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NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM  
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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Correspondence connected with the Journal should be addressed to the Editor, Mr G. Nicholson, 57 Manor Park, Concord, Washington, Tyne & Wear, NE37 2BU. All other correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary, Mr J.A. Readdie, 38 Archery Rise, Neville's Cross, Durham, DH1 4LA. PLEASE always include stamps for return postage when writing (two International Reply Coupons from overseas members) and quote your membership number. Books from the Society's library may be borrowed from, and should be returned to, the Librarian, Dr M.E. Wilson, 33 Archery Rise, Neville's Cross, Durham, DH1 4LA.

## SECRETARY'S JOTTINGS

Another year has come and gone, and subscriptions are due shortly - on or before 1 September. There is an unchanged sub: £2 for UK members, £3 family membership, £2.50 overseas Surface mail, £5 overseas Airmail (£5 and \$10 USA/Canada). A renewal form is enclosed. Send to Mr D. Mason, 8 West Hextol Close, Hexham, Northumberland. North American members could help finances a little by sending 5 or 10 dollar bills instead of dollar cheques, which are expensive to clear and convert. Please help the Treasurer by remitting early. The October Journal will not be sent to members who have not paid, and it is expensive to send reminders.

We apologise to those members who received the April Journal minus a back cover! A bit of a mix up, I'm afraid! We hope, also, that you don't object to the plastic envelopes we are using to send out the Journal. These cost quite a bit less than normal ones, and save considerably on postage.

Some changes in the Society's organisation. Although Geoff Nicholson will continue to edit the Journal, the task of collating and arranging material for the "Members and their Interests" column and "Second Time Around" will now be undertaken by Miss Anne Douglas, 29 Bewick Court, John Dobson Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE1 8EG. If you want to add to or amend your interests for printing in these columns, please write to her. The Librarian (Dr Margaret Wilson, 33 Archery Rise, Durham) is still responsible for the Directory of Members Interests and pedigree charts and other material for inclusion in any future edition should be sent to her.

The Society is now undertaking transcription and indexing work on a more formal basis than previously and three volunteers will co-ordinate efforts in this field. Mr W.E. Wallace, 16 Turners Way, Morpeth, Northumberland (for work at Northumberland Record Office), Mr R.W. Hewitson, 20 Coverdale Road, Stockton (for Durham County Record Office) and Mrs J.D. Summers, 22 Rectory Road, Gosforth (for Tyne and Wear Record Office). If you would like to help, please contact them. Three recording sessions at Durham have been held, genealogical detail from Settlement Papers being extracted, hopefully for eventual publication, and it is hoped to extend this to cover Northumberland etc., and to move into the area of parish register transcription and indexing. How about a London-based member organising something in the capital? - indexing Nonconformist registers at the PRO, or transcribing Hearth Tax, for example.

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### REFLECTIONS OF A GENEALOGICAL WEEKEND (Society of Genealogists' Weekend Course at St. John's College, York, 31 March-2 April 1978)

Miss M.E. Elliott

Arriving at York Station on a windy spring afternoon I made my way on foot through the city, past ancient monuments, alongside the city wall with grassy banks of daffodils and crocuses. I wondered as I approached St. John's College of Ripon and York "would we all freeze to death in spartan conditions, in an ancient college?" But, no, modern blocks set amongst a few older buildings faced me as I made my way to the reception area.

Already a handful of people were waiting to register. There were eventually 77 on the course of whom about 16 were living out. The atmosphere was friendly, conversation was easy with sympathetic listeners, which, as someone remarked, was not always the case at home!

The first evening was one of finding one's way about. Where to sleep, and eat and where the lectures would be taking place. Each floor of the

accommodation blocks had a coffee and tea-making facility, very simple when we'd worked out how it operated! Dinner was a light-hearted affair with people avidly exchanging ideas. No-one was left out. There were a few married couples but most of us came on our own, a common interest bound us together. After dinner, we made our way to the lecture room where Mr Camp, Director of Research at the Society of Genealogists, introduced the course with an interesting talk which he began by telling how he started off genealogy as a boy making family trees of everybody and everything, and as the talk progressed his experiences touched a chord in us all.

Next morning after a breakfast larger than most of us were used to, we made our way back to the lecture room where Mr Camp acquainted us with some of the centralized sources and the information they contained. To judge by the amount of note-taking a lot of us were not going to miss anything that came first hand from one so experienced. Coffee and tea breaks gave us the chance to brouse through the SoG bookstall and most of us succumbed to books, maps and leaflets at some time during the course.

Mr Lawson Edwards, Librarian, spoke informatively about the Library and explained what we could find in the various rooms. We were also given a copy of the SoG Library Guide. He particularly stressed how essential it was to use the library catalogue and how astounded he was at the number of people who try and manage without it (even over a period of years) and how much material they must miss by not using it. Perhaps we should all bear this in mind, when visiting.

After lunch came an interesting visit to the Borthwick Institute. We were divided into three groups. Group 1 was led to the conservation room, to inspect the skilled work done to conserve old tattered manuscripts. It was fascinating. But, when left to our own devices most of us scurried down to inspect the library. In fact Group 1 seemed to be there rather too long - forgotten? Gradually we filtered through to the strong-room where original documents are kept. It was an enjoyable visit, in spite of missing out on some of the guided tour.

By this time several members of the NDFHS had made contact and one or two others had expressed interest in the two magazines and Members Directory I had with me (potential members?). What a pity more NDFHS members were not there, it was a good opportunity to make contact, especially for those who live too far away to attend the Society's meetings in Newcastle.

Sunday dawned mild and sunny. Miss Colwell gave her first lecture on what was to be found at Local Record Offices. After the coffee break she went on to tell us about records of land transfer and started off with a marvellous example of how, while waiting for documents at a LRO, she had looked up a surname in their card index and discovered a land indenture which took her back from 1817 to 1691. Putting these dates on the black-board, she showed us how she had filled in the gap from wills and other indentures, which was fascinating as we saw a family tree unfolding before our eyes!

The final session was a Brains Trust with various questions asked and answered either by the panel of lecturers or by members themselves. Then each member briefly mentioned which names and areas he was researching. While this was going on pieces of paper were passing from one member to another with comments, information and offers of help. One member made the amazing statement that during the weekend she had found a distant relative amongst the course members!

Soon it was time for our final break and I think that most of us agreed we were going home having spent a very informative weekend, beginners and others alike, full of ideas of where to go and what to try next if we were stuck, had made future contacts and promises to seek out information for others living in different parts of the country. In all a very satisfactory way to spend a weekend and one that, hopefully, can be repeated another time.

## THE MANOR OF CHESTER DEANERY

A.J. Pain

The Manor of Chester Deanery, which was owned by the Milbankes and later by the Jollifes, was held of the Dean and Chapter of Durham and so called to distinguish it from the Bishop's Manor of Chester. Compared with the much larger Manor of Chester, the Manor of Chester Deanery covered quite a small area, which at least makes its records more manageable! It is difficult to be precise as to what area the manor covered - there is at Durham University Department of Palaeography a map showing the extent of Chester Manor but not that of Chester Deanery. As a generalisation, land in Chester-le-Street which was not in the Manor of Chester was probably in the Manor of Chester Deanery.

The records of the manor, which are in some respects more in the nature of "Family Papers" than the usual run of Manorial Documents, have been deposited at Durham University Department of Palaeography by the British Record Association who received them from Messrs Withers (solicitors). The documents go back to 1560 and some of the earlier ones would be difficult for beginners to read (how often have we heard that before, and how true it can be!), but all have been listed and copies of the lists may be available in local reference libraries.

Quite by chance, I recently came across some deeds relating to this Manor which serve to emphasize what a great deal of information is available for the family historian in the Manorial Court rolls.

There were only three deeds, the first two dated 25 September 1876. The first of these recites: "came Henrietta the wife of Thomas Godfordson of Etrick Place Grey Street in Sunderland, painter, before her marriage with him called Henrietta Smith who was one of the two daughters of Thomas Holmes Smith by Eleanor his wife who afterwards became his widow and intermarried with John Burdon".

The second recites: "came William Thomas Fowls of No 17 Villiers Street, Sunderland, civil engineer, who was the eldest son and heir at law and also customary heir of Eleanor the wife and afterwards the widow of William Fowls before her marriage with him called Eleanor Smith who was one of the two daughters of Eleanor the wife and afterwards the widow of Thomas Holmes Smith".

Both of these deeds were copy admittances in respect of about an acre of land in Chester-le-Street "with right of stintage on Waldrige fell including the rent payable for wayleave in respect of such right". There was also, however, an office copy of surrender and defeazance dated 7 February 1877. This deed gives yet more details. It first mentions Eleanor Sarah Godfordson "one of the daughters of the said Thomas Godfordson" and Henrietta Pattinson "the widow of the late Joseph Hodgson Pattinson of Ettrick Place who before her marriage with him was called Henrietta Godfordson" and was the other daughter of Thomas Godfordson. It also mentions a son, Thomas Godfordson, "the only other child, having died in infancy".

Thereafter the 1877 deed helps with William Thomas Fowls' family history. "William Thomas Fowls together with Eleanor Esther Fowls of 17 Villiers Street aforesaid, Henrietta Alice Fowls of the same place, James Wilson of 29 Villiers Street aforesaid and Mary Ann his wife who before her marriage with him was called Mary Ann Fowls, Jane Catchside Fowls of 17 Villiers Place aforesaid, Elizabeth Matilda Fowls of the same place, Septima Fowls of the same place, Isabella Fowls of the same place, Louisa Fowls of the same place and John Edward Fowls of the same place" who "were the ten and only surviving children of William Fowls late of Sunderland, Master

Mariner by Eleanor his wife called before her marriage to him Eleanor Smith".

There then follows a very interesting recital, "Whereas Ann Catcheside late of Sherburn Moor House, widow duly made and published her last will and testament in writing bearing date 9 March 1827 and thereby gave and devised unto Robert Bowery and Robert Darling ... on trust during the life of Eleanor Burdon the wife of the said John Burdon formerly Eleanor Smith and thereafter in trust for Eleanor Smith and Henrietta Smith the two daughters of the said Eleanor Burdon by her former husband".

The first mention of the Catcheside family in the Manor comes in 1637 with a copyhold transaction in favour of Robert Catcheside the son and heir of John Catcheside who appears in the list of jurors for 1642.

To return, however, to the deed. It states that Eleanor Burdon died on 7 February 1851, William Fowls died 5 October 1856, Eleanor Fowls died 19 July 1867, and that all the children of William and Eleanor had reached the age of 21 with the exception of Margaret Jane Fowls who died in infancy.

An interesting light on the social attitudes then prevailing is the recital: "The said Mary Ann Wilson and Henrietta Godfordson being examined alone and not compelled by force or through fear of their respective husbands but of their own voluntary and free will respectively".

