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NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM
FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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CONTENTS

OUR FIRST HONORARY LIFE MEMBER:		
Fr. W. VINCENT SMITH		32
TO WHOM DO I WRITE?		32
THE FEDERATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES		
HALF-YEARLY MEETING	Anne Spendiff	33
GRANDMOTHERS AND GRAVE ROBBERS	John Light	35
EXCUSES, EXCUSES ...		38
THE HEXHAM RIOT	D.W. Smith	39
A SOUTH AMERICAN LINK	Mrs V.A. Corno	41
A TRIMDON FAMILY	A.J. Pain	42
TWO SHIELDS STRAYS		42
THE ENCLOSURE OF HARBOTTLE COMMON	W.E. Wallace	43
COULD THEY WRITE?	F.J. Vaughan	45
KNOW YOUR PARISH -		
II. HEDDON-ON-THE-WALL, NORTHUMBERLAND	A.S. Angus	47
STRAY MARRIAGES		48
WILLIAM WELBURY OF SUNDERLAND -		
A SURVIVOR OF TRAFALGAR	Mrs C.M. James	49
A NORTHUMBRIAN'S VIEW OF NORTHUMBRIANS		50
MEMBERS AND THEIR INTERESTS		51
SECOND TIME AROUND		54
OFFERS OF HELP		55
CHANGES OF ADDRESS		55
PAYTON/PEYTON FAMILY HISTORY NEWSLETTER		55
"GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE" MARRIAGES		55
THE NATIONAL INDEX OF PARISH REGISTERS		56
THE NOVEMBER MEETING - MINING RECORDS	F. Atkinson	56
DEATHS ABROAD, FROM NORTHUMBERLAND TOMBSTONES		58
DURHAM RESEARCHERS BEWARE!		60
EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING		60
FUTURE PROGRAMME		60

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For details about correspondence, see "To Whom Do I Write?", on pp. 32-33.
PLEASE include stamps for return postage (2 IRCs from overseas members) and quote your membership number.

OUR FIRST HONORARY LIFE MEMBER:

Fr. W. VINCENT SMITH

At our last annual general meeting it was decided to offer Honorary Life Membership of the Northumberland and Durham Family History Society to Fr. W. Vincent Smith, and since then Fr. Vincent Smith has honoured us by accepting. The Society is deeply indebted to Fr. Vincent Smith, not only for the advice and encouragement he has always been willing to supply, but also for the ready way in which he agreed to become Chairman when the Society was still shaken by the sudden death in 1976 of the late Mr C.P. Neat.

Although by his own admission "getting on a bit", Fr. Vincent Smith regularly came down to Newcastle from his home in Lanchester, sometimes in appalling weather, to chair meetings during his tenure of office. His manner in the chair was highly individual and his witty comments have enlivened many an otherwise over-serious meeting. The talk he himself once gave us on the Haggerstons of Haggerston was at the same time one of the most scholarly and the most amusing we have yet heard, and will long be remembered.

Fr. Vincent Smith is acknowledged as our greatest local expert on Roman Catholic families of the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle and his collection of local Catholic and Recusant records is possibly unsurpassed even by local County Record Offices. His experience on these matters is vast, and it is a frequent source of pleasure to your editor to come across papers on local Roman Catholics published in local antiquarian Journals, etc., as far back as the 1930s.

Fr. Vincent Smith eventually decided that our expanding Society needed a Chairman with the youth to be active in a more strenuous way, and it was with regret that his resignation was accepted at our 1978 Annual General Meeting.

This is the first time in our existence of almost five years that the honour of Life Membership has been bestowed by the Society and it is not the intention of the Committee that it shall ever be given lightly. It is meant to be a rare honour; we are satisfied that on this occasion it has gone to a rare man.

TO WHOM DO I WRITE?

As the Society grows, our administrative structure naturally becomes more complicated, and changes have from time to time to be made. When members write to an officer of the Society it is very important that they address their letters to the correct person. Letters sent to the wrong place may take a long time to reach their "target" and indeed may never do so. Members are, therefore, asked to take note of the current responsibilities, as outlined below.

Mrs A. Spendiff, 17 Augustus Drive, Bedlington, Northumberland (Bedlington 826637)

Membership applications and membership matters in general. Members' Interests and items for the "Second Time Around" feature. Changes of address. Queries concerning issue and receipt of the Journal.

Mr D.G. Mason, 8 West Hextol Close, Hexham, Northumberland (Hexham 4886)

Subscription renewals. Please note that membership cards are no longer issued. Receipt of the October issue of the Journal should be taken as acknowledgement of the Society having received your subscription.

Mr G. Nicholson, 57 Manor Park, Concord, Washington, Tyne & Wear, NE37 2BU
(Washington 479546)

Articles and comments for the Journal. Please note that this refers to editorial material only. Members' Interests, "Second Time Around", etc., and queries concerning non-receipt of Journals should be addressed to Mrs Spendiff.

Mr A.G.S. Bunting, 17 Moor Place, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne (Newcastle 857371)

Volunteers for M.I. recording. Anyone thinking of participating in this most important work is strongly recommended to check with Mr Bunting before starting work to avoid needless duplication.

Mr J.A. Readdie, 38 Archery Rise, Neville's Cross, Durham, DH1 4LA (Durham 68426)

All subjects not covered by anyone else or by an announcement in the Journal. Matters of general Society policy, especially in relation to the Federation of Family History Societies.

Dr M.E. Wilson, 33 Archery Rise, Neville's Cross, Durham, DH1 4LA

The Society's Librarian, from whom books may be borrowed and to whom they should be returned.

THE FEDERATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES

HALF-YEARLY MEETING

Anne Spendiff

In September of this year I attended the half-yearly meeting of the Federation, which was held at the College of St. Mark and St. John in Plymouth at a time when I happened to be on holiday in the area. I found that many other people at the meeting were in the same position, and consequently most that we knew about the Federation was what we had read (and, sadly, often forgotten) in "Family History News and Digest".

The meeting was in two parts: speakers on the first day, and a business meeting on the second, with further speakers as an alternative for those not feeling "businesslike". An invaluable part of the programme for those with children was the schedule arranged to keep the children occupied and allow their parents to attend the lectures - an admirable scheme.

The first speaker was Mrs M. Rowe, of the Devon Record Office, who told us about some of the earlier records available to genealogists in Devon. Perhaps I could make a plea that the Federation reprint such lectures almost verbatim? There is a wealth of information stored in all record offices, and some of the most useful contents of our own Journal have been the reprints of the talks we receive from the various archives officers. I am not interested in Devon's "inquisitions post mortem" at the moment, but I may be in the future, and I may need to refer back to my very rough notes. A transcript of Mrs Rowe's lecture in my files would solve any future problems.

The second speaker was Professor Pounds, a demographer from Cambridge. He has spent many years studying the population of Cornwall, and has managed to draw some conclusions about population change and movement from muster rolls, poll tax records, etc. Basically, the population increased until 1347, when the Black Death ravaged Europe, causing the numbers to fall dramatically. They recovered to about 100,000 and remained fairly constant until the eighteenth century, when they began to increase again, possibly because of the introduction of smallpox vaccine.

Professor Pounds also draws conclusions about the way people lived, in cold, unsanitary conditions. They probably suffered greatly from throat and chest ailments; typhus, which is spread by the louse, was common in winter, when people huddled together for warmth. There was no soap, and there were famines every four or five years. The wealthy anticipated the frequent bad harvests and were able to buy up stores of food, thus insuring themselves against the worst, and simultaneously forcing up the prices the peasants would have to pay. Predictably, more people died in winter and early spring but, perhaps surprisingly, more babies were born in February and March. Professor Pounds suggested that this might be by design; it was not a good idea for the women to be pregnant at harvest-time.

This was a fascinating lecture, giving a more general picture than the one we usually see, but explaining some of the reasons why our ancestors behaved in the way they did, and describing some of the conditions ordinary working people have endured.

The final lecture I attended was by the Secretary of the Federation, Colin Chapman, and was entitled "Heraldry can be understood". With admirable logic, and with tongue in cheek, Mr Chapman took us systematically through the subject. One can understand how a person so attached to puns as Mr Chapman would be attracted to heraldry. Unfortunately, most of the puns are in medieval French. If you can grasp that, remember the rules, and understand that everything is back-to-front, heraldry is no problem at all. You can even distinguish between parted varied fields, which may be checky, barry-bendy, paly-bendy, lozengy, or even fusily. The partition lines may be undy, dancetty, embattled, potency, raguly, etc., etc.

In the evening, the inaugural meeting of the Guild of One Name Societies took place. If you want to know more about these, or would like some help in starting one, then write to the Secretary: Mr Frederick N. Filby, 15 Cavendish Gardens, Cranbrook, Ilford, Essex, IG1 3EA.

On the second day of the conference the Federation's half-yearly business meeting was held, and it was at this meeting that I, as a comparative newcomer, felt at a disadvantage - largely because of the informality of the meeting. Undoubtedly there are many people who attend Federation meetings regularly and know each other well, but for the rest of us it is difficult to know who the speakers are and whom they represent when people are addressed only by their Christian names. It was evident, however, that a lot of work is done by Federation officers to promote the study of family history and to encourage and advise new societies, although I wondered if some of the initiatives, such as promoting evening classes, might be better carried out by the societies at a local level. A number of useful points emerged, however: representations have been made to get the facilities at the Borthwick Institute improved. It seems that the Institute is suffering from inadequate staff and space, and it seems unlikely that more money will be made available in the near future. In response, the Federation is to try to establish a programme whereby each Society helps its local record office. Other contacts have been established: with the National Maritime Museum, the Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys, the Law Society, and the BBC. It is to be hoped that the fruits of such meetings will be announced in the "News and Digest".

In conclusion, I would say that the opportunity for people like myself to hear good speakers on their own subject is most welcome, and our own Society may like to consider encouraging more representatives to attend such meetings. Equally, I feel that the Federation should understand that genealogical research is largely carried out by individuals or small groups locally, and in their spare time, and that those people are often ignorant of Federation activity and its relevance to them. What is required is more efficient communications in both directions.

John Light

When my grandmother moved from East Ham to Hornchurch on the outskirts of London, she named her house "Chipchase", because a family legend said that we were descended from a daughter of Chipchase Castle in Northumberland, who had eloped with a blacksmith. (I later learnt that this sort of tale is very popular in Northumberland). Another story was that we were descended from George Stephenson. My grandmother said that "one of the Stephensons" came to her grandfather's funeral - a Joseph Stephenson, cousin of her grandfather. What is indisputable is that when she was a young girl, my grandmother had been taken by an aunt on the coastal steamer from London to Newcastle. Thence they had travelled to Wooler to visit "the old uncles" (misers!) who lived in a cottage near there within sight of the Cheviots. The cottage was old, with beds let into the walls in the kitchen.

Relatives would say to me, "You ought to look into it all. Surely you could discover something." When I went to the University of Durham as an undergraduate in 1962 I felt it would be a good opportunity to do so. When a great uncle heard that I was interested he sent me an old document, the "Rules Respecting the Watch in Doddington Church Yard", a transcript of which is appended to this article. It is an interesting document in itself. In the early nineteenth century the surgeons of Edinburgh needed bodies for their medical studies and there was a brisk trade in fresh corpses stolen from graveyards. Doddington or the surrounding area must have been subject to their depredations because the Doddington Vestry decided to build a watch house. A Society was set up the members of which would take it in turns to guard the graveyard and protect the graves of families belonging to the Society. Of course Northumberland is not the only county with a village or hamlet called Doddington, and when I received the document there was no indication as to which Doddington it referred.

