Sunderland - a terrace of four-storey early Victorian houses, one or two of which are still complete with servants' bells and stables in the back yard.

With the help of the street directory and various census returns, I could see that the Doxfords lived in the house for more than 60 years. John moved there with his first wife (also called Mary) when the house was built in the early 1850s and died there in 1899. Mary, his second wife, lived there from the early 1860s until her death in 1912.

Any family, I thought, who lived in my house so long, deserves to have their photograph hanging in the

hallway for posterity. Tracking down a photograph was, however, easier said than done.

John Doxford was a cousin of the shipbuilder, Sir William Doxford. The Doxfords were at that time among the most prominent families in Sunderland. Early entries in the street directory list John as the proprietor of a grocery in High Street West. By the early 1860s, however, he is described (like most of the other residents of the terrace) as a shipowner. Most of those listed would only have owned a share in a ship, but John owned two outright, the *Mary* (so named for obvious reasons) and the *John George* (named after his son). He was also for many years a lay preacher at the Wesleyan church in Fawcett Street.

At the outset, I was confident that photographs were bound to exist of so prominent a citizen. I tried the local history section of the library without success. I contacted several surviving Doxfords, but none of them could shed any light on mine.

Next stop, the Registry of Births, Marriages and Deaths,



then in St Catherine's House in the Aldwych, in search of John Doxford's descendants.

John George, an only child, was born in 1866. Reasoning that John George was likely to have been in his twenties when he married, I soon discovered that he was married at Barnsley in June 1888. His wife's name was Elizabeth. Next, I set about tracing their children. Records in the local history section of the Sunderland library indicated that John George had four children, all girls. After the, however, the trail ran cold. With the help of my friend Ruth Winstone, I spent several hours listing all the Doxford girls (there were more than 20) born during the 1890s. None, however, seemed to have John George and Elizabeth as parents. I didn't bother to check the birth certificates for two girls born at Leominster in Shropshire on the grounds that it was too far away to be relevant. In due course I was to discover that these were indeed, the children of John George.

I decided to skip a couple of generations. John and Mary Doxford had lived to be 84 and 85 respectively. So, reasoning that their son could have expected to live to between 75 and 85, I opened the register of deaths in 1946, when John George would have been 80. I found him within 10 minutes. (Alan - a couple of lines may have been missed off the bottom of the fax here).

And so Bromley Public Library. A quick flip through the electoral register showed that there were two daughters. Winnifred and Mary Lilian living at the house in Park Farm Road, Bromley, when their father died. Neither appeared to have married. Winnifred disappeared from the register in the early Fifties, leaving Mary Lilian as the sole survivor.

If he took nothing else, John George was bound to have taken the family photographs with him when he moved in with his daughters. Excitement mounted. Mary Lilian (born 1898) was unlikely to be alive, but I was now only one generation away. All I had to do was find her heirs.

Mary Lilian disappeared from the Bromley electoral register in 1976. Back in London, a check with the Registry showed she died in May that year. I crossed the road to Somerset House, at that time the Principal

Probate Registry, to check the will. If John Doxford of St Bede's Terrace had living relatives, I was about to come upon them.

Alas, it was not to be. Mary Lilian was the last of the line. Apart from a couple of minor bequests to friends (neither of whom I was able to trace), she left her entire estate to charity. If she had the family photographs they would probably have disappeared into a council skip or a junk shop. They were lost for ever.

At which point, enter Douglas Smith of the Sunderland Antiquarian Society. For years, the society has had in its possession a collection of late 19th century slides, the work of a long disappeared high street photographer. A long shot, but it paid off. There, buried among the fading images, was John Doxford late of St Bede's Terrace. The picture, taken probably in the 1880s, shows a thin, bewhiskered figure, his eyes lost in shadow, staring into the middle distance. He is wearing formal dress and has a good head of white hair. A framed copy of the same now hangs in my hall where it will remain for the benefit of future residents.

Sometimes I look at the staircase and try to imagine John Doxford coming down for breakfast. I see him sitting by the fireplace in what is now my study, reading his Bible by the light of an oil lamp. In those days, certainly after John George had left home, the house would have been a gloomy, silent place, full of heavy Victorian decor. If the doorbell rang, it would have been answered by servants (there were two according to the census returns). And in which room did he die?

If there is a moral to this story, it is how quickly we will be forgotten. John Doxford was a member of one of the most prominent families in Sunderland who lived to a ripe old age. In his prime, he probably had family photographs taken every year. And yet, within three generations, he and his entire family have disappeared. Of his wife, son and four grandchildren there is no trace, so far as we can tell, no trace. By hanging his photograph in my hall, I have plucked him, literally from the darkness.

## MUST BE GLOBAL WARMING

*From Belford Parish Records:*

**28 July 1792**

Hailstones or rather pieces of ice, some of them weighting ten ounces and filling a beer glass when dissolved, were said to have fallen this day at Newcastle.

A few days before at Trimdon, Durham, hailstones four inches by three inches in circumference, fell during a thunderstorm and destroyed a large field of wheat, broke 200 panes of glass in one house, killed poultry and knocked down pigeons on ye wing.

## BERWICK RIOTS OVER CORPSES

*From Belford Parish Records:*

**4 August 1792**

Riots at Berwick for some days past on account of several surgeons and others stealing several dead bodies out of the church yard. One of the surgeons was imprisoned, a second gave bail and a third ran off.

Their names were Nesbitt, Miller and Yellowly. Several dead bodies were found in Nesbitt's house.

# ADVENTURES IN FAMILY HISTORY

by Gordon Corbett

Have you ever become stumped in your own ancestral research, then complained vociferously in the County Record Office only to succeed in annoying your neighbours who are making great progress? When you joined the Northumberland and Durham Family History Society did you place your entry in the members' interests and still you had heard nothing even after one month? What more can you do?

Your feelings and frustrations come across loud and clear and I am in total agreement with you. Family history is illogical because you are dealing with real people. Don't worry, we all have fallow periods. I am sure the links you are searching for are there, it is just that you have not found them yet. Take a step back, think about what your own parents' life was like. Remember how they moved around the area with you when you were young and then consider that their life styles had been directed by the experiences of their parents, and theirs etc. Take into account catastrophic events like the Irish Potato Famine, the Industrial and Agricultural Revolutions, and you can have a better understanding for your own areas of research. They could be wider than you imagine.

My own father left the Navy after the Second World War and became a prison officer. He travelled around the country finally settling in Northumberland. His father and other ancestors tended also towards joining the services before getting a job, moving around the area and then settling. Among my ancestors I have miners, pitsinkers whose wives had children in places where collieries were being opened, hence no local roots. I also have a journeyman cabinetmaker that I am following.

Personally, I would hate to trace my own ancestry through official records. I was born in 1947, lived in three houses in Durham, have two brothers, one being baptised at a different church to me. After the 1951 Census I disappeared and no amount of searching in neighbouring parishes would have found me. I would appear in the 1961 Census for East Acton in West London, followed by the 1971 in Feltham, Middlesex completely missing the periods when we lived in Kent and Yorkshire. After another four house changes in Middlesex, leaving home and two different jobs, I would again disappear, but where to? I next appeared in the GRO Index of Marriages in Newcastle upon Tyne, then my children would be registered in the same town and following various unrecorded moves around Northumberland would show up on the 1991 census for Morpeth where I have settled for eleven years. Not a long time in genealogy.

There may be stability in your family a long time ago. Look at the distribution of your family name. It may be unusual enough to have originated in a particular area, in which case there will be a high concentration of them in the parish registers. Check the IGI or OPRs. One family I am tracing, the Falconers, I had last recorded in Edinburgh. The highest concentration of them is, according to the IGI, in the Kincardine/Aberdeen area. I subsequently found their census entry when I went to Edinburgh and they had originated in Glenburvie, Kincardine.

I can almost guarantee that you will think that the particular family you are researching has not been followed before, until you get the letter from Australia. That is when you will find out that you have a distant cousin who has also been working on your line for years and that your connection is what he or she has been looking for. For Australia read any other British ex Colony, Dominion or county, but never Ireland! There appears to be little grass roots interest in Ireland in pursuing ancestors, let alone their descendants like you.

