

THE JOURNAL OF THE  
NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM  
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Vol 3 No 1

October 1977

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## EDITORIAL

The appeal for criticism of the Journal, made in the previous issue, has met with little response. The general editorial policy will therefore continue unchanged. What few comments were received, however, were concerned with the theme of locating information in back numbers of the Journal. One member asked for a cumulative index and another wanted articles to be arranged to make it easier for them to be filed separately. Both requirements could probably be partly met if the scope of the present annual index were to be increased to include places, articles, etc. Since the work of compiling the index as it is at present (see page 25) is as much as the Editor can handle on top of the routine work of producing the Journal each quarter, a volunteer would be required to undertake any extra indexing work. If any member, preferably one living in the County Durham or Tyne & Wear area, can help will he or she please contact the Editor. It is intended that the present indexes shall be cumulative in the sense that after a number of years - perhaps ten - all those existing can be conflated together to produce one overall index. To do this after only two or three years, however, would defeat the purpose of making Journal searches easier for future members, so the idea must remain in the planning stage for some time yet.

Following up the item on 1813-1837 marriage indexes in the last issue, member no 121, Mr P.R. Joiner, Greystones, The Spital, Yarm, Cleveland, TS15 9EX, tells us he is currently compiling just such an index to cover the south of County Durham. Parishes now included are Eaglescliffe, Middleton St George, Coniscliffe, Denton, Winston, Whorlton, Staindrop, Cockfield, Heighington, Houghton le Skerne, Sadberge and Long Newton. The Editor's NW Durham marriage index now covers Ryton, Winlaton, Whickham, Tanfield, Medomsley, Ebchester and Muggleswick, with Lanchester being added. Each of these indexes contains some 1500 marriages and readings may be obtained from the respective compilers for the cost of return postage.

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## SECRETARY'S JOTTINGS

Members will wish to note that Tyne & Wear Record Office has now moved from the Pilgrim Street premises. The address is now Tyne & Wear County Council, Archives Dept, W. Blandford Str, Newcastle. (Telephone: 0632-26789)

The Federation of Family History Societies has recently published the first issue of "Family History News and Digest", a new regular publication devoted to news items from all over the country which has a useful "digest" section with brief notes on articles of interest appearing in family history and other journals. This issue lists no less than 338 of them, covering every conceivable aspect of the subject. It is available from me for 75p post paid in UK, \$2 overseas (US equivalent) post paid sea mail.

There are over seventy societies such as ours in the Federation, and newer members may not be aware that there are Societies in every part of the UK. I can supply details of any of them (SAE please). North American members might like to note that there is now a Federation of Family History Societies in the USA. For information about Societies and Groups, write to PO Box 743, Midlothian, Illinois 60445, USA.

Parish registers sometimes turn up in the strangest places! Some years ago, an English register was bought in a New York bookshop and now it has happened again! The Baptism Register of the Presbyterian Church at Ireshopeburn in Weardale, 1784-1822, appeared for sale recently in a London auction. I am pleased to say it is now in Durham County Record Office (ref D/X 517/1). A transcript is being made and by the time you read this it should be in the hands of our librarian, Dr M.E. Wilson.

# MORE STRAYS?

## T. Chilvers

We continue with Mr Chilvers' list of persons, mainly from north Northumberland, who were resident in Hartlepool at the time of the 1851 census. It seems we may have stumbled upon a scandal in California! Was John Dagliesh separated from his wife and only "living with" Margaret? Was his real wife not the Jane left behind in Northgate Street?

149 California				
John COULTHARD	Head	26	Engineer	Billingham
Jane do	Wife	22		Tweedmouth
Mary do	Dau	3mo		Hartlepool
198 California				
John GARDNER	Head	45	Mariner	Sunderland
Martha do	Wife	38		Berwick
203 California				
John DAGLIESH	Head	48	Master Mariner	Sunderland
Margaret do	-	51		Scotland
Alice do	Dau	22		Berwick
Mary Ann do	Dau	19		do
Margaret do	Dau	13		do
Isabel do	Dau	10		London
209 California				
Ann OGLE	Dau	5		Berwick
262 California				
Christopher HOLMES	Head	26	Engine fitter	Ouston (Du)
Jane do	Wife	21		Shotton
Mary do	Dau	4mo		Hartlepool
79 Northgate Street				
William PAYNE	Head	29	Dock Labourer	Berwick
Sarah do	Wife	28		do
Ellen do	Dau	4		do
Frances do	do	2		do
84 Northgate Street				
Jane DAGLIESH	Head	50	Master Mariner's wife	Berwick
Christopher do	Son	21	Grocer's asst.	Tweedmouth
Mary Ann do	Dau	16		do
Thomas WEATHERSTONE	Lodger	27	Baker	Norham
William DICK	do	46	do	Rothbury
David LYALL	do	46	Mariner	Scotland
85 Northgate Street				
George PATTERSON	Head	29	Bread Baker	Berwick
Mary do	Wife	23		Alnwick
76 Sunnyside				
George RIDLEY	Head	27	Agric. Labourer	Middleton-one-Row
Isabella do	Wife	40		Ancroft
121 Commercial Road				
Thomas SHYVERT	Boarder	33	Dock Labourer	Sheffield (Yorks)
Margery do	Wife	34		Berwick

WILLIAM GRECIAN, SURGEON, OF SUNDERLAND

W. Neil

William Grecian,<sup>1</sup> LSA, Surgeon, practised in Sunderland from 1829 to 1846.<sup>2</sup> His term of residence and practise in the town saw the introduction of the National School and the British School systems, the Cholera Epidemic of 1831, the medical scandal in Edinburgh involving Burke and Hare (at which he was present), the setting up of a Board of Health and subsequent assessment of the town's sanitary conditions, the introduction of the railways and the start of the influx of large numbers of migrant Irish into the area. Turbulent times indeed, all of these events were to affect, permanently, some aspect of life in the town and, perhaps, were only to be expected in a century made up of rapid and dramatic change.

Born into a family of cabinet-makers and joiners he was able to leave this occupation behind and, with the assistance of his Uncle John, also a surgeon, embark on a career in medicine. His parents, Thomas Grecian, a cabinet maker,<sup>3</sup> and Mary (née Moore), had three children and in 1802 lived in Robinson Lane in Sunderland.<sup>4</sup> This lane ran from an archway between 68 and 69 High Street to Trinity Place, its east side next to Sailors Alley was not so good as its west side, writes Corder, but the rates were generally high and equal to other streets, such as Vine and Burleigh, with a lot of good ship and property owners living there (and in 1929 a few of the old three-storey houses were still standing).<sup>5</sup> Thomas and Mary had their first child while living in Robinson Lane but unfortunately George Grecian lived only 10 days and died on 12 August 1803.<sup>6</sup> A year later the couple had another child, Dorothy, and she was born on 16 November 1804.<sup>6</sup> It was over two years later that William Grecian was born on 29 December 1806 and his parents had him baptised in the nonconformist chapel of The Scotch Church, Maling's Rigg, on 19 January 1807.<sup>6</sup>

It was in the very year of William's birth, that an event which must have amounted to a tragedy, struck the small family. Thomas Grecian died. The cause of his death is not recorded but in order to be allowed to take possession of her husband's belongings Mary had to go through the procedure of obtaining, from the Bishop of Durham, the necessary letters of Administration. The sum involved was £190,<sup>3</sup> which was not, even by the most optimistic projection, a great deal of money even for those times on which to support a family of three for very long.

William Grecian's education probably commenced around the year 1812, although how the family was able to provide for such a thing is not known, perhaps his mother (still a widow) was able to earn sufficient income at some occupation or, very unlikely, perhaps a benefactor helped out. A more likely explanation, and here it must be observed that there are very few records of education in Sunderland for this period, is that facilities were available at certain schools for the education of the children of widows. Such an establishment was the Friends School founded in 1768 by Mr Edward Walton for the education and apprenticing of children of the Society of Friends and also for other children whose mothers were "respectable widows".<sup>7</sup> Located in Vine Street the school could take 20 children and the master received "£20 per annum and £5.10s for the rent of chambers, out of which the premises are to be kept in repair, and books occasionally given". This was only one of 23 schools in Bishopwearmouth parish. In the actual parish of Sunderland, however, William Grecian could have attended one of the 45 schools located there teaching a total of 1667 children. By far the largest of these was the "Subscription School", containing, by 1819, a total of 558 boys and girls all taught (on the "monitorial" system) by one master at £100 per annum and one mistress at £40 per annum, at a cost of one penny per week

to those children who could afford it. On the other side of the river in Monkwearmouth there were facilities for the education of 400 children by nine masters and five mistresses.<sup>8</sup> The Subscription School did not receive very good reports and the amount of knowledge imparted to the children appeared to be very low, hence it would be reasonable to assume that a preparation for subsequent university education could not be obtained in that institution. While the schools in the parish of Sunderland in 1812 were neither 'National', 'Dame' nor 'British and Foreign'<sup>8</sup> it is certain that, wherever William Grecian was educated, the school which taught him must have been of a fairly high standard for the period, bearing in mind his later courses in medicine at Edinburgh and his examinations in London.