My grandmother's mother, Emily Bertha Willans, was the daughter of William Willans and Elizabeth, née Short. Her birth certificate gave their address as 5 Ann Street, Islington, and it was a simple matter to obtain the 1871 Census entry relating to the family. I was delighted to discover that Elizabeth Short had been born in Doddington, Northumberland, about 1825. The family legends had at any rate a grain of truth in them - Northumbrian blood flowed in my veins, albeit well diluted. Henceforth I viewed the landscapes of Northumberland with a fresh eye and a sense that it was fitting I should find myself so much in harmony with them.

I thought I would next try to find the baptism entry of Elizabeth Short. I went to Doddington and found the Vicarage, but the Vicar was strange and unwelcoming and absolutely refused to let me see the registers. They were in his care and nobody could be allowed to see them. I wrote to the Bishop asking him if he could persuade the Vicar that I was a suitable person to be allowed access, and then once more made the pilgrimage to Doddington. This time I was allowed into the church. The Vicar was at first grudging but as he realised that I was genuinely interested in the church and in the watch tower built to guard the graveyard, he became more friendly and related gruesome tales of the body snatchers. Eventually we sat down in the vestry and he produced the registers. It was not an ideal way to search, sitting at a small table, the Vicar hunched in a chair immediately opposite me. I turned the pages carefully. There was no Elizabeth Short baptised in 1825 or later, but there was in 1820 - daughter of Leonard Short, miller, and Margaret Landreth.

I thanked the Vicar and returned to the twentieth century. I was able to continue my research at the Newcastle City Library where there were copies of some parish registers. I learnt that Leonard Short had previously been

married to Mary, that they had had a daughter, but that mother and daughter had soon died. Leonard married a second time, Margaret Landreth of Chatton, in 1805. But I could not find the baptism record of either Leonard or Margaret although I searched through many parishes. It was now 1968 and my time in Durham had come to an end. I left with reluctance.

I sent a copy of the document concerning the watch in Doddington churchyard to the Newcastle City Library, and in return they located a record of the vestry meeting on 7 February 1826 which proposed the watch. The minutes were signed by Leonard Short, among others.

It all fitted together very nicely, apart from the slight discrepancy in dates between the age at death of Elizabeth Willans, which was given as 81 in 1906, and her baptism entry as Elizabeth Short in 1820. One of my great-aunts was dissatisfied, however. She had a sampler stitched in 1799 by one Grace Taylor, and she had been told by her aunt that it was made by this great-great-aunt's grandmother. This could not be reconciled with Margaret Landreth being Elizabeth's mother. I kept this in mind but continued my search for evidence of Leonard Short's birth, concentrating on census records of the area around Doddington. I also made a search of wills proved for Shorts living in that area, and it was from this that I first realised something was wrong. I found the will of Margaret Short, widow of Leonard, miller, living in Wooler.

Her daughter Elizabeth proved the will in 1866. She was a spinster of Wooler Mill and so could not have been my grandmother's grandmother, who was already married and living in London at this date. An entry in the 1861 Census for Wooler confirmed the details of Margaret Short's family. This left our Elizabeth Short's parentage open once more. Perhaps her mother was called Grace Taylor. This supposition was strengthened when I discovered the Will of one of the "Old Uncles", in which his brother was named as George Taylor Short.

I then did what I should have done long before. I located the marriage certificate of William Willans and Elizabeth Short in 1854 and paid the extortionate sum required for production of a certificate. This showed that Elizabeth Short's father was actually Samuel Short, miller. No doubt he and Leonard were related, perhaps even brothers.

While in Doddington I tried to find some trace of a mill which is marked on older editions of the 1" Ordnance Survey Map as close by a tributary stream of the River Till. I toiled across tussocky grass and jumped ditches in the hot afternoon sun without finding that which I sought. There was said to be at one time a large water mill turned by the stream flowing from Dod Well, and situated to the east of the church.

In the Genealogical Society Magazine, I recently read an article on Marriage Indexes, and discovered that a member of our Family History Society had prepared one for north Northumberland. I wrote requesting a search of the index and was surprised and pleased when this produced an entry for the marriage of Samuel Short and Grace Taylor in Doddington in 1825. My great-aunt's faith was vindicated. Furthermore, since a family called Taylor (originating in Shilbottle) purchased Chipchase Castle in 1862 it is possible that the connection of the family with the castle has some basis in fact, even if the fact was later embroidered.

I have not been able to locate the baptism entry of Elizabeth Short. Perhaps it is in a parish not yet searched. Perhaps the family was nonconformist (she was married as a congregationalist). I have, however, recently received information from another member of the Society confirming that Samuel Short was the son of Leonard Short of Barmoor (just north of Doddington). Samuel was baptised in 1769 at Lowick and was buried at Doddington in 1850 aged 82. I have also learnt that Grace Taylor was born at Warkworth. I have

not yet been able to locate a census entry for the family in Northumberland. And there is no sign of George Stephenson, but I'm beginning to wonder about that again.

One further point is that my descent from Grace Taylor is entirely in the female line - Elizabeth Short, Emily Bertha Willans, Louisa Grace Parsons and my mother Betty Irene Horner - just as interesting as the more conventional male descents!

RULES RESPECTING THE WATCH IN DODDINGTON CHURCH YARD

- Rule 1st Resolved that the Watchhouse and its funds furniture and arms shall be the sole property of the Subscribers for ever
- Rule 2nd That the business shall be managed by a Committee of several Members chosen yearly with power (if necessary) to add to its number, with a President & Treasurer. The President shall have it in his power to call a meeting whenever he may think proper so to do.
- Rule 3rd That the Treasurer shall also be Clerk (one of the Committee) whose duty among other employment is to write, and deliver the letters to different Members for the week for the Watching. Keep an account of the Receipts and disbursements of the funds, with every other thing connected with the business that may be required of him - and to be allowed Stationary and a Salary for the purpose.
- Rule 4th That the Committee or Managers appointed for the present year and those who may be elected for succeeding years are authorized to admit new subscribers and to give an account of the money so received and the subscribers names and sums subscribed are all to be inserted in a Book to be kept by the Clerk or Managers for this purpose and in order that an accurate account may be kept no subscribers name is to be inserted in that Book until the Money (that is the entrance money) be paid, which is One shilling from each Member
- Rule 5th That every person on becoming a Member shall have all those of his own family protected who are incapable of watching but if there are males of a family from sixteen years of age capable of watching and have not become members they shall lose the benefit of this clause, they shall not be protected
- Rule 6th That any person having burying ground in the Church Yard of Doddington not being a Member of the Society, six months from this Date 25 of November 1828, his relations (not being Members) should be buried there, there shall be paid Ten Shillings on the day of interment but if possessed at his death of Fifty Pounds, to pay 15 shillings - of One Hundred Pounds One Guinea - of Two Hundred Pounds Two Guineas and of Three Hundred Pounds and upwards to pay Three Guineas and then to become a Member of the Society
- Rule 7th That any person not having burying ground in Doddington Church Yard, but who may hereafter be interred here (or to have any of his relations etc.) there shall be paid on the day of interment according as is stated in Rule sixth and all such sums to go to the general fund in the Treasurer's hand
- Rule 8th Widows and other Females being the heads of families, may enjoy (with those under their care) all the priveleges of the Society by becoming subscribers, but in person, are not expected or allowed to

watch, and none but subscribers and those who are entitled by Rules Sixth and Seventh, have any benefit whatever from the Society.

- Rule 9th That as the terms of entry and annual sum (which annual sum is One Sixpence from each Member but may be more or less according to circumstances) are so extremely easy everyone may have it in their power to join the Society; that have any feeling for their connections or relations
- Rule 10th That the Watchmen are to be supplied with Coal, Candles, Gunpowder and shot, at the expense of the Society and discretion of the Clerk and Committee
- Rule 11th That any Member who shall be one hour behind the time stated for to attend, unless he appoints a substitute (sanctioned by one or more of the Committee) to watch till he comes, he shall be fined in such a sum as the Managers may award and if any Member shall absent himself a part, or the whole of the night without giving notice to the Clerk or any of the Managers or refuses to take his regular turn - or should come and get intoxicated - he shall be fined as the Committee shall direct - that is for the first offence 2s. for the second 3s. and if he still persists he shall be expelled as unfit for the Society
- Rule 12th That must report to the Clerk when they leave the neighbourhood for any considerable time; also when they return and if unwell they must report this also to the Clerk or find a substitute to Watch
- Rule 13th That the Watch must be on duty between twilight and daylight, Summer and Winter, after the interment of each Corpse so long as shall be deemed necessary by the Committee
- Rule 14th That two members shall be upon Watch each Night and the same to be appointed by Ballot or otherwise, as may be found most agreeable and convenient to the Clerk and Committee
- Rule 15th That if any person or persons be found disinterring the Dead or disturbing the Watch, they shall be prosecuted at the expense of the Society, Provided the Deceased was a Subscriber or one of the family of a Subscriber.
- Rule 16th That there shall be two general meetings in the year; one before the 12th of May and the other before Martinmass to settle all the affairs relating to the Society ...

EXCUSES, EXCUSES ...

"From this time (1644) to 1646 through want of a minister and carelessness of ye clerk during ye wars, much of ye register is lost, only here and there a name is registered,

1644 August 22 - from this time to 28 Dec no account at all can be given of the register by reason of the carelessness of Hewitson, ye then clerk.

1709 - 1710 No account can be given by the register by reason of the carelessness of John Pearson, late Clerk."

(Staindrop Register)

1751 Office against churchwardens for St John Lee for 1749 ... they appeared with their minister & owned their neglect ... the register having been stolen out of the church about the latter end of last March. (York Faculty Books)

THE HEXHAM RIOT

D.W. Smith

Known as Bloody Monday, the Hexham Riot, which broke out on March 9th 1761, was the outcome of an attempt to introduce a system of balloting for the militia. Balloting met with opposition throughout the north of England but it was in Hexhamshire that feelings ran highest. The local magistrates, well aware of this, had taken the precaution of bringing a detachment of the North Yorkshire Militia into the town of Hexham. Drawn up in the square in front of the Moot Hall, these soldiers only served to increase the fury of the mob that gathered on the day of the ballot. After almost four hours of argument between ringleaders and magistrates, the Riot Act was read.

The mob broke loose and advanced with staves and clubs upon the charged bayonets. Two soldiers were shot by their own weapons and the magistrates, in panic, ordered general fire. By the time the firing ceased, the mob had fled through the streets, leaving only dead and severely wounded - a sight that seemed to move even the soldiers. Various figures have been advanced for these fatalities - one source gives 45 dead and 300 wounded, but it is likely that the figure was much higher for large numbers of the wounded escaped to their own locality and were naturally unwilling to acknowledge their part in the affray. However, with careful investigation, several can be found who probably died from wounds in those days of rudimentary surgery. Joseph Ridley's Hexham Chronicle gives a list of dead and wounded, but it is by no means complete. For example, Dorothy, wife of William Armstrong of Stamfordham, died four days later; Charles Shipley of Gunnerton died a month later - two of his cousins, the Coulsons of Gunnerton, were also involved. Thomas Richardson of Corbridge had been married barely a month before being shot. Many of the dead were claimed by relatives - John Appleby, aged 74, of West Matfen, my own kinsman, was buried at Stamfordham on the 12th. John Leighton, buried at Bywell, was only 21.