Out of interest how many people can claim to have traced their grandparent's brother's descendants? We tend to look back to find out who went before us seldom realising that there are other living members of your bloodline. From the experience of my own Corbett family, my own ancestors were Catholics, they had nine children and each of their surviving children had more than "the 2.4" you would expect. You can therefore extrapolate that their ancestors were Catholics as well and each formed a family in which there were many children. When the Potato Famine occurred their dispersion must have been like an explosion with individuals being distributed across both sides of the Atlantic. Keeping alive and thinking about their future would have been more important than remembering their miserable past.

Coming forward in time from an ancestor can be rewarding. My father's cousin lives in Gloucester and although he never met him I have made contact and he is so easy to warm to and talk with. We have a common family and experiences to draw on and a bond has been remade. I have also traced my great grand aunt's niece, who still lives in Durham and coincidentally is a member of the Family History Society, and we have a family bond, we keep in touch and share our finds.

It is important to talk to relatives to develop a picture of the ancestor's lifestyle, but be cautious and consider your family tales as fables. There may be a grain of "truth" but truth is only a person's perception of an event. My Irish ancestor, Patrick Corbett allegedly "came from Cork yet his daughter was born in Clare, according to the 1881 Census for Leeds. Is this a case of Cork being the port that they came from or had they travelled from Cork and Bridget was born on their travels? I am trying to unravel this by tracing her unrelated family up through the records. Bridget married William Wileman, the journeyman cabinetmaker, and their children were born in towns all around England so I now have the additional problem of distant research. This is turning out to be a rerun of my parents and my own life stories.

My thoughts on research are that if you cannot get back, move sideways and forward. You never know that crucial piece of information or heirloom is in someone's home and not in the archives.

If there are any Corbett researchers out there who have the names Patrick, Jane, Michael, Margaret, James, John and Bridget in their first family, or they are from Durham, or have a Patrick married to Jane Connors we may have a link, we may be related, I hope so. Look me up.

*Editor's note:* Gordon Corbett may be contacted at 1 St Leonard's Park, Lancaster Park, Morpeth NE61 3SZ.

# CAPTAIN WILLIAM BERGEN OF BLYTH

by Paul Hunter

William Culley Bergen was born on 13 January 1817 at Blyth; the third of Stephen and Jane Bergen's seven sons. His father was described as a mariner at the time of William's baptism, but later became owner and Master of the *Richard and Ann*, a 70 ton Blyth brig engaged in coastal as well as foreign trade from 1821 to 1836. Not surprisingly, most of the Bergen sons went to sea, four of whom, including William, became ship's Masters. William was a particularly gifted skipper and navigator who sailed to the Baltic, the Mediterranean, Caribbean, America and the East Indies; but his personal life was dogged by tragedy, and he died a lonely man.

Having served an apprenticeship as a shipwright, William first went to sea as a ship's carpenter in 1837, rising to the position of Master on the *Polly* in 1852, aged only 35. His commands included the 457-ton barque *Sarah Metcalf*, and the *Neptune* of Blyth, both engaged in the transatlantic trade as well as the summer routes to the Baltic States.

He had married Eleanor Wilkie, the daughter of another Blyth master mariner and ship owner, in 1845, and the union produced three sons: William Culley jr in 1846, Thomas Hall born 1848 and John Hall in 1858. They also had two daughters both of whom died young.

By 1865 William was an experienced skipper of vessels serving the foreign trade: having returned from the West Indies he became Master of the *Constance*, a barque of 317 tons. Amongst the crew was his seventeen year-old son, Thomas Hall Bergen, serving as an able seaman, when on 11 November they anchored off the port of Windau (now called Ventspils), Latvia. Captain Bergen and some of the crew had gone ashore in the ship's gig to make arrangements to "clear", when a gale from the west struck the ship; the cable parted and she was driven ashore, a total wreck. The four crew left on board, including Thomas, were drowned. Only Thomas' body was recovered and buried in the port's cemetery, where a tombstone was erected. I have a photograph of the tombstone taken in the late 1930's when an effort was made by the harbour master to renovate it after years of neglect.

Eleanor died while William was bound for Canada as captain of the *Neptune* in 1870; whether this influenced him or not is not known, but he retired as a ship's Master the next year and became a teacher of navigation.

Unfortunately this was not the end to William's misfortunes. His eldest son, who also became a seaman, was serving on the *Dorothy Jobson*, a brig of 238 tons, laden with coal from Blyth and bound for Riga. Under Captain Tramatic, she sailed on 12 October 1875, and having cleared the mouth of the River Blyth,

encountered a fierce easterly storm preventing any progress towards the Skagerrak. The *Dorothy Jobson* tacked across the wind for several days making little headway, when on the 25 October the storm increased in force and drove the vessel onto rocks off Stonehaven where she broke up. During the following days part of the transom, a medical chest and a bottle with a letter in it were washed ashore. The letter in the bottle was written by William's son, and duly delivered to his father. I leave it to the words of young William Bergen to describe the last tragic hours of the crew and ship:-

"Dorothy Jobson, Oct. 25, 1875.

Dear Father, - At 4 p.m. midway between Fifeness and Buchanness, trying to keep her off the shore, a heavy sea struck the vessel, carrying away mainmast and wheel, and washing master and mate overboard. The remainder of us got the boat out in the forenoon, but she swamped. We made a raft, but the painter carried away. About 2 p.m. a schooner hove in sight, and answered our signal for assistance, but offered us no assistance. It is 4.30 p.m. now, and we expect to go down in another hour. John Ross, Robert Hope, William Kingston, join me in bidding farewell to our parents and friends. So, therefore, goodbye dear father, and may God prosper you. Charles Charlton, Felix Symon, send their farewell to all friends. Any one who picks this up will do our friends a great favour if he send it to Mr. W.C. Bergen, 5 Eldon Street, Blyth, Northumberland.

I am, your loving son,  
W.C. Bergen.

Je meurs en regretant ma sœur, Alex. Simon, et ma bien aimée, Annie Rowan."

There were no survivors, and none of the bodies were ever recovered. This letter, published in *Lloyd's List*, sadly recounts William's last thoughts. The names of the crew who perished that day were:

William Trematic, Blyth, master  
J McNaughton, Blyth, mate  
John Ross, Blyth, cook  
William Bergen, Blyth, seaman  
Robert Hope, Blyth, seaman  
William Thompson, Lowestoft, seaman  
Charles Charlton, Blyth, apprentice  
Felix Simon, North Shields, seaman

As well as teaching, Captain Bergen was also writing about sailing and navigation having several books published. His book *Great Circular Sailing* was based on his method of ascertaining the Great Circle Track, and was warmly commended by the Astronomer Royal, Sir George Airy. Other titles included *Bergen's Navigation*, *Seamanship*, *Ocean Routes* and *Epitome*.

Tragedy stalked him to the end; two years before his death, John Hall, his youngest son, died aged only 27. William's own death came on 8 June 1887, he was 70



years old and had outlived all five of his children and his wife. He left his estate to the children of his brothers, Robert and Stephen, and to his deceased wife's sister who had looked after him in his final years.

Blyth produced some particularly excellent mariners during the 19th century, ever aware of the dangers of the fickle ocean, they bravely sailed their sturdy colliers all over the world. Many lost their lives, and although Captain William Bergen was spared, the cruel sea claimed two of his sons, leaving this accomplished sailor, navigator and author without descendants. His brothers did have descendants however, including his eldest brother, George who was my great-great-grandfather.

Sources:

Lloyd's List, 29 October 1875.

Collier Brigs and their Sailors, Runceiman, 1926.

Sea Breezes, Vol 24 p155.

1 'I die, sorrowing for my sister, Alex Simon, and my sweetheart, Annie Rowan.'

Editor's note: Paul Hunter would be happy to correspond with any reader interested in, or having further information on, the Bergen family. His address: 1 Verbena Way, Hedge End, SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 0GW.

## THE 1881 CENSUS DURHAM 'STRAYS' STATISTICS FOR ENGLAND & WALES

by JP Eyre

Last year, along with thousands of other family researchers, I awaited with keen anticipation the CD ROM version of the 1881 Census. I was planning in my mind endless hours of research to find elusive direct forebears and fill in the picture on their siblings. In the event I had exhausted my personal research interests within a few days of receiving the CDs.

