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

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

Have you renewed your NDFHS Membership?

Members are reminded that this is the last NDFHS Journal that they will receive as part of their 2000 subscription and to continue their membership they should return their subscription for 2001 as soon as possible, preferably with the renewals form that was included with the Autumn edition of the journal.

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-1 pm and 1 pm-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

How far back is it possible to trace one's family? This is a favourite question whenever genealogists get together, and my Spring 2000 Editorial pointed to one problem, that of missing parish and other registers, which may have contained the only written record of one's humbler antecedents. Without these records, one can not get back further in time. Correspondents in this and other Family History journals have also reminded us of the human frailty factor. There must have been thousands of babies born to married couples whose father was not the name on the baptismal register or birth certificate. It is small wonder that some communities have in the past trusted only those genealogies that showed descent from mothers to daughters over the generations. But despite such quibbles, one can still yearn for a reasonably reliable line that goes back beyond the mid-18th century, so often the graveyard of our endeavours.

When tidying my office recently, I came across a book that had long lain hidden behind a stack of papers: *Pedigree and Progress*, by Sir Anthony Wagner, published Phillimore (1976). This collection of essays in genealogy by the then Garter King of Arms included a chapter entitled 'Bridges to Antiquity'. In this essay, Wagner endeavoured to show that there were certain key persons in British history who acted as gateways or bridges to lengthy genealogies stretching back to the early Medieval period and even into the Dark Ages. If anyone reading this article is descended from George Washington, you may be interested to know that there is a half-plausible line that stretches back to a younger son of Gospatrick III, Earl of Dunbar (died 1166). One can trace from him to King Duncan, murdered by MacBeth in 1040, and from him again, back to the High Kings of Ireland. Of these, the earliest known is Niall of the Nine Hostages who died in 405!

This may seem just a bit fanciful especially if you are still struggling to find John and Isabella Cannyboddy in the 1891 census. But it can be done, with a lot of luck, it seems. The trick is to find some proof of descent from certain aristocratic families, and to go from there. This is not so fanciful. The aristocracy's younger sons and

daughters were married quite often into the yeomanry or into 'trade' if no better could be found, and their descendants are legion. We might have to attempt to trace many lines back in the hope of finding one such link. I have so far completely failed to do this with my family! But if you could find, say, a link with such a man as James Stanley, Earl of Derby (1607-1651), then you could have a reasonably sound tree stretching back to Luis Duke of Savoy (d. 1468) and from him back to the ancient kings of Armenia. You could number among your ancestors such men as Ashot the Carnivorous (806-826) whose short but doubtless colourful life was just one episode in the history of the Armenian royal family which stretches back, with a few dotted lines, to the reign of Artavazd I, Prince of the Mamikonids, circa 315.

On a less ambitious scale, it ought to be reasonably feasible to find a link with a local family whose branches go back to a 'gateway' ancestor, generally a younger son or daughter of landed gentry. For example, some Thorntons of Rothbury and area were descended from Nicholas Thornton (d.1700) a landed gentleman who could count among his ancestry such families as the Swinburnes of Capheaton, Widdringtons of Widdrington, and Percys, earls of Northumberland. This is not to forget Nicholas's own famous ancestor, Roger Thornton, a commoner who made good in late 15th century Newcastle and whose monumental brass in All Saints' Church is one of the finest in England.

It is fair to say that anyone who did trace his family back as far as William the Conqueror, let alone Ashot the Carnivorous, would have so tiny a proportion of the royal blood in his veins that one might ask whether all the effort involved was worth it. For many, however, the rewards obtained just by hunting make the pursuit of genealogy worthwhile, and discovering one's roots simply increases the pleasure experienced. May 2001 prove to be both rewarding and enjoyable for all our members, to whom the Chairman and Council extend our warmest good wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

THANK YOU

Moirra Furness would like to thank all the members who wrote volunteering their services for the 1891 Census Project. I was very pleased to hear from you. If you have not heard from me yet, I will be writing in the near future. Work on Newcastle, North and South Shields and Gateshead is going well but volunteers for areas of Northumberland are badly needed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AL DOCUMENTS

Mr Colin A Nesbitt, of 16 Western Way, Kidderminster DY11 6JF, writes:

I read with interest Geoff Nicholson's article on page 123 of the Winter '99 issue of the NDFHS magazine. I *do* agree that every care should be taken in handling original documents.

Why is it then that, in programmes such as BBC's History File & Channel Four's Time Team, we see many people including Doctors and Professors, who should know better, examining books, manuscripts etc., with *bare hands*?

THOSE GIBSONS

Mr Keith Armstrong, of 71 Brantwood Avenue, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear NE25 5NL, writes:

Many thanks for publishing my article "Weddings as Entertainment" (Journal Vol 25 No 3 p83). As a result of your Note at the end of it, I have received a letter with copies of the Marriage Certificate for *William* Gibson (the newspapers got the first name wrong) and Eliza Sherwood.

With the permission of my informant, who does not wish to be named, the following information can be given.

Eliza was born in Sunderland, and almost nothing is known about that part of her life. Children of her brother, John Sherwood, moved to Darlington, where they had a garage.

William forsook the normal family business of slating and odd jobbing for work with his cousin-in-law as a chimney sweep. This apparently allowed him to carry on his hobby of rowing without interference from his family. At the marriage, James Renforth, the champion sculler stood as Witness. After the wedding, the couple lived in Shieldfield before moving to Hinde Street in Scotswood, then to George Street where Eliza took in lodgers and William pursued his business (and pleasure).

They had two sons, James Henry and William Goodall. James Henry forsook chimney sweeping, married Eliza's servant girl against his mother's wishes and became a successful Turf Accountant whilst his new wife founded a chain of Greengrocery shops. He died in 1933 at the age of 63. Until 1998, there has been a Jim Gibson, Turf Accountant at every major northern Race Meeting. William Goodall Gibson followed his father into the chimney sweeping business. He died of lung disease at the age of 19.

William died in 1903 at the age of 58, of Pthisis Pulmonalis (Tuberculosis).

Eliza died in the Hospital For Incurables in 1912 of Paralysis Agitans, possibly Parkinson's Disease at the age of 61.

William apparently won a number of cups and trophies for his rowing. These have been missing since about 1970 following the death of a relative.

Apparently, James Renforth was as much revered in his day as Shearer is today, rowing being as popular a sport then as football is today.

Perhaps this will jog a few memories, and we may now hear from descendants of "The Black Knight of the Bottle", and his bride "The Tea and Coffee Duchess".

METHODIST CIRCUITS

Mr RI Brison, of 34 Bridge Terrace, Bedlington, Northumberland NE22 7JT, writes:

After reading your Editorial in the latest NDFHS *Journal I* wondered if you were aware of the publication, Methodist Church Buildings, Statistical Returns etc. 1940/1947. I have found it an invaluable aid in pin-pointing the location (and former sites) of Methodist chapels all over the country. It is important to remember that even though re-union of Methodism in this country was agreed by the big three connexions. i.e. The Wesleyans, the Primitive Methodists and the United Methodists in 1932, very little had been changed by 1940. The enforced amalgamations and the wholesale closures of huge numbers of chapels were yet to come. So these figures show perhaps the largest numbers of Methodist churches ever - the vast majority dating back before 1900.

They also show how daft the situation had become with regard to circuit boundaries. For example, to get from my home Chapel Red Row to its neighbour in the Blyth & Seaton Delaval Circuit, the chapel at West Sleekburn (either WM or PM), a local preacher had to pass Bomarsund ex-WM chapel (Morpeth ex-Wesleyan Circuit) and Stakeford ex-PM chapel (Ashington "A" ex-PM Circuit). When the boundaries were changed in about 1952 all of the chapels mentioned were incorporated in the new Morpeth & Bedlington Circuit. However, the chapels at Cambois which could only be reached by road through either east or West Sleekburn, were left in the Blyth Circuit - presumably the preacher was expected to travel on the Blyth ferry.

I obtained my copy of the book through the World Methodist History Society and I've enjoyed using it regularly ever since. We must never give up when looking for a missing Methodist Baptism record. In our

example it could have been in a register locked away in the circuit safe in three different circuits!

The 1932 re-union did not affect the Independent Methodist Church (e.g. New Delaval) Wesleyan Reform (e.g. Guide Post and Ashington) or many of the "Evangelical Chapels" which decided not to join (e.g. North Broomhill)

Editor's note: I am very grateful to Mr Brison for forwarding a copy of the publication's Northumberland pages. *Methodist Church Buildings*, pub. The Department for Chapel Affairs, Central Buildings, Oldham Street, Manchester, 1947, will be placed in the Society's Library next year when research for the marriage check-lists is complete.

EDWARD BREWIS - PHOTOGRAPHER

Mrs DV Weatherill, of 62 Thorganby Road, Cleethorpes, North-East Lincolnshire DN35 0HH, writes:

I have details of a photographer who was based in Newcastle, found on the reverse of a family portrait of my husband's grandmother, aunt, and great-grandmother. The photographer was Edward G Brewis, of 8 & 10 New Bridge Street, his premises being the Victoria Art Studios. Would anyone be able to tell me if this photographer's negatives etc. were given to a photography club, or if anyone can furnish me with information regarding this photographer.

Mrs Weatherill also forwarded a copy of a photograph of a soldier taken in 1902. We are unable to publish the photograph for technical reasons. If any reader is an expert at identifying uniforms from photographs, Mrs Weatherill would be very grateful for help in identifying the regiment of the soldier portrayed in the photo.

AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK?

Mr James W Parker, of 18 Lowther Close, Wokingham, Berkshire RG41 1JE, writes:

I read Paul Wrightson's letter (NDFHS Autumn Journal) with great interest. His appeal for readers' experiences in respect of children born illegitimately to parents who later married cause me to reflect and write about my situation.

My great grandfather, William Parker was born in 1863 to Sarah Parker in Byker, Newcastle upon Tyne. No father was named on his birth certificate. During my search for him I found another child, Isabella, born in 1866 to the same mother, again illegitimate. I couldn't find this family on the 1871/1881 census and was subsequently proved to be presumptuous in assuming he was not my direct line.

I had obtained the marriage certificate of my great grandfather William (m1882) earlier, noting that the name of one of the witnesses was an Isabella Arwin. William's second child was my grandfather who was baptised and registered with the name of James Orwin Parker. No member of the family, as my research

progressed, could ever explain where his second christian name had come from.

During a recent review of all my Parker papers I was struck by the similarity of the name of the witness at my great grandfather's wedding . . . could Arwin have been Orwin. Or perhaps Erwin/Irwin/Urwin. Of equal importance her first name was Isabella. Was she the illegitimate sister of William and Sarah, the mother of them both? Returning to the 1871 and 1881 census I discovered Sarah had married a James Orwin and that both children were living with them under the Orwin surname. Sarah had married James Orwin in 1869 when William was six and Isabella four. The witness' name had been wrongly transcribed on my grandfather's wedding certificate.

When William married he reverted to his Parker surname and entered his father's surname as William Parker, deceased. Sarah's marriage certificate to James Orwin showed her father as William Parker.

My puzzle is this. Did Sarah marry the father of her children in 1869? Did William revert to his Parker surname because that was how his birth was registered? Might he have named his grandfather as his father on his wedding certificate because he didn't want to state that he was illegitimate? He had lived from the age of six as William Orwin, then at the age of nineteen on marriage he restarts his life as William Parker. If James Orwin was his natural father, despite William's birth registration being in his mother's maiden name, could he have married under this surname? The naming of my grandfather as James Orwin by my great grandfather suggests he had a good relationship with his stepfather. But was he his father?

I refuse to give up the task of finding out although realistically it is almost impossible.

SURNAME PROBLEMS

Mr J Ken Brown, of 33 South Bend, Brunton Park, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 5TR, writes:

Paul Wrightson, (*Journal*, Vol 25, No 3, p71) is wrong to assume that all children born before the marriage of their parents adopted the surname of the father, after the marriage.

Some years ago I was commissioned to trace the ancestry for a client who was mystified by the names in the family Bible. The Bible listed four children whose surname was different to the first two. Six children, born two to four years apart. As the client has the same surname as the first child, I've changed the names. The facts are the same.

Studying the bible page I noticed that the interval between the 2nd child and the 3rd child was longer than between any other name.

Alnwick census, when all the children were teenagers or less, showed a John Walker as head of the family, with his wife and six children, the first two having a different surname to the later four, although John Walker was shown as the father of all six children.

From entries in the Bible I found the baptisms of the first two - illegitimate issue of Joan Smith, a single woman. I then found baptisms of the four Walker children, all issue of John Walker by his wife Joan nee Smith.

I found the marriage, which was between the birth of the second child and that of the third child - hence the longer interval.

I strongly advise Paul to trace the female ancestry, unless the name of 'the reputed father' is shown, then

he can trace both families.

Bastardy Orders are not a reliable source - many through passage of time have been lost. Paul could search, but if negative, then he'll not really know whether the particular order had been lost or whether any such order had ever been issued. Some fathers gave financial assistance to the mother without any Bastardy order being issued.

To use Paul's expression 'hand on heart', did every mother positively know which one of her boy friends was the father of her child.

The final proof of my point is that the present day descendant has the same surname as that of the unmarried mother.

NEWS

POSTAL LIBRARY PROPOSED OVERSEAS SERVICE

Doreen Tait

There have been enquiries from overseas members regarding extending the postal service. There are some problems as you can imagine, in respect of the cost of Air Mail postage and loss of packets.

The postage in the return package must be in British stamps only, cheques are useless. I regret I cannot give an indication of the cost - there may be a few sheets or over 100. As a general guide the air mail cost for 50 pages would be about £2 plus 30p for packaging. British stamps can be ordered from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT.

Only items from the Postal Catalogue (£1.50) can be sent and this can be obtained from Mrs D Tait, Postal Librarian, Second Floor, Bolbec Hall, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1SE.

Editor's note: Mrs Tait would welcome any comments and suggestions on this proposed service.

6th YORKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

SATURDAY 23rd JUNE 2001

York Racecourse (Knivesmire Exhibition Centre)
10.00am to 4.30pm

All the usual stalls associated with such an event

Free car parking • Admission £2.00 • Cafeteria facilities

Further details from: Mr A Sampson, 1 Oxbang Close,
Redcar, Cleveland TS10 4ND, England
Tel: (01642) 486615

NEWS FROM NORTHUMBERLAND RECORD OFFICE

Over the past few months there have been a number of accessions which may be of interest to family historians. These include records of *Seghill Working Mens' Club* which have been deposited at Northumberland Record Office, Melton Park. They are in the process of being listed and will be available by the autumn. The *Byker St Silas* baptism register, 1952-1989, and marriage register, 1945-81 (ref: EP122/59 and 60) have been deposited at the Morpeth Records Centre, along with a transcript of the baptism registers for *North Shields St Peter* January 1876-December 1890 (ref: NRO 5560).

The vast majority of records held by the Record Office are held on deposit. In other words, they remain the property of the person depositing the records. In order to protect the rights of copyright of the owners of the record we have recently introduced a new procedure with regard to the preparation of transcripts. Any person wishing to make a transcript of an item held by Northumberland Archive Services must complete and sign a Transcript Form. These forms are available in the searchrooms at all three offices. Transcribers will be asked to indicate whether the transcription is being prepared for personal use or whether it is intended that the transcript will be reproduced commercially. If the transcript is to be produced commercially the transcriber must obtain a letter of permission from the owner of the item transcribed and provide the Archive Service with a copy of this letter. In order to facilitate this process we have recently reached an agreement with the Diocese of Newcastle whereby individual incumbents were asked if they wished to assign the right to allow the publication of transcriptions to the Archive Service. Many, but not all, of the incumbents have agreed to this. Therefore, if you wish to publish a

transcription of a parish register held at Northumberland Record Office you should write to the Senior Archivist outlining your request. If the incumbent has not assigned the right to allow the publication of transcriptions to the Service it is the responsibility of the transcriber to seek permission from the incumbent of the parish concerned. Any person or business producing a transcript of records held by Northumberland Archives Service will be expected to donate two free copies of their work to the Service.

We are currently compiling a database of transcriptions of Anglican and non-conformist registers. The Archive Service currently has 24 volunteers, many of whom are working on transcriptions of these records. We are conscious that many private individuals (and of course the NDFHS) are working on transcription projects and do not wish to duplicate work that has already been undertaken or is being planned. We would be happy to discuss peoples' future plans and incorporate information in the database which we intend to make publicly available when it is completed. This should prevent duplication and maximise benefit to researchers.

Users of the Morpeth Records Centre will be pleased to know that the heavy demand for microfilm readers of the first few months of the year has tailed off slightly. The booking procedure for film readers is, however, still in place.

On 27 June a public meeting was held at County Hall, Morpeth, with the aim of promoting interest in the formation of a Friends of Northumberland Archives. David Bishop, Chairman of the Friends of Cumbria Archives, spoke about the work of the Cumbria Friends. It was then proposed that a steering group be established to prepare a constitution and make arrangements for the establishment of a "Friends of Northumberland Archives". This was duly passed and volunteers to form this steering group were sought. The steering group will meet shortly to progress this work.

There have been a number of additions to our list of titles for sale, for full details please see our advert elsewhere in the journal. A full list of publications can be obtained from the IWEIYon l'arg office.

In relation to the proposed new Record Office, the site investigation at Woodhorn Colliery has been completed and there are no significant problems which would prevent the site being used. Preparation of a detailed specification for the new Record Office is underway and information to support funding bids is being prepared.

STROTHER ENGLISH BLOOD NEEDED!

English males with the surname of Strother are being sought to participate in a DNA study for the purpose of linking English and American members of the family.

The William Strother Society, Inc is conducting the study that will analyze the Y chromosome of participants and compare the results with a recently completed testing of American participants. The Society hopes to identify the ancestry of William Strother, who immigrated to Virginia about 1660.