The bitter feelings aroused by this event must have long rankled in the neighbourhood. The families of the victims would hardly be well disposed towards a local incumbent who preached on the importance of "the duty of subjection to the civil powers occasioned by a late unhappy insurrection", taking as his text "Power is given them from the Highest".

The story of the riot can be followed in Ridley's Hexham Chronicle, and something of the immediacy of the feeling at the time can be gleaned from John Dawson's Diary (Surtees Society, Vol. 124, North Country Diaries). During the rounding up of hidden rioters which went on for many weeks, much suspicion of having ordered the soldiers' volley fell upon Lancelot Allgood, the Deputy Lieutenant. Together with his comrade Christopher Reed of Chipchase, he was popularly supposed to have escaped the wrath of the rioters by hiding in a hay loft on the Hexham road. Four years later an 'anonymous' Will of a Certain Northern Vicar poured bitter scorn upon these two:

I give the corpulent Kit Reed
My lecture upon gingerbread.
And leave him too - though not for fun
For fear of harm - a wooden gun;
At the same time - in case of riot
A cockloft for to keep him quiet.
A ladder too, fame do not tattle
To aid him in the day of battle.
And to his worthy comorade
Who with 'im such a figure made
A large birch rod that he may be
Tickled most exceedingly!

KILLED

Hexham

Joseph Hart
David Greenock, soldier
Sarah Carter with child
Thos. Levestone's wife with child
John Dodd, shoemaker
David Turnbull, labourer
Thos. Usher, servant
Christph, son of Robt. Johnson
David Marrow, Labourer
John Armstrong of New House, comp.
fra. in the arm

Slayley

Matthew Carr
Michael Burdess
John Robson's son
Matthew Fairlamb
Andrew Lamb

Broomley

Henry Leighton
Robt. Brown, servant

Corbridge

Ralph Shotton
Thos. Richardson

Bywell & Whittonstall

..... Brown, father & son
Humphery Brown

Prudhoe

Heslip, a pitman

Newburn

Wm. Crow, weaver

Fourstones & Newborough

William Watson
Henry Hoggart

Hollings in Derwentside

Mr Thos. Forster

WOUNDED

Hexham

William Warrener, soldier (thigh)
Roger Bower, soldier (thigh)
Sam, son of Wm Carter (comp frac in thigh.M.)
John Gibson, maltman (right hand)
John Davison
John Story of Coastley (left arm)
Thos Armstrong (face)
James Cumming (thigh.M.)
Milburn, servant at Lamshield (thigh.M.)
Corn Ridley, son of Willm. (face)
Donkin Sharp, soldier (leg)

Ryall

Henry, son of Rich. Dun

Throckley

Wm. Rotherford
... Pescott of Heddon
John Cutter of Heddon

St. John Lee

Thomas English of Anick
Anthony Brown, Sandhoe
George Johnson of Wall

Hartburn

John Row

Chollerton

Jacob Coulson
John Charlton, Birtley, late of Dalton
William Hepple, Birtley
Thomas Dodd
Wm. Scott of Swinburn

Stamfordham

Joseph Dodd
John Proud
John Elliott
John Appleby
Thos. Hudspeth

Simonburn

John Mintaff
James Young

Kirkheaton

Robt. Atkinson

Blanchland

Geo. Siddle of Crook Oak

Walwick

Thos. Forster

Haydon Bridge W. Quarter

Nicholas Forster of Staward

Harlow Hill

Thos Forster M.
-do- brother M.

Stamfordham

Nicholas Lowes

Newburn

..... Richardson

Wall

Wm Pattison (left hand)

Slayley

Thos. Standford (breast.M.)
Matthew Madlin (thigh)

Corbridge

Robt. Pattinson (thigh)
Wm. Richlay (left arm)
Matt. Robson (thigh)
John Smith (thigh & shoulder)
Robt. Nicholson (shoulder.M.)
Wm. Vic(er)son Aydon (shoulder)
Elionor Young (right shoulder)

Simonburn

Thos. Veach of Bellingham
(bayonet & shot)
John Eldert (thigh)
John Robson (shoulder)
Roger Robson of Smailsmouth (cheek)
Fra. Charlton of Dally Mill (thigh)

Corsenside

Goegr Keith of Woodburn (thigh)

Fourstones

John Hedley (left hand)

Haydon Bridge

William Lamb (frac in right leg)

Challerton

John Ridley's man lost ear & finger
John Coats of Gunnerton (M wounded)
Jos Rowell (thigh.M.)
Jane Cronkleton (heel)
Jas. Young (wounded, and shot four times in the hat!)

John Bestford (collar bone)

John Brown of Broomhope, blacksmith.
(head)

Other Places

Robt. Rowell of Hallington (thigh)
Hen. Waugh, Simonburn (right thigh)
George Barrow of ... (shoulder)
John Coulson of (Gunnerton) (back)
Mich. Scott of West Acomb (frac of jaw)

A SOUTH AMERICAN LINK

Mrs V.A. Corno

Last year I seemed to be having little success in tracing my family, which is not surprising when searching for Armstrongs, and Bells, in Northumberland! Rather than be idle, I decided to trace another branch of the family, in Brazil.

My mother died when I was quite small, but I had heard that in 1910 her sister had married a Brazilian. He was in the Brazilian Navy and from family photographs apparently an officer. I wrote to the Naval Attaché at the Brazilian Embassy, explaining that I was compiling a family history, and that I would be interested to hear if they had any details of my uncle's naval career, or his family. Quite some months passed, and I had almost forgotten my enquiry, when I received a charming letter from the Naval Attaché, enclosing, from Rio de Janeiro, a xerox copy of my uncle's career record. He had been an Admiral in the Brazilian Navy and had had a most interesting and distinguished career.

The letter also contained the address of my cousin, which was a delightful surprise, as I had had no idea that it would be possible to trace her; she has a family, and grandchildren, and earlier this year one of her grandsons stayed with us while on a trip to Europe.

My uncle had come to Newcastle in 1910 to collect a ship built by Vickers. She was named the "Minas Geraes", and my aunt and uncle, besides being married at the Church of the Holy Name, seem also to have been married on board the ship, possibly in a civil ceremony. I was interested to see a model of the "Minas Geraes" in the Greenwich Maritime Museum.

Another of my cousin's grandsons is also compiling a family history on the Brazilian side, and is probably still busy translating the details I have sent him of his English ancestors, which proves what an international hobby this is!

A TRIMDON FAMILY

A.J. Pain

Records are rarely as complete as we would like. In a deed of 1842 for instance there is a tantalising gap in the description of a purchaser: "John Carter pit-man of". I have spent some time to no avail trying to trace where John Carter came from. He bought land in Trimdon but the earliest references to a Carter family in the parish records are Mary Ann Carter died 31 October 1850 aged 9 months and Ann Carter died 29 August 1856 aged 10 months. The records of the surrounding parishes do not appear to help but in any event he seems sufficiently remarkable in his own right.

Having bought land John Carter then erected "a messuage brewhouse, cottage and other premises" on it and as well as becoming a brew-house keeper he also became a butcher. His will was dated 18 February 1857 and he died on 13 July 1857 with his effects sworn as under £100. The parish registers, however, do not record his death, although on 5 November 1857 a James Carter died aged 64.

John's wife must have died before him because his will makes no mention of her. To his eldest son, Edward, he bequeathed "my two horses absolutely". Other legacies were left to the remaining issue, namely: Robert, John, Elizabeth (who married Francis Greenfield), Barbara Hannah (who married Richard Harrison), Mary Ann (who married Edward Cain), William, Margaret Jane and Francis Bewick. The last two named were under 21 when their father died.

John's second son, Robert, was married at St. Giles, Durham, on 8 April 1854 and was described as a butcher living at Carrville (near Durham). He married Mary Ann Jackson the daughter of John Jackson, a master butcher of Carrville. It is probable then that Robert married his master's daughter but he soon returned home for on 26 December 1854 their first child, John, was born at Trimdon Colliery. Robert was following his father's footsteps and in 1862 he bought from his father's executors his father's brewhouse for £190. He was to die soon after that though: "Robert Carter late of Trimdon Colliery brewhouse keeper who died 3 December 1868 aged 37 of apoplexy". His wife incidentally bought more land in 1870 to extend the premises and in another document we read: "Mary Ann Carter married James Bainbridge in or about 1871 and she died at Thornley Colliery on or about 26 July 1878. James Bainbridge died in 1871: there were no issue of that marriage."

Robert's son John married Catherine Prior the daughter of James Prior a miner on 5 November 1876. John was described as a fireman although on 18 January 1877 when he registered the birth of his son Robert he was described as a colliery engineman. John died on 12 December 1899 and his wife died on 31 January 1915 in the brewhouse originally built by "John Carter pitman". The premises, however, were all sold out of the family by her son.

TWO SHIELDS STRAYS

From the Bishop's Transcripts for Cosgrove, Northants (in Northants Record Office): Buried, 24 July 1785, Caroline Clark, a vagrant of North Shields, County of Northumberland.

From a Crew List in the Public Record Office for the William the 4th of Cardiff (Master: Robert Fairclough): Seaman, John Reed, age 25, born South Shields, last served in the Brig Jane, joined the William the 4th in London on 11 September 1835, was discharged in London on 21 November 1835.

W.E. Wallace

ALWINTON NORTHUMBERLAND
HARBOTTLE COMMON INCLOSURE

A Meeting of the Proprietors of Estates having or claiming to have a Right of Common upon Harbottle Common, in the Manor of Redesdale, in the Co. of Northumberland, is appointed to be holden at Mr John Common's in Harbottle, on Wednesday the seventeenth Day of January at eleven o'Clock in the Forenoon to sign a Petition to Parliament for such Inclosure, and the Consent Bill.

C. & P. Fenwick, Solicitors.

Newcastle upon Tyne, 10th January 1816.

This was the first of a series of notices which appeared in the press during 1816. Judging by the dates and the phrasing of the subsequent notices it would appear that the operation must have been carried out with great speed. The Commissioners, having already ascertained the respective "Rights, Shares & Interests of Proprietors having Right of Common", held a meeting on March 3rd to allow Proprietors or Persons interested to peruse a schedule of intended Allotments.

On May 13th the Commissioners perambulated the boundaries. The next day they held their 'First Meeting' 'for the Purpose of putting the said Act into Execution', inviting Claimants to present in writing, schedules of their freeholds as proof of their entitlement to a share of the common. A 'Second Meeting' was held on May 27th to receive outstanding claims and a 'Third' on June 10th to receive objections. Finally, on July 15th, they invited tenders for constructing 'several public & private Carriage Roads & Highways through and over the Common'.

These notices serve as a framework of the operation and are only a small part of quite a large bundle of papers at Northumberland County Record Office. There are personal and business letters, estimates, tenders, receipts, expense accounts and divers sundry jottings and notes. Nearly all are labelled and many bear signatures. Many of the local inhabitants were involved. Robert Blacklock made two gates and a wicket which he hung at the Fairground and was paid £3.16.6. Jas Nesbitt of Campville tendered for a share of the roadmaking. James Drummond, James Broomfield and W. Bell, Labourers, were paid 9/- each for three days work staking out roads, while Gideon Pitloah supplied a horse and cart for the princely sum of 7/- a day. Another Pitloah, John, only got 5s. 6d. for the use of his horse and cart.