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#### COMPILING THE FEISST STORY

Mrs E.A. Barlow

The gathering of material for my history of the Feisst/Faist family involved many hours of sifting, writing, elation and frustration. The intention was to list all the descendants of Hermann Feisst (born Baden, Germany, 1858) and his wife, Emma Russi (born San Antonio, Texas, U.S.A., 1857) in New Zealand, to record a history of the Feisst/Faist and Russi families from information obtained from varying sources, to record the "familiness" acquired by the Feisst Family Reunion in November 1976, and finally, and perhaps most important, to provide for all members of the family a photographic record of its history.

The Reunion had been planned to bring together members of the family for the first time in forty years. Of course the family had doubled in size too, but this only made the occasion grander! It also provided an opportunity for a double-check by descendants of all the available statistical information, and this gave me the confidence to proceed. The next step was to dig out some of the family history. This involved three separate areas of research: pre-1873 in Baden, Germany, 1873-1901 in New York and Texas, and post-1901 in New Zealand.

The New Zealand history was relatively easy to obtain, as an 81 year old son of Herman and Emma Feist, the only surviving member of the family to come from America in 1901, was a mine of memories. Adding to this information culled from libraries and other "regular" sources, I soon had enough material. Proceeding backwards, I wrote to County Courthouses in Texas and New York and had Roman Catholic records searched. By a fortunate stroke of luck I found the addresses of several 'long-lost' relatives in telephone directories, and by the subsequent exchange of information, a fair outline of the families' movements in the U.S.A. was drawn up. I was fortunate in being able to spend six weeks in America in June/July 1977, which allowed the opportunity to search the records personally, an experience in itself! I saw graves of ancestors, newspaper articles written 120 years ago on my ancestors (two or three were Aldermen of San Antonio, Texas; others filled positions of prominence in other spheres) and was able to get to know my 'new' relatives.

On returning to New Zealand I realised it was important that I find a contact in Germany to continue research for me "back to oblivion". Not being able to speak German made it impossible to do the research myself from this side of the world. I wrote in the first instance to the West German Ambassador in Wellington, New Zealand, who was able to supply me with the address of a Genealogical Society in Stuttgart. Writing to this address, I asked for the address of a researcher in the Baden area, and who could correspond in English. With typical German efficiency a very prompt reply arrived, from an accredited researcher in Achern-Gamshurst. In three short months this association was to prove excellent; my researcher was quickly able to establish where my ancestors came from, with records providing information on nine generations of the Faist family of Gengenbach, and six generations of the Russi family of Diersheim (on the Rhine). She also supplied maps, postcards and historical information to give me an overall picture of the times and areas in which my ancestors lived.

As far as the book itself was concerned, printing costs were naturally a big consideration. The large number of photographs to be included made the job more expensive than if it had been simply a book of words. Deciding on 72 pages (40 for photos, 30 for story), I received a quote of \$NZ900 for 200 copies. A single copy worked out at approximately \$4-50, but since I would have no chance of selling all 200 copies (we are a small family), I charged out a single copy at \$5-50 including postage and handling.

Once the final writing was attended to it was off to the printers with my typed transcript and photographs. Six weeks, several phone calls and personal consultations later, I was able to collect the completed results from the printers. To say it was a proud moment would be an understatement, but I must add too, that it was one of relief! A year or so's hard work was in that large box I was carrying.

The completion of "The Feisst Story" has invoked a rather quiet period for me genealogically, a reaction to all the concentrated work, but on reflection, I must acknowledge that this accomplishment was not a solo effort, but rather that of many people. Close relatives, distant ones, archivists, librarians, genealogical friends and many others have all good reason to demand their share of the credit, and this I gladly give them. This particular project has been to me an example of genealogy at its best - many people working together, meeting, talking and writing, helping to solve one another's problems. The outcome of it all is "familiness", friendliness and the provision for future generations of a recorded heritage.

✓ Mrs Barlow has kindly contributed a copy of her book "The Feisst Story" to our library and members wishing to see for themselves this impressive end-product of her genealogical researches may borrow it on application to the librarian, Dr M.E. Wilson, 33 Archery Rise, Neville's Cross, Durham, DH1 4LA. We are also grateful to Mrs Barlow for the gift of the Directory of Members Interests of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc, to say nothing of her enthusiasm in persuading members of her family and others to join our Society! - Ed.]

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#### BEWARE OF YETLINGS

From Holy Island Burial Register:

"Elizabeth WILSON, 2nd daughter of Lancelot and Ann WILSON, died 7th October 1799, her death occasioned by scald from falling into a yetling of hot water."

How many members know what a yetling is?

THE REVEREND ROBERT MARR OF SANDWICK, ORKNEY - WHAT BECAME OF HIM?

R.L. Mackay, M.D.

The entry in the Family Bible is quite definite. It runs thus: "1860. Andrew Mackay II was born in Orkney on the 14th November, 1819, and was baptised by the Reverend Robert Marr, Established Minister in the Parish of Sandwick, County of Orkney, in the Year of our Lord, 1819." For generations in the family the words of the printed Bible had been accepted as Truth, and beyond all question. This faith had been extended to all entries written in by successive generations. Andrew Mackay II, who at the age of 41 made the above entry about himself, was a careful, conscientious man. He registered the births of his ten children with the same full formula as above, numbering each in order not only in ordinary numerals, but in Roman too. Family tradition went further, for Andrew Mackay I (1781-1836) with his young wife had left their croft in Easter Ross because of the stresses of the Highland Clearances, and sailed for a new life in Manitoba. Their ship had been wrecked on the Orkneys, and Margaret, his wife, had given birth to their firstborn son, "on the rocks". For many years the name of Marr remained in my memory for was not Marr a North Country name like my own? I determined to resuscitate the memory of the Reverend Gentleman, if possible, if only as a reward for his services to my great-grandparents in 1819.

First I wrote to a kinsman in Glasgow. He quoted that a Rev. Robert Marr was apparently "Parish Minister" at Stockton-on-Tees, Co. Durham, from 1792 to 1803. His next appearance was as Parish Priest at Widdrington, Northumberland, from 1804 to 1807. These dates appeared to fit with the man whose history I sought, but why should Andrew Mackay I, who was a Wee Free or a Seceder, or an early equivalent of either of these, employ a Parish Minister for the baptism of his child - a minister who had previously been a priest of the Church of England? There was something wrong somewhere. And there was no copy of the Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae nearer than London for me to check.

I ascertained from General Register House in Edinburgh that they had no record of the birth or baptism of Andrew Mackay II in the Parish of Sandwick in Orkney, nor in that of Sandwick in Shetland - and, therefore, no trace of the baptiser.

Librarians the world over form the most co-operative and spontaneously helpful of professions, and Evan MacGillivray, the Orkney County Librarian, was characteristically cordial, and also emphatic in his reply: "Family Bible or not, there does seem to be some basic inaccuracy in the information about Andrew Mackay II. ... At any rate, there was clearly no Rev Robert Marr, Established Minister or otherwise, in Orkney or Shetland." This was a setback, but it only confirmed what correspondence with the Rev. Sandy Jamieson of Stromness and the Rev. J.N. Blair, in Shetland, had told me. They knew the names of all their predecessors and there was no Marr amongst them. When Mr Blair met his friend Professor Donaldson of Edinburgh one day in a street in Lerwick they discussed the subject of the missing Marr, and the Professor promised help. I began to feel that all Orkney, and perhaps Shetland too, might be speaking about the odd enquiry from Wolverhampton. Was there a mystery behind it all?

The records of Kirkwall Cathedral had been temporarily in Edinburgh, but later Mr Jamieson wrote to say they contained no reference to Andrew Mackay II, nor to his baptiser. Church librarians in Edinburgh wrote cheerfully on the subject, quoting from the Fasti that Robert Marr was a licentiate of the Church of Scotland when he went to England. This was news to me, a designation different from that given by my kinsman in Glasgow. All this time I was plunging deeper into Church History, for Mr John V. Howard of New



College Library, Edinburgh, wrote to me: "The Secession Church, officially The Associate Presbytery, had split into two factions by that time (1819): the 'Burghers' and the 'Anti-Burghers', but they reunited in 1820. The nearest Secession Church to Sandwick was at Stromness, in 1809 .... Biographical details of its ministers are in the History of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland, but Robert Marr is not mentioned in this or any other context."

About this time a letter from Professor Donaldson, of the Department of Scottish History, Edinburgh University, was received. With much tact, he wrote: "While not doubting the integrity of Andrew Mackay II and his Bible entry of 1860 date, could not his memory have failed him? Could not Marr have been a Dissenting Minister? If the baptism was by a Dissenting Minister it would not appear in the Parish Register, even if it were extant." This letter encouraged me. Baulked in Scotland so far, I had none the less to go on.

All this time I had been trying to avoid having a one-track mind, and had been making investigations at Stockton and at Widdrington. No one there had heard of the Rev. Robert Marr and it soon became obvious that he had never been the incumbent of either place.

Now came an interesting note from Mr R.N. Smart of the University of St. Andrews: "I have no proof, but I have tentative identification of the Presbyterian minister in England with Robert Marr who was an Arts student at United College 1776-1779, a foundation bursar, probably born about 1761 of artisan or agricultural parents. Robert Marr then went on to St. Mary's College to study divinity 1779-1782, and 1783-1784. He did not graduate, but graduation was regarded at the time as unfashionable and a meaningless ceremony. The fact of his proceeding to study divinity is sufficient guarantee of a successful completion of the Arts course. His holding of a bursary from 1778-1779 is also an indication of merit. I think this is the same Robert Marr who was an assistant master of the Cupar Grammar School in 1784, but again there is no proof."

The search now spread to the London area. From there, Mr R.J. Watson, of the United Reformed Church History Society, kindly sent me a number of possible references to Robert Marr. In fairness to a fellow historian I must record that, in parenthesis, Mr Watson remarked: "I think later references confuse the two Roberts". The sources to which he referred were:

(1) John Black's MS Papers, Vol. VI. Benjamin Evans was succeeded (at Stockton Presbyterian Church) on May 13 of the year 1792 by the Rev. Robert Marr, also a Scotch Presbyterian holding Calvinistic views, who continued until 1803. During the latter part of his time he seems to have been somewhat unsettled and frequently from home, from which cause the congregation suffered. He is no doubt the same person who settled at Widdrington in 1804 until 1807, after which time his name disappears, and nothing further is known of him.

(2) A pamphlet on the union of St. Andrew's and St. George's Presbyterian Churches in Stockton says: The Rev. Robert Marr, a licentiate of the Church of Scotland, was ordained to Stockton and continued his ministry from 1792 to 1803 when he was translated to Newcastle. His ministry was marked by stormy dissension between the different schools, a secession taking place in 1708. (an error for 1808? - but see later). During part of his time he kept an academy in West Row.

(3) According to Thomas Richmond's Records of Stockton, 1868, p. 83, Marr was also Master of the Grammar School there, and for five years paid a rent of £2.2.0 p.a. to the Corporation for the use of the schoolroom.