Although there is a strong family legend that William Strother is of English ancestry, and particularly of Northumberland ancestry, no documented evidence of this has been found, despite years of research. With the recent advent of DNA testing as a genealogical tool, the Society is trying to find Strothers in England whose DNA matches that of descendants of William Strother. The particular DNA testing technique tests the Y chromosome that is handed down from father to son. Therefore, testing must be done of male line Strothers.

The actual testing is done by Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tennessee under the auspices of their Program in Human Genetics. Vanderbilt is one of the leading universities in the United States and their medical school is widely recognized. The procedure is for Vanderbilt to send out a specimen collection kit for return to them. The specimen kit can be taken to any nurse or blood laboratory where a blood sample will be drawn. The Society will reimburse participants for the cost of providing the specimen.

The William Strother Society, Inc is a family association dedicated to perpetuating memories of our ancestors and furthering fellowship among the descendants of William Strother, who died in 1702 in Virginia. Founded in 1984 and incorporated in Virginia in 1992 as a non-profit organisation, the Society's members include descendants and their families, related families and others interested in the Strother family. Today there are over 500 active members in the Society from throughout the United States and around the world.

Any Strother males interested in participating should contact Nolan B Hensarling, 10009 Parkford Drive, Dallas, TX, USA 75238 ([email: NolanHilda@aol.com](mailto:NolanHilda@aol.com))

OXFORDSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY RESEARCH CENTRE

A new facility has been opened by the Oxfordshire Family History Society for the benefit of genealogists and family historians. The society's Research Centre is now up and running, with visitors able to utilise the society's extensive range of research tools, including:-

- Parish register and
- monumental inscription transcripts
- Pedigree charts and birth briefs
- Internal Genealogical Index (IGI)
- Reference books
- Society search services
- Exchange journals

Due to a lack of volunteers to staff the centre, it is currently only open around three days per month. Those intending to visit should write for full details, opening times and the like to:-

Oxfordshire Family History Society
The Holford Centre
School Lane
Stanton St John
Oxford
OX33 1ET

Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

Use of the centre is free to society members, whilst non-members are charged £1 per day. The society's lending library is also based at the centre but for the use of members only. The venue is easily reached by public transport, whilst for drivers there is plenty of free parking.

BURIALS AT ST MARYS COCKFIELD *County Durham 1578-1799 - A Transcript and Index*

This publication provides a transcript of the burial registers of Cockfield from their beginning in 1578 to the end of the eighteenth century. Over 1400 names have been transcribed. Where the originals have given further details, such as relationships or places of residence, these have been recorded.

The whole transcript has been indexed by surname.

The publication will be of use to all with a family or local history interest in Cockfield and the surrounding area. Cost: £8.50 plus £1.50 postage and packing.
An Index of Burials 1800-1840

A supplementary volume indexing the burials between 1800 and 1840 is also available. Cost: £1.50 plus £1 postage and packing.

Both publications have been published in limited quantities and can be obtained by writing to: Rev Ian Gomersall, 11 Mordale Avenue, Manchester M20 4TU.

TENDER LOVING CARE

Angela and Michael Southwick, of 21 Meldon Way, Winlaton, Tyne and Wear NE21 6HJ, are offering a new service, tending and maintaining graves in the Tyne and Wear area. They will also offer to locate, mark and photograph your relatives' graves. Full details of prices and services are available from the above address.

TYNE AND WEAR ARCHIVES SERVICE **NEW MICROFILM COPIES OF PARISH REGISTERS**

At Tyne and Wear Archives Service, we strive to provide the best possible service for our users, meeting your needs with the material we have available for consultation. In addition to the many parish registers we

already have on microfilm, we are now pleased to be able to offer access to additional Church of England registers.

We now hold registers of the following churches:

Barnington [York]: *baptisms, marriages, banns, burials*
Bishopwearmouth, St Gabriel: *baptism, marriages, banns*
Cleadow, All Saints: *baptisms, marriages, banns*
Coatham Mundeville,
St Mary Magdalene [County Durham]: *marriages*
Collierly (Lanchester) [County Durham]: *baptisms*
Cornforth, Holy Trinity [County Durham]:
baptisms, marriages, banns
Craghead (Holmside), St Thomas [County Durham]:
baptisms, marriages
Crawcrook (Greenside), Holy Spirit: *baptisms*
East Herrington, St Chad: *baptisms, marriages, banns*
Langley Park, All Saints: *marriages, burials*
Ponteland [Northumberland]:
baptisms, marriages, banns, burials
Shincliffe, St Mary: *banns*
Rowland's Gill, St Bamabas: *baptisms, marriages, banns*
Usworth Colliery, St Michael and All Angels: *baptisms*

Additional registers are now available for:

Bishop Middleham, St Michael [County Durham]: *marriages*
Bishopwearmouth, St Michael and All Angels: *banns*
Brancepeth, St Brandon [County Durham]:
baptisms, marriages, burials
Dalton-le-Dale (Murton), Holy Trinity [County Durham]:
banns

Chopwell, St John the Evangelist:
baptisms, marriages, banns, burials
Eppleton, All Saints: *banns*
Evenwood, St Paul [County Durham]: *baptisms, marriages*
Felling, Christ Church: *baptisms, banns*
Gateshead (Bensham), St Chad: *marriages*
Gateshead (Bensham), St Edmund: *banns*
Heworth, St Mary: *banns*
High Spen, St Patrick: *marriages, banns, burials*
Laithkirk [York]: *banns*
Marley Hill, St Cuthbert: *baptisms, marriages, banns, burials*
Millfield, St Mary Magdalene: *baptisms*
Monkwearmouth (Roker), All Saints: *banns*
Monkwearmouth (Roker), St Andrew: *baptisms, marriages*
Pallion, St Luke: *burials*
Redmarshall, St Cuthbert [County Durham]: *banns*
Romaldkirk, St Romald [York]: *burials*
Shiney Row, St Oswald: *baptisms, marriages*
South Westoe, St Michael and All Angels: *marriages*
Usworth: Holy Trinity: *baptisms, marriages, banns, burials*
Whickham St Mary: *marriages, banns*
Winlaton St Paul: *baptisms, marriages*

Note: county names are only given above where churches fall outside Tyne and Wear.

For further details including dates of registers, or to book a reader to view this or any other material, please call the Search Room on tel: 0191 232 6789 ext 407.

WASKERLEY SCHOOL

by Joyce Wilson



WASKERLEY SCHOOL C1918.

The tall girl in the middle of the second row from the back is Annie Thompson, the writer's mother.

My grandparents, Sarah and William Thompson, lived on a farm called Oxen-Law which is near Bee Cottage off the A68 south of Castleside, County Durham. Grandfather combined farming with working on the engine sheds at Waskerley. It was once a thriving village, but now very little remains. My mother used to tell me of the many dances held there. The Thompson family walked several miles to Waskerley School. I was pleased to find the School Log Book 1901-1940 Durham Record Office, and have listed below some excerpts 1901-1918 which I found particularly interesting. Not only do they tell me about my mother's family, but they also give me an insight into education and life in the area at that time.

Waskerley School c1918. The tall girl in the middle of the second row from the back is Annie Thompson, the writer's mother.

Extracts from Waskerley School Log-Book (Ref ENW/54 at Durham Record Office), 1901-1918

Note: These extracts are used with the permission of the Director of Education for County Durham, and County Durham Record Office.

- 1901 *October 1st 70 present. All Bell children absent - drunken housekeeper sends children for drink. Reservoir children - irregular attenders - three miles to travel from Water works - fitful attendance. Snow - Saltersgate children absent.*
- 1902 *Ada Stork ill, St Vitis dance. Sydney Hall often disobedient. Mr Thompson chairman of School Board granted use of field Coronation Festivities - free tea, sports prizes and dance in Concert Hall at finish of sports H.M.I. REPORT 1901-1902 Head Teacher Donald Campbell, Mrs Campbell sewing mistress. Thomas Ayre, Clerk to the Board signed. Attendance 68.*

- 1903 *Measles. Snow and bad weather. Three families moved to Blackhill. Bronchitis. Smallpox said to have broken out among the navvies at Hisehope - children from there not allowed to attend. July - Class for cheese making and poultry drawing taught by Miss Maidmeat of Durham County Education Committee. Syllabus for 1903-4: Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Recitation, Conversational and Singing, Needlework, Drawing and P.E.*

August 21st - absent for hay-making. Scarlet fever at Saltersgate. November - Mr. Bright (School attendance) visited Hisehope - children with eruptions on heads, legs and arms - possible cause - filth.

- 1905 *Whooping cough.*

- 1906 *Miss Henrietta Thompson ill and left school. Mr. Wilkinson (from Marske, born 1887) appointed Headteacher.*

Report:- The children are "stolid in demeanour, shy and slow in expressing themselves and lacking in intelligence". Under new Headmaster "orderly".

- 1907 *Snow plough running to keep the lines open - August 19th - Margaret Veitch absent through being stung with a wasp. Charles Thompson and the Oxen Law Thompsons are all absent making hay. August 20th, the Thompsons have returned to school. September 11th Wolsingham Show - number present 39. December Miss Halnon from Londonderry, Ireland appointed at a salary of £55 per annum.*

- 1908 *February very wintry, still snowing - no. on books 46, no. present 33. The Thompsons of Oxen Law are suffering from croup.*

April 13th all children from Saltersgate absent. Boslock's show is at Tow Law. April 14th half day holiday for children to visit Busloek's Show at Blackhill. The new piano is a useful acquisition in a remote place like this. October 12th I have seen Mr. Thompson O{ Oxenlaw Farm about the absence of his children this morning after a week's holiday. He states that they are suffering from severe colds and are quite unable to attend school, especially Dorothy, but that he will send them as soon as possible.

- 1910 *Polly Dent has chicken pox. Many reports of fog, wind, rain and snow.*

- 1911 *June 16th School closed in honour of the Coronation. Mr. David Troupe newly appointed schoolmaster. Athays have typhoid fever. Mrs. Mary Gilmore of*

Scotswood appointed Infant's Teacher at £85 per annum.

- 1912 *January re-opened - roads blocked. Complaint that ashpit door is too small and N.E.R. workmen refuse to clean ashpit. February 21st - every child in school present to-day. Five of best scholars, the Ayres leaving, Mr. Ayre promoted to Darlington. March 26th Annie Thompson of Oxenlaw commenced school to-day. She is seven years of age and has never attended any school. June - wet - attendance affected Thompsons of Oxenlaw absent.*
- 1913 *Dec 9th Owing to strike of N.E.R. employees, Mr. Gilmore could not return this morning. Dec 19th Children's annual Christmas party in Mechanics Institute. Dorothy Thompson absent in Feb and Sept for over a week "excuse: toothache".*
- 1914 *May 25 Dorothy and Annie Thompson and many others absent. Parents are becoming anxious about diphtheria and keeping children from school. May 27th Another case of diphtheria today - Alice Thompson of Oxenlaw Farm. June re-opened after three weeks closure through diphtheria. November 19th Margaret Jamieson one of our scholars died to-day.*
- 1915 *Miss Caroline Knifton appointed. Mrs. Troupe temp. assistant.*

- 1916 *The parents tell me the condition of the houses has a great deal to do with these epidemics of influenza and illnesses. I think they are right. March 13th Roads completely blocked with snow - drifts over 6 feet. Six children came. March 16th drifts 7 feet high, a thaw, March 21st snow to waist all the way from Burnhill Station; footpath cut by 150 men. May 21st Day Light Saving Act 2 o'clock Sunday morning. School heated by coke.*
- 1917 *Gardening lesson on glorious day and soil in perfect condition. George Hector Thompson absent working for grandfather. Ringworm.*
- 1918 *War ends January 25th. February 15th School closed all week to enable the teachers to help rationing the district. Week ending October 18th List of absences and reasons given - visiting doctor, visiting Castleside, Brambling, visiting Leadgate, potato picking, helping step-mother mind the house, and too wet.*

Editor's note: Joyce Wilson's address is: 28 Woody Close, Delves-Lane, Consett, County Durham DH8 7HN. [E-mail: C.A.WILSON@TALK.21.COM](mailto:C.A.WILSON@TALK.21.COM). She would be pleased to hear from anyone with further information, especially photographs of Waskerley.

DID PEOPLE DIVORCE IN THE 1850's?

This is a question I have had to ask myself while researching my great-great-grandmother. It would appear that between 1834 and 1851 she had at least three different marriages. Of course I may be wrong; the fact that three of her children have different surnames may have a perfectly good explanation, but as yet I have not been able to find out what.

The lady in question was either very promiscuous, very unlucky, losing so many husbands, or she got divorced. Elizabeth Bragg, as she ended up, died at the ripe old age of 82 in 1891. She appears on the 1851 census as wife to Nicholas Bragg. Her son, my great grandfather, one Alton John Boynton is down as being stepson to the head of the family. Now Alton went on to marry Jane Ann Goldsbrough, and on his marriage certificate his father is named as John Boynton. I therefore naturally assumed that she had been married to John Boynton and then for whatever reason (presumably he died) had married Nicholas Bragg, but oh no. On the 1881 census there she is living with her niece (Margret Boynton) and her son born in 1847 called William Walkington. Where did he come from? I decided to order the birth certificate of the child she had with Nicholas Bragg in order to find out her maiden name. It says "formerly Alton".

Confused? So am I. I so far have not been able to find a record of any of these marriages. Did illegitimate children still take the name of their father? This has been the most frustrating ancestor and yet the most intriguing to pursue. Maybe her first two husbands met untimely deaths at her hands. Was my Elizabeth Bragg the Lizzie Bordon of Darlington? I wish I could find out ...

Editor's note: Andrea McPhilips may be helpful in her quest by the knowledge that divorce was rare until the First World War, and before 1858 it was non-existent for ordinary people, requiring an Act of Parliament. People did separate informally, and the church could annul a marriage if there were sufficient grounds, e.g. non-consummation. Andrea's address is: 851 Field End Road, South Ruislip, Middlesex HA4 0QN, e-mail Llawaen@supanet.com

BOOK REVIEWS

Tom Wood; *An Introduction to . . . British Civil Registration*; September 2000; ISBN 1 86006 116 8; A5 paperback; 83pp; £4.50

This replacement of the previous title, *An Introduction to . . . Civil Registration*, has been comprehensively revised and gives details of birth, marriage and death registration for England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland and the Islands. Accessing the indexes, how to obtain certificates, problem-solving, makes this a welcome guide particularly for the beginner. Holdings of microform copies of the National Indexes for England and Wales, and UK listing of Family History Centres also included.

Philip J Chapman; *Basic Approach to Illuminating your Family History with Picture Postcards*; September 2000; ISBN 186006 122 2; A5 paperback; 16pp; £1.50

This new book describes an interesting way of enhancing your family history with postcards. Guidance is given on what to collect, where to look, including what to look for at collectors' fairs. Advice is also given on how to keep records.

Anthony Shearman; *My Ancestor was a Policeman*; 2000; ISBN 1903462 00 2; A5 paperback; 44pp; £4.95

Contains details of some 250 archives with references to many thousands of names recorded in the police force registers in Britain. Since the Act of 1829 the force has grown steadily in number. An appreciable number of these records are held on closed access but are listed so that the time of the researcher need not be wasted in looking for records which cannot be seen. There is a brief history of the police, an example of the great detail of person and conduct that may be found in records, then an annotated list of records for each police force. In some cases it shows that detailed records are closed but summaries are open, or that there is an unofficial index available. If the reader has police ancestors, this book is essential reading.

David C Cargill; *Berwickshire Monumental Inscriptions (pre 1855)*; Pub. The Scottish Genealogy Society, Edinburgh, 2000. 129pp; ISBN 0 901061 86 7, £8.50.

This is an invaluable addition to sources for genealogists working on families in the Borders. The parishes covered are: Coldstream, Eccles, Foulden, Hutton, Ladykirk, Mordington, Lamberton, Swinton and Whitsome. There are in addition transcripts of the following old graveyards within these parishes: Birgham, Earnslaw Farm, Fishwick, Horndean, Mordington House, Simprin and Hilton. Each graveyard is indexed separately, and I would have liked to see a consolidated index to all of them, but with Scottish burial registers often uninformative or

non-existent, this can not but be a treasure-trove for Borders researchers. Volume 2 is promised in the near future.

Margaret M Russell; *The Family Forest*; Pub. Ulpha Press, 2000; 189pp; ISBN 0 9538973 0 3; Available from Ulpha press, 32 Granada Road, Denton, Manchester M34 2LJ, price £10 plus £1.35 p&p in UK, or £5.00 overseas airmail, £2.00 surface.

'The fruit of forty years of research', this book has much to say about families from Wasdale, Eskdale, Duddon Valley, Grasmere and Langdale, Cumbria. The main families are: Hird, Bateman, Tyson, Stephenson, Viccars, Dawson, Jackson, Sherwin, Moore, Nicholson and Casson. As well as many family trees, there are photographs, extracts from archives, and much local history; a model of its kind.

WG Elliott; *Bygone Days of Longbenton, Benton, Forest Hall, West Moor, Killingworth, Palmersville and Benton Square: A Sequel to Book 1*; 2000; ISBN 0 9535633 1 6; Published by WG Elliott, 13 The Grove, Benton, Newcastle upon Tyne NE12 9PE; £5.99 plus p&p £0.81 (UK), £1.51 (Europe), £2.54 (N. America), £2.68 (Australasia).

Encouraged by the success of his first booklet about the Longbenton district the author has produced a 'follow-up' that, again, I am happy to recommend. The format is similar to the first book consisting mainly of seventy-five 'new' photographs and text illustrating life in the area at the end of the nineteenth century and the first part of the twentieth century.