Others came from further afield. Thomas Robinson and James Young of Glanton tendered for sections of the roads but asked for 'no confinement in the time'. Perhaps the most interesting of all the papers are the actual claims themselves as they usually give names, occupations and residences of owners and tenants, e.g., Robert Spearman, Farmer of Shewing Shields in the County of Northumberland, claimed in right of his wife for and in respect of a Freehold Messuage and Lands with the appurtenances situated at Light pipe Hall in the Parish of Alwinton, in the possession of Richard Oliver and Dorothy Mitchison as Tenants thereof containing by computation Two acres or thereabouts. Thomas Willis, a Weaver, claimed on behalf of William Whelass in respect of a Freehold Messuage or Tenement at Harbottle in the possession of himself, i.e. Thomas. It is interesting to note that Thomas Willis agreed to pay his expenses of the Division while Robert Spearman's claim has the relevant passage on the official handwritten claim paper scored out.

The following list is compiled from two separate lists of claims but is lacking in respect of proprietors' residences and occupations.

Harbottle Division List of Claims, 1816

(In order of Proprietor; property description and acreage of land; and occupier/tenant)

Thomas Clennel, Esq.

The Peals Estate (1,114) Michael Aynsley, Thomas Hedley, Thomas Fenwick & Himself

Harbottle Estate (35) Himself

Harbottle Castle Estate (28) William Cowans

Cottage at Harbottle (2½) James Laidler

2 cottages at Harbottle (3½) William Cowens & Jane Cowan

Thomas Selby, Esq.

Woodhall Farm (236) Henry Dodds

East Wilkwood Farm (1,000) Daniel Wood jnr

Barrow Farm (1,400) John Simpson

Barrow Haugh Farm (45) Jno Simpson & Alexr Frances

Alwinton West Side Farm (270) Jno Anderson

Alwinton East Side Farm (260) Geo Nichol

Low Alwinton, Park Head & Newton Farms (575) Anthony Lawson, John Lawson & George Lawson

Houses & Land at Harbottle (11) John Clark, John Jordan, Jno & Thomas Common & others

Harbottle Town Head Farm (14) Christr. Nesbitt

Hoppers Close (7) John Pitloh

Wall Meadows (4) George Richardson

All of which said Messuages & Farms (except 25 acres of Newton) are Tithe Free.

C.F. Forster Esq. Trustees

Lanternside Farm (587) & Angry Haugh Farm (14) James Nesbitt

Dwelling House, Meeting House & other Buildings & 8 acres. John Jordan

Thomas Stamp

4 Cottage Houses, 3 Stables & 6 acres in Harbottle. M. Patterson.

John Common

2 Dwelling Houses & 2 acres. Himself.

William Willis

House at Harbottle. Thomas Willis.

William Marshall

House at Harbottle now in Ruins

Mary Ormston

House at Harbottle now in Ruins

Robert Spearman & Wife

Messuage & 2 acres at Light Pipe Hall. Richard Oliver & Dorothy Mitchinson.

Heirs of Gideon Pitloh

3 Cottages, Byer & 4 acres at Harbottle. Armorer, Arkle & others.

Churchwardens of Rothbury

House & 6 acres at Harbottle. John & Thomas Common.

The allotment papers are also preserved and include a map which shows the actual parcels of land as they were apportioned. The relative position of each piece of land is graphically described in the archaic and cumbersome legal jargon of the day and each section includes the ominous phrase that 'all right of Common, Moor or Waste shall cease & be forever extinguished'.

Large landowners came off best and the Commissioners, Surveyors and

Solicitors did quite well, although quite a few of the small proprietors were still in possession in 1844 when the Tithe Map of Harbottle was drawn.

Another paper gives the names of those who tendered for the road making, the sections they were involved with and the prices agreed. The Parish Registers of Alwinton and Holystone contain quite a few of these surnames but others must have lived elsewhere. In any case there were only 152 people living in Harbottle Township in 1811. The list reads as follows:

Harbottle Roads

William Scott; Alexr McDonald, Daniel Robertson, James Brown; James Nesbitt; Thomas Robinson, James Young; Thomas Newton, John Newton; Gilbert McKenzie; Henry Elliott; William Walker, Robert Farrage, William Farrage; William Bell & 3 others; Alexr Brown & George Ross; James Gilhespie & partners; Joseph Robinson & 2 others; John Hall & 3 others; Thos & Isaac Sharp; Richard Urwin; Andrew Readshaw; Lanct Maddison & John Nattras; Jno Willey & Geo Rowland; John Shield; Mich Hedley.

Among the correspondence is a letter from a local worthy telling a member of the establishment that he was sending him two large containers of whisky, no doubt as a means of smoothing the way! To cap it all one can still see the receipt for the final dinner held at The Ship Inn:

To John Common

Expense of public Meeting on Signing Award

viz 13 at 2/6	Dinner	1 - 12 - 6
	Wine	4 - 12 - 6
	Ale	3 - -
	Servants	4 - -
		<hr/>
		6 - 12 - -

It's not difficult to see who came off best this time.

COULD THEY WRITE?

F.J. Vaughan

Most of us are familiar with birth, marriage and death certificates where someone has signed with an X, and many of us have seen similar signatures for the bride, bridegroom and witnesses in the old church marriage registers, but were all these people really unable to write even their own names?

Compulsory education was introduced into this country in 1870 but the working class population prior to this date was much more literate than many people imagine. There was less education in the rural areas where children lived remote from any school, but in the towns and cities, in spite of the long hours worked in the mills and factories, children of the poor frequently received some sort of schooling. The novelist, Mrs Gaskell, described hand-loom weavers in the district of Oldham with Newton's "Principia" open at the loom, to be snatched at in work hours, illustrating that humble occupation was no guide to a person's education, even in 1848, when she was writing.

The Soldiers' Personal Documents (W.O.97 series) in the Public Record Office are an illustration of the writing abilities of the Non-commissioned Soldiers. A Regimental Board would sit and make a summary of the service of a soldier who was to be discharged. The Board papers are these Soldiers' Personal Documents and are signed or marked X by each soldier being reported on.

In the W.O.97 series for the Eleventh Regiment of Foot, I noticed that in the period 1822-45, out of 920 soldiers, 452 were able to sign their names. Although all Sergeants were supposed to be able to write, several of them signed with a X.

The Army Records, however, cannot be taken as an average literacy for the whole population because Regimental Schools had been set up prior to the Napoleonic Wars. The soldiers' children in particular would get a good basic education.

In the population generally more pains were taken to ensure that boys could write. Presumably it was thought that domestic science was more important for the girls. In my own family, even in the poor Irish branches, the boys were able to sign their names. One of my ancestors, born in 1836 in Ireland, came from a remote area and was the son of a farm labourer but he could write and spell. His eldest sister could not write but she had only been to school for one day. On that day she was beaten for blowing her hair out of her eyes when she had been told not to move and she refused to go to school again.

Until the introduction of the registration of marriages, births and deaths in 1837, probably the only official time that nearly everybody had to sign was their marriage entry, but from 1837 onwards, in addition to the marriage register, every class of society had to sign their names when they were informing the Registrar of a birth or death. It is here that the anomalies begin to arise.

My ancestor Elizabeth Maitland Vaughan registered the births of all her children and only once, in the middle of the string, did she sign with an X. She could obviously write. Less obvious, however, is another ancestor, Thomas Hall, who registered several births and deaths with an X signature but at his marriage he had signed his name. The argument cannot be used that the Registrar at the marriage was careless because the bride did sign with an X. Could he really write or not?

It seems very unlikely that a Registrar (or Vicar) would bluntly ask anyone, "Can you write?". Possibly a person was asked to make his mark if he looked as if he belonged to the lower classes. On the other hand, the words "Sign here" may have had a wider interpretation than they do today. When we ask a person to sign we assume that he will write his surname. One thing we do know. People did sign with a cross when they were perfectly capable of writing their names but how common this was we shall never know.

DEATHS ABROAD, FROM NORTHUMBERLAND TOMBSTONES

Continued from p. 60:

Whittingham

Isabella Tate, dau of Robert & Elizabeth CLARK, d. 14.6.1852, a. 26, at Frederick Town, Ohio, North America

Andrew WATSON, d. Ballarat, Victoria, Australia, 9.2.1855, a. 22

Wooler

David James TROTTER, son of Francis & Mgt Trotter, d. at Cape Town, S. Africa, 12.4.1899, a. 28

John INNESS, d. at Shelby, Nebraska, U.S.A., 7.8.1890, a. 78. George Milligan INNESS, son of the above mentioned John, d. at Excelsior Springs, Missouri, U.S.A., 16.1.1893, a. 50.

Capt. William CARR, M.B.I.M.S., 6th Jat Light Infantry, d. Meerut, India, 6.5.1902, a. 32

Isabella JOHNSTONE (nee PRINGLE) dau of Thomas & Elizabeth Pringle, d. at Durban, S. Africa, 2.6.1914, a. 77

Sarah, wife of William RICHARDSON, d. Australia, 2.9.1861, a. 66.

II. HEDDON-ON-THE-WALL, NORTHUMBERLAND

A.S. Angus

Heddon-on-the-Wall lies seven miles west of Newcastle and, as its name indicates, is on the line of the Roman Wall, a length of which may still be seen to the east of the village. In the centre of the village the ancient parish church of St. Andrew stands upon a rocky eminence near the junction where the 'Military Road', built after the 1745 Rebellion upon the foundations of the Wall, diverges from the old road from Newcastle to Carlisle. A modern dual carriageway now by-passes the village to the north. Further north the clump of trees on the summit of the 500 foot Heddon Law forms a distinctive landmark, while to the south the ground falls away quite steeply to the River Tyne.

The old parish consisted of the six townships of Heddon-on-the-Wall, East Heddon, West Heddon, Houghton and Close House, Whitchester and Eachwick. After the Norman Conquest they formed part of the Barony of Styford, bestowed by Henry I on Hugh de Bolbec, whose grandson Walter de Bolbec in 1165 A.D. granted all rights and patronage in the church at Heddon to the monks of Blanchland. Following this the Saxon church was rebuilt, so that few traces of the original building remain, but the present church still contains some fine examples of Norman architecture.

The history of the church and parish are the subject of a paper presented to the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 1885 by Cadwallader Bates, and published in AA3, vol. XI. Anyone interested in the parish of Heddon-on-the-Wall is recommended to consult this work, and also NCH, Vol. XIII. The paper by Cadwallader Bates includes a map showing the boundaries of the townships which made up the parish, and also the boundary which separated Castle Ward from Tynedale Ward and which split the parish into two - a point to be remembered when searching the Census returns. It is recorded in the parish register by Vicar Armstrong that in 1792 the boundaries of the parish were perambulated by the Vicar, Churchwardens, and some of the principal inhabitants. The churchwardens at the time were Anthony Laws and Andrew Grey, and other names in the party included Peascod, Gilhespy, Robson, Mason, Wilson, Shotton and Blakey. The parish is described as 'bounded on the South by the River Tyne, or the Parish of Ryton. On the West partly by Ovingham Parish, & partly by Stamfordham Parish. On the North partly by Stamfordham Parish and partly by Newburn Parish - and on the East totally by Newburn Parish.' There is no mention of Ponteland Parish, which also bounds the northern side. In 1892 the parish boundaries were extended to include the township of Rudchester, formerly in Ovingham Parish.

