

## CHURCHES OF DERBYSHIRE 29. Biggin St Thomas

A small rather isolated village, Biggin is mainly a farming village and is situated two miles south east of Hartington, just off the busy A515 between Ashbourne and Buxton. It was first mentioned in 1223, when it was called Newbiggin and had a monastic settlement owned by the Cistercian monks of Garndon Abbey in Leicestershire. They established a sheep farm at Biggin Grange, which still retains one ancient outbuilding, and the village has been mainly known for its farming ever since. Nowadays, it is a popular spot for walkers who hike along the river Dove through the many places round about. The route which leads down to Wolfscoate Dale and the river is named Biggin Dale after the village. It is now a National Nature Reserve and contains a wonderful lot of flowers in the spring.

The emphasis on sheep meant that for many years Biggin was the venue for the biggest sheep sales in the area. Now the sheep are sold at the new Bakewell Agricultural Centre and this loss also meant a loss of profitable business for the Waterloo Inn in Biggin. However they have found compensation by the gradual increase of visitors, especially walkers, to the village. It has also led to various caravan and camping sites nearby.

The development of minerals in the 19th century was responsible for the expansion of Biggin from a small hamlet attached to Hartington Nether Quarter to a parish in its own right by 1848. Limestone quarries, lime and brick works and ironstone workings helped the village to expand.

Biggin is renowned for its hospitality. The Waterloo Inn allows back packers to keep their muddy boots on when stepping over the threshold and in earlier times many drovers used to stop on the eastern side of the village for refreshments at the local inn, where now the Newhaven Hotel stands. It was the last public house in England to have a perpetual licence, this being granted by King George IV who was so impressed by the warmth and hospitality of the landlord that he gave them the licence.

The annual Wake is kept to the nearest Sunday to September 12th. Special church services are held and a parade finishes at the Waterloo Inn where the traditional roast beef and plum pudding are on the menu.

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The church of St Thomas was built by William Evans from Ellaston with limestone from the quarry opened by the Lifts. Men of the village used their spare time to cart the stone for the masons, which helped save a considerable amount on the final cost. Stone from this quarry was also used to build the school and vicarage. The consecration of the church by the Bishop of Lichfield should have been performed at the beginning of 1848, but the service had to be postponed until August because Royal consent had not been granted or published for the forming of the parish.

The church was open for worship the next Sunday, but was not able to perform any legal functions.

Dr Booth was the first vicar, but through poor health he suffered a mental breakdown and died in 1869 while still residing as vicar. The second vicar, Reverend Foulger, was an affluent man who owned property in many of the counties around Derbyshire and claimed to control a considerable number of Parliamentary votes. The next four out of five vicars following were to die while in office at St Thomas, Biggin.



The original registers of St Thomas are deposited at the Derbyshire Record Office in Matlock. Baptisms are from 1848 marriages from 1848 and burials from 1848 to 1897, registers after that date being held by the church. Also note there is a gap in the records between 1863 and 1867 [baptisms] and 1883 and 1886 [burials]. As with most of the parish registers they have been filmed and will be available to view at the Derbyshire Local Studies Library in Matlock once the new building has been opened [at the time of writing this should be in the middle of February].

Derbyshire Family History Society have copies of the registers available to look at on CD Rom and also the memorial inscriptions and some rather good books on the area. Feel free to come in and have a look.

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## George BAKER (formerly BECKER?)

(b: abt 1835 d: 1909)

### (The German born Musician and Instrument Maker of Derby)

For a number of years I have been searching for the birth place of great grandfather Georg BECKER later BAKER, the German born Musician and Instrument Maker of Derby. This is his story established so far (In any event, members might find mention of other family names useful for their research): Family legend has it that in the 1850's great grandfather George BAKER migrated from his native Bavaria (perhaps the Pfalz) to England. He was a Musician and Accordion Maker. It is believed he was married to his wife Catherine prior to leaving Germany. His name there, is thought to have been BECKER although at a later date, on his marriage certificate relative to a second marriage in Derby, he gave the name of his father as Phillip BAKER.

The first firm record we have of George living in England is in 1861.

**The 1861 Census for 10, Goddard's Yard, St Margaret, Leicester reads:**

Henry WEHMEIER (nb\*), age 28, Head, Musician born Germany;

Alice WEHMEIER, age 23, wife born Germany;

George BAKER, age 25, Border Musician, born Germany;

Catherine BAKER, age 24 wife Border born Germany;

(nb\* "WEHMEIER" is our best guess of the difficult to read hand writing on the Census return)

By the time of the birth of their daughter Mary in 1863, the BAKER family had moved to 7, Goodwin Street in Derby town. Sons Henry and Walter had died at child birth in 1865 and 1867 respectively.