My thoughts turned to research of a more general nature, and I hope that the following analysis of Durham 'strays' will prove of interest to readers. By 'strays' I mean persons born in County Durham who, at the time of the 1881 Census, were living or staying elsewhere in England and Wales.

The main results are given in the Table and the following section. The methodology is described in an Appendix.

### Research results

Before dealing with the 'strays' I researched the data to confirm the population of Durham in 1881, which from other sources I understood to have been about 867,000. On the CD ROM version there are about 869,000 records for Durham-resident persons of which 565,000 (65%) were born in Durham.

For reasons explained in the Appendix, the number of records of supposedly Durham-born persons in other English and Welsh counties is overstated, and in the case of Scotland (and also the Channel Isles and Isle of Man) the data is unusable. Based on sample checks of the data, the results indicated that the proportion of records which were for persons *specifically identified* as having been born in Durham varied between 99% for Northumberland and just 53% for Lancashire, the overall weighted average being about 85%. Put another way, on average, for each county the search program produced 15% of records of persons *supposedly* born in Durham, but who were not clearly stated to be so.

The Table below gives *estimates* of Durham 'strays', by county, ranked in descending order of number of 'strays'. We can have some faith in the results insofar as they confirm our intuitive expectations. We would expect large numbers of 'strays' to have been resident in the neighbouring mining county of Northumberland, and in the populous neighbouring county of Yorkshire. Those two counties taken together did indeed account for 67,000 (65%) of all Durham 'strays'.

Nine counties had over 1,000 Durham 'strays' including the neighbouring county of Cumberland, and mining/industrial areas of Wales, Staffordshire and Lancashire. The presence of Surrey, Kent and Essex might seem surprising, but those counties extended well into what today is London. I wonder how many of today's residents of Lambeth, New Cross and West Ham would regard themselves as coming from Surrey, Kent and Essex respectively!

Counties with 1,000 'strays' generally met the criteria of being far distant from Durham, and/or rural/agricultural.

County	Estimated Strays	Conf Limits 95%, +/-	County	Estimated Strays	Conf Limits 95%, +/-
Northumberland	34,158	680	Suffolk	406	16
Yorkshire	32,372	1853	Worcestershire	305	39
Lancashire	6,935	692	Somerset	299	39
London	6,477	599	Leicestershire	265	24
Surrey	2,731	233	Cornwall	259	29
Cumberland	2,338	140	Northamptonshire	196	19
Kent	2,324	182	Hertfordshire	171	13
Wales	1,663	152	Royal Navy	164	23
Hampshire	1,654	159	Cambridgeshire	157	14
Essex	1,183	87	Dorset	150	18
Staffordshire	1,018	87	Shropshire	146	19
Cheshire	832	81	Berkshire	142	18
Derbyshire	724	52	Wiltshire	126	15
Norfolk	722	41	Oxfordshire	104	10
Westmoreland	677	19	Buckinghamshire	92	12
Lincolnshire	606	48	Bedfordshire	75	n/a
Warwickshire	586	54	Herefordshire	41	n/a
Gloucestershire	510	45	Huntingdonshire	36	n/a
Sussex	482	44	Rutland	15	n/a
Nottinghamshire	471	31	Miscellaneous	2	n/a
Devon	423	39	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>102,036</b>	

## APPENDIX - METHODOLOGY

County by county, specifying County Durham as the county of birth, but entering no name for an 'individual' search, the results generated supposedly identify the number of records of Durham-born persons in the county in question. Taken together, the searches should provide the total number of Durham 'strays' in the whole of Great Britain.

It was evident, however, that the numbers of records returned by the search command were overstating the number of genuinely Durham-born persons. In the case of Scotland, the search indicated that 105,000 Durham-born persons were resident in Scotland in 1881 (and almost 9,000 in the Channel Isles, and 4,000 in the Isle of Man). Obviously grossly inaccurate, but why?

The chief culprit will be readily recognised by those, like myself, who have Irish or Scottish ancestors: the tendency for English enumerators to record the place of birth simply as 'Ireland' or 'Scotland'. Similarly in Scotland, the enumerators seem to have been content just to list English-born residents as having been born in 'England' with no place or county recorded. Critically, the sort-logic in the software used on the census data seems to play safe and to list, along with county-specific entries, any 'England'-only entries. After all, someone born in England *may* have been born in Durham.

So the artificially high figures for Scotland rendered the search results unusable. For most English counties the proportion of 'England'-only entries was about 10%, but the proportion was substantially higher in a few counties (Lancashire, London and Home Counties). Most migration in England in the 19th century was across neighbouring county boundaries where the enumerators would have had the knowledge and interest to record the place and county of birth. My supposition is that the enumerators in the growing London and Lancashire conurbations would either have lacked the knowledge, or been less inclined, to record place and county of birth for immigrants from distant counties. There would have also been greater genuine ignorance as to their place of birth on the part of those who had immigrated at a young age.

So how to deal with the spuriously inflated 'Durham-born' records totals? Using a random sample of the records returned for each county, I estimated the proportion of 'genuine' Durham-born residents for each county. I did not post-hoc amend the numerous geographical errors of enumerators (Newcastle and other north-of-the-Tyne places commonly being given as the birthplace of 'Durham'-born persons). As the estimates are based on samples, the results are subject to sampling error. The table shows the +/- range at 95% confidence level, using the following:

95% confidence level = 2 standard errors of sample proportion, and  
One standard error = square root of  $(p * (1-p)) / n$

*Editor's comments:* Now let me see, I think I remember how to do this from a previous existence. Take Northamptonshire. The true number of Durham strays in Northamptonshire in 1881 has a 95% chance of falling between (196 + 19), and (196 - 19). So it is highly likely - 95% likely - that the number of strays was between 215 maximum and 177 minimum. There is only a 5% chance that the number will have fallen outside those limits.

In Yorkshire however, because so many enumerators were inaccurate in stating birthplaces of immigrants, the number of Durham strays could be 1800 or so either way. The main point, that Yorkshire had a large number of Durham immigrants compared to many other counties, is nevertheless indisputable.

It would be interesting to see what the proportion of strays was to the population of each county. Maybe for next year, Mr Eyre!

# DURHAM CONSISTORY COURT WILLS: 1858

Genealogical reference books state that, for wills from 1858, searches should be made in the indexes of the Principal Probate Registry, which took over the work of administering probate from the many ecclesiastical courts across England and Wales. It so happens, however, that the Court of Probate Act of 1857 did not take effect until 13th January 1858, and so, for wills proved during the first twelve days of that year, the multifarious ecclesiastical courts continued to function in England and Wales. We list below the 26 wills and administrations recorded in the indexes of the Consistory Court of Durham for 1858. The documents may be consulted, or photocopies obtained, from Durham University Library Archives and Special Collections (see inside back cover).

Note that any wills made by persons resident in Hexhamshire, Northumberland, will be listed in the indexes of the Prerogative Court of York, at The Borthwick Institute of Historical Research, St Anthony's Hall, York YO1 2PW.

This list is printed with acknowledgement to Durham University Library Archives and Special Collections.

Name	Adobe	Reference
ADAMSON, John	Scotsfield Burn, Ph. Stanhope	T
ARRAS, John	Newcastle	A 1
ATKINSON, John	North Shields	A 10
BELL, Andrew	North Shields	T
BURN, George	Holy Island	T
CARR, John Thomas	Newcastle	T
COATES, James	St Andrew, Newcastle	T
COPPOCK, Ann	Newcastle	T
DUNN, Alice	Middleton, Ph. Merrington	T
DUNN, Peggy	Hamsterley	T
FORSTER, Robert	Blanchland	T & C
GRAHAM, John	Low Whitestones, Ph. Stanhope	T
GREEN, William	Blanchland	T
HALL, James Ridley	Corbridge	A 7
HEWSON, Thomas <sup>1</sup>	Tynemouth	TA 2 de bon non.
HOHNES, Catherine Frances	East Indies	A 5
HOLDROYD, John	Frosterley, Ph. Stanhope	T
HOWEY, Margaret <sup>2</sup>	Biddlestone, Alwinton	TA 1
HURST, Edward	South Shields	A 8
LAMBERT, Anthony	Alnwick	T
MARSHALL, John	South Shields	A 6
REAY, Richard	Kirkheaton	A 2
SIMPSON, Margaret	Shilbottle	A 9
STEWART, Thomas	Newcastle	A 4
TEMPERLEY, Catherine	Stanhope	A 3
WILSON, John <sup>3</sup>	Tweed House, Berwick	T & C

## Notes:

A Administration

Ph Parish

T Will

TA Will with Administration

T & C Tuition and curation (for care of children under 21)

1 Hewson, Thomas is annotated: '1st grant 11th May 1819, 2nd grant 10th February 1834'. 'De bon non' = 'De bonis non administratis', property that had not previously been the subject of an administration.