Pedigrees of some families associated with Heddon-on-the-Wall are given in the NCH and by Cadwallader Bates. They include Read of Close House and West Heddon, Bewicke of Close House, Fenwick of East Heddon, Turpin of Whitchester, Fenwick and Scurfield of Eachwick, Bell and Spearman of Eachwick, and Fenwick of Heddon-on-the-Wall. One family connected with Eachwick was that of the poet, Mark Akenside. Other leading families mentioned by Bates are those of Creswell and Barkas.

The parish registers, which commence in 1656, have been deposited in the Northumberland County Record Office, along with the churchwardens' accounts and other records. Some extracts from the registers were published in the parish magazine in 1906 and copies of these are in the library of the Society of Genealogists. It is worth noting that some register entries have been transcribed from one book to another, and have not always been copied correctly; some appear three times. The Bishop's Transcripts for the years April 1727 - March 1728 and 1762-1848 are held in Durham University Department of Palaeography.

In 1751 Vicar Armstrong estimated the population at 650, made up of 130 families of which 12 were dissenting (Presbyterians). Three years later these figures were 754, 175 and 13 respectively. The population in 1801 was 603, increasing to 813 in 1851 and 1145 in 1891.

The Churchwardens' Accounts, which start in 1671, include lists of those attending the meetings of the 'Four and Twenty'; the surnames of those at a meeting in April 1745 were Armstrong (Vicar), Fenwick and Pattison (Churchwardens), Barkas, Softley, Laws, Thomson, Burrell, Clennell, Fairlas and Hunter. It is worth comparing these surnames with those of the householders of Heddon-on-the-Wall included in the Hearth Tax Returns for 1664 (NRO): Fenwick, Hill, Winship, Oxley, Barkas, Creswell, Softley, Cooleing, Ladler, Hopper, Colson and Bewick.

Valuable information regarding East Heddon Township is contained in the Ridley papers in NRO. East Heddon came into the possession of Alderman Matthew White of Blagdon before 1716, and through him it passed to the Riddles. From the estate documents it is possible to trace the tenancies of the various farms over the next two centuries. The tenants in 1756, for example, were named Laws, Davison, Gilhespy and Lee.

The Tithe maps and apportionments (1839-1851) are also in NRO. The names of the landlords and tenants appear on the apportionments and have recently been indexed. Hodgson's Pedigrees (NCL) also contain a great deal of information about local families. Unfortunately the parish of Heddon-on-the-Wall is not included in Boyd's Marriage Index.

My own interest in Heddon is in the Laws family who farmed at Heddon Laws, Breckney Hill and East Heddon from about 1670 to 1850. The fact that some of their names are included in a list of pupils kept by William Robson, who was schoolmaster at Cambo from 1784 to 1807, leads me to believe that he must have taught in the vicinity of Heddon-on-the-Wall before going to Cambo. It might be worthwhile consulting his notebook (NRO) because he placed various signs against the names of his pupils to indicate, for example, when marriages took place between them.

The parish of Heddon-on-the-Wall has always been predominantly agricultural, but some coal mining has been carried out in the area, and a waggonway connected Heddon with the Wylam waggonway before 1787. The Bates family also owned a cement works. More recently the village has tended to become a dormitory for Newcastle, but in spite of its proximity to the city it retains much of its rural character.

Abbreviations

AA3 Archaeologia Aeliana, 3rd ('New') Series
NCH Northumberland County History
NCL Newcastle Central Reference Library
NRO Northumberland County Record Office

STRAY MARRIAGES

Married at Great Yarmouth, Norfolk:

John Snaith of Stockden in the County of Durham and Susanna Dye of this town both single by licence on 10th April 1763. He signed, she made mark.
Witnesses: William Gibbs, Thos. Herbert.

William Clarke of the Parish of Tinmouth in the County of Northumberland, batchelor, and Elizabeth Wright, spinster, by licence on 14th April 1764. He signed, she made mark. Witnesses: Samuel Wright, Edward Symonds.

WILLIAM WELBURY OF SUNDERLAND - A SURVIVOR OF TRAFALGAR

Mrs C.M. James

When quite a small girl I remember being told that my great-great-grandfather had taken part in the battle of Trafalgar, as a result of having been seized by the Press Gang. This seemed rather special though I had no idea what the Press Gang was, nor how it functioned.

My interest was revived many years later by some papers found in my aunt's house after her death. There were two type-written accounts called "Grandfather's Life", and "the Life of William Welbury", with no signature to either. The first finishes with the words "I had these particulars from father and grandmother. I was nine years old when she died." I think it may have been written by my grandfather, who obviously did not think it would be preserved after his day.

Soon after this, I asked my mother a lot of questions about her father's family. Her memory was then still very good.

William Welbury was born at Kirk Levington, near Yarm, on 1 September 1784. When nine years old he was apprenticed for seven years in a Whitby ship to a Whitby captain. During this time he sailed with his captain in a Liverpool vessel trading with Quebec. When William was 15 the captain had to be left behind ill in Quebec, and the mate not being a navigator, it fell to William to bring the ship to England and take her out again. When 16 and out of his time, he became 3rd mate, and afterwards 2nd mate and at 19 mate of the same ship.

Shortly after this, he had been visiting the ship's owner at his house (he was courting the owner's daughter!) and on the way back to his ship he was set upon by the Press Gang and, not having his exemption papers with him, was 'pressed' and sent into the navy as an able seaman. He was drafted to the Thunderer and served with Nelson at Trafalgar. (One relative disputes this and asserts that great-great-grandfather was on the Royal Sovereign by the time of Trafalgar. If so, he was one of the lucky ones: John Terraines' 'Trafalgar' gives casualties on the Royal Sovereign as 141, 47 killed and 94 wounded, whilst the 'Thunderer' suffered only 16 casualties, 4 dead and 12 wounded.) Great-great-grandfather was at the passage of the Dardanelles in 1807 and took part in numerous operations in the Mediterranean and the West Indies. It is said that he was taken prisoner by the French in the West Indies and sent to France, where he learnt something of the language in prison at Verdun. With a group of fellow prisoners he escaped from Verdun; they eventually reached the coast, stole a fishing boat and made for England. After sighting the Cornish coast they were picked up by an English frigate outward bound to the West Indies. Having arrived there great-great-grandfather was handed over to his own ship again. Some years later he came home and was paid off by the navy.

William Welbury's great friend in the navy had been killed at the Dardanelles and when dying had entrusted William with a sum of money for his sweetheart, with instructions for finding her. He did find her and married her. The story leaves one to guess the fate of the money!

The reader who has not given up will be wondering by this time what substantiation there is for the facts related so far. From my maternal grandmother's mother's birthday book, I have the date and place of William Welbury's birth. The "Life" referred to earlier names his wife as Bessie Garthwaite and says "she was born in 1784 as near as I can remember". I have failed to find either of these dates in parish records, nor have I been able to find a record of the marriage. I found the christening of their son,

William Welbury, at St. Michael's, Bishopwearmouth, Sunderland - parents William (Mariner) and Elizabeth Welbury of Nesham Place, Sunderland. The birthday book gives the date of birth as 7 June 1826.

The next find was in the 1851 Census (taken on 30 March). Living at 14 Woodbine Street, Sunderland, were Elizabeth Welbury, widow, age 67 (agreeing with date of birth, 1784); Mary A.E. Welbury, 27, dressmaker, unmarried; Isabel Welbury, 21, mariner's wife, unmarried (presumably an enumerator's error). I suppose that William, the son, now aged 24, was at sea at the time of the Census.

I have a copy of my grandfather's birth certificate, date 3 June 1851: boy, William, parents William Welbury, mariner, and Mabel Welbury, formerly Ritson; place of birth 14 Woodbine Street, Bishop Wearmouth. Thus he was born at his grandmother's house about two months after the Census. It seems likely that his mother came to her mother-in-law's for the birth.

Sunderland Public Library helped me by finding the address, 10 Addison Street, Sunderland, for William Welbury, Master Mariner, in Whellan's Directory for 1865. The 1861 Census gives at 10 Addison Street: Isabella Welbury, 31, Master Mariner's wife; William, son, 9 (my mother's father); Elizabeth, daughter, 6; Eveline, daughter, 3; and James, son, 1. These are the Christian names of my mother's aunts and uncle and their ages agree with the dates in the birthday book. Was Isabella Welbury the same person as Mabel (nee Ritson)? Did she give her correct christian name of Mabel on her son's birth certificate and the presumably preferred name of Isabella when the Census was taken? Or was Isabel the mother of Elizabeth, Eveline and James, but not of William? When the family was complete my grandfather had two more sisters, one of whom was named Mabel, and one more brother, Robert Ritson. One of my mother's sisters was Mabel Ritson Welbury, so named after her grandmother. There have been no other Isabels so far as I know.

The 1851 Census gives Isabel's age as 21 and her birth-place as Houghton-le-Spring. In parish records I found the baptism of Mabel Ritson on 10 May 1829 at Houghton-le-Spring. (The birthday book gives 10 April 1829.) Thus her age in March 1851 was 21, as Isabel's was.

The family 'history' concludes by saying that William Welbury's health was never good after his privations, but he acted as master and mate of vessels out of Sunderland until 1831 when he died at Houghton-le-Spring some months after injuring his spine in a fall down a ship's hold.

I have wondered whether the family left Sunderland to escape from the outbreak of cholera in 1831. Thus it would seem that William Welbury, my great-grandfather, born 1826, may have met his future wife Mabel, born 1829 (or Isabel?) very early in his life.

A NORTHUMBRIAN'S VIEW OF NORTHUMBRIANS

"The Halls, Reeds, Hedleys, Fletchers of Redesdale, the Charltons, Dodds, Robsons and Milbournes of North Tynedale, were the real political units within a society that knew no other organisation. The Crown when it raised taxes, secured the tribute through the agency of the clan chiefs."

"A greater familiarity between high and low prevailed in those wild regions and lasted into modern times. The moorland shepherd and the 'hind' as the Northern farmhand was called, never became as subject to 'squire and farmer' as the pauper labourer of the South in days to come. There was always a breath of freedom blowing off the moors."

- From "English Social History" by G.M. Trevelyan

MEMBERS AND THEIR INTERESTS

Items for inclusion in this and the Second Time Around column should be sent to Mrs A. Spendiff, 17 Augustus Drive, Bedlington, Northumberland. The deadline for the April journal is 7th February. Please include your membership number when writing.