At the age of nearly nine years, on 30 September 1815, something happened which was surely to dictate, more than any other single event, the future course of William Grecian's life. William Grecian's father had four sisters and one of these, Mary Grecian, (William Grecian's Aunt Mary) married John Craig, later Surgeon, on that day.<sup>4</sup> It is not known what part he played in influencing (or in being influenced) young William Grecian's development, during which time he and his mother were living in Queen Street,<sup>5</sup> but some degree of mutual interest and liking must have developed between the two, for on 15 January 1823 William Grecian joined his Uncle John Craig as an indentured apprentice aged 16 years.<sup>9</sup> John Craig himself was a young man, having only qualified as an apothecary five years prior to this date.<sup>9</sup>

In the late summer of 1827, some four years after starting his apprenticeship, William Grecian enrolled for a course of study at Edinburgh University,<sup>10</sup> then the most important centre for medical teaching and research in the country, drawing students from all over the British Isles. On arrival in Edinburgh he found lodgings and made his way to the university where he signed the Matriculation Roll<sup>10</sup> and joined the first year of the Medical course, paying the necessary 10 shillings (50p.) enrolment fee. A stay of only a year in Edinburgh, which included extramural studies in medicine, was to provide sufficient tuition material to satisfy the entrance requirements of The Society of Apothecaries which he entered the following year, and he thus left university without having stayed long enough to have taken a degree. Perhaps financial considerations dictated his course of action.

It was customary in Edinburgh for medical students to attend external lectures, in addition to those given at the university. Two such courses available outside the university and taken by William Grecian were on the 'Anatomy and Physiology of the Human Body', to be presented by the famous Robert Knox. Knox gave the first course at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, 4 November, and the evening course on 11 November at 6 p.m.<sup>11</sup> The courses ran until the following summer, the fee for the first was £3 5s. (£3.25) and for the second £2 4s. (£2.20), or £5 9s. (£5.45) for both. It was pointed out that the courses of lectures qualified for examination before the various colleges and boards and that 'Certificates of Attendance' would be provided.<sup>11</sup>

In his invitation to attend the lectures Knox's promise, to "as usual comprise a full Demonstration on Fresh Anatomical Subjects"<sup>11</sup> was an ominous foreboding of the impending storm of horror about to break in Edinburgh.

The demonstrations were given by Knox at 10 Surgeon's Square, Edinburgh, and this is the location to which William Grecian must have made his way in order to supplement his other lectures at the University. Probably the best known lecturer on his subject at the time, and such was his fame, that Knox used to attract student classes of up to five hundred daily, obliging him to deliver each day's lecture thrice, to three different classes on the same subject and day. Classes of this frequency obviously necessitated a constant supply of "Fresh Anatomical Subjects".<sup>11</sup>

It seems that "body snatching" or "resurrection" was a common method of obtaining subjects for the anatomist's table and accordingly Knox employed the services of two Irishmen to ensure his supply of material. The men so employed were the infamous Burke and Hare, who overstepped the already unacceptable practise of grave robbing to embark on a short but sharp career of murder in order to maintain the continuity of cadavers.

William Grecian joined the class in the autumn of 1827 and on 29 November 1827 Burke and Hare sold to Dr Knox the body of their first murdered victim.<sup>11</sup> The murders continued for almost exactly twelve months and covered the exact year and lecture theatre attended by William Grecian, hence it must be almost certain that the corpses upon which he saw performed (and himself performed? - for an additional fee of three guineas a student would be provided with a subject upon which he could work) the dissections, were those of people dispatched by Burke and Hare. Arrested on 2 November 1828 Burke was hanged, Hare went free (turning King's evidence) and Dr Knox was not tried. There were riots in Edinburgh on 12 February 1829<sup>11</sup> and in 1832 the Anatomy Act was passed which put an end to all secret sources of supply to the anatomical schools. Dr Knox died in Hackney in London in 1862 and is buried in Brookwood Cemetery (near Woking, Surrey) in Eastern Avenue near Chapel Avenue, the (renewed) headstone reads simply "Robert Knox, Anatomist, 1792-1862".

William Grecian attended other courses in Edinburgh that year in addition to the two on Anatomy and Physiology. The third course on the Theory and Practice of Medicine was presented by Mackintosh and this was also external to the university, an indication that a good deal of the medical expertise lay in private non-teaching establishment hands. William Grecian did, however, take two courses at the university, one being on Chemistry and the other on Materia Medica. As well as these five lecture courses he also found time in between to attend the Royal Infirmary at Edinburgh for six months.

He left Edinburgh in the May or June of 1828 and travelled back to Sunderland to prepare for the longer journey to London where he was to face the examinations at Apothecaries' Hall. After what must have been a long and expensive coach journey he arrived in London in time to present himself for examination at Apothecaries' Hall on 17 July 1828. The 'Hall' still stands at the top of Apothecary Street in the City of London. The fifth student (or apprentice) to be examined that day he was seen, examined and approved by Mr Baron.<sup>12</sup> He had to provide documentary evidence to substantiate his application and the Society demanded proof of his Apprenticeship Indenture; a Testimonial of Moral Character, in this case from John Craig, the man to whom he was apprenticed; Evidence of Age ('birth certificate'); and lastly, proof of attendance at medical courses and hospital.

All of these requirements were apparently satisfied for he was granted his 'Certificate to practise as an Apothecary', and it must have been a very pleased William Grecian who left Apothecaries' Hall that day. As a newly qualified 'Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries' (LSA) perhaps he, with some fellow jubilants, retired to the handy hostelry just around the corner, famous then, as the haunt (many years prior) of Dr Johnston, and just as famous now. 'The Cheshire Cheese' appears to have changed little over the centuries and it is easy to imagine those students celebrating there 150 years ago, especially with the aid of Marstons' pedigree.

Formalities over he travelled back to Sunderland to practise (as described in trade directories) as a fully qualified surgeon (and this was the normal method of describing oneself). His mother must have been, if possible, more elated than he, the widow of a joiner she now had, as a son, a surgeon with his own practice.

Some time during the year following his graduation William Grecian met his future wife, Catherine Rand, also aged 23 years, who may have been working in Sunderland away from her home in Bishop Middleham where she was born on 10 July 1806.<sup>13</sup> It is possible to be married either by the calling of banns for three Sundays in the parish church; or by licence, which enabled the couple to be married at a church of their choice without any public announcements being involved. William Grecian and Catherine Rand chose to be married by licence in the parish of her birthplace, Bishop Middleham, on the first of March 1829.<sup>14</sup>

After the marriage the couple returned to Sunderland where he started up his medical practice in earnest. Their first place of residence was at a dwelling on the corner of Flag Lane and 24 High Street,<sup>2</sup> known initially as "The Shades Inn". With deeds to the inn going back to 1705 it was subsequently rebuilt and was a fairly good Georgian type of three storey building with broad stone string course and circular upper windows. In 1820 the name was changed to "The Half Moon" and by 1827 the living quarters had been split into two small shops, number 24 being a tobacconist and number 24a a clockmaker.<sup>5</sup> William Grecian was to use number 24 as his address for four years. Stage carriers were also running from this inn to Houghton-le-Spring, etc., during this period, but by 1847 its name had reverted to the Shades Inn.<sup>5</sup>

Their first child was born on 21 December 1829 and he was named after his grandfather, Thomas Grecian, and was baptised in Sunderland parish church.

In October 1831 the cholera epidemic arrived in Sunderland,<sup>15</sup> and the medical men of the town were called upon to exert themselves to a greater degree than they had ever done before. Very rarely can the services of those newly qualified be required as suddenly and urgently in an event of national importance as was the case with William Grecian. He quickly found himself as deeply involved in the outbreak as his older colleagues, and it was not long before his recently acquired skill in anatomical dissection was sought after. The first cholera victim died on 17 October 1831 and by the time the town was declared free of it, only three months later, on 9 January 1832, 215 people had died in Sunderland.<sup>16</sup> One such victim, treated by William Grecian, was Susanna Clark,<sup>17</sup> aged 18 years, living in Maude's Court, High Street; the house where she lived adjoined the premises of the gas works, and the character of many of the houses in the court was bad. The girl resided with her aunt and uncle and the three occupied two rooms, which were decently furnished and clean, on the second storey of the house. On Monday, 5 December, about 5.00 in the evening the girl complained of pains, William Grecian was called and he gave her hot water flannels, brandy, laudanum, capsicum and ammonia in half a pint of camphorated water, removing also four ounces of blood from her arm.<sup>18</sup> She seemed to have recovered by Tuesday morning, but sank again and died at 8 p.m. on Wednesday. It was decided to hold a post mortem examination and permission was sought, and with some difficulty obtained, from the aunt and uncle, but only upon the condition that it was done that night. Accordingly, three hours after death, between 11 p.m. and midnight, William Grecian embarked upon his unpleasant task. He was unable, however, to carry out a full examination of certain parts owing to the number of persons who had crowded into the room, but he did submit a full report of the proceedings to various interested parties.