2 Howey, Margaret is described as 'wife of Thos. Howey'.

3 Wilson, John has a note: 'See next index'. It is not clear what this refers to.



## TWENTY YEARS AGO

*A summary of what the NDFHS 'Journal' was saying in 1980.*

Not one reader commented on the mistake made in our last issue with regard to 'Twenty Years Ago' which summarised the January 1999 *Journal* instead of the January 2000 edition, the nearest equivalent to our present seasonal system. You are very tolerant. With apologies to all, we will make amends this time by summarising two editions, January and April 1980.

**Volume V, No 2 (January 1980)** celebrated the contribution made to Catholic genealogy by Fr Vincent Smith, NDFHS Chairman 1976-1978, by making him our first Honorary Life Member. The late Fr Smith's transcripts of early Catholic registers from Northumberland and Durham must have helped many thousands of researchers in the past twenty years.

### Articles:

*Grandmothers and Grave Robbers* by John Light (pages 35-38) describes the author's searches at Doddington church, Northumberland, into his ancestors surnamed **Short**. The difficulties he experienced in searching at the church in the days before records were centralised makes all the complaints one reads about present-day research facilities in Northumberland seem somewhat exaggerated, but our expectations have changed over the last generation. The article concludes with a transcript of the rules respecting the Watch at Doddington churchyard in the days when parishioners manned the watchtower as grave robbers plied their gruesome trade.

*The Hexham Riot* by DW Smith (pages 39-41) briefly relates the events of 9th March 1761 at Hexham when some 45 persons died and many more were wounded by musket fire from a battalion of Militia. There follows a list of the dead and wounded; the list of those killed may also be found in the *Victoria County History of Northumberland Vol III (Hexhamshire Part I)*. The list of wounded is however available only in a rare monograph by Joseph Ridley published in 1868. Time and space have not allowed us to print the list in this edition, but we hope to include it in the next, rearranged alphabetically and with some indication of the fate of those wounded who died subsequently and were buried in parishes outside Hexham. Most of those listed were from parishes other than Hexham.

*A Trimdon Family* by AJ Pain (page 42) mentions descendants of John Carter, a pitman of mysterious origins who c1850 bought land in Trimdon, Co Durham, erected a brew-house on it, and traded as a butcher.

*The Enclosure of Harbottle Common* by WE Wallace (pages 43-45) is an article based on the Harbottle Inclosure Award papers at Northumberland Record Office. All parties to the Award (1816) are listed.

*Could they Write?* by FJ Vaughan (pages 45-46) briefly ponders the question of whether persons who made their mark instead of signing their name, were all really illiterate.

*Know your Parish II - Heddon-on-the-Wall* by AS Angus (pages 47-48) is a thorough look at the main records available for Heddon.

*William Welbury of Sunderland - a Survivor of Trafalgar* by Mrs CM James (pages 49-50) briefly traces the life, and mentions some descendants, of William Welbury (1784-1831).

**Volume V, No 3 (April 1980)** contained news of the Society's first-ever attempt at publishing something other than its *Journal*, the Kirknewton Bishop's Transcripts from 1762 to 1790, when the registers were destroyed by fire. This transcript is now out of print, but copies can be consulted at Bolbec Hall and Morpeth Records centre.

### Articles:

*Checking up on a Chart* by Mrs GH Davison (pages 63-64). Article on the **Davison** or **Davidson** family, farmers through several generations originally of Coquetdale but moving on to Blyth. The author tried to prove the veracity of a number of family stories.

*Anderson-Jackson-Robson-Pharaoh-Ord Cousins in England and the United States* by Mrs Charles G Drake (pages 66-68). Mrs Drake wrote from America on how she traced her family of **Jackson** from Pennsylvania back to the **Pharaoh** family of Newcastle and **Anderson** family of Corsenside/Thockrington, Northumberland. The article exemplifies the value of writing a letter to an old address in the hope that someone may be around who remembers a family even when it has left the area.

*The Reeds of Easington Parish* by AJ Pain (pages 68-71). 17th and 18th century family; some register extracts.

*Cargill Families in Scotland, the Newcastle area and New Zealand* by DC Cargill (pages 71-75). Extensive article linking the early Cargills of Edinburgh and other parts of Scotland with a Newcastle family of the same name.

Brief articles include one on the *Index of patentees and Inventors* (pages 75-76): a brief *Know your Parish - Thockrington* (page 78); a list of a score or more of *Northumberland & Durham Apprentices at Yarmouth 1563-1665* (pages 78-79); and half a dozen *Workhouse Apprentices, St Luke's, Chelsea, Middlesex* with North-east connections.

## MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND QUERIES

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

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

If you wish to have your interests or any queries published, send a paragraph outlining your areas of research, problems etc., to Phil Thirkell at the above address by 31st March. Please include your membership number with any correspondence and print names to avoid errors. There is no restriction on how often you may submit items but please try to be brief, as, the shorter the items, the more we can print.

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

**0405 DOREEN LOMAS**, 17 The Rise, Darlington, Co Durham DL3 8HD  
Seeking the baptisms and marriage of Ralph **BROWN** (1776-1830), sinker of Backworth, Northumberland, and Hannah (1780-1870). Their issue: John 1804, Mary 1807, George 1809, Ralph 1816, Hannah 1818, Elizabeth 1821, Dinah 1824 and Susanna 1826.

**0803 VERA EUSTACE**, Gardeners Cottage, Parkside, Wimbledon, London SW19 5NL

Researching Catherine **CARR** born 1754/6, one of eight children of Robert Carr (1725-1788) and his wife Margaret, who farmed four areas in Northumberland - Hotchpudding, Slaterfield, Hawkwell and Elyhaugh or Felton. A case against the Treasury 1903-8 states that she married the Rev Richard **BAXTER**, curate of Stamfordham and headmaster of the Free School there and pre-deceased him: a "tablet to her memory was taken down when the organ went in". Can find no reference to her birth or marriage. Any information would be welcome.

**1657 Mrs M. ROBSON**, Snuff Mill Cottage, Mitford, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 3PY

Researching: 1) Henry **ROBSON**, first Superintendent of Hexham Cemetery, died 1914, born 1826 Styford/Bywell(?) but unable to find a birth/baptism record. 2) Francis Spring **ATKINSON**, clockmaker, born 1790 Newcastle, died 1864 Hexham, married Isabella Atkinson. 3) David **SPARKS**, engine driver, born 1840 Norham, died 1913 Hexham, married Mary **WELTON**, born Birtley, Northumberland 1846. 4) James **COWEN**, born 1838 Durham City, son of John Cowen, tailor, married Frances **HEPPLE**, born Cambo 1838. 5) Sarah **PARK**, born 1863 Bishop Auckland, daughter of James Park and Jane **WESTGARTH**. 6) Isabella Ann **WOOD**, born 1865, daughter of Thomas Wood, miner and Mary Ann **STONES**, Trimdon, Co Durham. 7) Robert Simpson **SMITH**, born 1845 South Shields, married Margaret **MITCHELL**, son of Robert Simpson Smith and Jane **STEPHENSON**. 8) Isabella **SHARP**, born 1870 South Shields, daughter of William Sharp.