- 597 Mr H. HASWELL, 20 Horsley Vale, South Shields, Tyne & Wear, NE34 6JD.
Would like information on the family of Haswell in the Shotton-Thornley district in the early part of the 19th century, also any details of their sojourn in the Ballarat goldfields, Australia, in 1856-60.
- 664 Mrs J.M. FRERICHES, 3 Woodfield Ave, Bury, Huntingdon, Cambs. PE17 1NL.
Interested in the Coulson family in the Hexham area. Seeking the birth of John Coulson, c.1848, and subsequent marriage of John Coulson and Jane Lisle.
- 665 Miss D.G. GILROY, 4 Longmore Ave, Woolston, Southampton, Hants.
Hoping to trace the marriage of Timothy Gilroy and his wife Mary, who were probably married between 1812 and 1815. Timothy, born c.1789 in Northumberland, died in Newcastle in 1850. Mary was born in Morpeth c.1786 and died in Newcastle c.1853. Morpeth's marriage register has been searched, 1805-1820, as have the Marriage Bonds (1807-1815) and Boyd's Marriage Index (1805-1812), but all without success. Any references to the Gilroy family would be welcome.
- 705 Mr L. DAVIES, 49 Cherrytree Drive, Whickham, Newcastle upon Tyne.
Seeking the marriage of Hugh Hills, probably to a Catherine Gavin, in the Lowick area c.1820. Also, the parents of John Henderson and Frances James, who married at St. John's, Newcastle, on 1 Dec. 1772.
- 746 Miss A.N. LOVE, 37 Winston Drive, Eston, Cleveland, TS6 9LX.
Interested in the Guys and Nevilles who were living in Oakengates, Salop, in the 19th century; also, George Hamnett Roberts, born 25 June 1835, a boat manufacturer near Cardiff, who married Harriet Guy (born 5/4/1835), daughter of Thomas Guy and Sarah Neville. Also interested in any information about William James Belt, of Durham, and his father, Robert Belt.
- 753 Mr J. K. NESBIT, 6 Grasmere Ave, Sutton Coldfield, W. Midlands, B74 3DG.
- 754 Mr R. L. EAGLE, P.O. Box 45, Chadstone Centre, Victoria, Australia 3148.
- 755 Mr P. W. DOBSON, 30 Knowl Meadow, Helmshore, Rossendale, Lancs. BB4 4LW.
Would welcome any details of the Lowrey family of Chillingham Newtown 1800-1845; the Dobsons of Tynemouth district pre-1821; and Thomas Guy of North Shields, c.1861.
- 756 Dr M. A. WHITE, 17 Buckland Ave, Newtown, Victoria 3220, Australia.
- 757 Mr C. S. SOFTLEY, 3 Broadview, Cheriton, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 3ES.
Interested in information about the Softley family, particularly the baptism of William Stanly Softley, born Tynemouth c.1882.
- 758 Mrs M. CROZIER, 127 Harrison St, Thunder Bay "P", Ontario, Canada, P7A 7H5.
Would like information on the family of Henry Swan and Elizabeth Russell, who lived in the River Tweed area of Northumberland prior to their emigration to Canada in the mid-1800s.
- 759 Mrs V. ORMISTON, 14 Thompson Rd, Denton, Nr. Manchester, M34 2PS.
- 760 Mrs W.M. SHAIL, 28 Bransdale Ave, South Bents, Whitburn, Tyne & Wear.
- 761 Miss J. HAZLETT, 4228K, Louisiana Dr, Kreuzberg, Kaserne, 6660, Zweibrucken, W. Germany.
- 762 Miss E.M. WILLMOTT, 26 Trinity Pl, Bingley, W.Yorks. BD16 2PR.
Seeking information on the Litney and Littner families of North Shields and Tynemouth, the Pattison and Shuttleworth families of N. Shields and Tynemouth, and the Thompson family of Heworth.
- 763 Mr R. THIRLWELL, 7 Jennifer Ave, Castletown, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear, SR5 3BD.
- 764 Mr J. GOODALL, 7 Fairway, Girton, Cambridge, CB3 0QF.

- 765 Mr S.E. CHAPMAN, 117 Thornbridge Dr, Frecheryville, Sheffield, S12 4YN.
Mr Chapman is trying to trace the baptism and marriage of his great-grandfather, Snowdon Chapman, a groom, whose son, John Pattinson Chapman, was married from John Street, Monkwearmouth, on 17/12/1828.
- 766 Dr E.G. HALE, 755 Hilltop Rd, Salt Lake City, Utah 84103, USA.
Seeking the birth and birthplace of Susannah Clayton, who married Richard Siddaway on 11 July 1824, at Bishopwearmouth, and whose son, Robert, was baptised at Washington on 3 Aug. 1828.
- 767 Mr R. HEWISON, 144 Goulden House, Winders Rd, Battersea, London, SW11.
- 768 Mr E.A.R. TANKERVILLE, 2 Coldstream, Ouston, Chester-le-Street, County Durham, DH2 1LQ.
Interested in Leonard Wood Rigg (or Woodrigg), musician, b. 1875, Rochdale, Lancs, m. 1899 Gertrude Holt Sutcliffe, & d. 1940, Norwich; and his parents, Thomas Rigg & Ann Wood. Also Henry Parkins, living in Melbourne St, Newcastle, c.1885, who married Isabella Welch (died 1930) c. 1885; they had about ten children, the second, Margaret (1889-1959), married James Reay (1887-1940), son of another James Reay. Mr Tankerville is also interested in all Mole/Moll/Moi families of Northumberland, Durham & Berwickshire; William Ridley, died 1826-29, at Gatehouse, Bellingham, Nb.; Ridley, Upper Tynedale; Dixon, Upper Tynedale & Nb.; Spearman, Nb.; Softley, Nb., 17th-18th cents.; Napier & Mills, Nb., 18th cent.; Steventon, everywhere; Ackhurst, Scotland, 18th cent; & Vickery, Scarrett & Duncan, all Edinburgh, 19th cent.
- 769 Mrs B.P. BOWEN, 529 Deines Ct, Ft Collins, Colorado 80525, USA.
Would appreciate information on the parents and families of John Burdess (b. 6 June 1824, Durham) and Ann Foster (b. 13 Sept. 1826, New Beacon, Middleton, Teesdale), who married 4 March 1848 in Kella. Their children were: Ellenor (b. 9/8/1850, Bishop Auckland, m. John W. Bowen of Tredegar, Wales, 30/6/1870, in Beacon, Iowa), Robt John (b. 1852), Mary Ann (b. 1860), Wm Joseph (b. 1861), Robt Henry (b. 1864) & Charlie Edman (b. 1866), all born Beacon, Iowa.
- 770 Mr P.B. HEDLEY, 86 Macleay St, Wagga Wagga, N.S.W. 2650, Australia.
Mr Hedley's grandfather was Lionel Bulmer Hedley (b. 7 May 1857, Jersey), who married Sophia Amelia Loder in New South Wales in 1892. Lionel's father was Bulmer Hedley (m. Anne Isabella Foote, Toronto, Canada) & his father was Thomas, who married Mary Howell.
- 771 Miss E. JOHNSON, 37 Highfield Dr, S. Shields, Tyne & Wear.
- 772 Mr E.S. MILNER, 207 Harper St, Dunmore, Pennsylvania 18512, USA.
Would be interested in any information concerning the families of Milner, Stewart, Barker, Hodgson, who lived in the Consett area in the 18th or 19th century.
- 773 Mr T. NELL, 7 Winchester Dr, Dere Pk, Brandon, Durham, DH7 8UG.
- 774 Mr J.M. YOUNG, 5 Dunbottle Close, Mirfield, W. Yorks. WF14 9JD.
Mr Young's interests include Smart, Bamburgh, 17th cent.; Smart (Norham), Rule/Ruoll (Ford, Wooler), Davy & Frater (Wooler) and Clapperton (Melrose), all 18th cent.; & Auchterlonie (Fife, Scotland), Bolam (Chester-le-Street), Cairns (Peeblesshire), Chambers (York), Cosser (Berwick), Cotter (Hull), Hunter (Midlothian), Main (Cornwath, Lanarkshire), Mason (Edinburgh), Train (Hull), Tait (Chester-le-Street), Turner (York), & Young (Hull), all 19th cent.
- 775 Mrs A. CRICHTON, 32 St. Ives Gdns, Belfast, N. Ireland, BT9 5DN.
Researching the Lackenby and Harvey families of Sunderland. Thomas Henry Lackenby, a currier of Bishopwearmouth, married Elizabeth Baines Harvey, and had a daughter, Elizabeth (b. 1849). Also, the Maughan family: Thomas Maughan of Dudley married, 1833, Ann Forrest (whose sister Grace, b. 17/10/1815, was Grace Darling's mother). Does anyone know where the Darlings came from and whether Grace married and had children? Lastly, interested in George Robinson, a farmer of Danby, who married Ann Middlemiss in the 1830s, N. Yorks. (daughters Hannah, b. 1836, Jane & Elizabeth).

- 776/7 Mr & Mrs R. WOOD, 115 Murray Rd, Rugby, Warwicks, CV21 3JP.
- 778 Miss N.D. LONGSTAFF, 180 S. Wilson Blyd, Mt Clemens, Michigan 48043, USA.
 Seeking information on her Longstaff ancestors: Gilbert Longstaff was baptised in Spennithorne Church, N. Riding of Yorks., on 14 June 1792, son of Richard & Mary Longstaff, of Harnby; Gilbert's sons, Richard, John & William, were born in Yorkshire, then emigrated with their father to Canada c. 1827, moving on to Michigan c. 1833; Gilbert's marriage, c. 1851, is required. Also seeking information on the following families from Lazonby, Cumbria: Reay, Goulding, Purdham, Scott, Bardgett & Mayson. A locality is needed for an army officer, Andrew Trew, who migrated to Ulster from England c. 1780.
- 779 Miss S.A. MARSHALL, 145 N. Byron, Shelley, Idaho 83274, USA.
 Researching the Simpson family from Co. Durham, esp. John Simpson, who married Mary Martin at St. Margaret's, Durham, in 1771.
- 780 Mr N.R. GRECIAN, 22 Rosebery Park, Dursley, Glos.
- 781 Mr C. MOFFITT, 12 Rowan Dr, Heybridge, Maldon, Essex, CM9 7BW.
- 782 Miss D. HIBBERT, 2 Bramcote Dr, Beeston, Nottingham, NG9 1AW.
 Seeking baptism of Robert Richardson between 1812 and 1820. He married Dorothy Defty at St. Hilda's, S. Shields, in 1844; they moved to Sunderland where he eventually became a shipwright. His father, John, was a farm labourer and his mother was called Mary or Jayne. In the census he gave his birthplace as Newton, Northumberland, but his baptism has been elusive.
- 783 Mrs A.B. ENGLISH, 3 Braid Mount Rise, Edinburgh, EH10 6JW.
 Would like early information on William Peddie and his wife, Jane Bertram, living on Holy Island in 1828 when their daughter, Dorothy, was born. Also, any information on the Wharrier family - James and Jane. One of their sons, Edward, b. 8/8/1862, married Elizabeth Swinbank in March 1886, and lived in Heworth, Pitlington and Durham City, where he was a Bedesman at the Cathedral.
- 784 Mrs N.C. KELLY, 2224 Skyline Dr, Ft Worth, Texas 76114, USA.
 Seeking the parents of Thomas Ladell (or Liddle) Snowden, b. 6 June 1846, Gateshead, who married Mary Hall (b. 28 May 1853).
- 785 Mrs I.N. CHAPMAN, P3T Project, P.O. Box 123, Bogor, West Java, Indonesia.
- 786 Mr R.G. SNAITH, 2 Turnbery Ave, Eaglescliffe, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland, TS16 9EM.
- 787 Mr P. RUTHERFORD, 41 Cambridge St, Cruddas Pk, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7HJ.
- 788 Mr D. REID, 15 Thorntree Walk, Hedworth Farm Estate, Jarrow, Tyne & Wear, NE32 4EG.
- 789 Miss A. MENZIES, 38 Valley Rd, Mount Eden, Auckland 3, New Zealand.
 Peter Beautimant of Sharperton & Elizabeth Potts of Lantern Side were married at Rothbury on 15 Oct. 1700. Can anyone help with a birth date for this Peter, who may be "Bentiman", or some other spelling.
- 790 Mr R.B. DONKIN, 35 Hallam Grange Cresc, Fulwood, Sheffield, S16 4BB.
- 791 Mr J.L. CRIMLISK, 110 Belle Vue Cresc., Filey, N. Yorks. YO14 9AD.
- 792 Miss E.M. HUTCHINSON, 4A Windsor Rd, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear, NE25 8EE.
- 793 Mrs D. PERLEY, 30 Elmwood Rd, Eaglescliffe, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland.
 Interested in contacting any "Gedling's" in the north-east. Mrs Perley believes the family originated from Gedling in Nottingham.
- 794 Mr J. STAWPERT, 20 Primrose Ave, Haslington, Crewe, Cheshire, CW1 1NY.
- 795 Miss J.L. LOWRIE, 58 Earlspeak Ave, Glasgow, G43 2HE.
- 796 Mr A.R. STEPHENSON, 55 Elmfield Rd, Chingford, London, E4 7HT.
 Would like information on the Stephenson family living in the Medomsley-Edmondbyers area c. 1800.
- 797 Miss W.E. DICKSON, 9 Braeside, Bedford, MK41 9BL.
- 798 Mrs E. LOCK, 5 Argyle Ave, Eastville, Bristol, Avon, B55 6PG.
 Interested in Martison, Youll & Hume, all Newcastle; Kinleside of Leadgate & Fellside, Whickham, Durham; Watson of Iveston and Pontop Hall, Durham; & Robson of Slaley, Durham.