During the period covered by the booklet, a broad range of social classes lived in the district. The area around Benton Station (now Benton Metro Station) attracted many upper middle class families of businessmen who were able to commute into Newcastle, initially by steam trains, and later the electric trains. Using the history of his own house, the author has written a description of the daily lives of a typical upper middle class family and their servants. In contrast, there is also a description life at William Pit, not much more than quarter of a mile from Benton Station, where the living and working conditions were very different. These dwellings were very basic and until they were demolished in 1940 they were without gas, electricity and inside running water.

In addition to the photographs and text there are a number of trade advertisements taken from the Longbenton Parish Magazine of August 1905 that help to give a flavour of life in the early days of the twentieth century.

1861 CENSUS: MISSING PAGE

Searchers across the region occasionally come up with pages from census returns that were missed from the microfilming process. It is wise to keep a check on *all* microfilmed archives by referring to whatever system of pagination or dating is used, each time a new frame is examined. The number of pages missed must represent a minuscule proportion of the vast amount of microfilmed archival material now available to searchers, but the best policy is always to assume the worst, and to keep a careful count as the search proceeds. The page cited below has been submitted by a member who wishes to remain anonymous, having discovered the missing page only as a result of a double-check! It is printed by kind permission of the Public Record Office. Spelling is exactly as given. For the sake of clarity, we have separated the households with a blank line. The columns refer to: address, name, relationship to head of household, and marital condition, age, occupation, and where born. The column 'Whether Blind, or Deaf-and-Dumb' is unused on this page

1861 Census ref RG9/3781/119/15: Schedule nos 54 (part) to 59

Southwick Row, Monkwearmouth (All Saints' Parish)

The first entry refers to the youngest child of Nicholas Orram, 44, miner born Durham - Hebron (sic) listed on the previous page, folio 118, page 14.

28 Southwick Row	Isabella Orram, daur.	5		Durham Monkth.
29 Do. Do.	Robert Forrest, head, mar.	26	coal miner	Ireland
	Elizabeth do., wife, mar.	22		Durham Hebron
	Matthew do., son	3		Do. Monkwth.
	Isabella do., daur.	1		Do. Datton.
30 Do. Do.	Simon Fenwick, head, mar.	42	coal miner	Northd. Chirton
	Sarah do., wife, mar.	32		do. Percy Main
	George do., son	13	carter	do. Gosport
	Thomas do., son	11	carter down pit	do. Wallsend
	Jane do., daur.	5		Durham Monkth.
31 Do. Do.	<i>(unoccupied)</i>			
32 Do. Do.	Thomas Lilley, head, mar.	23	coal miner	Berwick
	Margaret Do., wife, mar.	30		Durham, Gateshead
	Adam Do., son	1		Do. Monkwth.
	Mary Do., daur.	5 m.		Do. Do.
33 Do. Do.	Watson Brown, head, mar.	30	coal miner	Durham Hebron
	Elizabeth Do., wife, mar.	23		Do. So. Hetton
	William Do., son	2		Do. Old Hetton
	Peter Jones, boarder, un.	26	coal miner	Wales
33 Do. Do.	Joseph Park, head, mar.	23	coal miner	Northd. Cowpen Colly
	Margaret Do., wife, mar.	20		Berwick
	Alice Do., daur.	1		Durham Monkth.

The last three lines of the page are blank.

FRENCH POVERB

*'He who boasts of his descent is like the potato;
the best part of him is underground.'*

A PINCH OF SALT

by James Parker

Building a family tree is fine training for anyone who has an inclination to become a detective. Researching the records for those who went before you requires a patient devotion to duty collecting evidence. Once information is obtained it needs expanding and interpreting so that no reasonable doubt exists as to the final verdict. Your tree tells the truth! Or does it?

The family historian inevitably relies on material which is often distorted by many factors. Entries on documents were often presented by people who couldn't read or write or weren't sure how to spell their name, let alone give their correct age or place of birth. The transcription of birth, death and marriage certificates adds further opportunities for mistakes. The story of my paternal grandmother has earned me the title of "Poirot" amongst my family. Let me tell you the story.

She was called Agnes Jane Stewart before marrying my grandfather James Orwin Parker in 1905. Her last surviving daughter was able to tell me that Agnes Jane's father was William Stewart and other bits of family history. William was said to have been born in Scotland, arriving in Newcastle with the rest of the family when he was three.

Checking the 1871 census transcription for the area in which it was said they had settled, I found a family of Stewarts. The complicating feature of the entry related to the status shown for each member of the family. The head was a John Stewart who was described as father-in-law and married whilst a Jennet Stewart is listed as mother-in-law, also married and all the children as nephews or nieces and all unmarried. Happily there was a William, aged seven, who fitted into my search.

The 1881 census showed the same family, at a different address but this time with the correct relationships properly entered. However, Jennet had now become Janet. You can hear the Scottish pronunciation in the spelling of that name in the 1871 census. William is still at home and has followed his father in his choice of work as a coach-painter.

Neither census gave the place of birth in Scotland. Turning to the IGI provided the breakthrough. An

entry gave the birth of a William Stewart to John and Janet Stewart nee Leishman in 1863 in Haddington. I obtained William's birth certificate which provided the address of the family. Going for broke, I acquired a copy of the 1861 census return for that address which proved the family's residence in Haddington in that year. The head of the family was, sadly, away from home the night of the census.

The IGI again helped to identify the marriage place and date of John to Janet as St Cuthbert's church in Edinburgh in 1845, and a copy of the marriage entry was added to the growing pile of documentation.

A variety of complications now surfaced. Researching various members of the family, their marriages, births of their children and their deaths provided mysteries which are still unsolved. Children were born way before their parents were married - not that unusual. Children changed names from one census to another or disappeared without trace. Janet says she is a widow on the 1891 census yet her husband, John shows up living with his son. She also says she was born in Newcastle as are two of her sons who are still at home. This is simply not correct. Her age is given as 50 yet she was 52 ten years earlier. Each of the sons are said to be years younger than they really are.

I eventually found William's marriage to an Elizabeth Henderson on the 24th July 1884 which just happens to be my birthdate forty eight years later. And yes ... they had a child before marrying.

The lessons learned from researching this branch of my family are considerable. Each document has had to be treated with suspicion. The information has been studied over and over again. It has been a real piece of detective work piecing the evidence together. I have much to do to complete the "case".

Taking everything with a "pinch of salt" has helped. This added ingredient has added piquance to my search.

Editor's note: Mr Parker's address is: 18 Lowther Close, Wokingham, Berkshire RG41 1JE.

BOLBEC HALL CHRISTMAS CLOSING

Bolbec Hall will close for the Christmas holiday on: FRIDAY 22 DECEMBER 2000

and will re-open on: TUESDAY 2 JANUARY 2001

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

The dying words of Robert Mustard

by Bill Mustard

It is doubtful whether any more fascinating document than the one reproduced in reduced facsimile here was ever before placed before the public. It is nothing more or less than a message from a dying man written onboard a sinking ship, which was never again heard of. The message runs as follows: "Lost. Going down now at Flamborough Head. Ss. *Princess of Sunderland*. Nov. 13, 1893. Should anyone pick this up, please to let my dear wife know - lives at 25, Lawrence Street, Sunderland. Engines are broken down. God help us. Going down every minute. Good-bye all; may God help my wife and little ones - may God forgive me all.-(Signed) MUSTARD, A.B. *Princess of Sunderland*, Nov. 13, 1893."

We were at great pains to get the whole facts about this intensely interesting document. The message which we reproduce was placed by the doomed man in a white glass "reputed quart" spirit bottle. Four years afterwards the bottle was picked up in Dartmouth Harbour by George H. Humphrey, of 2, Galpine Terrace, Brown's Hill, Dartmouth, Devon.

Mr Humphrey writes: "I want to give you particulars of the finding of the bottle on November 14th, 1897. I am the engineer of the floating bridge in Dartmouth Harbour, and as I went ashore to pick up a piece of wood, I saw the bottle on the beach. I saw there was something in it, and I at once took it to the Customs House where it was opened. At the time when I found the bottle the tide was half ebb, and the time 9.30. The bottle contained about half a pint of slightly discoloured water as well as the message."

Mr Henry Williams, Harbour Master at Dartmouth, also writes:

"As so many false rumours get about concerning these bottle messages, I have taken the trouble to find out the person who picked this one up. Mr Humphrey told me that he found it at the King's Wear side of the river, close to the bridge, and at a place called the 'Crossing'." It seems that the Custom House authorities sent the message on to the Board of Trade, who in turn sent it along to the widow in Sunderland.

Robert Mustard was a seaman on board the *Princess of Sunderland*, which was lost off Flamborough Head with all hands one night in November, 1893. The widow, Mrs Mustard, of 22, John Street, writes as follows: "I did not get the bottle itself from the Board of Trade, but only a copy of the message. I afterwards wrote for the original, which I have sent to you." The *Princess of Sunderland* was homeward bound with a cargo of iron ore from Bilbao, when she perished in an awful gale.

Going down now at Flamborough Head
Ss Princess of Sunderland Nov 13/1893
Should any one find this up please to let my
dear wife know him at 25 Lawrence Street
Sunderland Engines are broken down
God help us going down every
minute Good bye all my
my wife and little ones
my God for gott one all
Signed

Robert Mustard A.B.
Princess of Sunderland
Nov 13/1893

EXECUTIONS IN COUNTY DURHAM 1732-1860

by Joy Walker

One tends to think of nearly every crime in the 18th and early 19th century being punishable by death, but in actual fact, in the County of Durham in the 128 years between 1732 and 1860 only 31 executions took place. The following is a list of the 28 men and 3 women who were hanged during that period.

1732 23 Aug: John Graham and James Graham, two notorious offenders, were executed at Durham for horse stealing. James Graham was baptised on the morning of his execution at the church of St Mary-le-Bow, a part of the old gaol being in that parish.

1757 8 Aug: William Hugh (or Heugh) for the murder of a bastard child.

1768: John Slaid for robbing Mr Easterby of Farewell (or Farrington) Hall nr Houghton le Spring as he was returning from Sunderland. Also involved in the robbery were George Forster, John Adams and Thomas Croaker. All four were soldiers. After a severe flogging, the men were turned over to the civil power.

1770 18 September: Robert Hazlett (otherwise William Hudson) for robbing a young lady, Miss Margaret Banson, sister to the writing master at the Free Grammar School at Newcastle, on Gateshead Fell, and afterwards for robbing the mail from Newcastle to Durham. He was hung in chains on Gateshead Fell near the place where the robbery of the lady had been committed.

1773 23 Aug: Matthew Vasey for robbing at Darlington a Polish Jew of £90.

1776 15 Aug: Joseph Humphreys for breaking into a dwelling house at Sunderland and stealing £14.4s.6d. He declared to the last he was innocent of the crime.

1781 20 Aii: John Tully for robbing and violently beating Mr Mills of Moor Mills.

1781 20 Nov: Margaret Tinkler, midwife, for the crime of aiding or recommending certain means to destroy an infant, which was effected, as was also the death of the mother, Jane Parkinson. On the dissection of the body, at a place called Whitesmocks, near Durham, two large black double wire pins, such as are used by women for fastening up their hair, were found in Tinkler's body, which it is supposed she had swallowed with a view of destroying her life.

1783 18 Aug: Robert Story for the murder of Thomas Idle, a cockle seller known as 'Cockle Geordy'.

1785 25 Jtd: John Winship a farmer in the neighbourhood of Monkwearmouth, for murdering his servant-maid by administering certain drugs to procure abortion. His body was given to the surgeons for dissection and Mr Wilkinson of Sunderland lectured upon it in the presence of several medical men.

1785 11 Attg: Four persons were executed at Durham, viz:- William Hamilton and Isabella his reputed wife, for breaking into and robbing the house of John Smith of Stobalee, near Witton Gilbert, and cruelly using the said John Smith and his

wife. Also Thos. Elliot for horse stealing and Duncan Wright for housebreaking.

1786 21 Aii: Francis Blenkinsopp and Morley Tewitt were executed for housebreaking.

1799 22 Jul: Mary Nicholson for poisoning her mistress. On being launched from the cart the rope broke and she fell to the ground. It was nearly an hour before another rope could be procured to execute the sentence of the law.

1802 Aug 23: John Carleton for firing a pistol loaded with powder at Thos. Greenwell, grocer, Gateshead, whose premises he and others were attempting forcibly to enter.

1803 15 Aug: John Moses for stealing a quantity of linen and drapery goods from the shop of Benjamin Jackson of Barndarcastle.

1805 12 Aug: Richard Metcalf for the murder of his infant son-in-law (stepson??)

1816 17 Atig: John Greig for the murder of Elizabeth Stonehouse was executed on the new drop in front of the County Courts in Durham. After hanging the usual time, the body was cut down and given to his friends. He was a stout good-looking man, 37 years of age.

1819 12 Apr: George Atcheson, 67 years of age, was executed for a rape on Isabella Ramshaw, a child under 10 years old.

1819 16 Aug: John King for the murder of James Hamilton, in a cabin of Newbottle Colliery Staith, during the night of Sunday the 16th of May preceding.

1822 18 Mar: Henry Anderson, a pitman of Old Painshers, for a rape on Sarah Armstrong. Before being hanged he addressed the spectators. Anderson was a married man, but separated from his wife.

1822 9 Attg: Robert Peat of Ravensworth near Richmond, for poisoning with laudanum a relative, Robert Peat of Darlington, whose will he had previously stolen.

1831 28 Feb: Thomas Clark, aged 19, for the murder of Mary Ann Westhorpe, his fellow-servant, also 19, at Hallgarth Mill near Pitlington.

1832 3 Aug: William Jopling for the murder of Mr Nicholas Fairless. Jopling was afterwards hung in chains at Jarrow Stake. (Much has been written about this case.)

1839 16 Aug: Jacob Frederick Ehlert, a Prussian, a mate of a Prussian vessel for the murder of his captain in Sunderland Harbour.

1848 23 Mar: William Thompson for the murder of John Shirley, whipper-in of the Duke of Cleveland's hounds.

1859 11 Aug: John Shafto Wilthew for the murder of his wife at South Shields.

Sources: Durham Weekly Advertiser 14 December 1860. Local Records of Historical Register of Remarkable Events Vol I by John Sykes. (Fordyce 1866)

A TRAGIC FAMILY

by J Ken Brown

As a professional genealogist I have traced the ancestry of many clients, world wide. Some were very difficult, some difficult. Many were very interesting, particularly so when finding 'skeletons' and hitherto unknown issue, albeit illegitimate, of titled families. Some projects revealed the true facts of the emigrant, facts entirely different to the emigrants own version, given on arrival in the new country.

Of all the projects undertaken this one was one of the most straight-forward and yet the most tragic.

Most of the details were given by the client, Mrs Margaret Pritchard of Downey, California, whose father John Clements had emigrated after World War I (Mrs Pritchard did not give her father's Christian name, but I will refer to him as John).

Margaret Pritchard's grandparents, Harry and Annie Smith married in Colchester, Essex, in 1886. They had four sons, Victor, Harry, Mornington Alfred and John.

Their parents, Harry and Anne Clements, died within months of each other in 1909, in Colchester, when only 49 years and 44 years old respectively.

The four orphaned boys looked after themselves and when the first World War broke out in 1914 they joined the army. Victor and Harry were both killed when only in their twenties.

John and Mornington Alfred went their own ways. John emigrated to the USA and brother Mornington Alfred moved north and in 1919 joined Tynemouth Borough Police Force.

After some years the brothers lost contact with each other, but in the mid-nineteen thirties, Mornington Alfred after many attempts, through facilities offered by sympathetic colleagues in the Tynemouth Police, tracked down his long lost brother John in the USA. Contact was made and letters were exchanged, but within twelve months John (Margaret Pritchard's father) died when only in his forties.

Margaret maintained the contact by writing to her aunt and uncle, who had three children, two girls and a boy named Harry who were now in their teens.

We all know that World War II broke out on 3rd September 1939, but when on holiday in Ontario County, New York State, visiting distant relatives, descended from a related ancestor of mine who had emigrated in 1805 I was flabbergasted when an American and his wife wondered why I had joined the

RAF when the war (according to them) hadn't started until 1941!

Letters between Margaret and her relatives in North Shields became fewer and fewer, more so after 1939. Cousin Harry was serving on the high seas in the Royal Navy, aboard the HMS Golden Hind, and his next letter was not until 1942 when his ship was in a Kenyan port.

Uncle Mornington Alfred, the last of the four brothers, had been killed in an air raid on Tyneside in April 1941.

Cousin Harry survived the war and in his last letter he stated he was considering emigrating to Australia. Contact was then lost altogether. Margaret's aunt may have died and her two female cousins had probably married and moved away.

The purpose of my research was to find details of the air-raid, uncle Mornington Alfred's death and my obituaries.

With all the background history of the family I did not anticipate any difficulties in my quest.

Firstly I searched the National Death Indexes and having found the death registration I obtained a death certificate from the local registrar.

'Mornington Alfred Clements, aged 49 years, of 86 The Quadrant, North Shields, killed by enemy action 10th April, 1941. Informant: his wife.'

I then searched issues of the Newcastle Evening Chronicle which covers the Tyneside towns, from 10th April to 16th April 1941. The raid was on the 10th, probably during the early hours, would normally have been in Friday's issue. As Friday was Good Friday no issues were made. Saturday search was negative, only a small item on recent air-raids. The *Chronicle* was not published on Sunday, and by Monday the news of the raid would have been out-dated, especially as there may have been other raids in the interim period. During this period the press in general, to maintain the high morale of the people confined reports of air-raids and fatalities to a minimum.