**2894 Mr GEORGE PATTERSON**, 19 Green Croft, Brampton, Cumbria CA8 1AX

Interested in hearing from any descendants of the following **PATERSON** family: Martha, nee **RICHARDSON**, born Earsdon 1757, and husband Thomas, mariner of Hartley, who married Earsdon 1786; also their eldest son Thomas, baptised Earsdon 1786, and the children of their second son Daniel born at Earsdon 1793, viz - Thomas, John, Daniel, Martha, John Halliday, Thomas Richardson, Robert and Ann, all of whom were baptised at Bedlington 1821-1834, and their ninth child Mary Jane born Gateshead 1841.

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

I understand that after the reformation of the militia in 1757 and the end of the Napoleonic Wars, county militias did not serve in their own counties, the aim being to prevent bias when dealing with local disturbances. For example, the Royal North Lincolnshire militia was one regiment sometime based in Cheshire. Could any one kindly tell me where the Durham militia was stationed between

1800-1814, or where I could obtain this information. I am interested in recruitment from upper Weardale.

**3688 Mr LC WHITE**, 6 Clovelly Way, Orpington, Kent BR6 0WD

Great grandmother Margaret **HOPE** was born 1848 at Little Chilton Colliery, Chilton, daughter of Thomas Hope, pitman, and Maria nee **BUSSEY**. Unfortunately, the family had moved from Little Chilton by the 1851 Census. Can anyone give me information about Chilton or Little Chilton Colliery, or is anyone researching the names Hope and Bussey in that area or in Sedgfield?

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

Has anyone information on the coal-owning **SIMPSON** family of Bradley Hall, Wylam-on-Tyne? John Bell Simpson (1837-1926 of Ryton) was son of Robert Simpson and Joanna **YOUNG**. Was Robert the son of John Simpson, farmer of South Side, Hamsterley, who married Ann **BELL** there in 1810? In 1811 Ann is described as daughter of John Bell, coal owner, whilst John (1790-1857) is the son of John Simpson (1764-1807) and Eleanor **BRADLEY** (1763-1837). Any information on the above and on other families in the Hamsterley, Copley, Cockfield area in the 18/19th centuries would be gratefully received. Other interests: **SURTEES**, **ANGUS** and **LEYBOURN** of Horseleyhope/Healeyfield: **FORSTER** and **CARR** of Blanchland; **OYSTON** and **SPEDDING** of Co Durham.

**5203 Mrs JO WATSON**, 20 Malton Way, Blackhurst Lane, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 4QE

Seeking information on Francis **WATSON** and family. Francis born c1783 Scotland, married Ann **NICOLSON** Alnwick 1812. He was a lighthouse keeper on Inner Farne Islands c1813-17, was in the Rothbury area 1817-1822 and on Newcastle 1851 Census; he died 1854. Children: 1) James (1813) became a race horse trainer at Richmond. 2) Robert (1815) was a famous marine artist in the north east. 3) Francis (1817). 4) Nathaniel Bates David (1820). 5) Jacob Ralph (1822). Where was Francis Watson and family between 1822 to 1851? Why was Nathaniel given so many Christian names, when three of his brothers only had a single name? Any connection with **BATES** or **DAVID** families? Cannot find the birth of Francis Watson c1783. Census in 1851 just says Scotland. Any information or ideas appreciated.

**5602 PATRICIA KING HUGHES**, 9110 Bay Point Drive, Elberta, Alabama 36530, USA (email: patrex@ametro.net)

Seeking ancestors and descendants of William **SCOTT** christened 1732 at Groat Market Meeting House (Presbyterian) in Newcastle. His father may have been David Scott. Also Dorothy **MASON**, possibly his wife, christened 1750 at St Andrew, Newcastle. Their children: William born 1776, Margaret 1778, Thomas 1783 and William II 1789. Dorothy's father may have been William Mason. Also, if any members have additional information concerning the Groat Market Meeting House it would be greatly appreciated.

**5713 HARRY LONSDALE COXON**, 2 Clarence Terrace, Willington, Co Durham DL15 0HS (email: harry.coxon@virgin.net)

Looking for ancestors and descendants of Thomas **COXON** born

1783 (possibly at Newcastle), married Mary CRAWFORD (born 1788 at Widdrington, NBL), at Longhorsley, NBL in 1814 and died at Hetton, DUR in 1827 aged 44 years. He worked as an 'ag lab' and then as a coal-miner. Had seven sons: Michael born 1815; William born 1817 at Longhorsley; John 1818; Mark 1820; Thomas 1821; James 1824 - all at Medomsley, DUR and Andrew (named after Mary's father) born 1826 at Tynemouth. Thomas jnr died, aged 6 years in 1827, also Andrew aged 1 year, both at Hetton. Did Mary marry again? Also researching LONSDALE family. Joseph Lonsdale born c1859, married Elizabeth Ann TEASDALE at Crook, DUR in 1884. He was a coal-miner, as was his father William, and had the following family: Joseph born 1883; Margaret 1885; William 1887 and Thomas 1890, all at Crook. The 1891 census just says he came from Northumberland, no mention of a village.

6182 Mrs ANNE McINTYRE, MSI 1877, Hillcrest Road, Malanda, Queensland 4885, Australia (email: macam@bigpond.com)

William LOWREY married Anne HEDLEY (daughter of Richard/Reynard Hedley, of Sleafy, Hexhamshire) at Whittostall 1797. Children: William Lowrey (born 1797); Maria Anna Lowry (born 1803, married Paul WARDROPER); Frances Lowrey (born 1806, married Joseph BEWICK); John Lowrey (born 1808 Edmundbyers, married Agnys BAXTER 1831 at Bishopwearmouth). Children of John and Agnys Lowrey - Isabella Shipley Lowrey (born 1838 Birtley, Co Durham, married Thomas Robert MIDDLETON); John Lowrey born 1841 Birtley, married Elizabeth Jane ROBSON 1863, (born 1845/6 Wrekenton, daughter of Benjamin Robson). Children of John and Elizabeth Jane (nee Robson) Lowrey: Agnes Esther Lowrey (1864); Elizabeth Jane Lowrey (1865); Isabella Shipley Lowrey (1867); Hannah Mary Lowrey (1870); Frances Bewick Lowrey (1871); William Riddell Lowrey (1874); John Lowrey (1876); these seven children born Low Fell, Gateshead. The Lowrey family lived at Kells Lane, Low Fell, Gateshead in 1881. They departed for Australia in Dec 1882, arriving 1883. Looking for any further information or descendants of this family.

6348 Mrs ALISON BOYDELL, 13 Lynch Road, Farnham, Surrey GU9 8BZ

Seeking information on the family and birth of Henry WINTRIP who married Hannah THYNN in 1835 at St John's, Newcastle. Henry died 1881; when did Hannah die? In 1851 they were living at 50 Dixon Buildings, Westgate, Newcastle with their children George (14), William (12), Isabella (9), Margaret (3) and Hannah (1). Also seeking death of Barbara MOORE (nee FORSTER) married to William Moore of Simonburn in 1837. William died at Simonburn 1872.

6358 Mr ALAN KEITH, 96 Avonmouth Road, Farringdon, Sunderland SR3 3HB

Researching the family of his wife Doreen nee STEWART, daughter of Catherine TATE and granddaughter of Mary RICHARDSON. Particularly looking for information on Mary's sisters, Sarah A born 1860, Catherine c1863 and William aged 36 years, married and living in Elizabeth c1871. There were other brother and sisters: Gateshead in 1901; they were all children of Thomas Richardson and Hannah BENDIN who married 1858 Gateshead. The children were all born at Winlaton. What became of the girls? Would appreciate any information.

6422 Mrs D MILLBAND, 10 Abbey Drive, Abbey Grange, North Walbottle, Newcastle upon Tyne NE5 1QR

Is anyone researching the FORSTER family of Catton/Allendale? Unable to find pre-1837 marriage of George Forster and Mary BENNETT. Would welcome contact with anyone researching the Bennett families of SW Northumberland/NW Durham, or John Richard Bennett, ironmonger in Newcastle, during the late 19th century.

6600 Mr E BELL, 26 Buck Stone Oval, Leeds LS17 5HG

Seeking information about Andrew BELL, soldier, whose son George was baptised 1696 at Tynemouth. What was his regiment? Was he in the garrison at Tynemouth or Newcastle? Was he married? Checks at the PRO, North Shields Library and regimental museums have drawn a blank.