- 799 Miss J. ADAMSON, 137 Stewart St. W., Oakville, Ontario, Canada, L6K 1X8.
Researching James and John Adamson of Co. Durham and the Adamson family of Tweedmouth, Northumberland.
- 800 Mrs A.E. CRABBE, 22 Pyrton Lane, Watlington, Oxon. OX9 5LB.
- 801 Mr W.G. STOCKPORT, 89 Park Ave, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 2LD.
- 802 Rev. D.J. BULMAN, The Vicarage, North Ferriby, N. Humberside, HU14 3DG.
- 803 Miss V.H. EUSTACE, Gardener's Cottage, Parkside, Wimbledon, London SW19.

SECOND TIME AROUND

- 21 Mrs M.A. COOKE, 10 Limehurst Rd, Darlington, Co. Durham, DL3 6SF.
John Henderson was born in Hebron, Northumberland, c. 1791. His mother was Mary Henderson, who lived in Manor House. Could anyone give information about him, or let Mrs Cooke know if there is any parish register for Hebron, which is supposed to be north of Morpeth. She is also trying to trace the marriage of William Vickers and Ann Thompson, who lived in Irishopeburn. They could have married at St. John's Chapel or Stanhope before June 1832, when they emigrated to Canada. The whereabouts of the will of Mr Burn Thompson is also sought, c. 1861-62.
- 273 Mrs C.G. DRAKE, 312 Johnson Ave, Warrensburg, Missouri 64093, USA.
Jane Robson and Michael Anderson were married in Corsenside, Bellingham, Nb, on 11 Dec. 1841. Their fathers were Thomas Charlton (possibly Jane's stepfather?) and John Anderson. The 1841 Census shows that they were both living at W. Woodburn and were servants. At the same address, John Brown was listed as an innkeeper, and his daughter was Sarah Brown, who was a witness at the Andersons' wedding, as were Lancelot Anderson, an agricultural worker from Ridsdale Cottages, and John Stothart, also of the West Woodburn address. Were Lancelot and Michael brothers? Who was Michael's mother? Who was Jane's mother? Michael was 25 in 1841, Jane 20. Also, the 1871 census of Co. Durham says Samuel Jackson was born in Belper, Derbyshire, and was 32. When did he come north and marry Mary Anderson? Who were Samuel's parents?
- 530 Mrs J.J. CUMBERWORTH, 1908 Glade Rd, Farmington, N. Mexico 87401, USA.
Seeking the parents of Jane Fellas or Fellows (born c. 1801, died 19 Jan. 1829, High Downs, Durham), who married Stephan Moffitt, of Greenside, 13 Aug. 1820. Their son, John (b. 13/9/1825) emigrated to the USA in 1850. His remaining brother, William (born 6/7/1823) was living with his grandmother at Greenside in 1851. His grandmother was Hannah Mason Moffitt (b. 8/3/1772, Low Spen, daughter of John Mason), who married Stephan Moffitt on 8/12/1792 at Ryton.
- 648 Dr J. LIGHT, 29 Longfield Road, Tring, Herts. HP23 4DG.
Researching Leonard Short and his wife, Margaret, who lived in Barmoor (Lowick parish) at least from 1765 to 1787; also, Leonard Short (c.1775-1847) of Doddington and Wooler; also, Grace Taylor, born Warkworth, c. 1847, buried Doddington, 1873. [see Dr Light's article, "Grandmothers and Grave Robbers", pp. 35-37 of this issue, for further details]. The Lowick parish register records that in 1773 John Short, son of Leonard & Margaret, was "given in to the court". Can anyone say what this means?
["Given in to the court" is a phrase often met with in local parish registers. It occurs once per year, being inserted on Lady Day, 25th March, and refers not to any individual entry, but to those for the whole of the previous year, copies of which would have been given in to the Archdeacon's Court at his annual visitation, for the records of the Bishop. These copies now form the "Bishop's Transcripts", which for our area - the original Diocese of Durham - are now kept at Durham University Department of Palaeography. - Ed.]

- 739 Mr J.O.L. BRASS, Ridgeway, Windmill Lane, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, DE6 1JA.
Researching the Brass families throughout the world. Would like to hear from any members of the family, or anyone who has known them. Joseph Thompson Brass, b.1808, Denton, Co. Durham, was the ninth child of Thomas Brass, farmer of Denton, and Ann Cummins. The other eight have not been found, and neither has the marriage. Levi Brass, b. 1856, son of Joseph, had brothers, William (b. 1848) and George James (b. 1862). Descendants of the last two are sought.
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OFFERS OF HELP

- 778 Miss N.D. LONGSTAFF, 180 S. Wilson, Mount Clemens, Michigan 48043, USA.
Miss Longstaff has access to the Michigan census for 1840 & 1850, and would be glad to check it for anyone whose family may have moved to Michigan.
- 798 Mrs E. LOCK, 5 Argyle Ave, Eastville, Bristol, Avon, B55 6PG. Bristol 510408.
Will carry out research in the Bristol area, in return for some work done in Durham and Newcastle.
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CHANGES OF ADDRESS

- 76 Mr I. DOWNING, 89 Roman Way, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2SL.
228 Mrs C.M. JAMES, 14 Redhills Lane, Crossgate Moor, Durham, DH1 4AI.
251 Mr W.E. WALLACE, 2 Woodside, Newminster Park, Morpeth, Northumberland.
321 Miss C.P. BLENKARN, 16 Enterpen Close, Yarm-on-Tees.
509 Mr D.J. WALTON, 52 Serpentine Road, Kendal, Cumbria. LA9 4PD.
536 Mr S.P. BENHAM, Ystafell 75, Neuadd Pantycelyn, Campws Penglais, Aberystwyth, Dyfed, Cymru. (Correction)
545 Mr J.R.W. RIDSDALE, Westlands, Station Road, Wem, Salop.
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PAYTON/PEYTON FAMILY HISTORY NEWSLETTER

It is proposed to publish a quarterly Newsletter for those bearers of the surname who are interested in research into the Irish family of Payton/Peyton - originally O Peatain. The Editor will be Frank B. Payton, President of the Nottinghamshire Family History Society, and Secretary to the Irish Genealogical Research Society. Anyone interested in either contributing to the Newsletter and/or in forming a Payton Family History Society should contact the Editor at Glenholme, High Oakham Road, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire. Tel: 640601.

"GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE" MARRIAGES

A member of the Sussex Family History Group, Miss D.S. Dear, has recently written index slips for about 12,000 marriages which appeared in the "Gentleman's Magazine" between 1731 and 1768 - the information being taken from E.A. Fry's so-called "Index to Marriages from Gentleman's Magazine" (1922). After compiling a typewritten index for the Sussex Family History Group's Library, Miss Dear sorted those entries that gave addresses of the parties into their respective countries or counties and those relating to Northumberland and Durham have very kindly been donated to our Society's Library - inquiries to Dr M.E. Wilson, our Librarian (33 Archery Rise, Neville's Cross, Durham, DH1 4LA).

THE NATIONAL INDEX OF PARISH REGISTERS

Many members will already know of the National Index of Parish Registers, which is being published by the Society of Genealogists as a set of County, or Regional, Volumes. This is a major work of reference, and we are pleased to be able to announce that the Northumberland and Durham volume should be available by the time this Journal is issued.

The Northumberland and Durham volume was commenced under the editorship of the late C.P. Neat, FSG, the first Chairman of this Society. Since his death the work of keeping Mr Neat's notes up to date with all the changes now taking place - new deposits, alterations of place of deposit, etc., and of seeing the book through the press, has fallen on the capable shoulders of our Treasurer, D.G. Mason, FSG. The result of the work of these two is a publication which for many years will be a "must" for anyone having a serious interest in local genealogy.

The scope of the book is not confined solely to Church of England parish registers; churches of many denominations are included and it can fairly be said that the volume contains the most comprehensive survey of the dates covered and places of deposits of baptism, marriage and burial registers of our area which could at present be made.

Orders for this volume can be placed through the Society, which will receive the benefit of a discount from the publishers. Members wishing to purchase should send £4.20, plus 25p. for postage and packing, to Mr D.G. Mason, 8 West Hextol Close, Hexham, Northumberland. Cheques, etc., should be made out to "The Northumberland and Durham Family History Society".

THE NOVEMBER MEETING

MINING RECORDS

F. Atkinson

Members who braved the weather to attend the November meeting were pleasantly surprised to find that the speaker was Mr Frank Atkinson, Director of Beamish Museum, who had kindly stepped into the breach when the member of his staff who was to have spoken to us was unable to come.

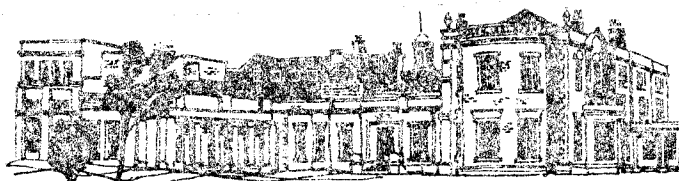
Mr Atkinson gave an interesting sketch of our area in the nineteenth century, beginning with the effect of population movements, many of which were connected with the development of mining. The most dramatic example of growth was Middlesbrough - started in the 1830s as a coal exporting port and developing into a centre for the production of iron when ironstone was discovered in the Cleveland Hills - which grew from four cottages and a total population of 25 in 1801 to 91,000 in 1901. Much movement in the North East was connected directly or indirectly with mining. Glass and steel making were attracted to the area by the plentiful supply of coke, first made as a means of using up otherwise unsaleable small coal, which provided an attractive alternative to scarce and expensive charcoal on which these industries otherwise had to depend. The arrival of new industries and the railway building boom of the 1840s increased the demand for coal. All in all the North East at that time was an expanding economic area which attracted a large number of workers from other parts of the country where unemployment was high and wages low - Cornish tin miners, East Anglian farm workers, Derbyshire lead miners, Irish immigrants fleeing from famine - to all these and many others besides the North East offered hopes of employment and a better life.