Prior to eventual acceptance by the medical body that 'Asiatic' Cholera was definitely present in the town, strenuous attempts were made to deny its existence.<sup>19</sup> William Grecian was no exception, although perhaps his views may be regarded with a little more kindness because of his youth and lack of experience; it would have taken either a foolish young man or a very brave one to have flown in the face of establishment opinion and risk ostracism in



his own town. Even J.B. Kell, a widely travelled army surgeon and resident in the town, who recognised the disease for what it was, was not thanked for disagreeing with local opinion. The Sunderland Herald reported a series of meetings on 12 November 1831, and at one of these, which took place after 7 p.m. on that date, the doctors and surgeons each made a personal statement regarding the pestilence and no doubt to expose any there who might not be in common agreement with the majority. William Grecian agreed with the others and he felt able to state in person "That we never have had one case of Asiatic, foreign, or contagious cholera of any kind".<sup>20</sup> The meeting duly passed a resolution to this effect and issued a public poster which attempted to allay the fears of the populace with an explanation; and the names of those present at that meeting appeared on the poster, including that of William Grecian.<sup>21</sup>

All things pass, however, including cholera, which went on to ravage and decimate the rest of the Kingdom, and December 1832 found the town in the midst of an election - its first after the town was made a parliamentary borough by the 1832 Reform Act. William Grecian's abode was of sufficient value to allow him a vote and the choice lay between Chaytor, Barrington, Thompson and Barclay. He voted for the two successful candidates, Chaytor and Barrington, the final state of the poll being Chaytor 697 votes, Barrington 525, Thompson 392 and Barclay 404. William Grecian was one of 2018 people who voted in that poll.<sup>22</sup>

1832 also saw the addition to the family of a second child, Mary Jane. Catherine was born in 1833 and two years later Margaret Rand Grecian arrived. They were still at the High Street address in 1834, but between then and 1841 they moved to Zion Street. Their fifth child, a boy, named William, was born in 1839.<sup>23</sup> William Grecian's move of address placed him outside those eligible to vote in the elections held in 1837 and 1841.

The introduction of the personalised census in 1841 found the family in Zion Street and they appear to have been the sole occupants of the house. William Grecian continued to work at his profession, as is evidenced by entries in the various trade and medical directories, and within three years had moved again to 34 Church Street. Named after the parish church which stands at its southern extremity, Church Street still has a handful of the original houses. Number 34 was only pulled down as recently as 1932, being a low three storey house with rough casting to the exterior walls and a pantile roof, situated between two inns, the Black Lion in Church Street and the Commercial Tavern in the High Street.<sup>5</sup>

William Grecian had made several long journeys in his life time, of which we know, and perhaps some that we do not, but on 28 October 1846, at the age of 40 years,<sup>24</sup> he took the longest journey of all, that from which we never return. After an illness of several weeks, during which time he was nursed in Nile Street by Eleanor Reay, he passed away, and was carried from his last address at Church Street to his final address on this earth in the churchyard of Holy Trinity Church, there to join at least ten of his forebears.<sup>4</sup> He was to be followed three years later by his younger son, William, who, at the age of 10 years, died of a similar ailment in 1849.<sup>24</sup>

With William Grecian's death, the bid by the family to elevate itself in terms of education, self sufficiency and socially, also died, and the responsibility of supporting the family fell upon the mother who was able to set up in practice as a midwife.<sup>25</sup>

#### REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup> For an indication of the derivation of the very unusual name of GRECIAN see P.H. Reaney, A Dictionary of British Surnames, which lists: Grecia (Westmorland 1201 AD), Gration, Grayson (York 1426 AD), Grason (York 1542 AD), Grayshan, Grashon, Graysoun, Greenson, Greson (both Lancs 1637). See



also Durham Protestations 1642 (pub. 1922), Greeson, Grezon, Greceson.

<sup>2</sup> Medical and Trade Directories, e.g., Medical Directory 1847, Royal College of Surgeons; Burnett, Sunderland Directory, 1831, Sunderland Public Library.

<sup>3</sup> Administration Bond, 1807, Durham University, Dept. of Palaeography.

<sup>4</sup> Sunderland Parish Registers, Durham Record Office.

<sup>5</sup> J.W. Corder Manuscripts, Sunderland Parish Rate Book 1732-1816, Cess and Rates 1792. Sunderland Public Library.

<sup>6</sup> Maling's Rigg Chapel Registers. Tyne & Wear Record Office.

<sup>7</sup> Schools Enquiry Commission, Vol.XIX, Northern Division, 1869, Dept. of Education & Science, p. 82; Reports on Charities, Analytical Digest Part 1, 1842, p. 300; Charity Commissioners Returns, Co. Durham, Vol. II, 1902, p.448.

<sup>8</sup> Select Committee on the Education of the Poor, a Digest of Parochial Returns, Vol. I, England, 1819 (2 vols.), Dept. of Education & Science, p. 230.

<sup>9</sup> Certificate to Practise as an Apothecary, Guildhall Library, London.

<sup>10</sup> Matriculation Roll, Edinburgh University, 1827.

<sup>11</sup> W. Roughead, Burke and Hare, p. 76.

<sup>12</sup> 'Oath' Book, Soc. of Apothecaries, Guildhall Library, London. (Contains signatures of those presenting themselves at the Society for examination, in which they declared that their testimonials were genuine.)

<sup>13</sup> Bishop Middleham Parish Registers, Durham Record Office.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid; & Allegation for a licence to marry, 1829, Durham University.

<sup>15</sup> T.W. Ede, Cholera in Sunderland, Durham Co. Local Hist. Soc., Bulletin 13.

<sup>16</sup> Cholera in Sunderland, a Folder prepared by S.T. Miller & M. White of the Dept. of Geography & History, Sunderland Polytechnic, & Sunderland Central Library respectively, 1977, 50p.

<sup>17</sup> G. Parsons, R.C.S., "Observations on Cholera made during a visit to Sunderland undertaken by direction of the Birmingham Town Infirmary Board of Health in the month of November and December 1831", p. 50.

<sup>18</sup> W. Haslewood, R.C.S., "History and Medical Treatment of Cholera as it appeared in Sunderland in 1831" (1832), p. 96.

<sup>19</sup> J.B. Kell, "The Appearance of Cholera in Sunderland in 1831" (1834), p. 42.

<sup>20</sup> W. Ainsworth, R.C.S., "Observations on the Pestilential Cholera (Asphixia Pestilentialia) as it appeared at Sunderland in November & December 1831", p. 31.

<sup>21</sup> Poster (and others) held by Sunderland Public Library and by the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, Euston Road, London.

<sup>22</sup> Sunderland Poll Book, 1832.

<sup>23</sup> Census Return, 1841.

<sup>24</sup> Death Certificate, Sunderland Registrar's Office.

<sup>25</sup> Trade Directories, post 1848.

## THE TWO WORLDS OF JOSEPH RACE

Steve Race

When someone asked me "What is the attraction of genealogy?" I found myself replying: "It's like an endless detective story, with yourself as the hero".

That is true of many of us, much of the way. But the real hero of my own genealogical story is my grandfather, Joseph Russell Race (1848-1880). Whenever I read about "The Great Victorians", I have the desire to seize a pencil and write in the margin "Yes, but how about my grandfather?". He certainly was one of the great Victorians: a shilling-a-day lead miner from the Durham dales, who became an honoured citizen of China.

His start in life could scarcely have been less encouraging. Born in a stone cottage high on the fellside overlooking St. John's Chapel, Weardale, he was one of a family of ten. What little schooling he received ended abruptly at the age of ten, when he went to work as a washer lad at the nearby lead mine, starting each day at 5.30 in the morning and trudging home at 6 p.m.

On Sundays the Race family worshipped at High House Wesleyan Chapel, and it was there, in 1860, that a visiting evangelist, Rev. Coverdale Smith, touched the heart of the 12 year old Joseph. Also present that day was Joshua Dawson, formerly the dale's most famous reprobate, but now (following a spectacular conversion of his own) irrepressible sinner turned irrepressible saint. My grandfather was put into Joshua Dawson's tuition Class and by the age of 20 he was a local preacher: the apple of old Joshua's eye, and not unnoticed by Joshua's eldest daughter, Hannah.

By this time Joseph had determined that he would be a missionary. "Why go to foreign lands?" demanded Joshua Dawson sternly. "Does not Satan flourish in our own dale?" But it was to no avail. Joseph felt his destiny to be China - a place he could barely even spell.

In 1870 he left the dale for Richmond College, Surrey, where his idol, the great China missionary David Hill, had studied only a few years before. After three years he was ordained, and went back to Weardale in order to propose to Hannah Dawson at the local beauty spot, High Force. (There is a family legend that all five Dawson girls were proposed to at High Force. Some of the younger ones must eventually have been able to guess what was coming when their sweethearts suggested a walk there!)