(4) Mr Watson's final reference was to R.S. Robson, a prominent layman who



compiled notebooks of MS and news cuttings for all the congregations in the area. In the notebook on Stockton-on-Tees, Robson records: Robert Marr, 1792, resigned 1803. Later at Garth Heads, Newcastle; died there 1836. His will is at Durham, dated October 19. 1836. He died possessed of some little property and leaves to his brothers Alexander and Thomas and sister Catherine 'The sum of lawful money, £84 the full value thereof in Guineas being now in my custody'. He further leaves to his relatives his interest in Sundry Bonds of Obligation for 1,400 Scots Marks. Taking the Mark at 1/1½ gives about £78. During part of his time he kept an Academy in West Row. The Marrs were a local family in Newcastle. The Rev. Robert Marr of Garth Heads was the uncle of the Stockton Marr. Robson ended his note by saying Marr was "translated to Scotland in 1807".

The foregoing was heady stuff, and full of clues. I sent at once for a copy of the Will, and here I acknowledge the courtesy of the staff of Durham University Department of Palaeography. The Will contained the words and phrases exactly as above and much more besides. It named two other brothers, William and John, living at Gartonside in Roxburghshire, and a fifth brother with no address. It named three friends in the same county and a Thomas Bell of Newcastle. I read down carefully through its pages until I came to the line above the signature of Robert Marr. That line read "In the Year of our Lord Seventeen Hundred and Thirty Six". I had come upon the will of a Rev. Robert Marr who was possibly the grandfather of our Marr, or, more likely, one who belonged to the same family but of a generation still earlier!

I had hoped with my researches to invest an Orkney minister named Robert Marr with both a history and a personality. So far, I have not determined the date and place of his birth, nor of his death. His origin and fate remain unknown. Did he ever marry? Did he abandon the Church and become a teacher? There is no answer to these questions. There is no documentary link between Marr, the baptiser, and Marr the student at St. Andrews University. Nor is there one between that student and the Dissenting Minister of the Chapels at Stockton and Widdrington. Yet the dates of all three fit into the period 1761-1819, suggesting one person.

Two facts seem to emerge, however. The first is that Andrew Mackay II, the careful scribe, was in error when he described the minister who baptised him as of the Established Church in the Parish of Sandwich. The baptiser could only have been a Dissenter.

The second and to me surprising fact is that, so far, my enquiries in Orkney itself show no evidence there of the life of Robert Marr, a Dissenting Minister. He remains only a name in a family Bible in Wolverhampton.

I have sought in many quarters for evidence to justify or disturb the family tradition that my great grandparents were wrecked on the Orkney Islands just before the baptism of their firstborn son on 14 November 1819, but I have not found the name of the ship nor of her captain, nor of her port of departure or of destination. But there is much evidence of monumental storms that winter and accounts in the Annual Register for 1819, the Glasgow Herald and the London Times bear witness to their severity. Several ships are known to have been wrecked that year around Orkney, but none of those mentioned in the newspaper accounts were outward bound with emigrants.

It has been suggested that the ship on which Andrew Mackay I and his pregnant wife were travelling either called in at Stromness by previous arrangement, or was forced by the October gales to shelter there for a short time before proceeding on her voyage to Canada. But Andrew I, being a careful, kindly man, and apprehensive about his wife's condition and the hazards of a voyage for an infant, decided to cut his losses and take his wife ashore, the infant being born soon after. The dramatic phrase 'on the rocks' may well describe his financial condition at that time! At any rate, he returned to the mainland with his wife and child, and by his industry, survived as a crofter until 1836.

So much for the family tradition! My researches have not destroyed it. And I have not yet found the Orkney Robert Marr! I am far from bereft of ideas, however; one recalls those lines of S.T. Coleridge:

It is an ancient Mariner

And he stoppeth one of three.

"By thy long grey beard and glittering eye,

Now wherefore stopp'st thou me?"

I will go to Orkney this summer, and I will stop each third man I meet, and say "Have you got a family Bible with births and baptisms recorded in it? If so, does it mention a Reverend Robert Marr?"

I'll probably be locked up!

One wonders whether the Rev. Robert Marr was also "on the rocks", i.e., was he not himself a shipwrecked would-be emigrant? If that is the case perhaps, unlike Andrew Mackay, he persisted in his attempt. Can any Canadian or U.S. member find any trace of a career for him in the New World?  
- Ed.]

THE LITTLE RED BOOK  
or  
THE THOUGHTS OF PARSON GRICE

Between January 15th and June 10th 1835, the Rev. Grice, Vicar of Whickham, compiled a list of the 787 families then in his parish. Why he did this, or under what authority, is not clear but it must have been a time-consuming task for he has collected a mass of detail about each family - detail he can only have obtained by calling personally on them. He recorded the information in a small red book, which is now in Durham County Record Office (ref. EP/Wh 29). It is a real treasure chest for the genealogist interested in the Whickham area, for it is a census of sorts conducted by the Vicar six years before the 1841 official census, the first one for which returns survive. But it is a census with a difference, for in addition to statistical detail which is itself most useful, the reverend gentleman recorded for posterity his views on the characters of particular parishioners and thus his work has an especial interest.

First, the factual detail. Unlike the official censuses, it does not name every inhabitant, it does not give ages, it does not give places of birth. But it makes up for these deficiencies by supplying information not required in the official census but which is in its way just as valuable to the searcher. Details given are:

- (a) address.
- (b) name of head of house, sometimes with extra detail given, e.g., Isabel Turnbull widow, John Spoor and son and son's wife.
- (c) the number of sons, daughters, lodgers and servants. No names are given.
- (d) occupation.
- (e) religious denomination - "churchman", Wesleyan, Presbyterian, Methodist, Primitive Methodist or Roman Catholic.
- (f) "means of religious instruction", i.e., whether by regular attendance at church or at any house of worship, sacrament of the Lord's Supper, "reads or is able to read", prayer book, bible or family prayer.
- (g) type of school attended by children - national, Sunday, private or Thompson's.
- (h) place of marriage.

The religious denomination and place of marriage are especially useful, since they provide clues to further possible places of search for baptisms or

marriage at a period prior to the commencement of civil registration in 1857.

Finally, in about half of the cases, the good Vicar adds a word or two by way of a brief pen picture, often in some religious context - "pious and wishful", "professes more than practices".

A typical example is Ralph Pyle, a "keelman - bad leg" who lived with his wife, two sons and one daughter, was married at Whickham, was a "churchman", a regular attender at church who could read and obtained his religious instruction from a prayer book. Despite all these attributes, he is described as "very ignorant".

Many parishioners merit only a brief word of praise - "humble", "very willing". It is for the less than pure in heart that Mr Grice reserves most of his comments. Mary Reed and her two sisters, "servants, invalid and poor" are nevertheless "very unhumble"; Isabel Turnbull, widow, pauper, infirm, is "pharisaical beyond measure"; George Masterman, keelman, who "bears a bad character in the neighbourhood"; and what are we to make of Robert Dick, a keelman and a father of three sons, who is "bad work and righteous in his own eyes"?

The Vicar clearly hated the demon drink and the publicans receive some harsh treatment from his pen. There is John Spoor, with two sons and four daughters - "house and family bad name"; Robert Thoburn "rather snappish"; John Robson with his six daughters "utterly careless, daughters not so bad". The customers also receive the vicarial censure. There is William Miller and wife, factoryman, who "drinks hard and often"; John Gillenden and wife, "nightwatch", married in Sunderland, "wife great professor but wants more light; husband drinks". And there is Mark Archer, a "drunken swearer", Crosby Lumley, blacksmith, who lives with his wife, four sons and four daughters and who "drinks on Sundays". There is some hope, perhaps, for Adam Thompson whose "daughter wishes to improve although the rest of the family drink". There is none for John Langhorn, whose wife is "careless, stupid and pharisaical; both drink hard and often".

The church haters are there too. Robert Bates, mason, "hates bishops and taxes and pensions" - an odd trio, this! - "will never go to Church till Bishops are no more. Uncivil and careless." Joiner Joseph Tweedy who "quarrelled with Mr Liddle and hates the church and clergy". Presbyterian sea captain John Brown who "drinks, wife professes much, is very bitter against the Church."

Occasionally, there is pure gossip - Rachel Moss a "teacher, very poor", wed in Newcastle, but with a "husband run off to America". We are introduced to Aaron Holmes, countryman, with the juicy item that his "daughter just confined with 2nd illeg. child". We meet Ann Brack, widow, pauper, "son half witted and deformed". And there is Isabella Summerland "pauper of Winlaton, very poor" who is "wishful, husband ran away".

One woman baffled the Vicar. The wife of Robert Vickerman, exciseman - "cannot comprehend the wife at all". And maybe he was baffled too by widow Ann Glasper, "pauper of Lamesley, very dirty", a Primitive Methodist who is "blessed with second sight".

Rev. Grice leaves us in no doubt what he thought of his flock. One wonders what his flock thought of him! Alas, this is not recorded. But despite the prejudices of the Vicar, this is a fascinating little book, and a most valuable aid if you are seeking information about an ancestor who lived, two years before Victoria became Queen, in Whickham, or Swalwell, or Axwell, or Sunnyside, or Dunston, or Lobley Hill, or Gibside.

F.J. Vaughan

We continue here the list of persons confirmed by Bishop John Leyburn in 1687 begun in Vol. 2, no. 3 with the list for Dilston and continued in Vol. 3, no. 2, with Callaly, Cartington and Swinburne. The lists below for Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Netherwitton complete the record for Northumberland.