The effect of mining or industrial development and the influx of

workers on the towns and villages of the North East was dramatic. In medieval villages such as Barnard Castle, built with a house at one end of a long, narrow strip of land - a burgage strip - these strips were filled up with small cottages. Elsewhere, for example at Ferryhill and Staindrop, new villages were created beside old ones. Drainage and the supply of water, generally inadequate before, became serious problems. Epidemics of disease broke out, the best known being the outbreaks of cholera in 1831 and 1853. Overcrowding, with whole families, often a large number of children of both sexes, perhaps ranging in age from late teens to an infant in arms, lived in one or two small rooms. Infant mortality was high, especially in the towns, where the chances of a baby dying before its first birthday in the early nineteenth century was about one in five. Industrial pollution, with smoke, fumes and smells, was widespread.

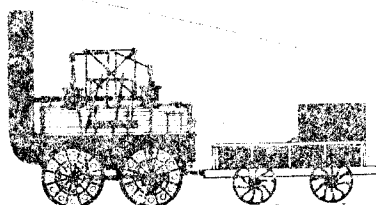
Having thus sketched conditions in the nineteenth century, Mr Atkinson went on to mention some of the records left behind and to demonstrate the speed with which the past is disappearing before our eyes. Tracing a migrant family, such as miners in particular tended to be, can present special difficulties, although the census returns may provide useful clues in the birthplaces of successive children. Other paper records can be found in the records of some coal mines deposited in county record offices, although much of this material has been destroyed, and in the records of Lodges and of mining diasters and their victims. In serious danger, if not already lost, are many records on the ground: planners have caused houses and cottages to be pulled down and whole mining communities destroyed; the coal staithes along the Wear at Sunderland and elsewhere have been "tidied" away, and other examples of industry have been lost without a proper record being made or examples of machinery or equipment kept. Beamish Museum has endeavoured in recent years to save or rescue much that might otherwise have been lost for ever but its resources in staff, time and money are limited. The Museum has a large and expanding collection of old photographs and pictures of the area and would welcome the opportunity to collect or copy further examples. Mr Atkinson concluded an interesting talk by showing slides demonstrating both what had been lost and saved, either by preservation on the spot or by removal to Beamish.

P.J.S.



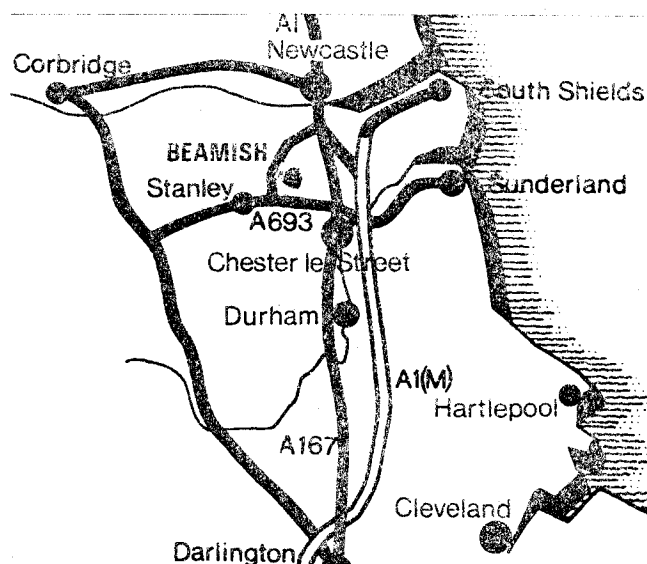
Beamish Hall

Beamish Museum is an open air museum which aims to recreate a picture of life in the North-East of England as it was around 1900. It is drawing together a variety of sights and scenes, buildings and machinery which have influenced the lives of ordinary people. Beamish Hall, a former home of a branch of the Shaftoe family, houses a permanent exhibition which includes a complete chemist's shop and a schoolroom. Among the exhibits in the grounds are the former Rowley Station, first built in 1867 and now reconstructed as the focal point of a railway area, an electric tramway (Gateshead No. 10 tram), which carries visitors in summer, and a home farm complete with gin-gan and ducks. A full scale working replica of Stephenson's "Locomotion" is often in steam and a small colliery, complete with winding engine, is being developed and should be on display next summer.



"Locomotion"

Beamish Museum is easy to find - from Chester-le-Street take the A693 via Pelton for five miles and turn right after Beamish village. In the summer season (April to September) Beamish opens 10 a.m. to 5.45 p.m. (last admission 4.45 p.m.). During other months reduced opening hours may apply and intending visitors should enquire first by telephoning Stanley (0207) 33580 or 33586.



DEATHS ABROAD, FROM NORTHUMBERLAND TOMBSTONES

In transcribing tombstones in Northumberland it has been noticed that there are several references to members of families dying overseas. Listed below are references gleaned from several Northumberland churchyards. It should be noted that these are extracts from headstones - in most cases the complete epitaph contains details of the parents as well.

Alnham

James GOWENLOCK, aged 84, interred Kelowina, Canada (no date)
 George CRISP, born 31.7.1855, d. Sidney, N.S.W., 10.1.1932
 Thomas CRISP, born Prendwick 18.7.1840, d. Petane, Napier, New Zealand, 7.11.1872
 Henry CRISP, born 29.3.1853, d. Manitoba, Canada, 19.4.1891

Broomhaugh Baptist Burial Ground

Henry Blackett ANGUS, eldest son of John & Mary Angus, of Bearl, d. at Sidney, N.S.W., Australia, 28.1.1889, aged 41
 George Atkinson WOOD, 6th son of Andrew & Margaret Wood, d. at Maseru, Basutoland, South Africa, 29.4.1926, aged 43
 Charles Surtees WOOD, his brother, d. at Port San Julian, 7.10.1916, a. 29
 James Murton WOOD, 1877-1950, d. at Pietermaritzburg, Natal, South Africa

Chatton

Joseph, s. George & Isabella BEATTIE, d. at Auckland, N.Z., 21.2.1891, a. 62
 Mark, s. Robert & Euphemia MUCKLE, d. New Jersey, U.S.A., 18.8.1880, a. 24
 John, s. John & Jane DOUGLAS, d. at Marseilles, France, 12.1.1882, a. 39
 Robert, s. James & Ann DOUGLAS, d. at Brisbane, Australia, 7.1.1905, a. 45

Chillingham

Corporal Charles BARNES of H.M. 21st Hussars d. at Murat, India, 14.4.1863, aged 39

Hartburn

Elizabeth, dau. of George & Ann FORSTER, d. at Geneva, 17.10.1835, a. 21

Heddon on the Wall

Henrietta Hedley, dau of John & Ann WHITFIELD of Prospect Hill, d. at Sateville, Rouen, France, 12.3.1862, a. 33

Hexham

Ralph Errington, s. of John & Ann RIDLEY, a member of the Executive Council of the Colony of Natal. S. Africa, d. at Pietermaritzburg, 15.6.1875, a. 53

Horton

Samual, s. Ralph ELSTOR, d. Christchurch, N.Z., 6.5.1883, a. 69

Long Benton

George Crone DOUGLASS, d. Australia, 14.2.1885, a. 32

Long Horsley

John, s. John AYNLEY, d. California, U.S.A., 1877, a. 55

Francis, his son, d. Fort S....., Taconia, U.S.A., 6.2.1908, a. 74

Isabella Coulthard, dau of William & Isabella HOWEY, died in the U.S.A., April 1867, a. 52

Longhoughton

Thomas, s. Henry Hope GREY, d. Queensland, Australia, 19.12.1888, a. 55

Netherwitton

John FULTHORP, d. at Kimberley, S. Africa, 18.7.1888, a. 34

Newbrough

William, s. George & Margaret CHARLTON, d. Hammond Island, Pacific Ocean, 2.11.1859, a. 34

Elizabeth their daughter, d. Auckland, N.Z., 4.4.1873, a. 46

John their son d. at Sebastion, Australia, 23.4.1876, a. 57

Robert their son d. at Sebastian, Australia, 31.12.1878, a. 45

Margaret their daughter d. Melbourne, Australia, 10.10.1895, a. 65

Albion Road Cemetery, North Shields

George, s. Alexander & Mary MOFFATT of N. Shields, d. Constantinople, 13.10.1833, a. 23

James Patterson SIMPSON, late of Chirton, d. Kimberley, S. Africa, 3.1.1883, a. 52

John A. TODD, youngest son of William & Isabella Todd, d. 20.6.1931, int. Australia

Eleanor, wife of William THOMPSON & dau of William & Eleanor JOHNSTON, d. in Australia, 1.5.1865

Thomas John Redpath, only son of Thomas HINDMARSH, and husband of Mary HINDMARSH, d. 10.2.1915, interred Calcary Alta Canada, a. 45

St. John Lee

George, youngest son of Thomas & Jane WALKER, d. N.S.W., 3.7.1869, a. 29

The above mentioned Thomas WALKER d. at Dungog, N.S.W., 12.12.1892, a. 89

Stamfordham

Christopher Johnson MILBURN of Penhalonga, Rhodesia, 21.9.1931, a. 65

Ulgham

Jane, grand daughter of John KIRKUP of Ulgham, 21.12.1853, a. 15, interred Mount Royal Cemetery, Montreal, North America

Warden

George KIRSOP, d. North America, 21.3.1844, a. 54

William, s. George & Sarah ADAMSON, d. at Broadwood, Minois, America,
19.1.1871, a. 36

Warkworth

John Thomson CASTLE, son of Joseph & Ann CASTLES of Warkworth, d. Swanswick
Estate, Parish of Trelawney, Jamaica, W. Indies, 25.6.1855, a. 35

John Lyon CLUTTERBUCK, Capt. 57th Regt., d. at Barrackpore, India

Whitfield

George Jackson TRENCH, d. Melbourne, Australia, 26.2.183

Whitley Chapel

David, eldest son of Robert & Jane LITTLE, d. Australia, 21.11.1891, a. 47

(continued on p. 46)

DURHAM RESEARCHERS BEWARE!

Durham County Record Office will be closed, probably for the whole of
January 1980, on account of alterations. Intending visitors should check
in advance whether the Search Room is open.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

An extraordinary general meeting will be held before the ordinary
monthly meeting on Tuesday, 18 March 1980, in order to make some small changes
in the Society's constitution. If these amendments are approved by the
members at this meeting, the Society will become eligible to be registered as
a charity. The main object of these changes are specifically to state that
the Society is a charitable body existing to advance public education in
family history and genealogy in the historical counties of Northumberland and
Durham and adjacent areas, and that if it is ever wound up, any assets left
over will be handed over to a charitable body with similar objects. If we
achieve charitable status, one of the benefits will be that members will be
able to covenant for their subscriptions and the Society will reap the usual
tax benefits of covenants.

FUTURE PROGRAMME

Thursday, January 17

Indexing Workshop.

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

Wednesday, February 13

Talk on Palaeography (understanding old handwriting).

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

Tuesday, March 18

Extraordinary General Meeting (brief) (see above for details) followed by
"Place Names in Northumbria", Stan Beckenstall

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

Friday, 18 & Saturday, 19 April

Trip to London: 2 days in London by train, with one night dinner, bed &
breakfast; visits to the Public Record Office & the Society of Genealogists.
Approximate cost: £40 (including train fare increases). Further details
from Adam or Joan Bunting (Gosforth 857371), who MUST know final numbers by
31 January. The party must consist of 15 or more persons.

Wednesday, May 14

The Society's 5th Annual General Meeting, followed by a members' evening
- bring your own research for informal display and discussion.

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