On the last day of October 1873, Rev. Joseph Race set sail from Liverpool for China. He took with him a language instruction book, a longing to convert the Chinese to his faith, and a small chest of medicines which had been a parting present from the good folk of the dale.

His journey was long and fascinating (he kept a day-to-day diary which still exists), travelling through the newly-opened Suez Canal, and arriving eventually at Canton, where he found an elegant assembly of tea-drinking missionaries and their wives waiting to envelop him. But this was not what he had crossed half the world to do. Noting in his diary "the degradation of being numbered among the Canton missionaries", he moved on alone, up the great Yangtze River to Hankow. At the small town of Wusuh nearby, in a broken-down chapel adjoining a damp vestry, he found the Rev. David Hill, and became his assistant.

But Hill proved something of a disappointment. Though undoubtedly saintly, he was wildly impractical, added to which he suffered a compulsive wanderlust. Before long Hill had wandered off to the North, leaving Joseph alone with his Bible, his Chinese dictionary, and 15,000 potential converts.

One morning (February 8th, 1874) Joseph had an unexpected visitor. "A boy came on Sunday night. It seemed he wanted medicine to cure a cold. I gave him two camphor pills from my box." That was the simple diary entry, but it was to mark an entire change in the direction of his life. The next morning there were four Chinese waiting outside his hut. By gesture, they described what was wrong with them. Next day a woman came with conjunctivitis: he gave her tincture to put on the affected eye. "I am becoming a doctor", wrote Joseph, adding in brackets, "(Untrained!)".

A week later he was half-dragged out of bed one morning by a small boy, and taken to see a woman whom Joseph realised, with revulsion, had swallowed a massive dose of opium. Having run back to his hut for vinegar, he gave it to the woman as an emetic. It saved her life. The next day he did his best for a man whose leg was "literally rotten below the knee". Within a month, he was treating 30 to 40 patients a day and writing urgently to Hankow Hospital for fresh medical supplies.

So it was that my grandfather became the first fully un-qualified medical missionary in China. Realising that it was hopeless to discuss the state of their souls until something had been done for the state of their bodies, he ministered to the Chinese in the way his heart dictated. He handled further cases of opium poisoning, and once even operated for the removal of a cataract.

But he was desperately in need of his beloved Hannah, and wrote repeatedly imploring the Mission House Secretaries in London to bend their missionary rule that insisted on men being in the field for two full years before being permitted to marry. In the end they relented (though their attention to urgent correspondence does them little credit) and Hannah left to join him. They were married at Shanghai Cathedral in 1876.

By this time Joseph had built - largely with his own hands and certainly to his own design - a house of sorts in Wusuh, and there in 1878 their first son was born: my father, Russell Race. Despite problems of every kind - floods, brigands, the natural light-fingeredness of the Chinese - Joseph and Hannah healed, taught and preached. In the year 1879 alone, Joseph treated 4,000 patients.

The end came in August 1880, when Joseph was 32. He had been overworking as usual, contracted typhoid fever, and Hannah, pregnant again, was unable to nurse him as she would have wished. Their friends and fellow missionaries gathered round the bed on which Joseph lay, exhausted and evidently dying. One of them spoke the verse ending "Jesus crucified for me", and as his lips mutely formed the echo of the last two words - "for me" - Joseph died.

Among the many tributes was one from a Chinese convert, Ts'en Lin Kung, rendering into his careful English the plain truth about the friend he had lost: "All fearless of the journey's length from his own land to this, Our teacher for the truth's sake came." It was the tribute that Joseph himself would most have valued.

In the centenary year of his arrival in China, I was glad of the opportunity to tell his story in a television programme (BBC-tv. North-East: "In Search of Joseph Race"). As our film-unit clambered over the fields and fells of his native dale, with our boxes of reels, tripods and stop-watches, I couldn't help wondering what my grandfather would have made of us: not least of me, and the way I had tried to condense his tremendous life of service into one woefully inadequate 25-minute programme. (A book based more fully on his diaries is in process of completion). As for Joseph's beloved China, it was perhaps as well that he did not live to glimpse her future. It would have broken even his formidable heart.

# AN EARLY "NAVY LIST"

M.E. Wilson

(This rather unusual request from our librarian might interest members from seafaring families - Ed.)

The following list is taken from Christopher Falkus "Charles II". Can any reader add anything to it? I am immediately interested in the captain of the fireship "Blessing", William Maiden. Was the "Blew" Squadron drawn from one particular locality? How did a man qualify to be a captain, even of a fireship? Would these men all be regular seamen? Can anyone give me any information as to the whereabouts of particulars about these men, please? How often was the composition of a squadron changed? Any information will be welcomed by Dr M.E. Wilson, 33 Archery Rise, Neville's Cross, Durham, DH1 4LA.

The Royal Charles; And the Dutch Fleet commanded by Adm<sup>l</sup> de Ruyter on the 25th July 1666; Together w<sup>th</sup> a List of the English Ships & Cap<sup>ns</sup> w<sup>th</sup> theyr numbers of Men & Gunns.

... (quotation starts in the middle of the list)

Triumph	Robt Clarke	442	72	Fireships of this Squadron	
Lion	Sr.Wm Jennings	280	58	Abigaile	Tho Wilshaw
Breah	Jas Sanders	180	48	Samuell	Joseph Paine
John & Thomas	Levi Green	200	48	Bryer	Willm Seally
Cambridge	John Jeffries	320	64	Lizard	Joseph Harris
Bristoll	John Holmes	200	52	Fox	John Elliot
Henry	Sr.Robt Holmes RA	490	80	Alepine	Andrew Ball
Princesse	Henry Dawes	205	52	Charles	John Johnson
Revenge	Tho Elliot	300	58		
Newcastle	Peter Bowin	200	50		
Tiger	John Wetwang	160	40		
The Blew Squadron					
George	Ralph Lassells	180	40	Fireships of this Squadron	
Turky Merch <sup>t</sup>	Willm Partridge	180	48	Blessing	Willm Maiden
Happy Returne	Fran Courtney	190	50	Guift	Jo Kelsey
Defiance	Jo <sup>t</sup> Kempthorne RA	370	64	Land of	
Providence	Richd James	140	34	Promise	Mintherne
Resolution	Willoughby Han <sup>m</sup>	300	58	Mary	Willm Flawes
Elizabeth	Charles Talbot	160	40	Virgin	Willm Hughs
East India London	Willm Martin	190	50		
House of Swedes	Jo Wilgresse	280	70		
Rainbow	John Hart	310	56		
Golden Phenix	Fran Steward	260	60		
Mary	Will Poole	300	58		
Portland	Richd Haddock	180	48		
Loy <sup>ll</sup> London	Sr.Jer Smith, Adm <sup>l</sup>	600	92		
Amity	Willm Finch	150	38		
Gloucester	Richd May	280	58		
Unity	Tho Trafford	150	42		
Bonadventure	Wm Hammond	180	48		
Yarmouth	Jo Parker	200	52		
Loyall Merchant	Phillip Holland	210	50		
Guelderse Ruyter	Robt Gilby	180	48		
Vanguare	Anthony Langston	320	60		
Advice	Cha O'Brien	180	48		
Victory	Sr.Ed Spragg, VA	500	80		
Reserve	Jo Tirwhit	180	48		
Dreadnought	Robt Mohun	280	58		
Sta. Maria	Roger Strickland	180	50		
Adventure	Benja Young	150	38		