Catholics Confirmed at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 10 August

AKIN	Jane	EMMERSON	Anne Prend, Mary Law
ALLEN	Henry	ERRINGTON	Anne, Ant, Eliz, Jane
ALLGOOD	Barth	FAWLEY	Eliz
ALLISON	Jane, Mary, 'Tib'	FALEWELL	Anne
ANBY	Eliz Maria, Jane, Sarah	FENWICK	'Anar', Barb, Eliz,
APPLEBY	Mary, Wm		Francis, Isabel, Jane,
ARMSTRONG	Thos		John, Margos, Mary, May,
ATCHISON	Ursula		Thos, Wm
ATKINSON	Thos	FORDIN	Jane
BAINBRIG	Edward	FOREST	Charley, Eliz, Isabel,
BEADNELL	Thos		Jos, Mary, Thos
BELL	Dor, Robt	FORLES	John
BELLASIS	Cath, Eliz, Thos	FORSTER	John
BLAKEY	Wm, Mgt, Mary	FOWSTER	Ralph
BOLSON	Mary	FRENCH	Barb, .....
BOWMAN	Ann	GAIRE	John, Mary, Thos
BRADÉ	John, Mary	GAIRY	Mary
BRANLIN	Chas, Anne	GALENBY	Edmund, Francis, John,
BRIGGS	Alice, Chas, Jane, Matt		Jos, Mary
BROWN	John	GALLY	Nicholas
BURN	Wm	GAMLEY	Frances
CARLETON	Barbara Mary	GARDINER	Anne, Hy, Mary
CARR	Eliza	GARRY	Eliz
CHEESEBROUGH	Eliz	GELLY	Wm
CHOPLIN	Cath, Dor, Mary	GIBSON	Mary
CLAVERING	Eliz	GLENDIL	Mary
CLERKE	Jane, Mgt	GLENDELLAN	Eliz
CLOVY	Cath	GRAHAM	Wm
COCKERSON	Anne	GREY	Eliz, Ric, Thos
COMMIN	Anne, Cuthbert, Eliz,	GRIFFITH	Anne
	John, Mary, Mich, Nich,	GUMBLE	Francis
	Rt, Wm	HALL	Barb, Chris
CORTLEY	Mary	HARDY	Isabel, Mgt
CRAMLINTON	Thos	HARRISON	Eliz, Geo, Grace, John,
CUMMIN	Eliz		Marga, Winifred
CURRY	Mgt	HAWDON	Mary
CUTHBERT	Anne	HAY	Jane
DAMEL	Anne, Barbara	HEATH	Anne, Eliz, Thos
DARLIN	Foster	HEBDEN	Wm
DELAVAL	Mgt, Mary, Mary Anne,	HEPPEL	John
	'Mrs Teresa'	HILDON	Thos
DICKISON	Isabel	HILLIARD	Ric
DICKSON	Stephen	HODSHON	Albert, Anne, Eliz, Mary,
DOD	Edw, Mgt		Ric, Wm
DORNEL	Elinor	HOGGE	Jas, Eliz
DOROTHEL	Thos	HOLBERNE	Mary Anne
DRANE	Geo	HOLTON	Bart
DUNNE	Dor, Mary, Richard	HORSMAN	Mary
DUNS	'Marga'	HUDERSON	Mgt, Thos, Wm
ELEPHANT	Mary	HUDSON	Mary
ELLET	Anne, 'Elly', Jas, Robt	HUMBLE	Isabel, Mgt
ELLIOTT	Chris, Johanna	HUMLE	Eliz

HUNIHULE	Mary	SAUNDERSON	Mary
HUNTER	Anne, Jane	SELBY	Francis, Geo Luke,
ILEY	Eliz, Helen, Nich, Thos		Mabel?, Robt
JACKSON	Eleanora, Isabel, Mary,	SHAFTOE	Eliz, Richard
	Richard	SHAW	Roger
JENNISON	Eliz	SHERWOOD	Eliz, Isabel
JORDON	Martha	SILVERTOP	Albert, Eliz, Robt,
KENNET	Thos		Wm
KIRKLEY	Isabel	SMITH	An Maria, John
LAMPTON	Anne	SOLE(S)BY	Cath, Marga, Wm
LAW	George	STEPHENSON	Mary
LAWES	Cath, Mary	STEVINSON	Richard
LEGGE	Cecily, Mgt, Winefrid	STOOKE	Anne
LIDDEL	Cath, Mary, Matt	STORY	Marga, Mary
LORRAIN	Clara, Francis, Mary,	SUTTON	Cath, Mary
	Teresa, Thos	TAYLOR	Anne, Dor
LUKE	Thos	TEMPEST	Anne, Mary, Winefrid
MADDISON	Mary Anne	THOMSON	Geo, Mgt
MARLOE	Mary	TOMSON	Eliz
MAUGHAM	Mich	TOURES	Hanna
MEASON	Wm	TOWOG?	Anne
MERCHANT	Cath	TRUMBLE	Wm, Thos, 'Troth'
MOFFET	John	TURNBUL	Mary
MOORE	Dorothy	VICARS	Barb, Eliz
NAWLY	John	WALKER	John, Cath, Cuthbert,
ORTHWOOD	'Troth'		Eleanor
PELTON	Mgt	WALLIS	Mgt
PEPPER	John	WATSON	Eliz
PICKERING	Mgt	WIDDRINGTON	Barb, Barb Mary, Anne,
PIERSON	Wm		Cath, Frances Mary,
POLSON	Jane		Richard
PORTER	Cath, Launcelot	WILFORD	Wm
PRESWICK	Anne	WILLOUGHBY	Mgt
PRUNE	Eleanor	WILSON	Anne, Barb, David, Eliz,
PUNCH	Dorothy		Geo, Jane, Mary, Thos,
PUNCHION	Wm		Wm
READ	Eliz	WILTHIEN	Hy
RIDDELL	Barb, Cath, Mary,	WINSHIP	Cuthbert
	'Mrs Mary'	WIPLADY	Tim
ROBINSON	Anne, John, Mary	WOODROSE	Eliz, Thos
ROOKESLEY	Mary	WRAY	Barb, Francis, Jane
ROOME	Mary	YEPE	Anne
ROWELL	Wm	YOUNG	Eliz, John
ROY	Anne		
RUTHERFORD	Mary		

Catholics Confirmed at Netherwitton, 13 & 14 August

ALLAN	Mgt	BULMAN	Mary
ANDERSON	Thos	BULMER	Ant
AYNSLEY	Jas, Mary, Wm	BURLESON	Isabel, Jane, John,
BARBER	Mgt		Mary, Thos
BELL	Anne, Jas, John, Mary,	BUTIMAN	Mary
	Mary Anna, Ursula, Wm	BUTLER	Geo
BLACKETT	Mary, Wm	CARNABY	Eliz, Frances,
BOLAM	Anne		Lawrence, 'Ra'
BOULTON	Eliz	CHARLTON	Anne, Hy
BRANKMAN	Wm	CLENNELL	Jon
BROWNE	Anne, Eliz, Frances, John,	DANESON	Mary
	Jos, Mgt, Mary, Mich,	DOWGLAS	Mary
	Roger	DUN	Ann, Eliz

EMMERSON	John	REANLEY	Jas, Mary
ERRINGTON	Anne, Edw, John, Jos, Mgt, Mary, Peter, Thos	RENNESON	Wm
FENWICK	Anne, Jas, Mary	RICHARDSON	Eliz, Mary, Mich
GREENWELL	Jos	RIPPON	John, Wm, Mary
HADDOCK	Peter	ROBINSON	Mary
HANN	Cath, Elinor, Frances, Hy, John, Wm	ROBSON	Andrew, Anne, Lawrence
HANTBY?	Ra?	SCOTT	Elinoure, Francis, John, Mgt
HEASON	Mary	SINFORD	Peter
HILDRETH	Jane, John	SNOWDON	Patience, Stephen
HOLLYDAY	Mary	SWINBURNE	Anne
HORNSBY	Anne, Hy, John, Mgt, Mary, Robt, Thos, Wm	THOMSON	Lawrence, Mary
HUNTER	Anne, Eliz, Hy, John, Mgt, Mary, Mich, Robt, Wm	THORNTON	John, Mary
JACKSON	Thos	TOD	Anne, John, Mgt, Mary, Nich, Ralph, Thos, Wm
JOPLIN	Geo, Mary	TOMLIN	Joseph
JOYSEY	Agnes, Anne, Dor, Francis, John, Mary, Nich, Wm	TRUMBLE	Isabel, Jas
MACKAW	John, Mary	WAKE	Eliz
MOORE	Mary	WATSON	And, Eliz, 'Mrs Mary'
MORROW	Agnes, Frances, Geo, Mary, Peter	WILSON	Anne, Dor, John, Mgt, Mary, 'So', Thos, Wm
NICHOLSON	Anne, John, Mary	WILTHEW	Anne, Cath, Eliz, Hy, John, Jos, Mary, Nich
NICKSON	Mary	WINDGATE	John, Mary, Mich, Robt
POTTS	Anne, Mary, Robt, Thos	WOOD	John
RADCLIFFE	Anne, Edw, Francis, John, Mgt, Mary, Peter, Wm	YONGE	Jas, Anne

REVIEW - AN INDEX TO THE WILLS PROVED IN THE PREROGATIVE COURT  
OF CANTERBURY, 1750-1800, VOL. I, A-Bh

This book, the first of a series intended eventually to cover the complete alphabet, was recently published by the Society of Genealogists. The series is being compiled by a team led by Anthony Camp, the SoG's Director of Research, and contains references to some twenty thousand wills in its 414 pages. The book is in "glossy paperback" covers, A5 size (half the size of this Journal) and costs £6. The second volume of the series, Bi-Ce, is also now available, at £5.

Wills of people leaving property in Northumberland or County Durham (i.e., Durham Diocese) were normally proved at Durham; those of people leaving property in Durham Diocese and also in another Diocese in the Province of York would be proved at York and normally only those of people leaving property in the Diocese of Durham and also in a Diocese of the Province of Canterbury would be proved at Canterbury. Most of the PCC Wills are, in fact, of south-country testators, those living within the Province of Canterbury or on its borders with that of York. Another major set of Wills in the PCC is those of testators dying in foreign parts. As a result of all this, the Northumberland and County Durham content of the series will be small - only about 0.5% of the Wills mentioned in Volume I are of north-eastern people. Those with ancestors from the south of England may find this series a good buy, but others may well think it expensive for what use it will be to them. As indexes, the books do nothing more than list the Wills with their PCC references - it is still necessary to apply to the Public Record Office, London, to inspect their contents.

Volume I has been reproduced from typescript sheets (with an unexplained change of typeface at p. 167, the start of "B"). Although we are assured no

Wills are missing, we are still not told why much of p. 53 has been left blank. Future volumes (from Volume 3) will have a further change of style - two columns per page instead of one, which is intended to increase the number of Wills per volume without a corresponding increase in cost. It remains to be seen whether this can be achieved.

All in all, an interesting set of books if you have southern ancestors, but don't expect it to solve your Northumberland or County Durham problems.

G.N.

### THE POOR OF BISHOPTON, 1842

This is a list of paupers in the South Durham parish of Bishopston, 'who have been relieved during the Quarter ending 25th December 1842'. Durham County Record Office, ref. EP/Bis 15.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>If not in work- house, where resident</u>	<u>Cause of requiring relief</u>	<u>Amount of Relief</u>
Ann BRUCE	57	Bishopston	Widow	1/6 weekly
John ) children	15	do	In service	do
Sarah )				
Ann CLOSE	53	do	Deserted by her husband	do
Jane ) children	16			
William )	14			
Alice DOBING	49	Hartlepool	Widow unable to support her family	2/-
Ann )	10			
Jane ) children	9	do		
Alice )	8			
George HERRON	10	Bishopston	Bastard	1/-
Mary HEAVISIDES	80	do	Infirm widow sick	4/-
Ann JACKSON	42	Washington	Widow unable to earn a sufficiency to support her family	5/-
James )	18			
Elizabeth )	16			
John ) children	14	do		
Ann )	12			
Dorothy )	10			
Sarah )	8			
Barbara )	5			
Ann RIDER	67	Ferryhill	Infirm widow	1/6
Margaret RIDER	24	do	Widow	5/-
George ) children	3			
Robert )	2			
Margaret )	$\frac{1}{2}$			
Edward RIDSDALE	59	Yarm	Husband blind	2/6
Sarah his wife	56			
Robert THOMPSON	82	Cockerton	Infirm	3/6
Ann his wife	62			
David DOBING	52	Bishopston	Infirmity	1/-
Ralph GOLDSBOROUGH	68	Stockton	Husband out of work	10/-
Jane his wife	68		10/- given by way of loan	



THE FEDERATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT BRISTOL, APRIL 1978

Margaret E. Wilson

The Federation of Family History Societies is a co-ordinating body for all the local Family History Societies in the country. This Society is a member and pays £6.50 per annum dues, which allows us one vote at the AGM. Any member of the Society can attend these meetings, however, in a non-voting capacity.