The *North Shields Evening News & Gazette* in the deaths column showed:-

'Clements - of 86 The Quadrant, 10th April, aged 49 years, Alfred (P.C. Tynemouth Police Force) dearly beloved husband of Elizabeth May Clements (nee Kelly). Preston Cemetery,

*Saturday 12th, leaving residence 11.00am.
Friends accept this intimation.'*

At the time of my research I was honorary secretary of the local Family History Society and knowing that the chairman, WE Rounce, had worked during the war in a Tyneside shipyard I asked him if he knew of the particular raid. Bill lived at Jarrow on the other side of the river, opposite North Shields. He vividly remembered the night.

The raid was during the early hours of the 10th, a few bombs were dropped and the one and only dropped on Smith's Dock, killing the policeman who was on duty at the time. Bill thought PC Clements was the only fatality.

My task was finished and I was not required to try and trace Mornington Alfred's widow and her two daughters.

What a tragic family, Margaret's grandparents died within months of each other, when both were only in the forties. Of their four sons two were killed in World War I when in their twenties, one died in America when in his forties and Mornington Alfred the last son was killed in World War II when 49 years of age, the same age as when his father died in 1909.

Not one of the six family members reached the age of fifty.

Editor's note: J Ken Brown's address is: 33 South Bend, Brunton Park, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 5TR.

FROM DARLINGTON TO NEW SOUTH WALES

by Lesley Bramble

My great great grandfather, Stephen Smith, was born on 13th June 1844 in the district of Bishop Auckland. He had one sister, Jane born 1848, and two brothers, William (1850) and Alfred. His parents were William and Mary Smith, nee Gladwin or Gladding, who had married on 5th September 1842.

Stephen Smith married Grace Rogerson at Darlington on 26th August 1866. She was the youngest of six children, and in the course of time she and Stephen also had at least five children, starting with Elizabeth Mary, born in 1868, and followed by Sarah Spraggon (1872), John George (1876), William Ewart Gladstone (1880), and Lavinia Rogerson (1884). The family lived on Whessoe Lane during much of this time.

Great great grandfather Stephen arrived at Townsville, Queensland aboard S.S. *Almore* on 15th February 1883 and travelled to Charters Towers, where it is believed he had a job waiting with the town council. Grace and the children followed, arriving at Townsville aboard S.S. *Goalpara* on 1st January 1884.

Stephen evidently kept in touch with his family back in England, no doubt encouraging his sister Jane Bloomer and her husband George to follow with their three young children, Harold, Edith and Elizabeth. Having

arrived at Brisbane aboard S.S. *Duke of Sutherland*, in October 1884, they also moved to Charters Towers where they lived all their lives.

Stephen and Grace's eldest child, Elizabeth Mary, must have been keeping company with a local boy back in Darlington, as in 1887, Richard Barnes Walton, aged 22, arrived at Townsville aboard the *Merkara*, leaving behind his parents, John Tweddle Walton and Ruth Walton, and at least three brothers. Richard and Elizabeth were married in 1888 at Charters Towers, and had five children between 1893 and 1903, all born in the town which at that time had expanded to the size of a city, thanks to the gold mines that were operating there.

Richard Walton had also not lost touch with his family, as his brother Robert, together with his wife Mary Ann (Bates) and their three sons, took ship on the *Devonshire* and in due course settled in Charters Towers. The two brothers went into business together, Walton Brothers' Foundry, continuing until 1916 when Richard went on to the land to work a cane farm, and Robert with his family moved to New Guinea.

Editor's Note: Lesley Bramble has considerable information on the Smith and Walton families who moved from Darlington to Charters Towers. Address: PO Box 326, Bondi Junction 2022, New South Wales, Australia.

NOTICE TO ALL COURSE ORGANISERS & COURSE MEMBERS

BOLBEC HALL BOOKINGS - Please book via Gerry Langley only, available from 2.30 pm on Tuesdays at Bolbec Hall, or by post. Course members who are unable to attend for any reason, please cancel by phoning Bolbec Hall.

Your place will then be available for other researchers.

CROSS-BORDER MARRIAGES

The late Donald Mason left a card index of cross-border marriages, where a wedding of an English person(s) was in Scotland and vice versa. Many are noted as from Berwick registers etc. and these are excluded. However, many simply say "married in Scotland" or at Gretna Green or whatever, usually with a reference to Newcastle Courant and a date (whether this is date of marriage or date of newspaper is not clear). We list them below:

*ABBS Captain Corper of Monkwearmouth and Miss STAFFORD
daughter of John Stafford Esq of Monkwearmouth,
married at Edinburgh.
Newcastle Courant March 12 1774*

*ALEXANDER Dr William, physician in Edinburgh and
Mrs BENDLOWS a widow at Houghton, Co Durham.
Newcastle Courant October 26th 1771*

*Mr ANDERSON son of Alexander Anderson Esq of London
and Miss Eleanor BEWICKE daughter of Sir Robert Bewieke
of Close House married at Gretna Green.
Newcastle Courant May 8th 1779*

*Revd Mr John BAILLIE of Newcastle and Miss Ann PORTEOUS.
Married in Scotland.
Newcastle Courant 13th October 1770*

*Mr William BARBER grocer and tea dealer in Newcastle and
Miss YOUNG of Balmbrroughshire. Married in Scotland.
Newcastle Courant 26th February 1774*

*Mr Charle BARKER of Bedlington and Miss Susan SMITH
of Murton House, near Houghton. Married at Edinburgh.
Newcastle Courant 10th November 1764*

*Mr Peter BARWICK, printer at Durham and Miss HAYS
of Durham. Married at Gretna Green.
Newcastle Courant August 10th 1771*

*Nicholas CHILTON of Fishburn, Co Durham and
Miss Kitty DUNN of the same place. Married at Edinburgh.
Newcastle Courant 30th October 1762*

*Donald CAMERON Esq, nephew to the late Lochiel and
Miss BURREL daughter of the late - Burrel Esq of Hilton House
married at Edinburgh.
Newcastle Courant December 1765*

*Mr Ralph CARR son of Matthew Carr Esq of Ryhope and
Miss RIDSDALE of Darlington. Married at Gretna Green.
Newcastle Courant December 23rd 1769*

*Revd Mr CARR of Durham and Miss Nanny HALL daughter of
Anthony Hall Esq of the same place. Married at Edinburgh.
Newcastle Courant 20th August 1763*

*Mr BROWN a surgeon of Carlisle and Miss FLETCHER
of Rothbury married at Edinburgh.
Newcastle Courant January 14th 1769*

*Mr Caleb BUGLASS bookseller in Berwick and Miss JOHNSON
sister of Weyn Johnson of Hutton Hall Esq. Married at Hutton.
Newcastle Courant February 16th 1862*

*Mr William BULLOCK of Spittle Hill, near Morpeth and
Miss Mitford second daughter of Robert Mitford Esq.
Married in Scotland.
Newcastle Courant October 5th 1771*

*Captain John BURLEIGH of Lunn and Miss Mollu LISHMAN
of Newcastle. Married in Scotland.
Newcastle Courant December 18th 1766*

*Mr Robert BURNETT linen draper in Sunderland and
Miss REID a Scots lady, at Dunfermline.
Newcastle Courant 11th November 1760*

*Mr John CLOSE of Gateshead and Miss DAVIDSON
of Wooler. Married at Gretna Green.
Newcastle Courant May 27th 1769*

*Mr Edmund COOK and Miss Mary HEPPLER second daughter of
Mr Robert Hepple of Bellasis near Morpeth. Married in Scotland.
Newcastle Courant December 1st 1787*

*Captain Thomas DALE of Whitby, Yorks and Miss DURHAM
only daughter of Captain Durham of South Shields and a near
relation to Sir John Dick bart. Married at Edinburgh.
Newcastle Courant July 30th 1768*

*Mr John DAWSON of Newbegin, near Penrith, Cumberland and
Miss Mary NICHOLSON of Staindrop, at Gretna Green.
Newcastle Courant September 8th 1787*

*Mr William DODDS and Miss CHISM only daughter of
Miss Chism a raff-merchant in Berwick.
Newcastle Courant 29th September 1770*

*Captain George FRENCH of Newcastle and Miss SNOWDON
of North Shields. Married in Scotland.
Newcastle Courant 22nd March 1777*

*Mr John GALLON of Alnwick and Miss DAVISON.
Married at Edinburgh.
Newcastle Courant June 17th 1764*

*Mr GREEN of Hull and Miss SISSONS of this town.
Married at Edinburgh.
Newcastle Courant March 7th 1761*

*Mr John HALL farmer of Cannada near Longframlington and
Miss Judith FLETCHER of Rothbury. Married in Scotland.
Newcastle Courant 9th October 1773*

*Lieutenant Thomas HALL of the 42nd Regiment (Murrays) and
Miss RICHARDSON of Berwick. Married at Edinburgh.
Newcastle Courant January 26th 1771*

*Mr Thomas HARLE junior of Newcastle and Miss GALE daughter
of late Roger Gale Esq of Northallerton. Married at Edinburgh.
Newcastle 8th July 1780*

*Mr David HASTINGS FRS watchmaker in Alnwick and
Miss BUGLASS of Alnwick. Married in Scotland April 4th 1772.*

*Mr HILL Junior of Stocksfield Hall and Miss Sally BOUTFLOUR
3rd daughter of the late - Boutflour of Apperley.
Married in Scotland.
Newcastle Courant December 30th 1758*

*Captain HOWELL, 2nd Regiment of Foot (Queens) in quarters in
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WALKER of Newcastle. Married at Gretna Green.
Newcastle Courant April 11th 1778*

*Mr William HOWEY of Rothbury and Miss ROBSON of Bulbush.
Married in Scotland.
Newcastle Courant 10th November 1770*

NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY CONFERENCE

*Saturday 24th February 2001 9.00am to 4.30pm
St Peters Campus University of Sunderland*

PROGRAMME

9.00	Registration
9.45	Introduction and Welcome
10.00	Report from Project Co-ordinator <i>Cecil Jewitt</i> 'Shroud' <i>Derek Cuthbert</i> '1891 Census Indexing' <i>Moirra Furness</i>
11.00	Coffee/tea break
11.15	'Movement for the sake of religion' <i>Mike Gondy</i>
12.30	Lunch
13.30	'Durham Record Office records' <i>Jennifer Gill</i>
14.30	Coffee/tea break
14.45	To be confirmed
16.00	Conclusion

Lunch, coffee and tea are included in the price of the ticket *f 17.50*

During the day there will be an opportunity to purchase books and fiche and to browse through some exhibitions.

Come along, bring your friends and help to make this another successful day.

WEEKEND SOCIAL EVENTS

Friday 23rd February 2001, 7.00pm to 9.00pm

Bolbec Hall Newcastle will be open for a cheese and wine reception. Do come along and meet friends and make new ones.

Sunday 25th February 2001, 11.00am to 4.00pm

Bolbec Hall will again be open for anyone who would like to have a look around. A guided tour can be arranged for first time visitors. Should you wish to make use of the research facilities, please note your request on the booking form. Venue details and booking-form are to be found in the back page of the Index insert in this Journal.

PLEASE RETAIN THIS SHEET AND BRING IT WITH YOU ON THE 24th FEBRUARY 2001.

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

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ST BRANDON'S CHURCH, BRANCEPTH

SEATING PLAN 1639

by Peter Hull

On the wall, by the front of St Brandon's Church, Brancepth, Co Durham, was a diagram, showing the allocation of the pews for the inhabitants of the parish, on 3rd July, 1639. This was headed: *An Iconographic Schedule of the pews in Brancepth Church as seated in the year 1639. Copied from an old parchment remaining in the vestry of that church by John Lambert A.D. 1790.*

It also contained the information:

All and singular the Seats in this Schedule mentioned I do allot to the several parishoners for and during the natural life of each of them if they continue inhabitants and householders of this parish and not otherwise (they coming duly to church and ordering themselves decently there) willing and requiring that none be removed without the consent of Me and Dr Cosin the present rector here and that there be exactly kept the Uniformity Decency and Order that now is both in the fabrick of the seats without either enlarging or diminishing the same and in placing both Men and Women according to their several Degrees and Qualities as they now are and further that the Church Warden suffer no Servants or meaner Youth of either sex to sit within any of these seats or pews erected for the householders nevertheless reserving power to the Parson and the Church Wardens for the time being to supply those seats that now or hereafter shall be used with fit persons and occasion shall be offered they paying a reasonable proportion according to the Charge of the seats recently Erected and seeking further confirmation from Me and my Successors as Law requireth. signed: Burnell.

To the left hand side of the manuscript was the date (3rd of July 1639), and the statement:

According to the commission to us as directed from the Right Worshipful Mr. Chancellor of the Diocese of Durham we have ordered and seated the parishoners of Brancepth as in this schedule is contained.

Signed Jo. Cosin and five Church Wardens.

The pews were arranged in eight blocks: two blocks of eight rows in the North and South Transepts (blocks A and B), four parallel blocks of eight rows in the Nave in front of the Font (from North to South, blocks C, D, E and F) and two blocks of six pews, beyond the font, at the extreme West end of the Nave (G on the North and F on the South). In the centre, beyond the Font were pews labelled: "Children for Baptism". Each pew had the names of four (or in some cases, fewer) inhabitants. A rough estimate would be about 240 householders' names. The women in general sat separately from the men, in the side rows in the Nave (as is the arrangement in certain houses of worship today). An additional plan of the Church seating, without parishoners' names, was made in 1825 by J. Burlington (In the Deanery Books of Charles Thorpe, Durham Dean and Chapter Library, Add. MS 83/23).

Parts of the document in the Nave were copied by various people (acknowledged below). Names may be of interest to genealogists: for example, the name Hull occurs twelve times:

Block C, row 4:	wife of John Hull Senior
Block C, row 7:	wife of Nics. Hull
Block C, row 8:	wife of James Hull
Block C, row 11:	Phyllis Hull, Widow
Block D, row 4:	John Hull Senior
Block D, row 7:	John Hull & Nics. Hull
Block E, row 1:	Thos. Hull. Henry-Hull & wife
Block E, row 11:	Ralph Hull
Block F, row 9:	wife of Gabrl. Hull, joiner

Also, the name Fawdon occurs as Ralph F., Michael F., Nicholas F., Joseph F., Richard F. and wives of the Hon. Fawdon.

Just before the disastrous fire of 1998, in which this document was destroyed, a photograph was taken, the negative of which is lodged with: National Monuments Record, Great Western Village, Kemble Drive, Swindon SN2 2GZ, and from this some information about other names is available.

I am very grateful for help given in the preparation of this article by, among others, The Dean and Chapter of Durham, I Richardson, M Southwick, Miss AG Tindale and my son, Andrew.

Editor's note: Mr Hull provided a copy of the church plan of 1825 which unfortunately we are unable to reproduce. Enquiries regarding the photographed copy of the list should be addressed to the National Monuments Record at Swindon. Mr Hall provided a supplementary list of 'neighbours' of the Hull family whose close proximity might indicate a relationship. We reproduce the list below:

Pews neighbouring the Hull family

Block & Pew

C4	Wife of Cuthbert Thomson; Widow Atkinson
C7	Wife of William Brantingham; Widow Fawdon
C8	Wife of Cuthbert Atkinson
C11	Wife of William Douthwate of Willington; Wife of William Mason of Willington
D4	Cuthbert Thomson; Thomas Wilkinson
D7	Robert Hutton; Robert Iveston of the Moor
E11	Michael Fawdon; George Willing; William Buck
F1	Elizabeth Jackson; Wife of William Foster; Wife of George Robinson
F9	Wife of William Burlinson

Church Wardens:

William Williamson; John Brigg; John Fletcher

Mr Hull's address is: 49 North Grange Road, Bearsden, Glasgow G61 3AG.

WALLSEND PIT DISASTER

by Colin Wanless

An explosion, more disastrous than any that can be remembered by the oldest inhabitant of this district, took place on Thursday 18 June 1835, about half-past two o'clock in the afternoon, at one of Mr Russell's collieries, at Wallsend, situated about four miles from Newcastle, known by the name of the Church Pit or Russell's Old Wallsend, by which 101 men and boys were unhappily launched into eternity. The hewers commenced working early in the morning, and having finished getting the coal, it is left to be brought to **the bottom of the shaft by the younger men** and boys during the day, which is the reason why so great a portion of boys were in the pit when the accident took place. The catastrophe was made known to the banksmen by a considerable report, which they speak of as being like an earthquake, accompanied by a rushing choke of damp to the mouth of the shaft, bringing up with it some of the pitman's clothes and other light articles from the bottom. Amongst the community resident near the mine, intelligence of the explosion spread with the utmost rapidity. The distressing scene that ensued no pen could describe. Parents, wives and children rushed to the pit, eager to ascertain the extent of the calamity and the fate of those near and dear to them. Had the explosion taken place a few hours earlier upwards of 200 would have perished. The following are the names and ages of the sufferers and survivors, abode and those relatives left behind. The information was taken from two references and hence discrepancies of names.