## MEMBERS AND THEIR INTERESTS

- 401 Mr I.H. PATTISON, 42 Wendan Road, Newbury, Berks, RG14 7AF.  
Mr Pattison is interested in Pattison/Pattinson families from the Shotley district of Northumberland (Derwent Valley), and in Foster of Durham and Sedgefield, both in the 18th century. He has produced a most interesting and detailed account of his family and while this is, unfortunately, too long for publication, we hope in the not too distant future to publish some details of how the story of one of Mr Pattison's more colourful ancestors was traced.
- 426 Capt J.F. DAGLEAS, 29 W. Meadows Rd, Cleadon Village, nr Sunderland, Tyne & Wear, SR6 7TU.  
Families of interest are Dagleas (19th cent, S.Shields Du; 18th cent, St.John Lee Nb) and Forrest (S.Shields Du, 18th & 19th cents.).
- 428 Mr E.W. HIND, 9 Midcroft, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 8ER.  
Mr Hind's interests, all in Du and Nb, are Hind, Clennell (also La), Blaxton/Blakiston, Fenwick, Cook(e), Wake, Dixon, Johnson, Carrick, Harle, Hughs and Hod. Particular problems are: the birth of Thomas Hind, cl778, possibly the son of Oswald Hind of Stanley, Du; the marriage of Michael Cooke and Ann Wake (a daughter Elizabeth was baptised at N. Shield Nb in 1804); the marriage of Thomas Hind and Ann Johnson (a son Blakiston was baptised at Heworth Du in 1822); the marriage of Edward Clennell of Abshiel and Stanton Nb and Buna Hall La with Mary Fenwick of Stanton and Fence House, Nunriding, Nb (a son Edward was baptised in 1696); the death and burial of Oswald Hind and his wife Ann, née Blakiston, who were married at Tanfield Du in 1770. Members may recognise these as being the interests of Mr W. Hind, member no. 375 - another of those happy coincidences which make the Society worthwhile.
- 429 Miss J.M.C. KNOCK, 42 Grange Rd, Grays, Essex.  
Miss Knock is a descendant of Thomas Hepburn, the miner whose early attempts at forming a Miners' Union in the North-East are well known, and who in 1976 featured on a postage stamp in the 'Social Reformers' series. Thomas' daughter, Jane, married into the Crone family and was the grandmother of Mrs Knock's mother, Ann Crone.
- 430 Mr A.J. BAILEY, 12A Polstead Rd, Stoke, Nelson, New Zealand.  
Mr Bailey is interested in Joseph Bailey (cl823-1886). By his first marriage, to Lady Mary Minto, he had two sons, William (bl848) and James Minto (bl850). Joseph's second wife, Jane Eamedes, was born at Nettlesworth Hall in 1837. The three Bailey men went to Australia, and then to New Zealand, goldmining.
- 431 Mrs S. JOHNSON, 27778 Pleasant Hill Ct, Hayward, California 94542, USA.  
Families of interest are Swindle (Gateshead, Du and Ninebanks, Allendale, Whitfield and Hexham Nb), Ord (Barber House, Hexham Nb), Miller (Heworth Du), Wigham (Ninebanks Nb), Jordan (Allendale Nb), Thompson (Haydon Bridge Nb), Green (Whitfield Nb) and Foster (Hexham Nb). Mrs Johnson sends us the following "want list": (1) parents of Elizabeth Miller (bl792), who married George Swindle in 1815 at Heworth Du; (2) parents and birth cl756 of Elizabeth Wigham of Dyke Nook who married George Swindle in 1776 at Ninebanks Nb; (3) birth of Mary, dau of John and Margaret Jordan, who married George Swindle in 1768 at Ninebanks Nb; (4) any information about Catherine, daughter of John Ord of Barber House, who married Christopher Swindall in 1698 at Hexham; (5) parents and birth of Jane Thompson who married Peter Swindall in 1736 at Haydon Bridge; (6) parents and birth of Dorothy Green who married Peter Swindall in 1731 at Whitfield; and (7) parents and birth of Margaret Foster who married Richard Swindall of Dotland in 1667 at Hexham.

- 432 Mr J.K. BROWN, 33 South Bend, Brunton Pk, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 5TR.  
Mr Brown is descended from Edward Brown and Sarah, nee Lawes, who farmed near Elsdon Nb, at Hudspeth (1753), Lanshott (1759), Girslee Miln (1761-77) and Laings Hill, where they died. Their son John (b1756) married Elizabeth Jackson and lived at the Raw, Woodside. Descendants lived at Garret Lea farm, Longhorsley, where Mr Brown's grandfather was born in 1850. The family later lived at East Coldside, Mitford, and then at Morpeth. Mr Brown's problem is to find the baptism record of Edward Brown. There were five possible families of Brown in the Elsdon area at the appropriate time - at the farms of Hatherwick, Overacres, Raylees, Knightside and Ravensheugh (these latter being the ancestors of Lancelot "Capability" Brown).
- 433 Mrs T.L. PERRY, c/o Mr & Mrs Coughlan, 123 Clarence Rd, Wimbledon, SW 19.
- 434 Mr C.O. DAVISON, 2402 Donlon Rd, Wilmington, Delaware 19803, USA.  
Mr Davison is descended from the armorial family of Davison of Lanton and Swarland Nb (see Northumberland County History Vol 7), and there are memorials to the family in the churches of Felton and Kirknewton. The earliest record Mr Davison has is of James Davison, tenant of Lanton who died, aged 101, in 1737. Research into James' ancestors is somewhat restricted by the Kirknewton Parish Registers having been destroyed by fire in the late 18th century, but a possibility exists that a link may be established with William Davison (1541-1608), secretary to Queen Elizabeth I.
- 435 Mr D.G. WIGGINS, 2820 Birch Pl, Fullerton, California 92635, USA.  
Mr Wiggins is researching his ancestors John Gibson (b c1775, Medomsley Du) and Mary Beasting (b c1761, Garrigill Cu). Although he has only recently become active in researching his family history, Mr Wiggins already finds the subject fascinating and says it has made history come alive for him. No doubt members will wholeheartedly agree!
- 436 Miss J.L. WARREN, 3 Westmorland Ct, Goldsmid Rd, Brighton, E. Sussex, BN3 1QE.  
The Acting Secretary of the Sussex Family History Society, Miss Warren is interested in the family of Dodds of Newcastle upon Tyne, especially in the marriage of Robert Dodds, a stonemason or marble cutter, to Ann Robinson. These were the parents of Robert Dodds, born in Manor Chare, Newcastle, in 1844.
- 437 Mrs M. BROWN, 17 St Vincent's Place, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear.  
Mrs Brown is interested in the Pyles and Watsons of Woodhorn and Newbiggin. They were blacksmiths, innkeepers and master mariners, sailing from Seaton Sluice and Shields to Hamburg and London. Mrs Brown has a 1753 Bible and many documents and paintings relevant to these families. Another interest is in Taylor, millers of Holywell Dene, who have been traced to 1740, and whom Mrs Brown is still actively researching, using the Earsdon registers and the Delaval Papers. Mrs Brown's special interest, however, is in Hedley of Heddon-on-the-Wall Nb. Mark Hedley (b1817) married at Earsdon Mary Hunter, whose mother was born at Callerton, where William Hedley the locomotive pioneer once lived. Information on the relatives of this last William Hedley would be welcomed.
- 438 Mrs R.R. CULLEN, 1114 Nicholson Av, Lakewood, Ohio 44107, USA.  
Mrs Cullen's primary interests in our area are the surnames of Rain(e), Davison, Brown and Nixon and she would like to correspond with others who have those interests.
- 439 Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Central Library, Phillimore Walk, Chelsea, London, W8 7RX.
- 440 Mr W. WARD, 28 Ribble Av, Jarrow, Tyne & Wear, NE32 4BT.  
Mr Ward believes his family to have originated in S. Shields. His grandfather, Robert Morrison Ward (b c1849) was the son of

- William Ward (b cl824), who is thought to have been involved in building the famous pioneer Shields Lifeboat.
- 441 Mr E. BALMER, 127 Nursery Rd, Elstob Estate, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear, SR3 1NU.  
Mr Balmer, who admits to being a beginner and not having much idea how to proceed, could perhaps benefit from some help from members. His interests are in Balmer and Tonkinson, both Sunderland families, who were living at the turn of the century in St. Mark's and Bishopwearmouth parishes, respectively.
- 442 Mr R.E. SMITH, 55 Edith Rd, W. Kensington, London, W14 0TH.
- 443 Mrs N. HEALEY, 11432x 95A St, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.  
Mrs Healey is a daughter of Adam Baird who married Sophia Thompson and it is the Baird family which she is most anxious to trace.
- 444 New York Public Library, Division G, Grand Central Station, PO Box 2237, New York, NY 10017, USA.
- 445 Mr N.G.E. GEDYE, The Caffinites, Durham School, Durham.
- 446 Mr R.E. HAVELOCK, 35 Thanet Rd, Erith, Kent, DA8 3RB.  
Mr Havelock has a general interest in all Havelocks and the areas he has been most concerned with are Gilling (near Richmond, Yorks), Hylton Castle, Boldon and Monkwearmouth (all Du) and Hexham (Nb). A particular problem is to locate the birth of William Havelock (cl752). He married Mary Kirsop at Hexham in 1782 and was a carrier by trade. Although of that parish at the time of marriage, the registers do not record his baptism or burial. He had four children baptised at Hexham, however, between 1784 and 1792. Another local interest is Hands of Ryton.
- 447 Mr K.J. EATON, 127 Forest Rd, Hurstville, New South Wales 2220, Australia.  
The Eaton family appear to have originated in the West Riding of Yorkshire, but Mr Eaton also has an interest in a family named Dixon, the earliest known of which was Jonathan, a pit sinker, born in Du or Nb, who married Mary Hume. The dates of birth and marriage are still sought. Their son was Jonathan Dixon, who was born in 1821 at N. Shields Nb and who married Ann Sanderson Willis at Haswell, par Easington Du in 1841. This couple then emigrated to New South Wales. The baptisms of Jonathan's brother and sister, James (1823) and Mary (1825) are recorded in N. Shields Secession Chapel Records.
- 448 Mrs J. BUNTING, 17 Moor Place, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 4AL.  
We welcome to the Society the wife of our indefatigable MI co-ordinator, whose Richardson ancestors were the subject of her husband's article in the last Journal (Vol 2, No 4, p 94). Mrs Bunting is herself no stranger to country churchyards, having assisted at several sessions, including one expedition up the North Tyne valley which is still fresh in the Editor's memory.
- 449 Mr C.F. FORSTER, Harrier's Walk, Easton, Woodbridge, Suffolk.  
Surnames of interest are Armourer (Elsdon Nb), Forster (Corsenside Nb), Winship (Kirkwhelpington Nb), Telford (Falstone Nb), Pringle (N.Nb), Hodgson and Sharp (both Durham City), Barker (Marske) and Curry (Elsdon Nb). Missing baptisms are: (1) Charles Hodgson (married at Witton Gilbert Du, 1805, to Sarah Barker) and his brother Francis (married at Durham St. Margaret's, 1811, to Mary Sharp); (2) James Fo(r)ster who married at Mitford Nb, 1810, Elizabeth Watson and died aged 50 at Ponteland in 1828; and (3) Elizabeth Curry of Elsdon cl813, probably a Presbyterian.
- 450 Mrs M.M. STOTT, Grange, Allanson Rd, Rhos on Sea, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd, LL28 4HL.  
Mrs Stott is interested in the families of Cr(e)ighton, Wood, Middlemiss (and variants), Mos(s)man and Ogilvie from the Berwick, Tweedmouth, Norham and Flodden areas of N. Nb. Specific queries are for (1) the ancestors of Frank Watson Wood, artist (ARA), born 1862 at Berwick; (2) the marriage of Adam Mossman and Margaret