**The 1871 Census for 7, Goodwin Street, Derby reads:**

George BAKER, Head, Instrument Maker, Age 37, born Germany

(NB. Naturalisation not mentioned at this time);

Catherine BAKER, wife, Age 35, born Germany;

Mary BAKER, daughter, Age 7, born Derby;

Caroline BAKER, daughter, Age 1 month, born Derby;

Samuel COCKAYNE, Lodger, Carpenter, Age 45, born Derby;

Erasmus WALLACE, Lodger, Labourer, Age 20 born Derby;

Perhaps more than a coincidence, ten years earlier, at the time of the 1861 Census, German born Accordion Maker and Musician August DORN and his

family occupied 7 Goodwin Street. However, to date, I have been unable to confirm a link between George BAKER and August DORN. Details of the progress of August DORN are included as an addendum for reference by those interested in that family. By 1878, in Kelly's Directory for Derby, George BAKER was listed as a Lodging House Keeper at 8 and 9 Bag Lane DERBY. Kelly's Directory for 1881, again gives the family's address as 8 Bag Lane and describes George as an Accordion Maker.

**The 1881 Census for 8, Bag Lane, Derby reads:**

George BAKER, Head, Age 46, Musician born Germany (Nat British Subject);

Caroline (sic not Catherine) BAKER, Wife, Age 44, born Germany;

Caroline BAKER, Daughter, Age 10, Scholar born Derby;

Elizabeth BAKER, Daughter, Age 8, Scholar born Derby;

In addition to being a Musician, George continued to be a lodging house keeper because there were also 11 British nationals lodging at that address on the 1881 census. It is currently unknown where eldest daughter Mary was at the time of this census. Most likely she had married.

Three years later, George's wife Catherine BAKER died in the third quarter of 1884 aged 46 (Derby Register 7b301). George would marry again in 1891, to Julia COOPER in Derby, when he would give the name of his father as Phillip BAKER (as mentioned above, spelt that way) a General Labourer. Although the date of the 1891 Census preceded the second marriage of George, we learn from it that Julia was already describing herself as his wife:

**The 1891 Census for 34 Sadler Gate, Derby reads:**

George BAKER, head, Age 55, Dealer in Musical Instruments, Musician

Born Germany

Julia BAKER, Wife, Age 46, Born Ireland.

Henry BOTTOMLEY, Boarder, Age 19, Warehouse Man

Born Whitby Yorkshire.

Note that, in 1890 George BAKER'S youngest daughter Elizabeth had married Thomas HARLOW of Derby and daughter Caroline BAKER married Emil LUSKE in the Sept qtr of 1895. This couple are believed to have settled in Walthamstow.

In the Derby Register of Electors Volume 2 for 1893-1894 at reference number 14469 we find George listed: his address again given as 34 Sadler Gate. At least in theory, this registration as an Elector should confirm that George was a Naturalised British Citizen.

Research work by several authors in preparation for the book entitled "Sadler Gate a 1000 Year History of a Derby Street" found that George occupied the property in Sadler Gate from 1891 until 1895; after which period we learn from Kelly's Directory for Derby; George had returned to Bag Lane or as it had been renamed by then "East Street," where he was known as a "Musical Instrument Dealer." His premises were at number 39.

**By the time of the 1901 Census** George had closed his business and moved to Canal Street, Derby. He died 12 October 1909 - Derby Register 76321 - aged 74. His death was reported in the Derby Mercury on Friday 22 October 1909 at page 14. His address was given as 44, Siddals Road, Derby; but frustratingly there was no mention of his place of birth. Obviously my most important next step is to establish George's birth place, but all my efforts over many years have drawn a blank.

An exhaustive search at the National Archive in Kew for a George BECKER or BAKER in the index reference HO1 and C54 relative to Nationalisation Papers, was fruitless. There were papers for a German named George BECK the Baker of Bethnal Green, but on examination of those, it became clear that they did not relate to our George. Examination of ship disembarkation records also proved fruitless.

There are two George BECKER birth entries on IGI, where the father's name is given as Philipp and the birth date is approximately as predicted:

*Born 18 July 1834 at Allenglan Pfalz Bayern (ref Batch C991302 Source 0193759 see also Zivilstandsregister Bedesbach Standesamt Batch J991811 Source 0415681); or*

*Born 20 Oct 1835 Bad Duerkheim Pfalz Bayern (ref Batch C991698).*

*Further, IGI provides a record of a Georg's marriage to Catharina:*

*Married 15 October 1850 at Kiesel Pfalz Bayern (ref Batch M971917 Source 0193955). □*

These are very "long shots" and in view of other entries relative to their respective families we have to consider that their validity is doubtful.

I would very much appreciate any advice from DFHS members based on their local knowledge or experience in general. A similar request has been sent to the Anglo German Family History Society.