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

Seeking information on the REID family. Jane Reid, born 1793 Monkwearmouth, married Robert AYRE, shipowner, in 1816 at St Peter's, Monkwearmouth. Her parents were given as John Reid and Elizabeth. When and where were they born? When did they marry? Also seeking the births of Robert's parents, Robert Ayre and Mary CUTHBERT c1730, possibly Jarrold as they married there in 1758.

7106 Mr P BROUGHAM WYLY, 8 Burnham Close, Culcheth, Warrington, Cheshire WA3 4LJ

Would like to make contact with anyone interested in the surname BROUGHAM.

7206 ARTHUR E WALL, 16 Marika Court, Salisbury East, South Australia 5109, Australia

Seeking any information on the HOULT family. Eliza Hoults was born c1816 in the South Shields area and married 1838 to Thomas DOUGLASS; she was the daughter of Robert Hoults, glassmaker. Also require information on the DISTON family of Northumberland and Co Durham. Thomas Diston, stonemason, was born c1809 and died 1843.

7285 JULIE SCHOFIELD, 3 Oaktree Close, Burpham, Guildford GU4 7JQ (email: mary@foxglove.demon.co.uk)

Seeking information on the family of Frederick TURNER and his wife Barbara MURRAY, originally from Kelso and Coldstream respectively. Barbara was widowed and living with her daughter Elizabeth in Newcastle in 1881. Their eldest daughter Mary Ann Turner married Matthew GILROY and was living at Fenwick Steads in 1881 and 1891. Does anyone have any information on a FC Gilroy, a lithograph printer who may be related to them?

7360 PAMELA T LUCAS, 49 Malton Green, Harlow Green, Gateshead NE9 7EF

Seeking information on tracking down details of staff who worked at Ravensworth Castle. Looking for Christopher FERRY born c1815; only details are that he was a joiner at the castle living at Cox Close, Ravensworth. Also seeking RENWICK, TURNBULL, MENHAM, STEPHENSON, BRUNTON/BRINTON and LEECE all of Gateshead/Co Durham area. Seeking information of Abner LUCAS, fire brick manufacturer of Eighton Banks who originated in Staffordshire.

7373 JOHN E ALLEN, 7 Vowley View, Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire SN4 8HT

Attempting to trace the birth of great grandfather William ALLEN. According to the 1891 Census for Herrington, he was born Sunderland c1849/50. Also, his father Edward Allen who was a sailor according to William's marriage certificate. Would be pleased to hear from anyone researching Allen or Allan in the Durham area.

7412 ROSS R BELL, 8 Oxford Close, Belrose, New South Wales 2085, Australia

Researching the families of William BELL and Jane HENRY/HENERY. William Bell was born c1842 at South Shields; Jane c1843 at Tynemouth. To date, no marriage registration has been found in the GRO indexes. Children: Margaret Jane 1868, James Henry 1869/70, William 1870/71, Elizabeth Ann c1873, Georgina c1875, Thomas Robson 1876 and John 1880/1, all born at Chirton. Margaret married a ROBSON, possibly Charles or Howard, and Georgina married Will LANCASTER/LANKASTER and both families emigrated to South Africa c1910. Thomas Robson married Henrietta COULSON 1901 at Tynemouth. John was reportedly a bridge builder who went to Brazil and then returned to England.

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

Does anyone have knowledge of the whereabouts of James RIDLEY, coal miner, between 1822-1879? He was born Wylam 1820, baptised 1822, fifth child of John Ridley, shotmaker, and Mary WALSH who married Ovingham 1807. In 1843 James was in All Saints parish and was removed to Wylam. His father John was living at Gallowgate in St Andrew's, Newcastle. Possible siblings are John baptised 1814, Mary 1817 and William 1820. James Ridley allegedly married four times and had 24 children. He was a gardener to Lady Clayton. I have fully details of the family after he married Barbara (Ann) BROAD, otherwise HAWKINS, in 1879 at Gateshead.



**7686 MALCOLM METCALF**, 4154 Beaufort Place, North Vancouver, British Columbia V7G 2N5, Canada

Looking for information on the following: Hannah HUDSON born c1842, father Thomas BERVERAGE. George Heinrich VARRELMANN born c1845, possibly Hamburg, seaman thought to be a master mariner and lost on the Blackmiddles, father Carl (Karl), policeman, married St Hildas, South Shields 1866.

**8008 JOYCE STOKES**, 56 Augustine Way, Bicknacre, Essex CM3 4ET (email: jstokes@lineone.net)

In 1860 John DREWITT married Mary Ann DUNCAN at St John's Church, Newcastle. John's father was Christopher Drewitt and one of the witnesses Isabel Drewitt. They moved to Gateshead and on the 1871 census, Scotland was given as their place of birth (possibly the Musselburgh area), and they had changed their name to DREW. They are my great grandparents but I cannot trace their births. My father's name was BAMBRA and there are various spellings. I was told that there was a connection through marriage with the COWEN family of Ryton. Does anyone have any information about these queries?

**8048 Mrs VA TAYLOR**, 117 Tennyson Avenue, Sprotbrough, Doncaster DN5 8EU

Seeking the forebears of Thomas WANLESS/WANDLESS of Warenford in 1802.

**8137 ANN TREMAIN**, 5 Cobb Close, Rochester, Kent ME2 3TY (email: don.tremain@btinternet.com)

Looking for information on the parents of Robert RICHARDSON a farmer born 1779 Winlaton, and Elizabeth ROBSON born 1774 Ryton on Tyne. They married 1802 at Ryton - children: John Richardson born 1803 and Robert Richardson 1805.

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

Seeking any information relating to George ELSDON and Thomasine BRINKS who were married at Jarrow in 1832. Their daughter Mary Ann Brinks Elsdon, born 1835 Newcastle, was my great grandmother. Thomasine was probably born Tynemouth 1808, daughter of John Matthias Brinks and Ann ROBERTSON. Have not been able to locate George, Thomasine or Mary on any census.

**8384 VERA THOMSON**, 41 The Firs, Alston, Cumbria CA9 3RW

Seeking information on James TAILFORD married Agnes Emily LAWSON. They had children: Constance Ada and Edith Miriam (born c1881) who married David Scott WOODCOCK. Believe that they may have lived in the Gateshead or Whitley Bay areas.

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

Looking for information on: 1) John IONS (born 1836 Newcastle) and his father Peter Ions, grandfather John EYONS, great grandfather John Eyons, 2xg grandfather James Eyons and 3xg grandfather John Eyons, all Freeman of Newcastle. 2) Margaret MOON died 1908 Gateshead aged 39 years, wife of James BALMER, a railway labourer. Unable to find her birth or marriage. 3) Patrick GALLAGHER and Jane MURPHY born 1838 Ireland. Patrick was a boot finisher. Their daughter Elizabeth was born 1869 Pudding Chare, Newcastle. 4) Catherine ROBERTS born 1874, married 1898 Gosforth to Richard PROBERT. Her father was Thomas, a driller. 5) Thomas HENDERSON and Elizabeth HAWDON, parents of Joseph born 1843 Wallsend. 6) Mary CLARK born 1848 Wallsend, married James HESLOP 1874 Wallsend.

**8692 PHILIP HALL**, 58 Corby Park, North Ferriby, East Yorkshire HU14 3AY (email: hallphilip@ukonline.co.uk)

Searching for any information on Robert HALL who married a Margaret TAYLOR. They had six children. The first William John born 1865 in Walker, the last James Hall born 1876. According to birth certificate his father Robert had died but can't find death or marriage of Robert. Margaret remarried William BEWLEY 1880, when her father's name was given as Stephen CHURCHILL (deceased).