Middlemiss cl825-32 in the Berwick area, possibly Scotland; (3) the baptism of Matthew Middlemiss, rope maker and twine spinner, born 1797 in Tweedmouth; and (4) any information on Cr(e)ighton of Tweedmouth before 1880.

- 451 Mr R. HUDSON, 5 Campbell House, Churchill Gdns, London, SW1V 3HS. Mr Hudson, who is fortunate in living "just around the corner" from Somerset House, is interested in Hudson of Ryton Du and Renny of Durham St. Giles. In particular, he seeks (1) the antecedents of Mary Renny who, in 1809, was married between Jan. and March to Thomas Hudson, widowed in September and gave birth to a posthumous child, Thomas, in November; and (2) the marriage details of that Thomas Hudson in either Durham or Newcastle to Eleanor Scarr.

#### Changes of Address

- 40 Mr J.M. PHALP, 29 Inveralmond Drive, Edinburgh, EH4 6JX.  
 50 Mr B. DIXON, Pampisford Place, Pampisford, Cambridge.  
 51 Mr N. BILTON, The Croft, Low Westwood, Co. Durham.  
 100 Mrs E. JIRKA, 1268 Croydon Rd, Lyndhurst, Ohio 44124, USA.  
 126 Miss M.B. BOYLE, 13 Main St, Thorner, Leeds.  
 127 Rev Canon L.R. WILSON, 10 Falkous Ter, Witton Gilbert, Durham, DH7 6TA.  
 223 Dr V.G. SHEDDICK, 9 Haymeadow Lane, Burghill, Hereford.  
 226/319 Mr & Mrs J.A. LISGO, 182 Armstrong Rd, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 8QP.  
 241 Mr K.C. MAVIN, 14 Drayton Cresc, Park Orchards, Melbourne, Victoria 3114, Australia.  
 346 Mr N.C. BEATTIE, 35 Park Rd, Hale, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA15 9NW.  
 374 Miss P. JOHNSON, Conifers, Mill Isle, West End, Wolsingham, Co. Durham.

#### SECOND TIME AROUND

- 38 Mr T. CHILVERS, 61 Canterbury Rd, Redcar, Cleveland, TS10 3QC. Seeks information on John Hildrith of Netherwitton Nb, who left a Will in 1676, which is unfortunately not now to be found at Durham University Dept of Palaeography.
- 45 Mr R. GALLOWAY, 15 Torver Close, Brunswick Green, Wideopen, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE13 7HJ. Four extra queries from Mr Galloway are: (1) the baptism of Samuel Wilborn Mather, born 1812 to Wm Andrew and S. Mather (Nb); (2) the baptism of George Back/Bach, born 1800 at Berwick Nb; (3) the baptism of Joseph Price, born possibly in N. Shields Nb in 1810; and (4) anything pre-1847 on Boutflower of Bedlington, Woodhorn, Bothal and Harton.
- 180 Mrs J. LAING, 1 Parkside Road, Reading, RG3 2DA. Information is sought on the marriage of William Laing, gardener, and Mary Inglis. They were living at Scotswood Nb on the birth of their son William in 1837 (not in civil or parish registers!) and at Lemington, Newburn, Nb at the birth of their next son, Alexander, in 1839, but have not been traced in the 1841 Census. William became a wine and spirit merchant and a connection is sought with Alexander Laing of that trade who donated the Laing Art Gallery to the City of Newcastle. Also interested in descendants of Robert Vardy (1795-1869), surgeon for 53 years in Whalton Nb, who had about a dozen children. Also seeks descendants in Victoria Australia of John Aitchison Carr of Berwick Nb who died in Melbourne in 1875.
- 338 Capt A.J. COULTHARD, Colescote, Piddletrenthide, Dorchester, Dorset, DT2 7QP. Seeks (1) the origins of Ralph Coulthard "enginewright of Ballast Hills" b cl770 and later of Newburn Nb; (2) the marriage (1846) or baptism (1823) of John Coulthard, miner, of Westgate, Weardale, probably a nonconformist; & (3) the baptism of Fenwick Coulthard, probably in Weardale cl796.

376 Mrs B.K. TONGIER, 604 W. 4th St, Coffeyville, Kansas 67377, USA.

Mrs Tongier seeks information on James King, glassblower, born Sunderland 1848, and Anne Carr Knox, born Berwick Nb 1847, daughter of Joseph Knox (b1815 Berwick) and Mary Catherine Reeves Kirkland Clarke (b1813 Norham). James and Anne emigrated to the USA in 1880-81.

396 Mr A.W. CARR, "Annay", 76 Oakley Rd, Redditch, Worcs, B97 4EE.

Mr Carr's researches have become "bogged down in the Presbyterian mists of time on the Borders". He is still searching for information on Andrew Kerr/Carr (1790-1873). He appears in Branxton Presbyterian records from 1829 to 1833 as Andrew Carr of High Hedgeley, native of Scotland, husband of Martha Dryden, native of Bucton Nb. Martha died in 1838 aged 39 and Andrew apparently re-married Catherine Grieve, another Scot. The places and dates of birth of Andrew (?1790), Martha (?1799) and Catherine (?1814-1815) are sought - family legend has it that at least one of them was from Motherwell.

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PARLIAMENTARY SURVEY OF COUNTY DURHAM, 1647  
(SURTEES SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS 183 (1968) AND 185 (1972).)

G. Nicholson

In 1647 the lands belonging to the Bishopric of Durham, comprising many large Manors in County Durham, were in the hands of Parliament, having been sequestered because of the attitude of the Bishop, Thomas Morton, during the Civil War. In this year a Survey was made which records in unsurpassed detail not only the holding of each tenant but also, and most fortunately for genealogists, how each came to possess, or inherit, his holding. This survey, which the Surtees Society have recently published in two volumes, gives us a detailed picture of the small farming communities of the county as they were at a time when great upheavals in both Church and State had made so many other records - parish registers, probate records, etc. - much less comprehensive than they had been before the troubled 1640s.

At the time of the Survey the large scale enclosures of land which were to be largely instrumental in squeezing out the smaller landowners were still in the future and the people mentioned in the survey are therefore mainly small farmers of yeoman, or slightly lower, status - the sort of family which is unlikely to figure in the "Squirearchy" pedigrees of the County Histories but which, some 150 or so years later, might well have aspired to elaborate tombstones in the village churchyard!

Small plots of land, often scattered around the villages in the still open fields, are identified by their contemporary local names which are frequently very colourful and descriptive. Examples from Ryton, the manor best known to the writer, are Black Tree, Cushat Low Mires and Nettle Haugh Field. Also mentioned are the names of the types of land holdings - riggs, butts, meadow dales, etc., each having its own significance in the agricultural system then prevailing.

It is the genealogical detail which will interest members, however, and this is mostly contained in the descriptions of the various tenants. Quoting from Ryton again, one piece of land was held by "Isabell wife of George Hauxley and Elizabeth wife of Nicholas Newton, sisters and coheirs of Margaret Foggatt", another by "Mary wife of Robert Cooke, one of the daughters and coheirs of Robert Humble deceased" and William Follie's lands were held "by surrender of William and Alice Follie, his parents". Other detail given includes the date of the entry in the Halmote Court Roll admitting the tenant to the land, the rent payable and the name(s) of the previous occupant(s).

## THE JUNE MEETING

### LESSER KNOWN GENEALOGICAL SOURCES IN NORTHUMBERLAND RECORD OFFICE

Ann Haynes, Assistant Archivist

#### 1. Introduction

As you will know we at the Record Office are mainly concerned with seeking out, collecting and preserving material which is of relevance to the history of the County, with all that this entails. The depositor or an interested party will contact the record office to tell us that he has certain documents which may be of interest to us. A member of the staff will then inspect the material and arrange for collection if it is accepted. The records arrive and are cleaned, accessioned, catalogued, indexed and are then available for the public to use. This, in theory, is how it should work. However, in such a busy office as NRO it is often many months and sometimes years between the process of accessioning and availability to the public.