1. Thomas Simpson (62), overman of The Colliery, left widow and 12 children.
2. Joseph Lawson (63), deputy overman of West Row, left widow and 10 children.
3. William Craister (56), deputy overman of The Colliery, left widow and 6 children.
4. William Craister, jun. (17), crane-man of The Colliery, son of the above.
5. John Robson (35), deputy overman, left widow and 5 children.
6. Andrew Robson (12), trapper of Wallsend Pit, son of the above.
7. Matthew Usher (12), trapper of Twice-Baked Row.
8. Peter Green (16), stone stower of Twice-Baked Row, half brother of John Brown and living in the same house.
9. Luke Mason (19), putter of Bog Row.
10. Peter Mason (17), putter of Bog Row, brother of the above.
11. William Mason (15), putter of Bog Row, brother of the above.
12. Robert Mason (13), trapper of Bog Row, brother of the above.
13. James Miller (20), putter of Bog Row.
14. Martin Brown (33), hewer of The Church Pit, left widow and 3 children.
15. Robert Clark (21), putter of The Church Pit, brother-in-law of the above and living in same house.
16. William Dinning (17), putter of The Church Pit.
17. Bateman Dinning (12), putter of The Church Pit, brother of the above.
18. Christopher Ovington (67), door keeper of The Church Pit, left widow and 5 children.
19. Christopher Ovington, jun. (19), of The Church Pit, son of the above.
20. John Stanness/Stanners (20), putter of The Colliery.
21. John Reavley (12), trapper.
22. Edward Combie (22), putter of Long Row.
23. Robert Combie (20), putter of Long Row, brother of the above.
24. James Combie (11), trapper of Long Row, brother of the above.
25. Francis Bell (22), crane-man of The Colliery.
26. Richard Bell (19), putter of The Colliery, brother of the above.
27. William Bell (16), rolley driver of The Colliery, brother of the above.
28. Robert Bell (13), rolley driver of The Colliery, brother of the above.
29. John Gillis (20), putter of Swan's Row, left mother and 3 children.
30. Robert Roseby (8), trapper of Swan's Row.
31. John Lowrey (15), attending Davy lamps of Swan's Row.
32. Cuthbert Reavley/Reveley (43), hewer of Swan's Row, left widow and 7 children.
33. John Reavley/Reveley (20), putter of Swan's Row, son of the above.
34. Thomas Reavley/Reveley (16), helper up of Swans Row, brother of the above.
35. John Hepple/Heppell (12), trapper of Swan's Row.
36. John Roseby (16), putter of Swan's Row.
37. Joseph Roseby (10), putter of Swan's Row, brother of above.
38. Joseph Roseby (15), rolley driver of Swans Row, cousin of the above.
39. Christopher Roseby (13), rolley driver of Swan's Row, brother of above.
40. Henry Giles (21), putter of Swans Row.
41. John Giles (19), putter of Swan's Row, brother of above.
42. Andrew Giles (16), rolley driver of Swans Row, brother of the above.
43. Edward Combie (12), rolley driver of Long Row, cousin of the aforementioned Combie brothers.
44. John Buddle (19), putter of The Colliery.
45. Michael Buddle (17), putter of The Colliery, brother of the above.
46. Matthew Buddle (14), putter of The Colliery, brother of the above.
47. Henry Appleby (17), putter of The Colliery.
48. James Appleby (11), putter of The Colliery, brother of above. This boy, having finished his own work, had bargained with another boy, who was anxious to visit the race course (it being the Thursday of Newcastle race week, when the gold cup was appointed to be run for), to remain at work for him. The stipulated wages for this service was one shilling - that shilling cost the deceased his life.
49. Joseph/Josiah Harbottle (72), trapper of The Colliery, left a widow.
50. Thomas Swan (13), rolley driver of The Colliery.
51. Ralph Pendlington (15) rolley driver of The Colliery, left a mother with 5 children.
52. Thomas Elrington/Ellarton (15), attending Davy lamps of The Colliery, left a mother with 3 children.
53. John English (19), putter of Long Row.

54. Roger Sharp (19), putter of Long Row.
 55. Hutton Rate/Raite (18), putter of Long Row, left mother with 3 children.
 56. Christopher Rate/Raite (13), putter of Long Row, brother of the above.
 57. William Thompson (53), sinker of Long Row, left a widow and 5 children.
 58. James Thompson (13), driver of Long Row, son of the above.
 59. John Thompson (14), rolley driver of Twice-Baked Row.
 60. George Kennedy (16), rolley driver of Long Row.
 61. John Croser/Crozier (23), hewer of Long Row, left a widow and 2 children.
 62. Thomas Mason (12), trapper of Shiney Row.
 63. James Green (19), crane-man of Shiney Row.
 64. Thomas Reavley (34) hewer, left a widow and 5 children.
 65. John Reavley (11), trapper, son of the above.
 66. Thomas Moore (14), helper up of Shiney Row.
 67. James Moore (12), way cleaner of Shiney Row, brother of the above.
 68. Joseph Wright (21), putter of Siney Row.
 69. John Chicken (19), putter of Shiney Row, left a mother with 4 children.
 70. John Soulsby (16), way cleaner of Shiney Row.
 71. George Soulsby (14), trapper of Shiney Row, brother of the above.
 72. William Johnson (47), sinker of Shiney Row, left a widow and 2 children.
 73. James Giles (19), putter.
 74. Edward McNay (18), putter. Could be H. Mackey, young man of Shiney Row.
 75. Ralph Waggott (75), trapper of Shiney Row, left a widow and 10 children.
 76. Matthew Soulsby (31), onsetter of Shiney Row, left a widow and 3 children.
 77. George Kyle (9), trapper of West Row.
 78. John Waggott (21), putter of West Row, left a mother with 3 children, distant relative of Ralph Waggott.
 79. John Hall (18), putter of West Row.
 80. George Hall (11), putter of West Row, brother of the above.
 81. Joseph Wanlas/Wanless (10), trapper of West Row. [The author's 2 x great grandfather's nephew.]
 82. William Reay (24), hewer of West Row, left a mother with 1 child.
 83. Andrew Reay (28), hewer of West Row, left a widow and 3 children, brother of the above.
 84. Thomas Huggup (11), trapper of West Row.
 85. David Collins (19), putter of West Row, left a mother with 2 children.
 86. Luke Watson (15), trapper of Long Row.
 87. Francis Haxon (14), trapper of Long Row, cousin of the above.
 88. James Cousin (20), putter of Long Row.
 89. George/Thomas Miller (16), putter of Long Row.
 90. John Miller (12), trapper of Long Row, brother of the above.
 91. Thomas Sharp (19), putter of Long Row, left a mother with 2 children, cousin of Roger Sharp.
 92. Edward Bell (19), helper up of Long Row.
 93. Ralph Waggott (16), driver of Long Row, grandson of Ralph Waggott.
 94. John Christopher Waggott (14), driver of Long Row, brother of the above.
 95. William Patrick (17), trapper of Long Row.
 96. David Patrick (15), trapper of Long Row, brother of the above.
 97. Robert Wilkinson (21), trapper of Long Row.
 98. William Wilkinson (17), rolley driver of Long Row, brother of the above.
 99. Robert/Thomas Dawson (13), trapper of Long Row.
 100. Percival Reed (15), way cleaner of Long Row.
 - John Reed (13), way cleaner of Long Row, brother of the above.
- John Reed, father of the above boys, who was one of the four got out of the mine alive, and had his leg amputated, died on 3rd July, 1835. The other two men, Robert Morallee and John Brown, and the boy, Martin Delap, were then considered out of danger.
- Summary**
- | | |
|---|-----|
| al number of men and boys dead | 102 |
| maining alive | 3 |
| men deprived of their husbands | 17 |
| dowed mothers deprived of their sons | 8 |
| ldren under the age of 14 left fatherless | 48 |
- References:**
- wcastle City Library, Local Tracts L042
- wcastle City Library, Local Tracts L042, D22 (part 1)

BELL FAMILY BIBLE

Written in the front of a Wilson's Bible

Jane Bell, 1st daughter of John and Jane Bell, born the 1st day of August, in the year of our Lord, One thousand, eight hundred, and sixteen.

George Bell, first son of John and Jane Bell, born the 6th day of August, in the year of our Lord, One thousand, eight hundred, and nineteen.

William Bell, 2nd son of John and Jane Bell, born the 31st day of March, in the year of our Lord, One thousand, eight hundred and twenty two.

John Bell, third son of John and Jane Bell, born on 19th day of March, in the year of our Lord in the year of 1824.

Robert Bell, fourth son of John and Jane Bell, born the 20th day of July, in the year of our Lord, 1826.

George Bell is my name, England can (very faint)

Isabella Bell, second daughter of John and Jane Bell, born the 13th of June, 1831.

John Bell, 5th son of John and Jane Bell, born the 7th day of May 1833.

Editor's note This information was supplied by Mr Frank Pearson, 5 Bevelley Row ; 0~'tii2rey'isay'1~r~15't3jt1.

NDFHS CHECKLIST (3): MARRIAGE REGISTERS - WEST NORTHUMBERLAND 1837-1936

Introduction

Researchers who are able to do their own work, and have the time, can save considerable sums of money by looking for marriages from 1 July 1837 in publicly available marriage registers. This checklist, to be followed by others in due course, is intended to help researchers organise their time to maximum advantage. It may be photocopied and used at Morpeth Record Centre.

The method is very simple. Supposing a reference for a marriage has been found in the GRO (formerly St Catherine's House) indexes, simply ignore all churches in the list that bear a starting date later than the reference. Using a parish map, or your own knowledge of your family's whereabouts, start with the most likely churches in the district and work out to the least likely.

Failure to find a marriage

Our checklists show only those records that are available for inspection at Morpeth Record Centre of Tyne and Wear Archives. Failure to find a marriage will occur in four sets of circumstances:

1. The marriage took place at a Register Office.
2. The marriage took place in a church, chapel, Quaker meeting house, or synagogue, whose registers exist but have not been deposited at Morpeth Record Centre. There will be a copy with the Superintendent Registrar's records at Hexham, and at the Office for National Statistics at Stockport. The Haltwhistle Roman Catholic marriage registers have not yet been deposited, nor have the Church of England marriages at Wall, for example.
3. As 2, but the church/chapel copy of the register has been lost or destroyed, e.g. by enemy action during World War II.
4. The marriage was at a Catholic church within the last 75 years. Researchers are not permitted to make personal searches of Catholic registers less than 75 years old. In such cases, an approach should be made to the relevant parish priest for permission to examine the register.

Information

The lists cover all of West Northumberland, and include the three former Registration Districts that were amalgamated on 1 January 1937 into Northumberland West District, i.e. Hexham, Bellingham and Haltwhistle Districts.

1. Dates: marriages from 1 July 1837 to 31 December 1936. Churches with marriage registers dated 30 June 1837 or earlier are listed in alphabetical order and marked 'pre 1837'. Churches whose marriage records start on or after 1 January 1937 are not included. The date given is that of the year and in most cases, the quarter in which the register commences.
2. Name: usually easy to identify. Some Methodist chapels are known by two names, in which cases they are listed as per their catalogue name at Morpeth Record Centre.
3. Denomination:
 - CE - Church of England
 - RC - Roman Catholic
 - M - Methodist (all denominations)
 - UR - United Reformed (Presbyterian, Congregationalist, or Baptist)
 - SF - Society of Friends (Quakers)

It should be noted that not all original registers present their information in exactly the same way as given by a registrar's certificate. This is particularly true in the case of Roman Catholic marriage registers which may give the names of both parties' fathers, but not their occupations. To be sure of obtaining the maximum information, it is a good idea to purchase a certificate *and* obtain a copy of the original church register if available.

Photocopies

Of post-1837 registers can not be obtained at Morpeth Record Centre.

Date	Name	Denom	Check
HALTWHISTLE DISTRICT			
pre 1837	Haltwhistle Holy Cross	CE	
pre 1837	Kirkhaugh Holy Paraclete	CE	
pre 1837	Knaresdale St Judge	CE	
pre 1837	Lambley Ss Mary & Patrick	CE	
pre 1837	Whitfield St John	CE	
1891	Beltingham	CE	
1899.12	Haltwhistle (Front Street)	M	
1899.12	Henshaw	M	
1900.06	Greenhead (Blenkinsopp)	M	
BELLINGHAM DISTRICT			
pre 1837	Bellingham St Cuthbert	CE	
pre 1837	Birtley St Giles	CE	
pre 1837	Corsenside St Cuthbert	CE	
pre 1837	Kirkharle St Wilfred	CE	
pre 1837	Kirkwhelpington St Bartholomew	CE	
pre 1837	Thockrington St Aidan	CE	
<u>pre 1837</u>	Thorneyburn St Aidan	CE	
pre 1837	Wark St Michael	CE	
1841.12	Bellingham St Oswald	RC	
1870.12	Otterburn St John the Baptist	CE	
1887.09	Otterburn	UR	
HEXHAM DISTRICT			
pre 1837	Allendale Monthly Meeting	SF	
pre 1837	Allendale St Cuthbert	CE	
pre 1837	Allendale (Allenheads) St Peter	CE	
pre 1837	Blanchland	CE	
pre 1837	Bywell St Andrew	CE	
pre 1837	Bywell St Peter	CE	
pre 1837	Chollerton St Giles	CE	
pre 1837	Corbridge St Andrew	CE	
pre 1837	Halton, Ss Oswald & Cuthbert &c	CE	
pre 1837	Haydon Bridge St Cuthbert	CE	

* = at Tyne & Wear Archives

Date	Name	Denom	Check
pre 1837	Hexham (Abbey) St Andrew	CE	
pre 1837	Newbrough St Peter	CE	
pre 1837	Ninebanks St Mark	CE	
pre 1837	Ovingham St Mary the Virgin	CE	
pre 1837	Shotley St Andrew	CE	
pre 1837	Simonburn St Mungo	CE	
pre 1837	Slaley St Mary the Virgin	CE	
pre 1837	St John Lee	CE	
pre 1837	Warden St Michael & All Angels	CE	
pre 1837	Whitley	CE	
pre 1837	Whittonstall Ss Philip & James	CE	
1842.06	Hexham St Mary	RC	
1858	Riding Mill	CE	
1862.12	Humshaugh St Peter	CE	
1867.12	Mickley St George	CE	
1877.06	Prudhoe	RC	
1878	Healey	CE	
1879.06	Newton Hall St James	CE	
1881	St Oswald in Lee	CE	
1881.12	Prudhoe St Mary Magdalene	CE	
1887.06	Wylam St Oswin	CE	
1899.06	Hexham Trinity	M	
1900	Carrshield	CE	
1905.09	Haydon Bridge	M	
1909.06	Allendale (Dawson Place)	M	
1911.06	Shotley Bridge (Bay Bridge)	M	
1912	Prudhoe St John	M*	
1913.09	Allendale (Allenheads, Dirt Pool)	M	
1915.03	Hexham (Battle Hill)	M	
1922.06	Great Whittington	M	
1928.03	Whittonstall	M	
1935	Mickley	M*	
1936	Mickley Square	M*	

DIRECTORY OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

This is your last chance to submit details of your interests, the deadline being 31 December 2000. Please use the forms supplied in the two previous Journals. Members new since October can submit their interests by writing to Raymond McSorley, the White House, 91 Stoughton Road, Guildford GUI 1LH, UK. We regret the technical fault that prevented proper printing of his e-mail address. This was due to the tendency of Microsoft Word to print all e-mail addresses with an underline. The correct e-mail address is: Raymond McSorley@compuserve.com

Details required for Members' Interests

Surname(s); Place(s); County; Country and Century. For example: Richardson, Bishop Auckland, County Durham, England 18th-19th centuries.

CHATHAM CONVICT PRISON -1871 CENSUS

CONVICTED FELONS FROM THE NORTH-EAST OF ENGLAND

Compiled by Stephen W Maddison

<u>Name</u>	<u>Condition</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Trade</u>	<u>Birthplace</u>
Richard Alderson.....	M	52	Master Mariner	Bishopwearmouth, Dur
Robert Bedford	M	37	Letter Carrier	Darlington, Dur
James Bell	U	24.....	Pipe Maker.....	Newcastle, Ntm
Thomas Bell	M	31	Clerk	Whitburn, Dur
John Bowden	U	38	Boilersmith.....	Gateshead, Dur
John Brown	M	33	Groom.....	Harton, Nr Sth Shields, Dur
William Cavender	U	19	Puddler.....	Newcastle, Ntm
Matthew Clavering	U	21	Glass Blower	Newcastle, Ntm
Thomas Connolly.....	U	30.....	Labourer.....	Gateshead, Dur
John Crawley.....	U	24	Sailor	Sunderland, Dur
Richard Darby.....	U	44.....	Labourer/Sailor	Stockton, Dur
Henry Dunn	U	45.....	Labourer.....	Darlington, Dur
William Fattlin	U	23	Miner.....	Newcastle, Ntm
Joseph Gray.....	M	48	Dealer	Stockton, Dur
John Hair	M	37	Grocer	Newcastle-on-Tyne, Ntm
Robson Hayes	U	32	Baker	Newcastle, Ntm
Thomas Hill.....	U	38	Labourer	Newcastle, Ntm
William John Hoggett	U	22.....	Puddler.....	Bishopwearmouth, Dur
Thomas James Holmes	U	25	Moulder	Darlington, Dur
Robert Hood	U	26	Miner.....	Cramlington, Ntm
George Johnson	U	23	Labourer.....	Newcastle, Ntm
John Johnson	U	24	Chimney Sweep	Newcastle-on-Tyne, Ntm
John Kelly	U	23.....	Labourer.....	Coxhoe, Dur
John Latimer	U	31	Labourer.....	Newcastle, Ntm
John Lynch	U	23	Labourer.....	Newcastle, Ntm
John Mackey.....	M	29	Labourer.....	Newcastle, Ntm
John Massether	M	27	Sailor	Sandlang, Dur
Robert Morrison	M	29	Pitman.....	Durham, Dur
William Orr.....	M	49	Shoemaker	Durham, Dur
Alfred Osborne	M	29	Tailor.....	Newcastle-on-Tyne, Ntm
George Paddon	U	28	Prison Warder	Hartlepool
John Parker	M	37	Labourer	Hexham, Ntm
Thomas Parkin	M	29	Joiner.....	Stockton-on-Tees, Dur
George Paterson	M	26	Upholsterer	Darlington, Dur
Richard Pickering	U	20.....	Labourer.....	Sunderland, Dur
William Richardson.....	U	23	Striker	Newcastle, Ntm
John Rickaby.....	U	24	Sailor	Sunderland, Dur
John Wm. Ayre Robinson	M	26	Gardener.....	Barnard, Dur
George Rochester	M	43	Seaman	North Shields, Ntm
Henry Scholfield	M	31	Labourer.....	Alnwick, Ntm
John Scott	U	29.....	Labourer.....	Newcastle, Ntm
Walker Scott	M	29	Brass Moulder	Newcastle-on-Tyne, Ntm
William Scott	U	24	Chairmaker	Newcastle, Ntm
John Smith	U	38.....	Joiner.....	Bishopwearmouth, Dur
William Smurthwaite	U	25	Pitman.....	Durham, Dur
Francis Spencer	U	28	Sailor	Bishopwearmouth, Dur
William Ford Stafford	U	31	Sailor	Stockton, Dur
John Storey	U	23	Sailor	South Shields, Dur
Thomas Swan	M	30	Striker	Durham, Dur
William Turnbull	U	30	Roper.....	Newcastle, Ntm
John Churchill Tweddle	M	39	Pitman.....	Easington, Dur
Ralph Tweddle	M	35	Brakesman	Durham, Dur
John Wright	U	32.....	Labourer.....	Newcastle, Ntm
William Young	U	34.....	Labourer.....	Newcastle, Ntm

Abbreviations: M - unmarried, U - unmarried, Dur - Durham, Ntm - Northumberland

STOP PRESS: NEWS FROM CHESHIRE

Important news has just reached us from the Cheshire FHS.