Bristol and Avon Family History Society, the host society to the Federation for the week-end conference which included the AGM on the Sunday morning, arranged a full and varied programme for those attending. A separate programme of activities was arranged for children and adults who did not have very strong interests in the genealogical lectures (a visit to a museum, brass rubbing, a visit to the S.S. Great Britain, swimming, etc.). This was a successful and much appreciated innovation which allowed families to attend the meeting.

During the weekend, there were talks by Donald Steel on the wide range and variety of genealogical societies in the USA while Dr Ben Bloxham, from Brigham Young University, spoke about the Mormon contribution to genealogical studies. Stephen Emlyn-Jones gave an impassioned talk about the four major projects which the Federation is urging member societies to undertake. He challenged anyone who has ever looked up an index or a transcript to repay the debt owed by giving one hour a month to one of the projects. (This works out at over 500 hours work each month by this society - what could be done in that time if it were efficiently organised!) The time could be spent in typing or indexing work by housebound members. The four major projects are as follows.

1. Monumental Inscriptions

This is urgently in need of completion and a five year campaign has been launched to get all graveyards recorded before the weather and the planners destroy irreplaceable information. Genealogical data is often much fuller on tombstones than in burial registers. If you would like to know how you can help, please contact Adam Bunting, 17 Moor Place, Gosforth, Newcastle.

2. Marriage Index, 1800-1837 (esp. 1813-1837)

The marriages of many north Northumberland parishes have been indexed by Alan Readdie. A list of other parishes transcribed was printed in the Journal, Vol. 3, No. 2, page 79. In rural areas, such indexing requires very little time as only a few marriages took place in any year. Urban areas could be tackled by a small group of members. Please let the committee know if you are working, or want to work, on this project so that duplication of effort is avoided.

3. 1851 Census Index

What a massive task! On the other hand, how useful to have such an index. The Gateshead area has been covered by an index of limited scope (see page 115). For the whole of the North-East to be covered we could learn from the Bristol & Avon FHS. All members contribute to the index, using a STANDARD format. Housebound members index and type the individual slips supplied by members. It should be noted that their index is only intended to cover the heads of households and non-family residents in a household.

For example, census record in full (fictitious e.g.):

34 High St.	John Robson, head, mar., 43, miner (born)	Northumberland, Alnwick
	Mary Robson, wife, mar., 42	Durham, Lanchester
	John Robson, son, unm., 10, scholar	" Chester-le-Street
	Thos Robson, son, unm., 7, scholar	" Easington
	Ann Robson, dau, unm., 5, scholar	" Easington
	Sarah Robson, dau, unm., 3, scholar	" Easington
35 High St.	John Foster, head, widr., 70, miner	" Pittington
	John Clarke, lodger, mar., 24, miner	Yorks., Pickering
	Ann Clarke, lodger's wife, mar., 21	Durham, Darlington

On record slips, this would be reduced to:

- 
- (1) 34 High St. John Robson, head, mar., 43, miner Northumberland, Alnwick  
1851 Census for Easington Parish, Co. Durham
- 
- (2) 35 High St. John Foster, head, widr., 70, miner Durham, Pittington  
1851 Census for Easington Parish, Co. Durham
- 
- (3) 35 High St. John Clarke, lodger, mar., 24, miner Yorks., Pickering  
1851 Census for Easington Parish, Co. Durham
- 

Each slip should be made from A4 paper, 8 $\frac{1}{4}$  inches wide and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches deep. This will allow the slips to be sorted and stored. If each member indexed, in this way, one parish in the North-East in which there is a family interest, most of the region would be covered. It is vital that the whole parish is completed, including isolated farms, for the index to be of use. For urban parishes, can groups tackle this? Such a project is not confined to members living in the North-East as overseas and London based people have access to the 1851 Census microfilms. If you can help, please send the 8 $\frac{1}{4}$  x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  inch slips to me as soon as possible (33 Archery Rise, Neville's Cross, Durham, DH1 4LA). We hope that it will be printed when completed.

#### 4. Index of Strays

This project received rather less attention. If you do find people from other counties in any records you consult, these should be noted and forwarded to the Society for the county from which the person came. Most societies keep lists of these "out-of-area" strays and publish them.

As you can see, you can soon spend your one hour a month, by helping in any of these projects.

Other talks were given on basic Latin (R.E. Lathan "Latin Word List" was recommended) and heraldry. During the AGM, other talks were given on palaeography and the organisation of projects. What a pity that more members of this Society were not at that meeting to help organise our projects.

The AGM saw the election of new Federation Officers: President, Col. Iain Swinnerton; Vice-president, Mrs Elizabeth Simpson; Chairman, Royston Gambier; Vice-chairman, Derek Palgrave; General Secretary, Colin Chapman; Treasurer, Harry Leigh-Dugmore. I think that all these officials belong to southern societies (the Province of Canterbury) and therefore there is no official from the whole of the Province of York. This reflects the bias of the Federation and other northern representatives feel that this needs to be altered. Some of the largest societies in the Federation are in the North (Yorkshire, 800+; Scotland, 600+; Northumberland & Durham, 500+) but can take little active part in affairs because of the southerly location of most meetings. Membership fees were discussed, with the Yorkshire Society suggesting that if these were increased Northern members might withdraw. It

was announced that a group insurance policy has been taken out, to cover members while on FHS activities (e.g., recording M.I.s). It was suggested that the Federation should obtain a set of the Mormon CFI microfiche but this was not accepted, as many societies have bought, or are buying, these for themselves.

A major problem facing all societies is the financing of publications. We, for example, have transcriptions of M.I.s, marriage indices and Parish Registers. These could be published if we had the money. Dr Bloxham said lots of overseas members would be only too pleased to sponsor the publication of records of a particular parish. Now we need to contact these generous souls! Any offers for sponsoring parish record publications will be welcome so please let Mr Readdie know which parish you would help sponsor, and the amount offered, and we can see what it is feasible to do.

A spokesman for BBC TV announced that a five programme series on family history will commence next February and will be accompanied by a glossy book. The series will be based upon the experience of Gordon Honeycombe in 20 years of searching. We might capitalise on the publicity by recruiting more members.

Attending the Federation meeting was enjoyable and interesting. Faces can now be put on the names I see so often. Perhaps other members will try to attend if one of the meetings is within travelling distance. There is a meeting at Cambridge in September but the next AGM is in Nottingham (the Federation think that is the North!) next spring.

#### NOTE

My apologies to members who have ordered leaflets and/or books via the Society, from the Society of Genealogists. I have sent three orders to them but they take over a month to reply. Until they send the orders, can you please bear with me. I have just sent another order and reminder, so, hopefully, by the time you read this, most of the backlog will be cleared. Will you please bear in mind this slow reply when making future orders.

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#### STRAYS

[The following have been sent to me by various members at different times. I also have many as yet unpublished strays. Perhaps some member would care to respond to Mrs Power's note in the previous article and undertake to act as "strays secretary".- Ed.]

#### Baptisms

- 5/4/1727 Sarah daughter of David TODD and Anne of the parish of Crosgate in the City of Durham. Born at Bawtry Street Houses. Harworth, Notts.
- 24/9/1729 Mary daughter of George WILKINSON and Elizabeth his wife of the City of Durham. Born at Bawtry Street Houses. Harworth, Notts.
- 6/6/1756 Matty (sic) daughter of Mary OVEREND of Clifton, a bastard, the reputed father Matthew ROBINSON of the Bishoprick of Durham. Hartshead, Yorks.

#### Burials

- 14/10/1783 Wm SHEMENDS, Long Newton, Co. Durham. Marske, Yorks.
- 17/8/1795 Ann, dr Jno PIERSON from Shadford near Durham. Marske, Yorks.
- 21/3/1836 Mrs Ann TAYLOR of Amble in Northumberland aged 86 years - buried within old church - Dunfermline OPR burials, 1834-54.

## MEMBERS AND THEIR INTERESTS

Please note that in future all items for inclusion in this section of the Journal should be sent to Miss A. Douglas, 29 Bewick Court, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE1 8EG.

- 541 Mrs O.L. MAWLAM-DELANEY, 12 Denning Rd, Hampstead, London, N.W.3  
Seeks the baptism, cl765, of John Waiton/Waton/Watinge, who died at Neasham in the parish of Hurworth in 1843.
- 542 Mr M. HODGSON, 21 Silksworth Lane, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear, SR3 1LW.  
Interested in Hodgson (Ballast Hills area of Newcastle & Sunderland) and Kirtlan (Sunderland), both 19th century. Benjamin Hodgson, gardener, of Aycliffe, who married Ann Burnikill at Sunderland cl834-35, had been born at Aycliffe in 1812.
- 543 Mr T.P.S. SUMMERSON, Pound House, Cotherstone, Barnard Castle, DL12 9QJ.
- 544 Mrs L.E. POST, 5320 Sussex Av, Burnaby, BC, V5H 3B1, Canada.  
Interests, all 19th century, are Richardson, Sesford and Hutchinson (all Newcastle) and Storey (S. Shields and Durham).
- 545 Mr J.R.W. RIDSDALE, Heathcote Lodge, 150 Friday Hill, Chingford, London, E.4.  
Interested in Ridsdale families in our area and in Yorkshire (York and Wakefield). Specific queries are for a record of the birth of Sarah Ridsdale cl895 in Sunderland or Seaham and her subsequent marriage in the same area to Harry Elliot. Also any information concerning Eligh Ridsdale of Crag Head, Stanley, Co. Durham, who may have been born in Yorkshire cl803.
- 546 Mr R. FENWICK, Dunalastair Hotel, Kinloch Rannoch, Perthshire, PH16 5PW.  
Has many records relating to Fenwick (Fynak, Finnik, Phenix, etc.) from Britain and overseas, including all the births, marriages and deaths of that name in Scotland 1855-1920. Further information and queries will be welcomed.
- 547 Dr C.K. LIDDELL, MD, 1300 Lakeshore Drive LB, Michigan City, Indiana, 46360, USA.
- 548 Mr D.C.P. CLINTON, 3 Mountwood Close, S. Croydon, Surrey, CR2 8RJ.  
Mr Clinton's great-grandparents are the object of his searches - Arthur Clinton, born in Durham (?City or County) cl823, son of Arthur Clinton, servant, and Elizabeth Dunn, also born in "Durham" cl824. When this couple married in 1844, both were dwelling in Framwellgate Moor.
- 549 Mr R.W. BOUTFLOWER, Carbonells Hall, Wix, Manningtree, Essex, CO11 2UJ.  
Interested in Thomas Armstrong, certified as Master Mariner at Blyth in 1851, recorded as born at Alnmouth in 1823 and owner of 21/64ths of "John Downie" (252 tons, built Sunderland 1851, lost 1867). Thomas was last recorded as Master of the "Backworth", 310 tons, in 1876. Mr Boutflower is also interested in John Downie, Draper and Master Tailor, of Newbiggin, owner of 22/64ths of "John Downie". When John died, in 1864, his executors were Margaret Downie, widow, and Thomas Downie.
- 550 Mr J.E. BACK, 54 Perne Road, Cambridge, CB1 3RT.  
Interested in all references to Back, especially from the Berwick area. George Back, weaver, married first, in 1786, Elizabeth Gibson and second, in 1787, Barbara Elliot. His son, Robert, born cl787, married in 1805 Margaret Elliot. Robert and Margaret's family, all baptised in the Presbyterian church, were Robert (1811), Esua (sic) (1812), Jane Elliot (1816), Elisabeth (1818), Margaret (1822) and John (1825). Any more information on this family would be welcome, as would any on Elliot, Archbold or Gibson. Mr Back has a large file on Archbold from the Berwick area, 1800-1830.
- 551 Mr D.J. RHODES, Flat 1, 5 Lancaster Av, Liverpool 17.
- 552 Mrs P.L. MOODIE, 37 Carlton Road, London, SW14.