**8749 ISABEL LOVE**, 145 Clifton Road, Cramlington, Northumberland NE23 6TJ

Looking for information on: Sarah JOHNSON, daughter of Edward Johnson, sailmaker of North Shields. Sarah married Andrew JODGSON 1858 at St Stephen's, South Shields. Jane SWINBURN born c1812 at Cowpen. Ishmael Hodgson had a son Andrew born c1880. On 1891 Census, Andrew, Ann and Sarah Hodgson were living with a Mrs MOUAT at Thomas Street, South Shields, Elizabeth HUGHES born 1840 Durham, daughter of Patrick, married 1861 at the RC Chapel, Bedford Street, North Shields to James COMMERFORD, son of Patrick, James and Patrick recorded at St Wilfred's, Blyth as COMISKEY.

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

Would like any information on the following: Charles O'CONNOR, born Ireland 1862, father Francis, mother Susannah, married Catherine SLOAN 1892 at Hebburn/Felling-on-Tyne. Catherine was the daughter of James Sloan, born Ireland 1829, and Catherine HAMILL, born Ireland 1849. All of the above lived in the Heworth/Felling area. Also, Sarah Lilian HODGIN, born Sheffield 1899, father J Hodgkin, mother Lilian Wilson SWEETING, born Burstal near Leeds.

**8783 KENNETH CHRISTIE**, 57 Baldovan Road, Downfield, Dundee DD3 9EB (email: kenneth@christie70.freemove.co.uk)

Seeking information on James CHRISTIE, specifically - date he died, where buried and any headstone inscriptions. Known details - 1881 census Tunstall, Co Durham, living with wife Elizabeth Edmundson (nee DOBINSON) (42), daughter Elizabeth Jane (13) and sons James (10), Thomas Dobinson (9), William (6) and John (4). James, the father aged 40 in 1881, was born Scotland. James and Elizabeth married at St Paul's church, Hendon 1866 and she died 1885. Son James born Dock St, Monkwearmouth died 1891 at Ripon St, Monkwearmouth. Son William died 1942 and was interred at Glossop, Derbyshire. Son Thomas Dobinson died at sea 1897. Son John born at George St, New Tunstall died 1929 at Peel St and was interred at Bishopwearmouth Cemetery.

**8922 Mrs MW COLLING**, 15 Cooke's Wood, Deerness Vale, Broompark, Durham DH7 7RL

Any information on the following families would be very welcome: 1) Robert HANCOCK, aged 53, widower, a seedsman of Burt Terrace, Gateshead, married Emily WILSON, aged 31, at St Mary's, Gateshead 1884. Unable to find them on the 1881 Census and don't know where to look next. Their son Robert Wilson Hancock married Elizabeth Ann GUTHRIE, father Walter, at Gateshead Register Office in 1905. 2) Joshua COLLING, born Castleside c1849, son of John, married 1872 in Durham Central Registration District to Margaret HALL, born 1852 Moss End, Northumberland, daughter of Robert. Their son Ernest Frederick, born 1879, married Frances JEWERS, born 1877 Benfieldside, daughter of John, who was born at Lowick, and Mary Jane nee LEADBITTER, born Camperdown, Northumberland.

**9159 Mr KEITH PROWSE**, 96 Peters Park Lane, Plymouth, Devon PL5 1PT (email: keith@wfkprowse.eurobell.co.uk)

Seeking any information regarding Thomas Lavers PROWSE, born 1848 Ringmore, Devon, or any descendants. In the mid 1880s, he and two brothers, Peter and George, moved to South Shields; they were fishermen. Thomas married Esther HARKUS at Holy Trinity, South Shields in 1873 and had children: Elizabeth 1880, Thomas 1882, Christina 1873 and George 1884. Thomas Lavers Prowse died 1918 and a C DEFTY, granddaughter, was present at the death. Although I know that they were in South Shields at the time, I have not found them on the 1891 Census.

**9325 GEOFF STEAD**, 110 Tudor Walk, Watford, Hertfordshire WD2 4PA (email: jenny-geoff@stead110freemove.co.uk)

Would be grateful for any information regarding the date and place of marriage, also the date and place of death of Burnip STEAD. He is known to have been born in 1850 at Pitlington, Co Durham. He married Elizabeth HUTCHINSON and survived until at least 1882 when my grandfather William Stead was born. Burnip Stead had five previous children: John, Hannah H, Sarah J, George H, and James G Stead. Any help would be most welcome.

**9361 STEVE BRANLEY**, 9 Lower Sandwick, Isle of Lewis, Outer Hebrides HS2 0AE (email: drawingroom@ndirect.co.uk)

Searching for Thomas BRANLEY (born 1855), married

Catherine/Katherine O'HARA probably around the turn of the century. Originally lived in Bedlington after their move from Liverpool but later moved to Blyth. Any information would be most welcome. I'm very willing to share my research data with any interested parties. Also if anyone has any census information on Blyth that they're willing to share with me I would be extremely grateful.

**9379 ANDREW B WALKER**, 116 Hill Street, West Hobart, Tasmania 7000, Australia

Looking for information on the family and ancestors of George Washington WALKER (born 1800, left Newcastle 1835 for Tasmania as a Quaker). He was one of 22? children of John Walker of Newcastle who married ATKINSON (11 children) and Elizabeth RIDLEY (11? children). John Walker had many siblings, but the only one I know of is George Walker (born 1735 Newcastle - died London 1807, Professor of Theology). John Walker's father was an older brother of Rev Thomas Walker (born Wylam 1704, died 1763). Both Thomas and his brother were born on an estate at Wylam, which remained in the family until 1885? when it was bought by Mr Blackett, proprietor of the Globe. Can provide much detail about George's descendants in Tasmania.

**9418 MARY JESSUP**, Sunridge Cottage, Old Merrow Street, Guildford, Surrey GU4 7BA (email: jessup@compuserve.com)

Information sought on James REDPATH born c1821 in Northumberland, but where? He was the son of Robert Redpath, labourer, mother unknown. James was in Rothbury 1841, servant to Rev Harcourt, rector, and married Ellen(or) ROBSON, but where and when? Not in GRO indexes. Children: William 1844, Rothbury, registered under Robson; John 1847 Rothbury, under Redpath; Catherine 1850/1 not registered. William and John's careers known but what happened to Catherine? In Newcastle 1881 with James and John. James died Birmingham 1887; John died Newcastle 1892 and William in South Africa 1945.

**9423 Mr ANDREW E CARTER REAY**, 173 Kimbolton Road, Bedford, Bedfordshire MK41 8DS (email: andrew@simplyhealth.net)

Seeking information on the parents of Joseph REAY, born Sunderland 1832, father's name John Reay. Joseph emigrated to Australia some time before 1856 and married in 1857 at Kilmore, Victoria to Mary ILETT. He died in 1896 at Footscray, Melbourne having had four children: a son born 1857, Sarah Jane 1860, Francis Joseph (1863-1865) and Charles Edward (1866-1923). Trying to establish a family link between the Reays of Sunderland and those of Gill House, Broomfield in Cumbria.

**9456 Mrs JENNY KILBY**, 21 Wykewane, Malvern, Worcestershire WR14 2XD

Grandfather Albert Edward PONTON disappeared from Newcastle after the death of his wife in 1912. He may have died in WWI. His two children were placed in the Ponteland Cottage Homes; does anyone know the location the records for the period c1912-20? Also researching HUDSON of Chester-le-Street and SHAW of Brancepeth.

**9558 Miss CM LYNKEY**, 109 Nutcroft Grove, Fetcham, Surrey KT22 9LD

Researching the SWINBURN(E) family. All branches being traced, in particular Lamesley, Durham c1650-1770, Wallsend 1800-1850, and Lanchester 1550-1700. John son of Gilbert Swinburne and Dorothy LEE was christened Lanchester 1574. Was this the same John Swinburne who married Joan COLSON 1609 at Whickham?

**9647 Miss SUE MILNE**, 98 Margaret Street, Orange, NSW 2800, Australia

Seeking information about mother's family. June BURT who died 1976 was born 1934 Blyth but spent most of her childhood in the care of the Fairbridge Foundation, Birmingham. She was the daughter of William Hall Burt who was born to Margaret Foster Burt in 1912 and spent most of his working life in the mines (South Shields) as well as some time in the Merchant Navy (1930-40s). He died in Blyth in 1984. His mother Margaret married Joseph INGLEDEW in 1918 and they had seven children between 1919 and 1927. William HALL married twice, firstly to Martha Ellen COLLINS (daughter of Phillip and Margaret Collins) in 1931 Tynemouth Reg District and they had three girls. June and her sister were placed in the Fairbridge Foundation in 1939 while a

younger sister was placed with relatives. William remarried in 1950 to Catherine RYAN, a widow with three children. Looking for any information about the above families, or the Fairbridge Foundation.