Over the last few months, the Family History Society of Cheshire and South Cheshire Family History Society have been working with Cheshire County Council's registration service to make the indexes to the county's Births, Marriage and Deaths freely accessible on the Internet. They have just launched their new combined web-site, containing approximately 276,000 birth records and 123,000 marriage records between 1837 and 1950:

<http://CheshireBMD.org.uk>

This new site replaces the earlier listings on the societies' web-sites, which means that it is now possible to scan the indexes of the county's three register offices simultaneously, and also to produce printable application forms to order certificates by post. The gaps in the records will be steadily extended as more of the old handwritten indexes are computerised.

So far, Cheshire is the first part of the country to make its local registration indexes available in this way, but they hope that other areas will feel encouraged to launch similar projects, and feedback from other family history societies would be very welcome. Please address any comments to:

Webmaster@Cheshire [BMD.org.uk](mailto:Webmaster@CheshireBMD.org.uk)

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Journal, Vol VI No 1, October 1980

Your present Editor took over for his first stint and, finding the editorial cupboard almost bare, launched an impassioned appeal for more copy. His task was fairly simple for this particular edition, because in those days it was the custom to print the Index of the previous volume as an integral part of the journal, and not, as now, as an insert. So most of this edition consisted of the Index to Vol V.

The only two, very brief, articles consisted of a brief note on the character of the people of Elsdon parish by Ken Brown (p 5), and a Know Your Parish V - Cramlington, by Joan Bunting (pp 6-7), and that was it!

Journal, Vol VI No 2, January 1981

This was the first journal to be printed by John Barry & Co, who have continued as our printers to the present day. Its' 24 pages included a welcome for the Society's member number one thousand. At the time this was seen as a considerable milestone. I do not believe that any of us thought that we would have enrolled more than nine thousand more members by the present time, at an average rate of ten per week, if my mathematics are correct. The main articles included:

A Most Peculiar Peculiar by DW Smith (pp 35-36), describing the peculiar jurisdiction of the Archbishop of York in Hexhamshire and its records. On page 36 is a transcript of an index to Hexham Wills entitled 'Hexhamshire Testament Registrate', in the archives of the Newcastle Society of Antiquaries, now held at Northumberland Record Office. The index, for wills dated 1694-1707, is of less use now than it would have been in 1981, thanks to the manuscript index 1688-1799 compiled by the late Dr Mitchell and now available on microfiche from the Society's publications list. It might be useful for someone one day to check the older list against Dr Mitchell's in case there are discrepancies.

Felling Colliery Mining Disaster by J Turnbull (pp 37-38) briefly relates the circumstances of the disaster (25 May 1812) and lists the names, ages and occupations of the dead.

Tempest of Holmside by A Tempest (pp 42-43) describes Rowland Tempest, a fifteenth century member of the Tempest family, and his acquisition of the manor of Holmside.

The Corbys of Durham by Edward W Corby (p 47) reviews the known history of this old Catholic family (17th century) and develops it a little.

In addition to the above, there is a revised index of transcripts of Northumberland Monumental inscriptions (pp 44-47), now out of date, a page of hints on how to start research from scratch by W Mantey (p 48), and a brief 'Know Your Parish' on Simonburn (p 43) by DW Smith.

WILLIE HARDING (1820-1898) AND THE BLAYDON RACES

by Dennis Harding

Bachelors often receive scant attention from family historians for the obvious reason that they do not contribute to the family tree. Some years ago, I was looking at George Anthony Cowens' book, *The Braes of Derwent Hunt* (1955), which gives a useful description and reminder of what the countryside west of Blaydon Burn looked like in the 19th century before sand and gravel working, quarries, open-cast mining and the Ryton by-pass changed its appearance forever.

The contributions of many of the local gentry to the hunting scene are described but also the hunt servants. The name of one of the latter immediately caught my attention - Willie Harding. During my researches into my Ryton Hardings, Willie had appeared on several occasions but as he remained a bachelor I merely noted his presence and pressed on.

Two of Willie's older brothers, Archibald (1814-), my great, great grandfather Joseph (1818-1893), and a younger sister Jane (1821-) moved from a farm at Hethersgill, Kirklington, Cumberland to Sealburns Farm at Ryton Woodside, which was located on the outskirts of what is now Greenside on the Coalburns road. The move took place probably in the late 1830's, about the time of the building of the Newcastle to Carlisle Railway and the opening of the new station at Ryton. Hirings of farm labourers took place on the village green, beside the village cross at the top of the station bank, twice yearly on the 12th May and 17th November and this is the most likely place where farmer Mark Wallace and the Hardings would meet.

Mark Wallace (1771-1857) was the father of a large family' including a daughter, Grace, born in 1820. Joseph, Archibald and Jane Harding are recorded as working as agricultural labourers on the farm in 1841. In 1843, Joseph had moved to an adjoining farm, Reely Mires, also on the outskirts of Greenside, and married Grace at Ryton Holy Cross Church (1842). The other two siblings also married locally, Archibald to Mary Greener of Crawcrook (St Nicholas, Newcastle, 1846) and Jane to John Hall of Greenside (All Saints, Newcastle, 1846). Willie came across to the north-east in 1846 to be a witness at Jane's wedding and it was probably then that he heard of the opportunities for employment on the farms in the area.

To support the family, Joseph worked on the land. Later he ventured into the victualling trade as a publican in a Ryton inn (1849) but returned to work as a husbandman/countryman (1851/1854) at Ryton Woodside. It was to there that Willie had moved from Cumberland by 1851 and was living with brother Joseph and working as husbandman. He then moved to be next door to his other brother, Archibald, another at Stephens Hall, Ryton, and there Willie became a gamekeeper.

Willie then entered the employment of John Anthony Cowen, the fire brick manufacturer at Blaydon Burn as a gamekeeper and coachman. The Colonel was a member of the well known family of Victorian entrepreneurs' who made a great deal of wealth in various enterprises - coal mining, firebricks and providing the first gas supply to Blaydon. John Anthony Cowen was commissioned into the Tyne and Derwent Volunteers, later to become the 5th Battalion of DLI, as a Lieutenant-Colonel. His great passion was hunting with the Braes of Derwent Hunt of which he was Master (1868-1895).

His grandson, George Anthony Cowen, describing the hunt servants, left a very full description of Willie, warts and all. He had a long white beard and was always taking large quantities of snuff. For accommodation, he lived with his terrier dogs in a room above the stables and was never able to keep himself tidy. When the foxhounds were moved from Coalburns to Blaydon Burn there was constant bickering between the kennel-man and Willie who by then (1884) was well established and had responsibility for the golden eagles which were kept in a large cage over the waterfall on the burn.

Sometimes the Colonel, fed up with Willie's ways would give him notice to quit, but he would simply lie low in his quarters for a time and re-emerge and assume his old duties.

Nearly every evening of the year, Willie would entertain many of the local sporting characters such as Raggy Harry and Coffee Johnny. The latter was John Oliver (1828-1900), a blacksmith of Winlaton, made famous by his mention in the Tyneside son, *The Blaydon Races* (Cofey Johnny had a white hat on - the wa' shootin' "Whe stole the cuddy?"). Not only were the group prominent at the Blaydon Races - Colonel Cowen, as Steward, had been one of the prime movers in re-establishing the Races on the last two of its sites - but they also turned out all the the Braes of Derwent Hunt meetings to earn some extra cash holding the horses for the huntsmen and opening gates.

This "quite indispensably loveable creature" left the service of Colonel Cowen on retirement sometime after 1891. He then returned to his native Cumberland to be with yet another brother, Christopher, and his family of farmers, living at Blackwell Park, a few miles south of Carlisle - naturally quite close to Carlisle Racecourse where he could continue with his sporting interests. He died in 1898 and was buried at Kirlinton from where he had set out half a century before. He left in his will, £200 in legacies to various nephews and nieces, including those living in Newcastle, Winlaton and Greenside, I wonder - had he accumulated this money by living frugally or by being given a retirement.

TRICYCLES AND STEAMERS

by Susan Watson

My great great grandfather, Robert Stenton Hill, was born in North Shields on 26th November 1816. He was the first photographer in Northumberland, starting his business in 1844, only three years after William Henry Fox-Talbot had improved the process discovered by Frenchman Louis Daguerre. His son James, my great grandfather had joined him in the business by 1867.

Robert appears to be a man with many interests in his old age. He belonged to the Old Tynemouth Tricycle Club and remained a member up to his death in February 1901, aged eighty four years. In July 1885 he wrote a letter to his nephew, Bob and his wife Ella living in Bristol. He told them that in the previous sixteen months he had ridden 2679¹/₄ miles, 1215 miles in the seven months of that year alone. Not bad for a man of seventy. Maybe that was the reason for his longevity.

He tells in the letter of the simple pleasures he experienced through his riding:

I see the wild roses in all their glory, I hear the cheeping of the birds in the lanes, and smell the new hay in the fields, I can sit at Whitley links and see the beautiful blue sea with the ships and steamers floating along. And have many a crack with the people I meet in the various villages etc.

He goes on to say that, just for a bit of fun, in one day he did 50 miles and he thought that the rest of the members of the club were quite jealous of him as none of them (and there were 53 members) had done anything like the miles he did.

He went on to say how he wished that his nephew lived nearer so that he could have ridden out to see them, but Bristol was a bit too far, he said. "Mind you" he went on "I could do it but it would take a lot of money for I would have to do it by short stages". This lack of money seemed to have been caused by investments he had made in a shipping company which was in trouble. Replying to a query from his nephew in a previous letter he says "you trust I have better news of the steamers", and tells him he has:

gone through and am still going through all these heavy trials without losing my Reason. It has thrown me into a lot of Debt because I have had to borrow money, for there has been 2 calls from the "Maritance" Sunderland boat. I have forgotten exactly the sum but I know it is about £10 each time and to make matters worse the Liverpool ones called up the 1/6 to the £ which was not paid up when the shares were bought, this has cost me £8.5.0 which I have had to pay and had to borrow to do so. Strangely the Revd Herries, the Baptist Minister, called just a day or two after I had paid, telling me not to pay it. He has lost a lot of money with this Liverpool firm, the same Managers but not same boat. These Managers or miss Managers they call (at Liverpool) Thomlinson Thomson & Co, no doubt Robert will have seen in the daily papers of them having been put off till assizes, that is on account of the steamer "Castle Crag" this is the boat Herries has lost his money with. The boats I have my money in are the "Castlegate" and "Castle-eden". I am not sure but I shall be losers of all that lot. Then there is the "City of Newcastle" and the "City of Truro". I have not had one farthing for I should say nearly 2 years for the "Truro" owes the builders 23 or 24 thousands of pounds. I might say by the by that the "Maritance" that is the one where most of the cash is, near £500, lay in dock 15 months and she has just finished a 2 months voyage that is her first voyage after lying up 15 months and I am frightened they are going to lay her up again, she is only insured for about 2/3ds of her value and should she be lost there would of course be 2/3ds of my money gone.

I would be very interested if anyone can explain what all this is about or if anyone has any information on the Old Tynemouth Tricycle Club, or indeed of his photographic business. I know he had premises in North Shields, in Tyne Street, in 1844, which was also where he lived and both there and at the railway station by 1858. In 1868 he held a fire sale and shortly afterwards he moved his business to 179 Stephenson Street, where incidentally he had been baptised at the Particular Baptist Church.

Editor's note: Mrs Watson's address is: 10 Meadow Close, Spondon, Derby DE21 7GS.

NORTHUMBRIAN STALWARTS

The following unreferenced cutting can be found stuck in the back of Newcastle Library's transcript of Haydon Bridge registers:

In the annals of the North-country, many curious and noteworthy incidents have been chronicled, but the stature of a family who, in 1830, resided at Broadstone, Haydon Bridge, will be hard to beat as a record. A Mr W Davidson, who died in January of that year, had eight sons, whose heights were: William 6ft 3in, Robert 6ft, Joseph 6ft, George 6ft, John 6ft 3¹/₂in, Richard 6ft 1in, Thomas 6ft 1¹/₂in, and Ralph 5ft 11in. The sire of these stalwart Northumbrians stood 6ft 1in, was built in proportion, and his strength is evidenced by his ability to lift a half-barrel of ale and drink from the bung-hole. Joseph and Robert were born in the same year, were the same height, and the same weight. When 18 years of age, Joseph was known to lift four 12-stone pigs of lead.

MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND QUERIES

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

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

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

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

1239 Mrs DOREEN TAIT, 26 Beechwood Avenue, Low Fell, Gateshead NE9 6PP ([email: Doreen@rapidial.co.uk](mailto:email:Doreen@rapidial.co.uk))

Has anyone any information relating to James and Jane BLAKEY, Newcastle 1850, and family, Eleanor, Jane Ann, Elizabeth and William.

1324 Mrs MILDRED ROBSON, 12 Spring Terrace, North Shields, Tyne and Wear NE29 OHQ

Looking for any information on the following: 1) Edward W. BARRON born c1836 South Hetton, son of William Barron, coalminer, and Margaret WHEATLEY who married 1831 Houghton-le-Spring. Children: John c1833, Edward c1836 married Mary Ann MURRAY 1858 Bedlington, Jane c1837, Sarah c1840 and William c1843. Edward and Mary Ann had children: Wheatley 1860 married Julia, and Edward 1861 married Emily S. SYMES. Wheatley and Julia had five girls (North Shields) and Edward and Emily had James Charles Symes who married Georgina BOLTON and went to Canada, and two daughters. Emily later married Henry BAKER in 1901. 2) HESLOP/HESLIP/HASLIPP, tenant farmers in the South Tyne area. Family names: Cuthbert, George, Thomas, John, Joseph and William. Interested in descendants of the first Cuthbert of Dean Raw buried at Haydon 1753. Whose estate was Dean Raw and Moralee in the first half of 18th Century? 3) William MOUNSEY born c1794 Walton, Cumberland, married Jane ERRINGTON 1817 Ainstable. Children: Jane 1823, John 1827, Robert 1829 and William 1830. John, cordwainer, married 1854 to Dorothy GILHESPY. They lived Nile Street, South Shields in 1889 when John was attacked and killed by second son James. Other children: William c1855, Robert c1860 and Dorothy Jane 1866 who married John Emil Lindgren 1885 and Henry SMITH 1903.

2218 Mrs KATHLEEN E CRAGGS (nee YOUNG), 2 Buckland Rise, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 3QR ([email: aandk.craggs@talk21.com](mailto:email:aandk.craggs@talk21.com))

Researching: ELLIOTT, THOMPSON, NOBLE, IRV(W)IN, CRISP, CARR, JACKSON and WATSON of Sunderland; NOALL of Sunderland, St Ives Cornwall and Bourne Hampshire; ELLIOTT, WALL and HORN of Coxgreen and Penshaw; PATTISON of Ponteland; THOMPSON and RICHARDSON of Auckland St Andrew; CRISP of Grindon and Stockton; CARR and PEARSON of Long Newton and Bishop Middleham; GARRET of Hart; ROBINSON of Aycliffe; JAMES, MAJOR, SIMMONDS, ROSEWALL, STEVENS and NICHOLAS of St Ives, Cornwall; QUICKE of Towednack and Poughill, Cornwall; OATES of St Just, Cornwall.

3626 Mrs JUNE DAVIDSON, 27 Belgrave Road, Edinburgh EH12 6NG

Looking for information about her SHERIFF and WILSON families of South Shields and Jarrow. William Wilson, born South Shields 1855, died South Shields 1926, married Mary Sheriff in 1883. Their children: Jacob 1884, Ethel 1887, Peter 1888, Lilian 1894, Thomas, Helen 1897, William and Molly. Peter had a daughter, Nancy.

3651 ANDREA KING, Mytten Cottage, Mytten Close, Cuckfield, West Sussex RH17 5LN ([email: kingmytten@aol.com](mailto:email:kingmytten@aol.com))

Researching Francis SILL who married Dorothy ROBINSON of Chester-le-Street at St Nicholas, Durham in 1807. They both died in Sunderland in 1825. I have failed to find any suitable birth for him; their son, Francis, moved to Middlesbrough. Also interested in the ancestors of the Rev Marcus DODS, minister of the Church of Scotland at Belford until his death in 1838, and the family of James GRAY born 1788, ironmonger of Dalkeith, later Edinburgh. Information also needed on Henry BROWN who married Margaret ALLEN in 1868 at Tynemouth. He died in an accident at Palmer's Yard, Jarrow in 1884; birth not found.