- 553 Mrs M.E. RUSSELL, 30 Albert Rd North, Malvern, Worcs, WR14 2TP.  
Seeks the baptism or birth record of Margaret Bell, born c1828 in Bamburgh, and information on the marriage c1865 of Sarah Henderson and George Norvell of North Shields.
- 554 Mrs J. HEATH, 13 Palm Tree Villas, Middleton St. George, near Darlington.  
Researching Pletts (Alston), Hilton (Brough, Westmoreland) and Gladwin (Batley, Yorks).
- 555 Mrs V. YOUNG, 20 Kalmia St, Frankston, Victoria, Australia 3199.  
Interested in all references to Allan in Co. Durham, particularly to Cuthbert Allan who was born in Stockton c1785. Another interest is in Carr of Newcastle, especially John, carrier, whose son, Isaac, was baptised at St. John's in 1807.
- 556 Miss C. PURCELL, 93 Orton Av, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, W. Midlands.
- 557 Dr E.A. CALDER, Carrs House, New York Lane, Rawdon, Leeds.
- 558 Mr M.J.H. ROBSON, The Museum, Wilton Lodge, Hawick, Roxburghshire.
- 559 Mrs R. VERSTRAETE, 12 Linton Dann Close, Hoo, nr Rochester, Kent.  
Tracing the Stephenson family, who were tenants of Stephen's Hall Farm, Ryton, in the 18th century, especially the parentage of William Stephenson and his wife Grace Stawpart, nee Oliver. (N.B., For a paper on "Stephen's Hall and its Occupants" by your Editor, see the Bulletin of Durham County Local History Society, 1976.- Ed.)
- 560 Mrs E. ROCKALL, 66 Oak Avenue, Durham.
- 561 Mrs B. MITA, 16 McKay Drive, Temple View, Hamilton, New Zealand.
- 562 Mr W. MANTEY, 178 Trewitt Rd, Newcastle, NE6 5DY.  
Families of interest are: Barwise (Wigton, Cu., esp. William, born c1800), Bennion (Burslem, Staffs), Chambers (Holm/Cultram, Cu, esp. Thomas, born c1700), Edwards (N. Sunderland, Nb), Pettis (Nb), Hampson (Burslem), Hope (Chatton, Nb, esp. John and William born c1830), Lawson (Aikton, Cu, esp. John and Joseph 1740-1800), Mantey (Prussia), Smallwood (Holm Cultram, esp. Ann, born c1714), Summers (Nb) and Watman (Holm Cultram, esp. Robert, who married Ann Rook in 1741). If this list seems familiar to some of you it is because Mr Mantey is related to our Programme Organiser, Mrs A. Power. Mr Mantey has indexes of every entry in C. of E. registers north of Alnwick for Pettis (Fiddes, etc.), Hope and Summers and is also compiling a surname index to the Newcastle 1871 Census.
- 563 Mr S. LIVINGSTONE, 216 Jesmond Dene Rd, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE2 2JT.
- 564 Mrs P.M. GROSSET, Copper Lodge, Gelston, Grantham, Lincs, NG32 2AE.  
Interested in Sanderson, Morpeth (Blanchland), Dickinson (London), Dawson, Waite, Harman, Nicholls (Gloucester), Howard, Browne and Dunn. In particular, seeks the birth of her great-grandfather, William Sanderson, a builder who was concerned in building that North-Eastern landmark, John Dobson's masterpiece, Newcastle Central Station. William died in Newcastle in 1866.
- 565 Mrs A. BARROW, 4A Melrose Av, Earley, Reading, RG6 2BM.  
Seeking details of William Hogg (1789-1856) who, in 1827, was a Hatter at 22-24 Bigg Market, Newcastle (Fighting Cocks Yard), and of his relatives.
- 566 Miss K. KELSO, 287 Clark Drive, Cedar Falls, Iowa, 50613, USA.  
Seeks information on John Jobson, a "contractor on public works and kept stores", of Dean House, Glanton, and his wife, Catherine Johnston. Their son, Robert, was born in 1813 (bap. Whittingham) and married in 1834 Judith, daughter of Thomas and Margaret Turnbull, Pigdon, about whose forebears information is also sought. It is suspected that there are connections with the Frater and Moffat families, but details are not yet known. A William Jobson of Glanton, who had children baptised at Whittingham from 1849 is also possibly a relative but, again, details are still sought.

- 567 Mrs I. PATERSON, Dovewood, W. Linton, Tweeddale, Scotland, EH46 7DS.  
Mrs Paterson is a granddaughter of Isabella Duncan Vaux, the  
eldest of 13 children of the Vaux Brewery family, who married  
George Blake Henderson in 1892. She would be grateful for any  
more information about this family, of which she knows very  
little.
- 568 Mrs J. SMITH, 18 Westwood St, Pennant Hills, NSW 2120, Australia.

#### Changes of Address

- 63 Mrs A. TOLL, 18 Taverner Square, Frankston, Melbourne, Australia.  
201 Mr H.W. GRAY, 5 Cheney Close, Toddington, Bedfordshire.  
396 Mr A.W. CARR, 17 St. Peter's Close, Crabbs Cross, Redditch, Worcs, B97 5LE.  
491 Dr E.M. LITTLE, 13 Grove Av, Bristol 9.

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#### SECOND TIME AROUND

- 280 Mrs E.J. HOWE, 56 Coach Rd, Brotton, Saltburn, Cleveland, TS12 2RP.  
In September 1829 the "Frazer", registered at Newcastle, was  
wrecked off the Aberdeen coast. The Captain was named Hindmarsh.  
Was he related to Elizabeth Hindmarsh, second wife of George  
Stephenson of railway fame?
- 507 Mrs A.R. NEUSCHAFER, Route 1, Box 63, Enterprise, Kansas 67441, USA.  
Seeks the whereabouts of records giving information on the emigra-  
tion of Heinrich Neuschafer (17) from Hamburg to Liverpool in  
October 1865, and then on to New York. The ship concerned was  
the "Lord Cardigan", Master W. Pyman. Also anything on Abraham  
Temple, who lived at Salem, Massachusetts, in the 1630s and who  
may have come from Leicestershire.
- 511 Mr D.W. KERR, "Breidden", Crew Green, Shrewsbury, SY5 9AT.  
Seeks comment on a family legend that a Winespear went to North  
America in the 17th or 18th century and married a daughter of a  
"Chief of Six Nations"! (?Sioux Indian). As the Winespears were  
a seafaring lot, this may not be as ridiculous as it sounds.  
Another interest is in a Snaith or Winespear who owned a mill in  
the N. Ormsby or W. Hartlepool area (1870s or 1880s), previously  
in the possession of Andrew Thompson. Also Kerr (blacksmiths,  
Bannockburn, c1800 and Erskine c1751), McLaren (Comrie, Perthshire  
and Balquidder/Strathearn) and McGregor, esp. Catherine, wife of  
John McLaren, hand loom weaver, Comrie 1851, who was born in Comrie  
in 1795. Information would also be welcomed on the Kerr/Scott  
border feud. The cause and eventual solution to this are known  
but the intermediate detail is sought.

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#### OFFERS OF HELP

Mr D.J. Hall, member 493, of 41 Duncroft Avenue, Coundon, Coventry,  
W. Midlands, CV6 2BX, offers reciprocal research at Warwickshire County  
Record Office and at Lichfield Joint Record Office.

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#### DIED ABROAD

Edward MOUNSEY, born in Sunderland 26th September 1818, died in Montreux  
27th December 1904. Territet, Switzerland.

Robert Holford McDowell BOSANQUET, second son of the Rev. R.W. Bosanquet of  
Rock, Northumberland, Fellow of St. John's College, Oxford and of the Royal  
Society, born 30th July 1841, died 7th August 1912. British Cemetery,  
Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife.

## THE MARCH MEETING

### RECORDS OF RYTON

G. Nicholson

The purpose of this talk was to take as an example a parish which, in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, has had probably a slightly higher than average population (5323 in 1801) and which has had a varied industrial history (agriculture and mining throughout the parish, iron working at Winlaton, lead transport on the Lead Road, keels on the Tyne, etc.) and to examine what has happened to its records. The following is a summary of those the genealogist might find most interesting and therefore concerns mainly ecclesiastical records. These, however, are not all that is available; more secular records are to be found in all the County Record Offices in the region and published material in the volumes of the Surtees Society, Archaeologia Aeliana, etc., can be used to provide much of the general background. Perhaps this article will stimulate other members to make a similar study of their own "patch".

The ancient parish of Ryton occupied a wedge-shaped piece of land, being all County Durham north of the River Derwent, and bounded by the Derwent, the Tyne and the Northumberland/Durham County boundary. The first subdivision for internal parochial purposes was into four "quarters" - Ryton, Crawcrook, Winlaton and Chopwell, and took place in time for these quarters to be mentioned in the earliest volumes of the parish registers (temp. Elizabeth I). Later, when the "township" system was established, Crawcrook, Winlaton and Chopwell formed three of the six townships of the parish, the other three coming from a division of Ryton quarter into Ryton, Ryton Woodside and Stella townships.

The first new parish to be formed in the area was Winlaton (1832); since then both Ryton and Winlaton have produced several "daughters" and the area now has eight Church of England parishes.