**9656 ROBERT R NICHOL**, Greenacre, High Biggins, Carnforth, Lancashire LA6 2NP (email: 100041.1175@compuserve.com)

Researching all members of NICHOL families who were known to be in and around the North Tyne parish of Falstone and the Roxburghshire parish of Castleton, particularly 1700-1850 but all dates are of interest.

**9703 ANN COSSAR**, 49 Hendham Road, London SW17 7DH (email: cossar@one-name.org)

One Name Study registered with the Guild of One Name Studies of COSSAR, COSSER, COSSOR, CROSSER, CROSSAR, CROSSOR. Current project is to research the 15 families who were enumerated in Northumberland and Durham in 1881. Enquiries and information welcome.

**9720 Miss R WEBB**, 24/169 Princes Highway, Arncliffe, NSW 2205, Australia

Would welcome any information on the following: great grandfather William HOPE born 1858 at Toft Hill, Evenwood, Co Durham, son of William Hope, born c1827, and Elizabeth HUTCHINSON who married in 1851. William was the son of Cuthbert Hope, born 1806 Etherley, and Hannah WILSON. Cuthbert's parents were another William Hope and Mary ATKINSON. Hannah Wilson was a daughter of William Wilson and Mary VIPOND.

**9722 PAUL HUNTER**, 1 Verbena Way, Hedge End, Southampton, Hampshire SO30 0GW

Stephen BERGEN married Jane COOLEY at Earsdon in 1811 and they had seven sons: George Culley, Stephen, William Culley, Richard Culley, John Stanton, Robert and Septimus Martin. They were all mariners and master mariners; my ancestor George was also a North Sea pilot, and William a teacher of navigation and author. Would be most grateful for any information on this nautical family, and on George's father in law, Adam MORRISON, a merchant and grocer of Blyth.

**9727 DEREK STIRLING**, Braewood, The Croft, Bishopstone, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP5 4DF (email: dstirling@compuserve.com)

Has a particular interest in the STIRLING family frequented the area around Eglingham in the 1700s. Any advice or information would be appreciated.

**9728 Mrs M KIDD**, 11 Englehurst, Englefield Green, Egham, Surrey TW20 0EE

Interests include: Joseph LOWERY born Morpeth 1828, innkeeper/market gardener; Elizabeth Lowery nee PARKER, 1833, dressmaker; Anthony IRVING/IRWING born Sunderland 1826, master of a steam tug; and Susannah Irving/Irwing nee SPURDEN, born 1835 and raised by an aunt, Mrs HENDERSON in Sunderland from 1847.

**9745 Mr LM ROBINSON**, "La Harnas", 29 Laurel Bank Avenue, Fulwood, Preston, Lancashire PR2 3RR

Would welcome hearing from anyone who has researched the FITCH family.

**9764 Mr FRANK WHITTINGTON**, Caerhayes, Spearcey Lane, Staplehay, Taunton, Somerset TA3 7HW

Research interests include: McFALL of Northern Ireland before 1880 and Durham 1880 onwards; TURNBULL of Durham before 1870; BLACKETT of Northumberland and Durham before 1880; SCARTH of Northumberland and Durham before 1840; FAIRLEY of Northumberland before 1840.

## HELP OFFERED

**Mr COLIN PERRIS**, 73 Hamilton Avenue, Pyrford, Woking, Surrey GU22 8RU

Visits the new Surrey History Centre in Woking and is willing to help NDFHS members wanting research in the Surrey area.

# INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st October 1999 which are set out on pages 2-4.

## Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43 (7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

## Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

## Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act
 have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Ribchester  
Chartered Accountants  
67 Sadler Street,  
Durham DH1 3NP

18 January 2000

# NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST OCTOBER 1999

	Note	1999 £	1998 £
<b>INCOME RESOURCES</b>			
Subscriptions and Donations	1.	36448	30911
Income Tax refunds on Covenants		2155	2187
Surplus on Journal and Publication sales	2.	10899	10003
Donations		50	17
Bank Interest Received (Gross)		2036	2454
		51588	45572

## RESOURCES EXPENDED

<b>Direct Charitable Expenditure</b>			
Printing and Distribution of Journals		17628	15079
Printing Postage and Stationery		2760	3193
Telephone and Travel		1597	550
Meeting Expenses		2212	803
Deficit on conference		-	79
Professional Fees		-	(95)
FFHS Affiliation		424	413
Bolbec Hall Costs (Net)	3.	19400	14095
Sundry		266	389
Bank Charges		798	626
Accountancy		545	740
Depreciation	4.	8441	6774
		54071	42646

**NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME FOR YEAR**

(2483) 2926

**TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM  
LAST YEAR'S BALANCE SHEET**

56749 53823

**TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD TO THIS  
YEAR'S BALANCE SHEET**

£54266 £56749



**NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY  
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST OCTOBER 1999**

Note	1999 £	1998 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
Tangible Assets		
As at 1st November 1998		
Additions	36148	27541
	12333	8607
	48481	36148
Less Depreciation	26042	17608
	22432	18540
<b>Investments</b>		
At cost		
	22432	18540
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Stock		
Cash at Bank	9884	8947
Group Accounts	35397	43025
Officers Accounts	254	615
Bolbec Hall Account	481	477
Sundry Debtors	3906	2435
	2979	2507
	<b>52901</b>	<b>58006</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Subscriptions in Advance	13689	14174
Accruals	6351	4703
VAT	1027	920
	<b>21067</b>	<b>19797</b>

**NET CURRENT ASSETS**

**NET ASSETS**

Represented by:

**UNRESTRICTED INCOME FUND**

In approving these financial statements as Officers of the Society we hereby confirm:

- that for the year in question the Society was entitled to exemption from audit under the Charities Act 1993;
- that we acknowledge our responsibilities for:
  - ensuring that the Society keeps accounting records which:-
    - disclose at any time, with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Society at that time, and
    - enable annual statements of accounts to be prepared under the requirements of the Charities Act 1993.

The accounts were approved by the Council of Officers and signed on its behalf by

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (Block letters) \_\_\_\_\_

The Notes on page 4 form part of these accounts

**NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31ST OCTOBER 1999**

- Statement of Financial Activities**  
All incoming resources of the Society were unrestricted as to their use, subject to the charitable objects of the Society.
- Surplus on Journals and Publication Sales**  

	1999 £	1998 £
Sale of publications	8947	7463
Opening stock	7284	5680
Cost of publications	16231	13323
	<b>9884</b>	<b>8947</b>
Less: closing stock	6347	4376
Surplus on publication sales	10173	8659
Sales of back journals	146	463
Journal advertising	454	461
Tape library receipts	19	60
Postal library receipts	107	360
	<b>£10892</b>	<b>£10003</b>
- Bolbec Hall Costs**  

	1999 £	1998 £
Rent, rates, water & service charge	13729	9197
Insurance	416	416
Telephone	255	198
Heat & light	746	400
Volunteers expenses	1833	1645
Postage and stationery	1562	1652
Maintenance	3342	2979
Sundries	753	643
	22636	17130
Less: sundry income raised	3236	3035
	<b>£19400</b>	<b>£14095</b>
- Fixed Assets**  

	Equipment	Furnishings	Library	Total
Written down value b/fwd	4378	4222	9940	18540
Additions during year	3399	95	8839	12333
Depreciation	(1944)	(863)	(5634)	(8441)
	<b>5833</b>	<b>3454</b>	<b>13145</b>	<b>22432</b>

Depreciation policy:  
 Equipment - 25% p.a. on reducing balance  
 Furnishing - 20% p.a. on reducing balance  
 Library - 30% p.a. on reducing balance
- Investments**  
**Quoted Investment**  
500 ordinary shares in Northern Rock plc issued without cost upon conversion of the Northern Rock Building Society. Market value at 31st October 1999 £2,058.