4145 Ms T BEATY, 37 Queens Crescent, Putnoe, Bedford MK41 9BN

Seeking information on the descendants of Mrs Mary Ann CROMBIE, formerly WANLESS, who was born in Durham 1852, married, had ten children and died in 1951 aged 99 years. She was my great aunt Polly and lived at Clayton Terrace, Cross Keys Lane, Low Fell.

4217 Mrs JEAN TAYLOR, 91 Coppice Road, Whitnash, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV31 2JB

Denis MONAGHAN born 1851 Elswick has Peter Monaghan as his father on his birth certificate but William on his marriage certificate. Denis married Mary LARGEY 1871 at St Joseph's RC Church, Gateshead and was living at Lambton Terrace, Gateshead at the time of the marriage. Two siblings (Patrick and Mary) have been found on the 1871 Census, however their father is named as Patrick Monaghan. In all three cases the mother is given as Bridget nee McGRATH, born London. Can anyone help to clarify? Also looking for a Jack NAISBITT, believed to be a brother or half brother to William Naisbitt who was born 1895 at Woodmans Place, Lumley. William's mother was Margaret Naisbitt (no father's name on the birth certificate). Jack may have been younger than William but was born before Margaret married Matthew McGEE 1897 at the Register Office, Houghton-le-Spring. Margaret had two

daughters, Margaret and Aggie, and died 1932 at Long Row, Colliery Row, Houghton-le-Spring.

5008 SHIRLEY HAMMER, 1520 Knappen Street, Port Coquitlam, British Columbia V3C 4S9, Canada
([email: sehammer@telus.net](mailto:sehammer@telus.net))

Looking for information on the MOSSMAN family who lived at Castlegate, Berwick upon Tweed, Westgate, Newcastle, Drake Street, York and Hartlepool. Robert Mossman married Mary DAVISON 1823. Their children: Mary 1826; Robert 1827, John Davison c1831, married, firstly Ann NESBITT (widow CLOW/CROW) c1856 Berwick, and secondly, Eleanor Nesbitt (Ann's cousin) 1874 Newcastle. Children: Mary Ann 1856 Berwick; Robert 1859 Berwick; Eleanor Nesbitt 1860 Newcastle; Jane Davison 1863 Newcastle; Richard Nesbitt 1868 Newcastle; Isabella 1871 York; John Davison 1875 York; Joanna 1876 York; Maria 1879 York and Thomas 1881 York. Richard Nesbitt Mossman married Margret E Lazonby NEWTON 1893 Hartlepool.

5213 Mr CHARLES IMIG, 84 La Garza, Pismo Beach, California 93449, USA ([email: jimig@slonet.org](mailto:jimig@slonet.org))

Does anyone have any birth and death information on Barbara WEATHERBY, her parents and/or siblings? She and Robert CRUDDER (CRUDDACE) are listed in the 1841 Census for Coxhoe, Co Durham. Barbara is shown as "FS" (family servant?) for Robert Cruddace, miner, and his son. The Kelloe parish register for 20 November 1841 has the baptism of William John, son of Barbara Weatherby, a single woman living in Coxhoe. Also, on the same date the register shows the marriage of Robert Cruddace, widower and pitman to Barbara Weatherby, spinster. Robert's father is John Cruddace and Barbara's father is George Weatherby.

5327 Mr F BRITTON, 26 Springfield Avenue, Stockton on Tees, Cleveland TS18 4EH

Thomas RIXHAM of Winlaton, a veteran of the Crimean War, died in 1899. Newspaper reports of the time list some of the mourners at his funeral including William and Thomas LAWS, and William's son James. What was his connection with the Laws? Thomas Laws was later a schoolteacher at Gosforth and it is also known that Thomas Rixham had been a schoolteacher at Skelton in Cleveland, according to the 1891 Census. Are there any Rixham researchers who can make the connection with the Laws?

5743 Mrs EILEEN BURNETT, The Laurels, 28 Honeysuckle Way, Knightwood Lodge, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh, Hampshire SO53 4LR

Researching 1) Stephen FALP of Chester-le-Street, married 1746 Isabella Liddle in St Hilda's Church, South Shields. Children: Hannah 1765 died as a baby, Jane 1766-1780, Stephen 1769-1842. Isabella 1775, Hannah 1779-1781 and Jane 1782. Stephen married 1794 Mary Fenwick in St Hilda's and Isabella married 1795 Thomas ENTHWISTLE. Stephen had thirteen children most died in infancy, of those surviving children Mary 1799 married 1822 Edward HALL, Jane 1804 married 1845 Robert INGRAM, Anna 1807 married 1830 Thomas BROWELL, Stephen 1817 married Grace Cummins, and Margaret 1821-1873. 2) Researching URWIN family. James Urwin 1791 married 1815 Margaret THOMPSON in St Mary's Church Heworth. Children Margaret 1816-1817 Margaret 1818 William 1821-1871, James 1822, Robert 1826, Thomas 1827, George 1831, and David 1835. William married 1845 Ann Stephenson 1818-1876. They had three children Matthew 1846, William 1848-1909 and Robert 1850-1852. William married 1868 to Jane Elizabeth Falp 1848-1923, daughter of Stephen Falp. Would welcome any information from descendants of any of the above.

5790 Mrs MARION WEST, Ivy Mount, Welland Road, Hanley Swan, Worcester WR8 0DA

Seeking any descendants of George GREENWELL born 1852, 3 Durham City, eldest son of George Greenwell, grocer of Silver Street, Durham, and Barbara RUTHERFORD. George jnr married Ann WARDROPPER 1880 and they had six children. Dora, the eldest, married Ernest HIGGS. Their descendants may be in Canada. Also looking for descendants of John Greenwell, George's brother, born 1858 who was an architect living at Gosforth, Newcastle. Does anyone know the whereabouts of Framwellgate and Claypath Chapel 1850-60?

6035 WILLIAM C DOWSON, 5 Alma Avenue, Foulridge, Colne, Lancashire BB8 7NS

Any information on the following: John DOWSON, baptised 1787 Yarm, son of John; looking for mother's name. May have originated from Kirkclevington. John married 1806 to Ann WILLIAMSON of Brancepeth and they had six children: Esther Ann (1811); John (1813, died 1823 Howden le Wear); William (1816, married Margaret TWEDDLE 1846 at Tynemouth); Elizabeth (1818 Howden le Wear); Eleanor (1821 Howden le Wear); Margaret (1824 Howden le Wear) and Caroline (1837? Shildon). By the mid-1830s the family had moved to New Shildon to take over the Bay Horse Hotel. Looking for any information on Thomas RENNISON who married Eleanor Dowson and had five children living in Alnwick. Also, John Tweddle Dowson last known to be living in Darlington in 1881.

6471 Mrs P McPHERSON, 10 Bankside Court, Denny, Stirlingshire FK6 6HA

Can anyone help please with information on Mary Ann BATES and her daughter Martha Ann Bates? Martha was born 1862 at New Row, Elvet, Durham, and baptised at St Oswald's church; father unknown. Martha married George PILE from Branton Northumberland. George Pile and Sarah HENDERSON married at Alnwick 1786. Can anyone help with information on these two before this date? They were Presbyterians and both from Alnwick.

6485 Mrs MARGARET ROBSON, 7 St Andrew's Way, Tilmanstone, Deal, Kent CT14 0JH

On a photograph of Patrick LOWERY and Ellen (nee CARROLL) with four young girls, Patrick looks well set-up and dignified. If anyone has come across the Carroll family in their research, I'd be most grateful for any information. Particularly looking for a clue as to where in Ireland they came from. Would also be pleased to hear from any descendants of William and Mary COLLINSON. Mary's surname was HARKINSON (Norwegian derivation? HAAKENSEN?) and came from Glasgow. The family were in Tow Law but gravitated towards Hebburn on Tyne 1880-90s. Does anyone have information on Nellie (nee Collinson) and Thomas COULSON of Jarrow/Hebburn 1920s.

6711 PETER HOGG, Rosemount, Cresswell Road, Hartlepool, Cleveland TS26 0EG ([email: HOGGPETER832@cs.com](mailto:HOGGPETER832@cs.com))

Seeking information on the parents of John FRENCH and Elizabeth BELL who married at Dalton-le-Dale in 1838. John was born at Wolsingham, according to the 1891 Census, and was a mineral agent living at Bishopwearmouth at that time.

6864 Mrs JOAN VEAZEY, 92 Southfields, Letchworth, Hertfordshire SG6 4NA

Seeking descendants of Margaret SHILLINGLAW who married Robert LITTLE at Gateshead in 1868; Janet Shillinglaw who married Bryce BLAYLOCK at Newcastle in 1869; Ada Mina Shillinglaw who married John RAILTON at Newcastle in

1878; John Shillinglaw who married Mary Ann SUMNER c1869 Newcastle area; William Shillinglaw who married Margaret MARSHALL in 1879 at Newcastle. Also, any reference to Christina Shillinglaw, or any other Shillinglaws who originated from Melrose, Roxburgh.

7287 Mrs M ROCHFORD HYDE, Rose Court, 3 Deighton Grove Lane, Crockey Hill, York YO19 4SN

Searching for: 1) The birth/baptism and parents of Edward GREENHOW born Penrith c1791. He married Jane WOOD at St Peter's, Monkwearmouth in 1811. 2) The birth/baptism and parents of Hanibal SWALES c1750, "not born in the County" according to the 1841 Census for Great Aycliffe. 3) The birth or baptism of John Swales, son of Hanibal and his wife Hannah nee HALL c1775. He was "born in the County" on the 1841 Census for Great Aycliffe. 4) The marriage of John Swales to Mary ROSS of St Helen's, Auckland c1807. The Swales were potters and pot hawkers and travelled far and wide!

7349 Mrs DOROTHY M BELL, Hollybush, Laversdale, Irthington, Carlisle, Cumbria CA6 4PJ
([email: dmbell@hollybush98.freemove.co.uk](mailto:dmbell@hollybush98.freemove.co.uk))

Seeking information on: 1) John ROBSON born at Mickley, Prudhoe in 1873, son of John Robson and Bessy Anna HUNTER. 2) Joseph Foster LAMB who died at Bellingham in 1917. 3) William WAUGH, married Margaret DODD(S) of Greenhead c1860. 4) William DIXON born Roachburn, Cumbria 1884, coal miner, later of Haltwhistle, emigrated to Canada c1920.

7351 Mr E. STOREY, 48 Holbeck Avenue, Scarborough, North Yorkshire YO11 2XQ

Seeking any information on the ancestors and descendants of Thomas STOREY, mariner, born 1779, married Mary MOONE c1800 South Shields. Their children: Thomas 1801, Henry Moone 1803, John 1804, Robert 1810, all at Seaham Harbour except Thomas who was born South Shields. Thomas married at Sunderland to Sarah Ann BURNS, daughter of John Burns, mariner. Sarah also had a brother George. Also looking for information on the BLACK family of Newcastle. Archibald Strand Black, hairdresser on Westgate Road, Newcastle in 1884, his daughter Isabella married James RITCHIE, a machinist of Newcastle. Also information on the WALTON family of Rowlands Gill, Co Durham and Gateshead, particularly John Norman Walton who emigrated to Saskatchewan, Canada late 1920s to 1930, and was the son of John William Walton, butcher, and Mary Ann Storey who married Gateshead in 1909.

7409 SANDRA TRAPP, 16W668 Marybeth Court, Hinsdale, Illinois 60521, USA ([email: swt39@juno.com](mailto:swt39@juno.com))

Seeking information about Mary HARLE, born in Chester-le-Street in about 1830. She married George PAXTON in 1850 at St Peter's Church in Monkwearmouth. Her father was Thomas Harle.

7548 JOHN FORD, South Cast, Sheldwich, Faversham, Kent ME13 0LN

Looking for information on the following: 1) Thomas John McMULLEN born 1885 and lived at Chirton Hall Farm, North Shields before marrying Florrie KNOX of Chirton in 1913. He died 1916 at the Somme serving with the RGA and was buried at Albert. 2) Martin Wilson Knox born 1880 Chirton, North Shields but later lived in South Shields, son of James Knox and Phebe Jewels WRIGHT (1857-1882). 3) George LENNIE, lived at Chirton, married Annie Ethel Knox c1904; possibly a miner at Preston Pit. They had at least two children, Annie Ethel c1913 and George.

8201 Mr JN DAVISON, "Enfield", 100 Windy Nook Road, Gateshead NEW 9RH

Looking for help with the following. 1) John HETHERINGTON and Eleanor nee GLENDINNING shown on the 1851 Census living at High Street, Gateshead with daughter Margaret. John was born 1829 at Biggs Main, Wallsend; Eleanor believed to have been born at Kirklington 1829. 2) Would like to hear from anyone interested in DAVISON of North Sunderland pre-1770, especially anyone related to Adam Davison born Ewart and baptised at Wooler West Chapel 1766. Robert, his father, believed to have been baptised Alwinton. Robert married Isabella THOMPSON at Alwinton in 1764. Robert's father thought to have been William, born Kirkwhelpington. 3) Has anyone extracted the GRO Indexes up to 1900? Attempting a one name study of Davisons, and variants, for Northumberland.

8226 Mr RICHARD SPRINGALL, PO Box 92, Mt Eliza, Victoria 3930, Australia ([email: richanne@ozemail.com.au](mailto:richanne@ozemail.com.au))

Researching information on HAMILTON, McMANN, GUNN and MOON families generally in the Berwick upon Tweed area. Hugh Hamilton (shoe maker) baptised Berwick c1820 (died 1878 in Sunderland, son James, blacksmith, present at time). Hugh married Ellen McMann at Lamberton Toll in 1845. Known siblings Jane, Hannah, James, Elizabeth, Margaret Ellen, Anne, Mary Jane, and Hugh. Hugh had a shoe making business in Western Lane and later in High Street, Berwick. James may have been living at Lister Street, Pallion, Sunderland when his father died. William Hamilton married Sarah Gunn in 1892 whilst living at Watson St, Sunderland and later moved down to Essex. Sarah Gunn's father John was a coachman to Charles Duxford the ship builder. Hugh Hamilton's parents were James Hamilton and Hannah nee Moon. James was born in 1778 and when married was living in Shaw Lane, Berwick. He and his wife and some of their children died in the 1832 Cholera epidemic.

8709 CYRIL S RICKERBY, 5 Ashtree Gardens, Low Fell, Gateshead NE9 5BH

Would be pleased to receive any details of a John SMITH and his sister Eva, both probably born at Simonside or Tyne Dock, South Shields, and their parents. John Smith married Mary and they had a son, John, who died in South Africa. John Smith senior was probably born 1910-15, a blacksmith by trade who had a small business and lived in Boldon.

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

Seeking information on the CROOKS family who lived in Gateshead in the second half of 18th Century. George Crooks was a raff merchant - what is that? He and his wife Margaret had children: Mary (married Philip WILKINSON), Jane (married Joseph SCAFE), Margaret, Ann, Catherine, Edward and Elizabeth who married Thomas HUMBLE of Heworth in 1790. Thomas Humble was a viewer - can anyone help with that occupation? Thomas and Elizabeth moved to Washington where they had children: George, Margaret, Thomas, Edward, Elizabeth, Jane and John.

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

Seeking descendants/ ancestors of 1) Ellen HENDERSON, born c1826 Hartley, Northumberland, daughter of William Henderson. She married James Fairweather CUNNINGHAM at St John's, Newcastle in October 1844. 2) Joseph TODD of Wharton, parish of Newburn and his first wife Phillis; she died December 1789 at Ponteland. Also his second wife Mary TAYLOR, born c1772, married November 1791, died July 1802

at Dinnington and was buried at Ponteland. 3) Other names of interest: UEANS and variations, i.e. UWINS, EWINS, LEWINS, WEANS.

9243 Mrs PAT HANCOCKS, 309 Holyhead Road, Coundon, Coventry CV5 8JQ

Patrick GILLON, coalmine, in 1859 was living with his wife Mary nee HASSAN in Bedlington, Northumberland. This information is from the birth certificate of Catherine Gillon, their daughter, who later married Joseph RILEY. This was a second marriage. Does anyone have any further information.

9463 Mrs D WEATHERILL, 62 Thorganby Road, Cleethorpes, North East Lincolnshire DN35 0HH

Researching Leonard Percy DUNN and Eleanor Winifred SCOTT married January 1915 in Tynemouth - Leonard's father William Henzel Dunn, Eleanor's father William Osborne Scott. The marriage certificate states that Leonard was a commercial traveller - selling what? His father, an agent - what sort of agent? Did he work for his father? They eventually moved to London but not sure when, then went on to live in Majorca for about 9 years but when and why? Would welcome any information from anyone with a connection.

9473 Mr AD SCOTT, 2 Oakfield Road, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 2NE

Seeking descendants and information about the MOLE family who settled in the Shotley Bridge area in 1687, having immigrated from Germany, and helped to develop a sword making industry there. William Mole moved to the All Saints area of Newcastle in the 1820s and late, in the 1850s, Anthony and John Wilson Mole, his son and grandson, moved to the Elswick and Westgate areas where they established themselves as merchant tailors. In 1893 another Anthony Mole moved his family to Low Fell. Also seeking descendants and information on the SCOTT family, the earliest traced being James Scott, shepherd, christened 1774 at Warenford Presbyterian Church, Northumberland. His descendants included three generations of James Scotts christened at Branton and Warenford. Later, in the 1870s, most branches of the family (James, George, Ralph, Luke and Thomas) moved to Newcastle and Gateshead.

9486 HAROLD SHARPE, 9 Charlton Court Road, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL52 6JB
([email: Harold@jsharpe.freemove.co.uk](mailto:Harold@jsharpe.freemove.co.uk))

"Mad Jack" HALL of Otterburn, 'out' in the 1715 Jacobite Rising of 1715 was captured at Preston, tried in London and finally hung at Tyburn. Was he married and did he have any children? If so, who were they and what became of them? Also researching ROBINSON, river pilot, North Shields c1810.