Life could never be called dull at Melton Park, as searchroom figures are as high and sometimes higher than many larger offices in the country. The readership is varied, including such people as genealogists, school children, undergraduates, college students and local historians to name but a few. All have to be helped, some to a lesser degree than others, and this is the job of the searchroom archivist. In addition to supervising readers in the searchroom the archivist also has to answer all letter and telephone queries - and these can range from school projects on Mussolini to a Ph.D. thesis on Deserted Medieval Villages in the county - as well as the normal routine jobs such as listing, accessioning, etc. When not supervising the searchroom the archivist has in theory time to get on with cataloguing one of the large family, or other, collections specially assigned to him/her, but there are so many distractions that this is not so easy!

We are of course most anxious to bring ourselves to the notice of the general public and try to do this in a number of ways. The Archive Education Officer is available for consultation with schoolteachers, to talk to schools either in the office or outside, and to prepare exhibitions and source lists for use in schools. The archivists are also willing to stage exhibitions for churches, local history societies, etc., and to collect senior citizens' reminiscences on tape which will later be transcribed. Outside talks to bodies such as yourselves are also part of our work, as is dealing with group visits after hours at the Record Office.

Such is the work of the Record Office - varied and interesting. The amount of interest in local history in the NE makes the job of the archivist easier and more rewarding.

#### 2. Quarter Sessions Records

A rich source of largely untapped material is contained in the Quarter Sessions records, held by all county record offices. Before the creation of county councils by the Local Government Act of 1888, local administration was largely in the hands of the justices of the peace. Originally commissioned in the Middle Ages as "keepers of the King's peace" in the counties, the justices had been given certain administrative functions, in addition to purely judicial work, as early as the fourteenth century. The Tudor sovereigns, with an eye to economy as well as practical convenience, employed the unpaid county justice increasingly in carrying out their system of government. During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries new statutes

were continually adding to their duties although reforms in poor law, etc., transferred some of their burdens to new bodies. Since 1888 little work of an administrative character has remained except for licensing and joint control of police with the county council.

Their judicial work, the hearing and judgement of local felonies and trespasses, has continued without substantial modification to the present day. After 1600 all capital offences were usually referred to the assizes, but on the other hand the gradual decay of manorial courts left in the seventeenth century meant that eventually all minor crimes had to come before justices. The justices used their powers individually or jointly with one or more colleagues in local meeting, later called Petty Sessions. There were also special sessions for licensing alehouses, etc. Their most important functions, however, were exercised at the General Sessions of Peace held four times per year since 1350 or earlier. Unfortunately the Sessions Papers in Northumberland only date from the seventeenth century. Procedure resembled that of the Assizes. All the authority of the justices was of a judicial nature and much business which we should now regard as purely administrative had to be handled by judicial procedure.

In some counties Quarter Sessions were held regularly at a town which was conveniently central. In Northumberland they were held alternately at Hexham, Morpeth and Alnwick.

The justices were not a corporate body, and for centuries their only official was the Clerk of the Peace who had charge of the archives between sessions. Nowadays this office is held conjointly with that of clerk of the County Council.

The documents which would prove of value to the genealogist are:

- (a) Justices oaths (1775 onwards) and property qualification oaths (1772 onwards). In 1439 a justice was required to possess landed property to value of £20 p.a. This was raised to £100 in 1732. In 1745 justices had to take an oath that they possessed the necessary qualification, and these oaths give the name and style of the justice and the location of his property.
- (b) Sessions bundles and files contain documents and miscellaneous papers created in the Quarter Sessions proceedings and considered proper to preserve, from 1680 onwards. Of particular interest here are:
  - Jacobite Rebellion papers (1715 and 1745)
  - orders for transportation (1768-1808)
  - passes to Scotland for vagrants (1832-34)
  - returns of persons, waggons and carts for carrying soldiers (1798)
  - those carrying on the trade of butcher not having been apprenticed (1810)
- (c) Indictments are formal charges drafted (in Latin to 1733) by the clerk of the peace. They seldom relate to serious offences. Particulars given are names, occupations, parish of those indicted, parish of offence, etc. (1580 onwards).
- (d) Calendars of prisoners are lists of prisoners, mostly awaiting trial, in the county jail and houses of correction (1875 onwards).
- (e) Jurors' books are lists of persons summoned to serve on grand and petty juries, giving parish, rank and occupation - grand jurors are exclusively gentry until 1838 (1826-78).
- (f) Lists of freeholders and others liable to serve as jurors (1763-1824).

There are also original returns of constables from which the above lists are made (late 18th - early 19th century).

- (g) Sessions order books give the place and date of the sessions and names of justices present. They normally include orders for appointment of officers, high and petty constables, payment of salaries, discharges from apprenticeship, removal of vagrants, licences for non-conformist meeting houses, etc., 1680 onwards.
- (h) Records of many kinds are registered, enrolled or deposited with the clerk of the peace in accordance with a great variety of statutes:
  - appointment of sheriffs and under sheriffs (1834 onwards)
  - certificates and roll of Deputy Lieutenants (1773-1890)
  - militia certificates (1757-1833)
  - militia rolls (1803-68)
  - registers of Roman Catholics' estates (1717-89). These have been collated and printed in Surtees Society CXXXI (1918).
  - enrolments of Roman Catholics', etc., deeds, leases and wills (1719-1750)
  - notices of persons keeping printing presses or types for printing (1799-1859)
  - registers of alehouse keepers' recognizances (1822-28).

In such a short time I have been unable to note every item of interest to the genealogist, but can only hope that some idea has been gained of the wealth of material contained in this little used collection. However, I must point out that Quarter Sessions records are largely uncatalogued and many have no index, therefore a great deal of patience on the part of the searcher and the archivist is needed.

### 3. "Parish Chest" material

As most of you will probably know your way around the parish registers better than I do myself, I will skip over these heavily used archives and talk about the other material which often, but not always, accompanies them. These records are mainly concerned with administration of church funds or with the church's responsibility to the poor.

An Act of 1662 gave the churchwardens and overseers of the poor authority to remove a stranger from their parish to his own unless he rented a property worth at least £10 p.a. In 1697 a system of certificates was established; a person wishing to move from one parish to another had to obtain a settlement certificate which stated that, if he became liable for the poor rate, his own parish would accept him back. If he had to be sent back he obtained a removal order to take to his own overseers. These certificates usually contain information about the person concerned and name the other members of his family. Unfortunately most have not survived - the best examples in the NRO are for the parish of Norham.

Bastardy bonds are also to be found, although again, very few have survived. These are usually entered into by the Churchwardens and the father of the child, as he had to pay toward the child's upkeep in later years. However, it is sometimes the mother's name which appears, as she has refused to divulge the name of the father. Again it is the parish of Norham which provides the best examples.

The Churchwardens and overseers of the poor, together with the Church Vestry, were empowered to raise a Church rate in order to provide for the poor of the parish. The rate books kept by them give the names of people paying the rate, the type of property and assessment, and often give the names of those in receipt of the rate. The Churchwardens, etc., busy bodies that they were, were also often engaged in apprenticing pauper children out

to various trades, and there is often valuable genealogical material to be gleaned from these apprenticeship indentures.

In some cases people preferred to be married by licence, rather than by banns, in which case the marriage licences would be kept amongst the records. This method was mainly used by the middle classes, basically because the fees were prohibitive for those less well off, or by sailors or soldiers who had a limited amount of time when home on leave.

All these documents provide useful information of a genealogical nature, and it is a pity that so many have been destroyed.

#### 4. Nonconformist Records

As most of you will know we are building up, slowly but surely, our collection of nonconformist records in original, microfilm and transcript form. We now hold most of the original Methodist Circuit Records for Northumberland. There are quite a number of baptism registers amongst them, but unfortunately they are all fairly late, usually dating from the mid nineteenth century. These, however, are supplemented by the microfilm of pre-1837 registers deposited in the Public Record Office. Unfortunately the other nonconformists, such as the United Reform Church (previously Congregationalists and English Presbyterians), Baptists and Roman Catholics, are not so well represented. For these we have to rely on the pre-1837 deposited registers (but not all churches sent returns to the General Registrar) or transcripts provided mainly by members of your own Society. In the near future we are hoping to begin both a United Reform Church and a Roman Catholic survey of registers in existence - rather similar to the one undertaken for Anglican Church Records in the 1960s. This was a great success from our point of view as it enabled us to make ourselves known to the custodians of these records, and we are hoping for the same results for the nonconformist records.