*Chris Emore member 7394*

*(email [chris.emore@talk21.com](mailto:chris.emore@talk21.com))*

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#### **Addendum - The Family DORN Footnote**

August DORN the son of Philip DORN married Eliza ALBERT the daughter of Henry LOUDSPAR at All Saints Cathedral Derby 30 Oct 1849 (Register of marriage 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr 1849 Derby 19 567). Their ages given at the time were 23 and 33 respectively. In view of the names of the bride and their age difference it is reasonable to assume that this was Eliza's second marriage. Further by the time of the 1851 Census we find the DORNS living in Derby at 33, Walker Lane where a son aged 7 named George is recorded. Perhaps this George was the son of Eliza from a previous marriage.

#### **The 1851 Census in full reads as follows:**

*Augustus DORN Head Age 24 Travelling Musician*

*George DORN Son 7*

*Eliza ALBERT DORN Wife Age 34 Domestic Duties*

*John TITURPT (sic) Lodger Age 19 Travelling Musician*

*Conrad LAMB Lodger Age 18 Travelling Musician*

*Their place of birth was given as Frankfurt Am Main Germany*

#### **At the 1861 Census for 7 Goodwin Street Derby, there is no mention of son George but we learn of two daughters:**

*Augustus DORN Accordion Maker born Germany Age 33*

*Elizabeth DORN Wife Age 43*

*Mary DORN daughter Age 9*

*Eliza DORN daughter Age 5*

Sometime between 1861 and 1871 the DORNS had moved to Manchester.

At the 1871 Census, August's age was given as 45 and Elizabeth's 55.

August was described as an Accordion Maker.

The family was living at 7 Crown Lane in the St Michaels District of Manchester.

Their two daughters Maria aged 18 and Elizabeth aged 14, described as Musicians born Derby, were still living there, as were no less than seven German born Musicians.

Still at 7, Crown Lane Manchester in 1881, August aged 53 and Elizabeth aged 63, had daughters Maria and Elizabeth living with them together with their husbands James PILKINGTON and William COOK. All gave their employment as Instrumentalists.

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The two following articles were written by Sylvia M. Browne and sent to us for inclusion in our library along with several family trees of the Vernon family. Sylvia has decided it is time to retire from her hobby of genealogy, but I know she has helped a lot of people in her time, and I hope they will enjoy these articles—Ed.

### **“They often Married their Cousins”**

The late Eddie Vernon of Dove Holes was a mine of information [unfortunately usually undated], concerning the Vernon family, culled, he said, from his father. The latter, said Eddie, had left a bundle of papers which he, Eddie, might have a look at “sometime”. I don’t know whether he ever did.

From September 2008 until December 2009 I collaborated with member David Threlfall on an in depth investigation into a hitherto obscure period of our mutual Vernon ancestry. In the course of this we acquired several articles and histories, mostly published in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, concerning the Vernons of Haddon Hall and of various minor manors. With hindsight, it seems possible that Eddie’s father may have obtained some or all of these writings, which were in the public domain. Who knows? Perhaps they identify with the “bundle of papers”.

In the early part of the 13th century Richard de Vernon married Aviced’Avenell of Haddon. Their elder son inherited the Barony of Shipbrooke [Chester] and Richard, their younger son, the property of Nether Haddon. He was the first of seven de Vernons and five Vernons of Haddon Hall, seven of whom were named Richard. As a family they had already proved the efficacy of marrying into near royal and landed lines, the d’Avenells and earlier Peverals of the Peak being but two, and they continued in this habit of winning eligible heiresses. Also, three successive Vernons of Haddon Hall, Sir Richard 1395-1451, Sir William 1416-1467, and Sir Henry d 1515, held positions at Court or in the Government. These were turbulent times. Anyone causing displeasure to those higher up the pecking order could at worst lose his head or be thrown into the Tower, or, at best, forfeit his estate[s]. The three Vernon Knights, mentioned above, were well placed to acquire any properties so forfeited. [Ultimately, they owned estates in Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Shropshire, Cheshire, Staffordshire, Herefordshire, Pembroke-

shire and Westmorland]. When Sir George, the last Vernon of Haddon Hall, made his will [1565] he referred to, but didn’t name, his “other manors”! [Perhaps he couldn’t].

In some wills there is mention of “purchased estate”, suggesting that the testator had bought the property and could therefore leave it to whomsoever he chose; but other properties would be left to a beneficiary “for his lifetime only”, they evidently reverted to the head of the family, i.e. The occupant of Haddon Hall.