9562 STELLA CANAVAN, 5 Lynes Drive, Langley Moor, Durham DH7 8LY

Researching and seeking parents and siblings of Michan (also known as Michael) CANAVAN born Ireland, married Hannah HOWE of Littleton in 1870. When his son Robert M. was born in 1872 Michan was a cinder drawer at Hamsteels. He had two other sons, John Thomas 1874 and Ralph 1876, who both died in 1889, and a daughter Mary Ann 1879. In 1895 the family lived at Sleetburn and in 1912/3 Michan died at Houghton-le-Spring.

9656 ROBERT NICHOL, Greenacre, High Biggins, Carnforth, Lancashire LA6 2NP

Does anyone know of a place name in the North Tyne area or thereabout c1800 which I have had difficulty in reading from an old document. It looks like either Printerburn/s or

Pristerburn/s. The nearest I have found is a Perterburn near Langholm, Dumfriesshire.

9709 Mr M STOCKER, 12 The Granaries, Scopwick, Lincolnshire LN4 3NJ ([email: mickstocken@barclays.net](mailto:mickstocken@barclays.net))

Seeking information on Walter HEAD; believed to have been born in 1837 at Newcastle (*Seaman's Discharge Certificates, and 1881 Census, no trace GRO*). His father was Thomas Head (*marriage certificate*), a farmer, not known where. He was at sea from 6 May 1856 to 26 November 1878. He married Louisa Ann HANWELL 1863 at Stepney. They had two sons, Walter and Arthur, the family home being in Poplar, London, although he was living/working in Norfolk in 1881.

9759 Mrs ISOBEL HISLOP, 6 Orangefield Street, Ipswich, Queensland 4305, Australia

Interest is in the ancestral lines of the families mentioned below and from the Northern Counties. Susanna ROBSON, 1851 Census Newcastle, widow aged 66, glove cleaner, born London. Son Arthur, agent, born Newcastle, bachelor; daughter Sussanna 32 married, yeoman's wife Gorn Diddon (?) Sunderland; daughter Mary, 36, Spinster, born Sunderland. 'Susanna's husband James apparently deceased. From 'Gri James Robson married Sussanna GRAY 1817, Kirklington Cumberland. Gray and GRAHAM appear in given names of later relatives. Records of James show occupations as shipbroker, agent, clerk, grocer, and inn keeper. Other children of James and Susanna, from records of the Society of Friends are: Ann Graham 1813, All Saints Newcastle; Jane 1816; Arthur Robson married Sarah MAUGHAN 1805 Newcastle. He died at Liddell Terrace, Gateshead 1864. Sarah Robson daughter of Joseph and Jane Maughan nee RITSON with five surviving children and her mother Jane born 1803 Allendale, daughter of Joseph Ritson migrated to Australia in 1867, following her brother Joseph and her two sisters Isabella and Mary.

9785 Mr KEITH A SKELTON, Roseleigh, Front Street, Burnopfield, Newcastle upon Tyne NE16 6PT

Searching for descendants of George SKELTON 1796-1870 and Eleanor POWNEY 1811-84 who lived at Hallgarth Street, Durham City, particularly Robert Bathie Skelton born 1889 who married Alice FENWICK born 1885, a widow maiden name of LAMB. Also, Eleanor/Ellen Skelton born 1895 who had three children: Elsie Phillips Skelton born 1914, Lillian Skelton 1917 and Margaret Skelton 1919, all in Hallgarth Street. Ellen married Earnest CADMAN in Newcastle 1922. They had a child Earnest Cadman born 1921. Robert Bathie and Ellen were children of William Skelton 1848-1912 and Elizabeth Ann Graham 1867-1920. Elizabeth had a tragic death in Durham 1920.

9824 PETER WOODHILL, 67 Beeches Drive, Erdington, Birmingham B24 0DT

Seeking information on the descendants of George WOODHILL, merchant seaman, born 1814, Sunderland; also "The Lady Photographer" late 19th Century, a photographic studio also based in Sunderland.

10089 ELSIE JOHNSON, 21 Richmond Court, Low Fell, Gateshead NE9 5JG ([email: POLLY@lc167jay.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:POLLY@lc167jay.fsnet.co.uk))

Searching for the birth and marriage of Robert COOK, glassmaker. Wife Mary; known children: John 1834 and Michael 1835 born Gateshead; Richard 1837, George 1839 and Thomas Nicholson 1841 born Portobello, Scotland; Elizabeth c1843, Mary Jane c1845 and Ann 1847 born Gateshead. It is not known whether Robert Cook was born and/or married in the Portobello region of Edinburgh or elsewhere.

10118 Mrs SM CARLESS, 3 Silverdale Glade, Ecclesall, Sheffield S11 9JQ

Researching the parents and families of: 1) Mary ANDAS, born c1840 Gateshead, married Joseph ARMSTRONG 1866 at Hartlepool. 2) Jacob CARRICK, married 1803 Hexham, and his wife Elizabeth BELL. 3) Hauxley GREENER, born 1774, married 1801, both at Ryton, and his wife Elizabeth CANT. 4) Margaret MARSHALL, born 1822 Hartlepool, married Joseph Armstrong 1842 at Hartlepool.

10192 JAN MIDDLE, 11 Barton Close, Cheltenham GL53 9HS
([email: jan.middle@btinternet.com](mailto:jan.middle@btinternet.com))

Researching PROUD/PEART in Weardale, Co Durham. Would welcome information re: Nicholas Peart (1864-1899), from Stripe Head, Barnhope. Worked abroad for a while & returned and married Alice, from West Blackdene. They had a family, but the only name I have is Roxanne Nicholas died at the age of 35 years. Alice then married William FEATHERSTONE and had a further family. Roxanne went by the name of Peart and/or Featherstone.

10268 Mr IAN SELBY, 25 Knightsbridge Gardens, Romford, Essex RM7 9AD

Would be grateful to receive any information on the descendants or relatives of Henry GREATHEAD born 1757, died 1816, life boat builder at South Shields.

10302 Mrs VALERIE STONES, 14 Blvd. Des Tranchees, Geneva 1206, Switzerland ([email: v.stones@infomaniak.ch](mailto:v.stones@infomaniak.ch))

Searching for ancestors and descendants of Thomas CARRICK, born c1813 Hexham, and his wife Susana HAMILTON, born c1815, also at Hexham. Also: 1) Relatives of Jacob Carrick and Elizabeth BELL who married Hexham 1803. 2) Mary DOWNING born c1815 Stella, Co Durham who married at Hexham 1841 to James GREENER born 1815. 3) Hauxley Greener born 1774 Ryton and his wife Elizabeth CANT born 1775 Slaley who married 1801 at Ryton.

10338 Mrs SUSAN MILLER, 8 Mitchley Avenue, Purley, Surrey CR8 1EA

Would like to learn more about the school that was attached to St Bede's, Jarrow where her grandmother, born 1902, attended.

10349 Mr R NICHOLSON, 60 Haddon Crescent, Chilwell, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 5JR

Seeking information regarding the marriage of George NICHOLSON and Fanny/Frances BURTON. Their son Henry was born March 1848 at Great Driffield, Yorkshire.

10482 ISABEL MORRELL, 60 Oldfield Drive, Heswall, Wirral CH60 9HF ([email: Imorrell@Talk21.com](mailto:Imorrell@Talk21.com))

Seeking information on Ralph and Ann DUNN. Their children were born at Netherwitton (Mary 1765; Catherine 1766; Thomas 1769, Matthew 1771; John 1775 and Ralph 1779) but unable to trace their marriage or births. Ralph was a stonemason. Matthew, mason, married Elisabeth MacDOUGAL (from Simonburn or Bellingham) c1796 and their children were also born at Netherwitton: Mary 1798; Matthew 1801; Ralph 1803; David 1806, died aged 4 years; David 1810 and Thomas 1817. David married Isabella WANLACE c1842, daughter of Lancelot and their children born Netherwitton: Elizabeth 1843; Mary 1845; Matthew 1847; Lancelot 1849; Sarah Jane 1851; Robert 1853, died 1856. David was also a mason. Isabella's birthplace is given on later Censuses as Longframlington but a baptism has not been found.

10538 DAVID THORNTON BOLT, Image House, Waskerley Road, Washington, Tyne and Wear NE38 8ET

([email: david.bolt@bun.com](mailto:email:david.bolt@bun.com))

Seeking information regarding the following: BEACONSFIELD comprising of large house, and within the grounds were a lodge and a gatehouse. Beaconsfield was situated on Grand Parade at Cullercoats, between the Church and Tynemouth Park and directly opposite Bear's Head Rock. The house was owned by Mr and Mrs Robert Thornton Bolt until c1934, then used by Dr Banardos as a children's home until about 1953. Did you work or know of anyone who worked for the Bolt family? Do you know the people who lived in the Lodge or the Gatehouse? Do you know any or know of anyone who may have photographs of Beaconsfield?

V RU . MW 16 Wyndways Drive, Dipton, Tameley; Co Durham DH9 9JQ

Interests: The DOWNING family of Newcastle and Gateshead. Cornelius Dowling, born 1844 Gateshead, son of Joseph and Roseanna; where were they in 1851 and 1861? Also Benjamin CLARK(E), born Birtley 1846 married Mary BELL, but where? Unable to trace the marriage of Elizabeth AINSLEY and Thomas JOB SON before 1871. Elizabeth and Thomas' places of birth are Lanchester on the 1871 Census but on the 1881 Census Thomas' is shown as Northumberland. Also interested in the BIRTLEY family of Dipton and ROBSON of Quarrington Hill (1840s and 50s).

10713 VERNE ROBSON, 997 Crown Isle Drive, Courtenay, British Columbia, Canada V9N 8R5

([email: vrobson@mars.ark.com](mailto:email:vrobson@mars.ark.com))

Seeking information on Thomas ROBSON who married Isabella HEAVISIDE in Jarrow 1804. They could have had several children including Thomasina Clark Robson, christened 1822 in Newcastle and is believed to have married Hugh CLARK in 1838; Elizabeth who married a WATSON in 1838, and a son Thomas. Thomas married Ann FULTHORPE in 1846 and I know of only two of their children, Isabella and Robert (my grandfather), born 1847 in North Shields. I understand the family followed trades related to shipbuilding, and in the 1881 census both Thomas and his son Robert are listed as engine fitters, living on Ann Street, Bill Quay, Heworth. Robert married Margaret Clark, daughter of George and Mary Clark, and built a store in Bill Quay in 1884. Was a Lay Minister in the Wesleyan church for many years.

10714 Mrs MARGARET OLEY, 145 Hampton Road, Chingford, London E4 8NS ([email: oley@oley.freemove.co.uk](mailto:email:oley@oley.freemove.co.uk))

Seeking any information on the OLEY family who came over from Germany in the 1600s and settled at Shotley Bridge. I have put together quite a large piece of the family, and am now 'branching' out; any information useful but am especially interested in any Peter Oley or John Oley information, possibly from South Shields. I am also able to visit the FRC in London about once a month and will happily order certificates for anyone who wants them.

10749 SHEILA REYNOLDS, 137 Marescroft Road, Slough, Berkshire SL2 2LN

Can anyone help with information regarding mother's family of HARSANT; she was born Ashington. It is said that her father was born in North Shields and not allowed to fight in WWI because of his nationality. He may have been born aboard ship coming from Norway.

10752 Mrs JEANNE WAUGH, 44 Chelmsford Street, Tamworth, New South Wales 2340, Australia
([email: rwjtw@tpgi.com.au](mailto:email:rwjtw@tpgi.com.au))

Seeking any information and descendants of John Ridley Ogle JARRETT, coal miner and his wife Margaret THOMPSON. My

mother in law - Miriam Jarrett born 1912, at Cleveland Street, South Shields, was their daughter. Miriam died in 1990 at Great Ayton. Son Richard Jarrett born 1905 married Edwardene ROBERTS and they emigrated to Australia in 1930s; Richard died 1986. The family lost contact with the other son John

10779 Mr L SEARSON, 4 Hazeldene, Farnah Green, Belper, Derbyshire DE56 2UP

Seeking any information on Nicodemus DUNN, son of William Dunn, born 1849 Seaham Harbour. He is named as Nicholas on the marriage certificate April 1871 to Hannah DUKE, born Newbottle 1850, daughter of William Duke. They had children, Martha, William, Margaret, Nicodemus and Hannah on the 1881 Census.

10780 Mrs MARGARET STIMPSON, 6 Mulberry Close, Wingerworth, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S42 6QE

Seeking information of John HENDERBY, father of John Henderby born 1786 at Greshams Folly, Norham who later lived at Church Lane, Tweedmouth (1841 Census). It is thought that Greshams Folly is now The Plough, Allerdean. Information of John Henderby senior's wife, parents and siblings please. The Henderby family moved to Berwick between the 1851 and 1861 Censuses.

10837 Mrs J JACKSON, 64 Mill Beck Lane, Cottingham, Hull HU16 4EU

Seeking information on Henry HOAD, born Blyth 1833, married Mary MOFFAT, born Newcastle 1843. Also, descendants of George BRIGGS, wife Minnie, of Higham Place, soda water manufacturer, died Newcastle Infirmary November 1908 aged 57 years and buried in St Andrew's Cemetery.

10844 Mrs SR LOWE, 1 Ravensworth Road, Hyde Park, Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN1 2AS

Jacob George KYLE born Crook 1878 married Lucy BROWN 1906 Willington, Co Durham. He served in WWI then divorced; whereabouts after 1919 not known. Where did he die? Mary Hannah Kyle born 1874 Crook married SMITH and had a daughter May Smith. Are there any descendants? Elizabeth HETHERINGTON born c1817 Nenthead married Anthony Dodd Brown 1842 at Nenthead; father Thomas. Any information appreciated. Seeking the marriage of William JOHNSON, born Stanhope c1820, and Jane GARR, born Ferryhill c1816. Their children: John born c1835, Charles c1839, Ralph 6845, William 1846 and Thomas 1849. It may have been Jane's second marriage.

10867 Mrs CAROL ROBSON, 20 Thirlmere Crescent, Normanby, Cleveland TS6 0EU

Interests include: BAINBRIDGE of Greatham, Co Durham 19th C; COOK of Co Durham 19th C; FELTON of Newcastle 20th C; and, ROBSON and CRUDDAS of Sedgfield, Co Durham 19th C.

10886 Mrs MAUREEN J HEARNE, 4 Buckmans Road, West Green, Crawley, West Sussex RH11 7DW

Seeking information on the family of Mary GRAHAM born 1848 and living at York Street, Byker, Newcastle in 1851. Also information regarding Mary Margaret PRICE nee Graham; date and place of birth not known but died London c1920. Mary had siblings - Thomas and Elizabeth.

10899 Mrs PM YOUNG, 14 Shelton Avenue, East Ayton, Scarborough, North Yorkshire YO13 9HB-
([email: pam.yowlg@yol139hb.freemove.co.uk](mailto:pam.yowlg@yol139hb.freemove.co.uk))

Researching Mans(e)field RICHARDSON, father of Jane Richardson. Hp was dereasprL415 the time of Jane's marriage to George HEPPLEWHITE in August 1872 at Trinity Church, Pellon, Co Durham. One of the witnesses is also Mans(e)field Richardson, possibly Jane's brother? Also researching ancestors of George Hepplewhite, born October 1844 at Beamish, son of John Hepplewhite and mother Mary POTTS.

10911 JOAN M HARRISON, 4800 Robin Hood Road, Ashland, Kentucky 41101, USA ([email: joan@wwd.net](mailto:joan@wwd.net))

Seeking the siblings and their descendants of Thomas GOODFELLOW and Margaret TAYLOR. Thomas was born in 1859 in Alnwick and Margaret was born in 1859 in Chevington Woodside, Northumberland. They emigrated to the US c1907/8, along with their nine children. Thomas's parents were James Goodfellow and Ellen Taylor; Margaret's parents were Thomas Taylor and Jane HORSLEY. I have no information on their siblings, but know that they each had some. This couple returned to Northumberland c1913 and stayed for several years, before returning to the US. Most of the children of Thomas and Margaret were born in Chevington Woodside, but Grandmother also spoke of living in North Broomhill and Pegswood, as well as Ashington and Morpeth. I would like to hear from anyone connected with this family.

10914 MARY ALICE W BORER, 14 Gibson Place, Washington, New Jersey 07882, USA ([email: borer@bellatlantic.net](mailto:borer@bellatlantic.net))

Great great grandparents Andrew COWAN and Marjorie Jackson Cowan were born Durham (city or county?) and had four sons and two daughters, one, Ann, was born Newcastle in 1855. Andrew took the family to America where Marjorie died en route to Missouri. Two of the sons returned to England, possibly to Durham or Northumberland. The daughter Ann married in Missouri but after a couple of years returned to England with two sons and her sister. She lived in England from c1877 to 1882, presumably with, or near, her brothers. She married again to John DUCKWORTH, probably at St Peter's, Stockton-on-Tees. Ann and John later returned to New Jersey and had three daughters.

HELP OFFERED

8484 JOHN SKELDON, 2 Sherborne Grove, York YO32 5BG
([email: john@jskeldon.freemove.co.uk](mailto:john@jskeldon.freemove.co.uk))

I have some interesting World War I information about Cpl., latterly, Sgt Joe WEIGHELL possibly at one time serving with the Royal Artillery in France. I think he would be about 35 years of age in 1918 and therefore born c1883 and may have come from the Monkwearmouth, Sunderland area, possibly Bloomfield Street although I have no proof of this. If anyone is interested perhaps they will contact me.