#### 5. Tithe Awards

1836 saw the Tithe Commutation Act, whereby payment of tithes in kind was commuted to a money payment. Each township in each county was separately assessed and maps were drawn up incorporating an award, which is in fact a key to the map. A copy was kept by the parish, another went to the Quarter Sessions, and yet a third was sent to the Tithe Commissioners in London. The award contains a list of owners and occupiers of the land, a description and name of the property, the state of cultivation of the land, titheable value and to whom the tithe was paid. A comprehensive personal names index of the tithe maps covering the whole county of Northumberland was completed earlier this year, and is now on the searchroom shelves, in four fairly hefty volumes. From this searchers will be able to tell at a glance, which parish a particular person was living in at a particular time, provided he is mentioned in the Tithe Commutation Records.

#### 6. Probate material

Wills, administrations, inventories, etc., are always of value to the genealogist. Before 1858 the proving of wills was under ecclesiastical jurisdiction and, as you will know, pre-1858 probate records are to be found in the Department of Palaeography and Diplomatic in Durham University. However, copies are also sometimes present amongst family collections such as those of Allgood, Delaval, Swinburne, Middleton and Ridley, to name but a few. Catalogues of all these collections are available for searchers. Solicitors' collections such as Percy of Alnwick also provide a wealth of information in the way of deeds and probate material, and should not be overlooked by the genealogist.

The NRO has registered copies of Wills from 1858 to 1941 in annual volumes. Each volume is, in fact, indexed, but the year of probate must be known in order to save a long and often fruitless search of more than one volume. At the moment we are in the process of compiling a comprehensive personal names index which we hope will be available on the search room shelves in the not too distant future - just when is, as always, in the lap of the gods!

## 7. Berwick Borough Records

There is a tremendous wealth of material of a genealogical nature amongst the Berwick Borough records, which include some of the earliest records in the county. These were housed for many years in dreadful conditions, with no searchroom or supervision facilities, and they were not available for the public to use. At the moment they are being relisted and rehoused, and it is hoped provision will be made in next year's budget for a Berwick Archivist. They should therefore be available to the public, at Berwick, within the next year.

Certain of these records are already available on microfilm at the Northumberland Record Office:

- (a) Parish Poor Law Rate books (1780-1832)
- (b) Parish Relief books (1798-1830)
- (c) Workhouse Examination Book (1813)
- (d) Workhouse Employment Register (1816-17)
- (e) Workhouse Register of Births (1837-1914)
- (f) Workhouse Register of Deaths (1837-1914)
- (g) Paupers Service book (1853-1925)
- (h) Naval rate book (1795)

## 8. Other deposits

The collection of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne, now mostly housed at the Record Office, is another source of material which has been largely ignored by searchers. It contains a wealth of transcribed material which deals with Co. Durham as well as with Northumberland. Obviously in a talk of this nature I could never hope to cover all the items of interest, but I have picked out one or two to show the range of material covered:

- All Saints parish register transcripts, Gosforth (1793-1805)
- Coat of Arms (c1780)
- Auckland jury lists
- Brancepeth parish register extracts (indexed)
- Carlisle Wills (1564-1668, indexed)
- York wills, administrations, etc. (1598-1793)
- MS list of local doctors and lawyers compiled from the registers of four Newcastle parishes
- Durham jury lists
- Durham marriage bonds (1594-1782, indexed)
- Durham Wills
- Hexhamshire Wills
- Transcript of Northumberland muster roll (1538)
- Returns of Northumberland Militia (1779)



These, together with the numerous pedigrees of families in both Northumberland and Durham to be found in this collection as well as those to be found in the Bell Collection, also housed at the Record Office, are of great value to the genealogist.

There are obviously many more collections of records which would merit being included in this description, but time does not permit this. The school books such as admissions registers and logbooks, the Burial Board, Guardians of the Poor and Northumberland Constabulary Records all provide, in their own way, material for the genealogist to work on.

## 9. Conclusion

The records discussed tonight, together with the parish registers, census returns, transcripts, electoral registers, and directories, etc., if used properly, enable the genealogist to pursue his or her ultimate goal - a true and comprehensive family history.

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### THE ARISTOCRATIC PITMAN

K.D.D. Henderson

In his article entitled "Clothing those dry bones" Mr D.W. Smith mentions James Drummond of Biddick, who claimed to be the Earl of Perth. Members might be interested in the story as it was related to me by the sexton at Washington many years ago.

Not long after the 1745 rebellion a ship's boat was rowed ashore at Wearmouth to deposit a man of distinguished appearance who made his way up river to Biddick, a village recently in the news as a result of a successful battle against the preventives. He gave his name as James Drummond and was given the job of ferryman on the Wear by the Lambtons. He married a local collier's daughter of great beauty, called Bessie Armstrong and lived happily until the great flood of 1771 washed away his house and all his papers. He ranged the river banks, according to the sexton, like one demented. Many years later his grandson, a collier of Washington, laid claim to the title. His aunt, a Mrs Atkinson of Washington (hence the tale - I was investigating the history of that family, to which my wife belongs) gave evidence that she had taken her aged father back on a secret visit to Perthshire in his old age. A Grand Jury in Edinburgh found in his favour, but the boy got drunk celebrating during the lunch interval, and the peers of Scotland flung out his claim. His descendants were still living in Washington at the time of my visit. Perhaps they still are.

(As a footnote to this story, the following MIs from Penshaw will no doubt be found appropriate:

Four daughters of Thomas and Jane DRUMMOND, New Pensher: Annabella d9/9/1831 a 4 months, Hannah d28/1/1847 a 21, Elizabeth d3/5/1847 a 19, Jane d25/9/1851 a 29; Edward Alexander DRUMMOND d7/6/1854 a 19; John DRUMMOND d14/5/1859 a 32; Annabella Adelaide, dau a/n Thomas & Jane d11/1/1864 a 27; dau Margaret d 27/12/1868 a 53; a/n Jane d2/4/1871 a 77; grandson Thomas J.E. d31/1/1872 a 13; a/n Thomas DRUMMOND, the rightful heir to the Earldom of Perth, d18/11/1873 a 81.

Children of Thomas & Margaret DRUMMOND, New Pensher: William d4/11/1852 a 7, William d8/7/1862 a 2, Hannah d21/7/1866 a 19, Isabella d8/10/1866 a 1, Elizabeth d 24/5/1871 a 21, Thomas Wm d 21/3/1872 a 22; also a son of Thomas DRUMMOND d inf.

It would be most interesting to hear of any of James Drummond's family living in the area today - Ed.)

## SOME 1854 REGISTRATION STATISTICS

These statistics relating to the Civil Registration in England and Wales for the year 1854 may prove of interest to members attempting to relate their own problems to the national situation. In that year there were 634 405 births and 159 727 marriages, of which 134 109 were solemnised in the Church of England. 68 175 brides and 47 843 bridegrooms were unable to write their names and in 35 255 marriages this applied to both parties. Unfortunately in only 97 382 marriages were the exact ages of the parties recorded. Of these nearly half the males (47 843) and over half the females (56 184) were younger than 25; one male and 28 females were younger than 16; and 437 widows and 320 widowers were re-marrying while still under 20 - one widow was taking her second husband at the age of 17.

These statistics are not the result of the Editor spending the summer running amok in St Catherine's House with an adding machine! They are taken from an article in the Illustrated London News of 26 July 1856, reviewing the Registrar General's Annual Report for 1854.

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## OFFERS OF HELP

Mr Joiner's marriage index has already been mentioned (see Editorial). Other offers have come from Mr A.J. ROBINS, 13 Lucerne St, Vermont, Victoria, 3133, Australia, who will help with research in Australia, and from Mr W. VEITCH, "Haydon", 39 Ivinson Rd, Darwen, Lancs, BB3 0EN, who has copies to 1812 of the parish registers of Elsdon, Whitfield and Haydon Bridge (all Nb) and will assist members for a SAE.

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## FUTURE PROGRAMME

### Wednesday, October 19th

Mrs Gardener will speak on Heraldry.

YMCA Building, Ellison Place, Newcastle, 7.15 p.m.

### Wednesday, November 16th

Mr McAndrew of Bedlington will speak on Surname Derivations.

YMCA Building, Ellison Place, Newcastle, 7.15 p.m.

### Friday, December 2nd

This is a special "extra" meeting, arranged to give our Teesside members a chance to meet. It will be a joint meeting with Cleveland and Teesside Local History Society at which the speaker will be our member Dr C.W. Gibby.

Stockton Library, 7.30 p.m.

### Wednesday, December 14th

The Society will re-visit the Dept of Palaeography at Durham University. Our last visit there, in November 1976, was most successful, but numbers had to be restricted. This visit is intended to provide an opportunity for those who could not attend on that occasion to see this most important record repository.

Meet outside the Department, South Road, Durham (opposite the New Inn) at 7.15 p.m.

### Advance Notice

The speaker at our February meeting is to be Mrs E. Simpson, Hon Secretary of the Federation of Family History Societies.

### Subscription Reminder

Have you renewed your subscription yet? If not, please do so immediately, OR NO MORE JOURNALS WILL BE SENT TO YOU. Subscriptions were due on September 1st.