Unfortunately, although Ryton is an ancient parish, its registers have not been deposited, being still kept in the vestry of the church in a safe which is a relic of the days when the head of the Chipp Vine safe company was a parishioner. Recent thefts from the vestry itself testify to the basic insecurity of the building. Most of the information in the registers is available elsewhere, however. The marriages, 1581-1812, have been published by the Durham and Northumberland Parish Register Society (1902, ed. Rev. J. Bailey) with an index and are included in Boyd's Marriage Index for County Durham (available at Newcastle Central Library and at the Society of Genealogists). The baptisms and burials 1582-1812 were transcribed by H.M. Wood and are now in typescript form (unindexed) in Newcastle Library. Separate annual lists are included for baptisms at "Winlaton Mill and places adjacent" during the "Shute Barrington" period - 1798 to 1812. The baptisms to 1812 are included in the Mormon Computer File Index (microfiches), which is available at their Sunderland Genealogical Library and at Durham Record Office. The Bishop's Transcripts are at Durham University Department of Palaeography - baptisms and burials 1760-1862, marriages 1760-1837. The baptisms and burials 1828-1832 include a separate list for "Winlaton Chapelry" as at that time Winlaton church was in existence but the parish had not yet been formed.

Much of the "parish chest" type material has been deposited at Durham Record Office and includes tithe books, charity accounts, churchwardens' accounts and tithe maps. Unfortunately no "Poor Law" documents (Settlement Papers, Removal Papers, etc.) seem to have survived, though comparison with other parishes (e.g. Stockton) shows that there must have been many of these.



The Monumental Inscriptions in Ryton church and churchyard were recorded recently by the author of this article with assistance from, and on behalf of, Ryton Heritage Group and copies have been deposited in the usual places. The M.I.s at Winlaton have been partially copied by the author but work there is not complete. The only other pre-1851 burial ground with extant M.I.s is at Stella R.C. church and has not yet been tackled. Stella Church of England churchyard (at Blaydon!), which dates from 1844, was cleared a few years ago without adequate recording.

Wills from Ryton parish were normally proved at Durham until 1858 and are now at Durham University Department of Palaeography. The earliest is that of Cuthbert Swinburn (1558).

As Ryton was formerly part of County Durham, but since 1974 has formed part of Gateshead Metropolitan Borough, within the County of Tyne and Wear, microfilms of the four Censuses held from 1841 to 1871 have been obtained by the County Record Offices of County Durham and Tyne and Wear and by Gateshead Public Library.

Ryton Church has had many Rectors in its history of over 750 years, but four stand out as having had a particularly strong influence on local records.

Francis Bunny (1578-1617) was Rector at the time of the earliest parish registers. The earliest book is of parchment and has entries dated from 1581, but these could have been copied from an earlier paper book in response to Elizabeth I's order of 1597 that this be done where parchment was not already in use. In any case, it seems reasonable to postulate a "lost" volume 1538-1581. Also dating from Bunny's time are a series of tithe books in which all who paid certain "small tithes" were noted, with their assessments, amounts due, and amounts paid. As almost every household was assessed for some amount, these books are virtually an annual census of the households of the whole parish. After Bunny's death they were badly kept and have not survived for most of the seventeenth century, but there is a reasonably long run of them in the eighteenth century ending with two volumes, still at the church, covering the period 1741-1758, during the incumbency of Rector Lloyd.

John Lloyd (1738-66) must have been a pain in the neck to many of his parishioners but local historians have good cause to thank him. He was insistent upon obtaining his dues - to the last tithe turnip! An agreement of local farmers to oppose his attempts at squeezing more out of them than they had been used to appears in the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Vol. 10 (1942-46), p. 202. It was probably to provide a firm basis for litigation by himself and his successors that Lloyd compiled the "Liber in usum Rectorum Ecclesia de Ryton in perpetuum" (Book for the use of the Rectors of Ryton church in perpetuity). This contains transcripts of every legal document which Lloyd could find which related to Ryton. In many cases the originals are now lost and the "Liber ..." is the only source of information. Here are enclosure awards, medieval charters, counsels' opinion on cases and much more of interest. This book is also still undeposited.

Charles Thorp (1812-1862) was Archdeacon of Durham and the first Warden of Durham University, of which he has some claim to be regarded as founder. He collected the parish registers together, had them rebound and even produced a framed catalogue of them to hang in the vestry. He was somewhat cavalier, however, when it came to creating certain types of peripheral records - such as what he did with charity monies entrusted to his care and exactly how one-time Glebe land came to be transformed into his personal possession. Nevertheless, Thorpe's influence on Ryton and on the parish records is very much for the good. It is no doubt significant that the year

of his death is the last year for which Bishop's Transcripts were made at Ryton.

Johnson Bailey (1891-1901) was an active member of Sunderland Antiquarian Society, of the Durham and Northumberland Parish Register Society and other similar organisations. He was certainly an acquaintance and, one feels sure, a friend, of Herbert Maxwell Wood, with whom his interests coincided. Apart from editing the published marriage registers, Bailey produced a most interesting and readable study of the Ryton tithe books (*Archaeologia Aeliana*, N.S., Vol. 19, p. 39).

Churches, other than the established church, in the old Ryton parish and having extant registers dating from before 1837 are:

Stella R.C. (1775-1837) P.R.O. RG 4/352

Ryton Woodside Independants (1732-1750, removed to Swalwell) P.R.O.

No. 591, 1237

Winlaton Independant (Providence) Chapel (1830-37) P.R.O. No. 2417

All these are available on microfilm in Durham County Record Office and Gateshead Public Library.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Apart from the publications mentioned in the text and the usual County Histories, the following will be found useful:

BOURN, W., History of the Parish of Ryton (1895)

RAE, H.R., Ryton Nonconformity - 2½ centuries of Free Church life at Ryton (1896)

WINLATON AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY, A History of Blaydon (1975)

MAUGHAN, J., History of Blaydon District. Newspaper cuttings from

"Blaydon Courier" in Newcastle Central Library (1955-56)

KOJAY, F., Scrap- and note-book relating to the Winlaton area in Gateshead Public Library

Many Ryton records, especially those relating to early coal mines and other industrial enterprises are to be found in Northumberland County Record Office as they belonged to families whose major sphere of activity was in Northumberland (e.g. the Silvertop papers among the Cookson MSS).

G.N.

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### THE APRIL MEETING

#### VISIT TO GATESHEAD CENTRAL LIBRARY, LOCAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

F.W.D. Manders

In spite of the wrong address having been published for the Library in the last Journal (it is in Prince Consort Road, not Coatsworth Road), sufficient members managed to find the building to stretch the capacity of the Local Studies Section to the limit. Mr Manders, the Local Studies Librarian, began by outlining some recent additions, made since the publication of the list in Vol. 2, No. 1 (October 1976) of this Journal. In response to questions he then went on to deal in more depth with certain types of material of interest to members.

#### Anglican Parish Records

Gateshead St. Mary's Registers have now been indexed, thanks to a Job Creation Scheme, and boxes of index cards now exist for C 1780-1851, M 1812-1851, B 1780-1851.

Gateshead Holy Trinity Registers have recently been deposited (C 1864-

1936, M 1864-1965). This is the church on Gateshead High Street, near the foot of Jackson Street.

A deposit from Birtley St. John's includes C1850-1963, M 1850-1958, B 1850-1924.

#### Census Records

The Census microfilms held cover the whole of the present Gateshead Metropolitan Borough for 1841, 1851, 1861 and 1871. There is a name index to "Heads of households and other men in employment" for 1851. Mr Manders pointed out that the Burgess Rolls for 1870-71, held by the Library, could serve as an effective index to the 1871 Census.

#### Newspapers

Local papers are available for 1744-1834 and 1837-1886. After 1886 only a few cuttings were kept, until comparatively modern times. The Gateshead Observer, 1837-1886, is on microfilm, with a separate index. Other early newspapers represented are the Newcastle Courant, Gazette, Chronicle and Journal.

#### Directories

These are still being added to as they become available. However, they tend to be very selective and as Gateshead had a higher than usual working-class element in its population whole areas of the town (e.g. Teams) frequently get no mention at all, thereby excluding thousands of people.

#### Deeds

There is a street index on cards to deeds to property taken over by Gateshead Corporation. Most are nineteenth century - a few are eighteenth. Some deeds (e.g. for Whickham) can be made available if requested well in advance as they have to be sought from the Legal Services Department, where there are some 1300 bundles, each with perhaps ten deeds in them. It must be emphasised, however, that these can be consulted only by first telephoning the Library and making an appointment.

#### Poor Rate Books

Some of these, for St. John's, Gateshead Fell, are held to 1889. Settlement Papers from Gateshead 1834-1848 are also held - two or three hundred of them bound in books. These make fascinating reading for anyone hard-hearted enough to stand the long catalogue of tragic tales.

#### Police Records

These include an enrolment book dated 1836 and a register of "Members of the Force" dated 1842. Some of the books were still being used and added to in 1968. These are in many ways a biographer's dream, as they give a physical description of the man, his career progress, promotions, etc. These records are on microfilm and are indexed. It is worth noting here that for a long time it was almost traditional that Gateshead Police Force would look to the rural areas of Northumberland for its supply of recruits and many a son of a Northumberland farmer will appear in the Force's records.

#### Opening Times

Monday	)	9.30 a.m. - 8.00 p.m.
Tuesday		
Wednesday		9.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.
Thursday	)	9.30 a.m. - 8.00 p.m.
Friday		
Saturday		9.30 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.

A.P.

## THE APRIL MEETING

### ONE MAN'S VIEW OF GENEALOGY

Col. I.S. Swinnerton, F.S.G.

This meeting was an additional one, arranged on account of Col. Swinnerton's inability to come to Newcastle in March as had originally been planned.

Col. Swinnerton began his talk by telling us that he first became interested in genealogy in 1952. Then, while home on leave, he visited some cousins whose father, his great uncle and the head of the family, unexpectedly talked to him about the family. His great uncle died three months later but Col. Swinnerton's interest in his family's history had been awakened and since then he has pursued his research into this whenever his army career has permitted.

During his talk Col. Swinnerton warned us of some of the traps into which he had fallen - unlike today, when he began researching there were few guides to help the novice genealogist - and also some of the sources and aids which he had found of use.

He began by talking to other members of his family. Among the most helpful relations one can have he classed spinster maiden aunts who remember all the family legends, as well as the dates of the major events within their own lifetimes. Many of the legends prove to have a grain of truth in them.

It is well worth checking that nothing has already been published about the name in which you are interested. Col. Swinnerton worked for some time before discovering that a Victorian relative had written an account of the Swinnerton family. The present interest in genealogy is the second boom in this pastime. The first was in the Victorian period and an enormous amount of family history was printed then.

Another error into which Col. Swinnerton fell in his early years was to ignore Swinnertons in whom he was not interested at the time. It is much better to note all references you come across rather than have to go back over the same ground again at a later date.

Two useful modern aids are the dictaphone and the camera. Taped notes can be transcribed and a picture of a tombstone inscription or plaque studied at leisure, and in comfort, at home.

Poll books can also be a helpful source. The property qualification for voting gives some idea of a man's status, while lists showing how he voted may indicate his political persuasion.

No two genealogists agree on the best way of keeping records but some sort of system is necessary. Col. Swinnerton said he himself uses pre-printed record cards and gives each person a reference number. This reference number is made up of their initials and a number, which is the next number after that of the last person with the same initials, regardless of their relationship or generation. He also collects information - newspaper cuttings, correspondence, certificates, etc., together with a family record form about each branch of the family - in folders, with one folder for each branch.

Col. Swinnerton also mentioned two points which he had come across, which not everyone may be aware of, and which may prevent unnecessary alarm. First, pauper burials; a tax on burials meant that if anyone refused to pay, the person being buried was put down as a pauper, and therefore exempt, as otherwise the money would have had to come out of the vicar's pocket. Thus

an ancestor buried as a pauper may not have been a pauper. Second, the absence of a father's name at the baptism of a child does not necessarily mean the child was illegitimate. Col. Swinnerton recounted two examples of this which he had come across. Both children were legitimate but in one case the father had died soon after the child had been conceived and in the other he had left the mother and gone to America.

Col. Swinnerton concluded by considering some of the uses to which the information a genealogist collects can be put and in particular the establishment of one name societies and the publication of a newsletter.

Genealogy can be both a frustrating and a rewarding hobby. Don't become a slave to it!

P.J.S.

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### THE MAY MEETING

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The third Annual General Meeting of the Society was held in Newcastle on 17 May 1978.

The minutes of the last meeting were taken as read and were approved.

It was agreed to amend clause 4 of the Constitution by deleting the words: "but so that the total number of Committee members shall not be more than nine".

The Secretary's report was considered next:

"The Society continues to grow and there are now almost five hundred members. Administration and correspondence impose heavy demands on the present Committee and a change in the Society's Constitution is proposed to remove the restriction on the size of the Committee. The present limit of nine was applied in an attempt to prevent the Committee becoming unwieldy, but the growth of membership which has occurred was not envisaged. If approved, this change will enable the work burden to be shared, an assistant Secretary and project organisers etc to be appointed to share the workload.

"Work on the Journal is also timeconsuming and the efforts of Geoff Nicholson in editing it, and Pat Storey in typing it, are much appreciated. The Journal arrives from the printers in 15 bundles with 600 copies of each page and the task of putting these 9000 sheets of paper into their finished form has been performed by a handful of members who give up an evening to assist. More volunteers are however urgently needed for this task. Mr Rounce is now responsible for the final stages of enveloping and posting the Journals and this also is no mean task. Plastic envelopes were used to distribute the April Journal - these are cheaper than paper ones and moreover will save at least £60 in postage in a full year.

"Monthly meetings have continued to be held, and there were extra meetings in April and in December, the latter being held at Stockton and a further meeting there is planned for next year. Anne Power has succeeded in finding a variety of interesting speakers and plans for next session are well advanced. Suggestions from members would however be welcomed.

"Work has started in transcribing settlement papers for County Durham with a view to eventual publication and two sessions - not very well attended - have been held in Durham County Record Office. It is hoped to extend this work to cover Northumberland and to do other transcription and indexing work. Here is a chance for members to help future generations and to put something into their hobby in return for the pleasure it has given them.

"Father W. Vincent Smith took the chairmanship last year on an interim basis and does not wish to stand for re-election. Mrs Mary Hey is resigning from the Committee on moving from the area and Bob Vine wishes to stand down as Treasurer, having held this post since the Society's formation in September 1975. Don Mason, who is a Chartered Accountant, is willing to do the job and his election will be proposed. It is proposed that the subscription remain unchanged and this must be something of a record in these inflationary times. The accounts show only a small surplus but savings in postage etc should enable us to remain solvent despite possible increases in printing costs etc."

This report was approved.

The Treasurer's report (see balance sheet and income and expenditure account on p. 119) was also approved.

It was agreed that subscriptions should remain unchanged for the coming year.

Mr Mason was elected Treasurer in place of Mr Vine, who wished to retire. Mr Mason, who has acted as Auditor in the past, proposed, and it was agreed, that the firm for which he works, Russell, Mann & Co., Hexham, should act as Auditors and be paid a nominal fee. It was also agreed that the financial year should in future run to 31 August, instead of 28 February, in order to simplify the accounting system, and that the next financial report would be for the six months ending 31 August 1978.

The editor, programme organiser and librarian then presented their reports. Mr Nicholson repeated previous pleas for articles for the Journal from members, many of whom could, he felt, write about problems they had overcome or particular types of records with which they were familiar and so help their fellow members. He expressed gratitude to Mr W.E. Rounce and to all those who have volunteered to help him collate and distribute the Journal. He also thanked Mr D.G. Linley who has agreed to index it and Miss P.J. Storey for typing it.

Mrs Power stated that speakers have been arranged for next year's programme from September until February. She would, however, welcome suggestions for speakers or topics for subsequent meetings. Some discussion then ensued on her proposal that other types of meetings - social evenings, a one-day conference, or, during the summer, a day trip to work on monumental inscriptions - might be organised and it was generally felt that all these ideas deserved further consideration.

Dr Wilson reported on the state of the library. Gifts of money and books mean that this is now growing in size and she has been able to purchase several useful volumes. The Society's policy with regard to the exchange of journals with other societies was then discussed. It was felt that this should be left to the Librarian's discretion as the journals of other societies vary considerably in quality. Dr Wilson asked members visiting libraries and record offices outside Durham and Northumberland to let her have copies of or details about any useful publications they come across as she has to answer a wide range of inquiries, especially from overseas members, about sources available in this country.

The final item on the agenda was the election of officers. Fr. W.V. Smith announced that he was not standing for re-election and the vice-chairman, Mr A.G.S. Bunting, was elected as his successor. Mr D.G. Mason had already been elected Treasurer. Mr J.A. Readdie was re-elected Secretary and Mr W.E. Rounce was elected his assistant. Mr G. Nicholson, Dr M. Wilson and Mrs A. Power were re-elected editor, librarian and programme organiser respectively. Mr R.W. Hewitson, Mr W.E. Wallace and Mrs J.D. Summers were

appointed to organise transcription work at Durham, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear Record Offices. Messrs R.E. Vine and F. Davison were also elected members of the Committee.

The meeting concluded with a warm vote of thanks proposed by Mr Bunting to Fr. Smith for his services as chairman since the death of Mr Neat.

P.J.S.

# BALANCE SHEET AS AT 28th FEBRUARY 1978

## CURRENT ASSETS

Cash at Building Society	£541.04	
Cash at Bank	216.05	
Secretary's Float	<u>7.11</u>	£764.20

## CURRENT LIABILITIES

Unexpired Subscriptions	535.75	
Subscriptions in advance	12.00	
Treasurer's Float (overdrawn)	<u>14.10</u>	561.85
		<u>£202.35</u>

## REPRESENTED BY

Accumulated Fund	97.00	
<u>Add Excess of Income over Expenditure</u>	<u>7.05</u>	104.05
Publications Reserve		
Balance b/fwd	180.00	
<u>Add Provision for the year</u>	<u>120.00</u>	
	300.00	
<u>Less Cost of Producing Members' Directory</u>	<u>201.70</u>	98.30
		<u>£202.35</u>

# INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28th FEBRUARY 1978

## SUBSCRIPTION INCOME

1976/77 Subscriptions Received	94.00	
1977/78 " "	<u>1,071.50</u>	
	1,165.50	
<u>Less 1976/77 Journal Sales</u>	<u>47.00</u>	
1977/78 Subscriptions unexpired	<u>535.75</u>	582.75
<u>Add back 1976/77 Subscriptions unexpired b/fwd</u>		<u>408.50</u>
		991.25

## OTHER INCOME

Sales of Back Journals and Misc. Publications	243.61	
Donations	44.13	
Building Society Interest	<u>25.79</u>	313.53
Total Income for the year		1,304.78

## Less EXPENDITURE

Production of Journals	687.02	
Postage	372.91	
Room hire and Speakers' Expenses	52.00	
Misc. Publications for resale	25.05	
Stationery	17.30	
F.F.H.S. Subscriptions and Conference Expenses	10.00	
Library Purchases	13.45	
Transfer to publications reserve	<u>120.00</u>	1,297.73

## EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR

£7.05

In my opinion, the above accounts show a true and fair view of the Society's affairs as at 28th February 1978, and of its Income and Expenditure for the year ended on that date.

D. Mason.  
Certified Accountant.



# 1861 CENSUS STRAYS

The following list, compiled by Mr S.R. Merridew, using microfilm in Wakefield Library, is of persons born in our area who were residing in West Yorkshire at the time of the 1861 Census.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Birthplace</u>	<u>Census Point</u>
Mary HOPE	47	(married)	Darlington	Harewood
Jane NATRAY	34	Servant	Eaglescliffe	do
Mary FRENCH	19	Servant	Darlington	do
George SUTTON	4		Co. Durham	do
Mary MOFFITT	23	Lady's Maid	Durham	do
Esther LOCKHART	28	Laundry Maid	Northumberland	do
Mary RIDLEY	35	Servant	do	do
Ann PARKE	37	Charwoman	Co. Durham	Weeton
Catherine ROXBY	38	Housemaid	Darlington	Arthington
John JACKSON	27	Gardener	Norton	do
Ellen ROSEBERRY	26	Servant	Co. Durham	Eccup
Henry FOX	17	Architect's Pupil	do	Cookridge
Thomas STEEL	78	Farmer	do	Baildon
Jane DUNNILL	34	(married)	Felton	do
Margaret DUNNILL	2		Sedgefield	do
Thomas NOWELL	53	Woolcomber	Felton	do
James BLAIR	40	Farmer	Middleton	do
George H. WILLIAMS	5		Durham	do
Pauline SNOWDEN	46	Shopkeeper	Darlington	Burley
James DENT	72	Labourer	Stockton	Wike
Mary HOOD	38	House Maid	N. Shields	Harewood
Margaret YOUNG	26	do	S. Shields	do
John H. POWEL	2		Darlington	do
Hannah GIBSON	61	Housekeeper	Whittingham, Nb.	Broughton
Elizabeth PICKERING	32	Head Housemaid	Felton, Nb.	do
Mary GOFTON	25	Ladies Maid	Northumberland	Cowling

The following had gone slightly further astray - to Birkenhead, Wirral in fact (also 1861). This list has been compiled by Mrs R.C. Meldrum.

John BELL	39	Married	Commission Agent	West Auckland, Durham
Mathias MAKEPIECE	53	Widower	Upholsterer	N. Shields, Nb.
Jane ATKINSON	41	Unmarried	Dressmaker	Newcastle upon Tyne
Joseph HOWIE	42	Married	Tailor (Cutter)	Elwick Hall, Durham
Catherine HOWIE	38	Wife		Liverpool, Lancs

## FUTURE PROGRAMME

There will, as usual, be no meetings in July or August.

### Thursday, September 21

Emigration from County Durham to the American mid-West up to the 19th century. Dr J.N. Rhodes.

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

### Thursday, October 19

Methodist Records and their value in yielding biographical data. G.E. Milburn.

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

### Wednesday, November 15

Putting leaves on the family tree - Estate Papers of Durham Cathedral. P. Musset.

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