When Sir George, above, became the occupant he was about three years old, the only child of the late Sir Richard, and grandson of the Sir Henry mentioned above. His mother and his uncle John Vernon were probably the most influential of his guardians and it seems very likely that they were instrumental in causing the reversion of “other manors” to the infant George’s portfolio, which, as is well known, was bequeathed by Sir George to his two daughters and their spouses. His uncle John became the first Vernon of Sudbury, after his true to form marriage to the heiress thereof. One of the manors in question was Hazelbache in Hope Parish, occupied by Sir Henry’s brother Richard. It figured in the dowry of one of Sir George’s daughters and next appeared in the will of Henry, the son of John of Sudbury [1567]! Richard Vernon Esquire held it until his death in 1523, but there is no sign of its being occupied by Richard Esquire’s son, in spite of the request in his will that his son should continue to enjoy the property.

The will of Sir George may have caused something of a stir, as Haddon Hall and the honours pertaining thereto were now out of the hands of the Vernon family, but there were other catastrophes. There were always wars somewhere—an eldest son, Fulk, was killed in France, as were Sir Henry’s father and brother-in-law, and the Scottish conflict claimed Henry of Sudbury [1567]. A Vernon was murdered and another involved in a murder; and, perhaps worst of all, their blue blood began to turn very watery. There was a death of children, particularly heirs, and there was a casting around for younger sons in minor lines as husbands for their daughters, so that their inheritances could be kept in the family. A Vernon widow, left with three sons, married her late husband’s cousin and the eldest son is recorded as being the issue of the second husband. The widow of Henry of Sudbury is alleged to have been seen altering her husband’s will [1567] in favour of their second son, because their first son was childless.



Joseph Tilley, in his "Old Halls, Manors and Families of Derbyshire", Vol 1, devoted a whole page to what he obviously regarded as "irregularities" which occurred in the vestigial Haddon Hall line and also in the Shipbroke line. In the latter there was a Sir Ralph who was credited with having lived for one hundred and fifty years! Tilley explains this as relating to two Ralphs, one with no issue and the other with illegitimate issue only. The two Ralphs became one and the illegitimate issue continued to represent the line!

Eventually Henry Vernon of the Haddon Hall/Sudbury line and Muriel Vernon of the Shipbroke line consolidated the fortunes of both by marrying each other. There are several other instances of the Vernons marrying Vernons down through the ages and even in living memory—it would be strange if no present-day researcher has encountered at least one instance of this situation.

Which brings me full circle to one of my conversations with the late Eddie Vernon of Dove Holes. At the time I didn't know if he meant "Vernons recent" or "Vernons ancient" when he said, apropos of nothing in particular, as was his wont, "You know, very often they married their cousins".

SYLVIA M. BROWNE, December 2012

### The Vernons of the High Peak

When I became bogged down with my patrilineal Mortens I thought I'd have a go at the line of my great-great-grandmother. She was nee Vernon [b 1784] of Dove Holes. In the ensuing twenty five plus years I have contacted, or been contacted by, upwards of twenty researchers of a similar quest. Everyone seemed to have traced back to "Enoch Vernon and Hannah Fletcher" [late 18th century] and some had traced even further, to the Francis Vernon who was buried at Chapel en le Frith in 1649 and appeared to have been the progenitor of us all. Nearly everyone had had a "Great Aunt Maggie" or a "Great Uncle Frank" [etc] who knew with certainty that our descent was from the Vernons of Haddon Hall, but could I confirm this?

Between 1695 and 1843 there were over twenty testate Vernons of the High Peak—five of them testatrices and the remainder having, between them, only four Christian names: Edward, Francis, John and Joseph, which made for

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great confusion. Having obtained copies of all of these wills, I was able to draw up a skeleton chart showing the connection between the families, a copy of which I lodged with the D.F.H.S. Library.

In September 2008 I was contacted by David Threlfall and we have collaborated ever since. We had both heard of two other collaborators who claimed to have solved the problem of the antecedents of the Francis who died in 1649, and we had both approached one of them, only to be told that we had as much information as they had had, and we ought to be able to sort it out. Later David contacted the other of the two, who regretted that he was far too busy to be able to help. This snacked of obfuscation and we discovered the possible reason—by December 2008 we became pretty certain that somewhere in our direct line, sometime in the late 15th or early 16th century, there was an illegitimacy. We couldn't be sure in which generation this occurred [nor could we find that any Vernon daughter had been consigned to a nunnery!].

Haselbache [various spellings], a property in the parish of Hope, figured in several references to what we felt certain was our own line, so we researched the ownership and holdings concerning this place—an interesting exercise in itself.

We discovered the connection with Tong, which led to the further discovery that there is far more information concerning the Vernons of Haddon Hall in the archives of Shropshire than in those of Derbyshire. Over time we obtained many wills, deeds and writs, a few of which had already been transcribed, but most of which required transcription and some of which had to be translated from the Latin. In the 19th century there were retrospective accounts of the Vernons of Haddon, Tong and other manors, but few tallied with each other; and there was a divergence in the several published family trees of the time, which appear to have been drawn up without reference to, or perhaps in ignorance of, relevant wills. There was definite obfuscation in the Shipbroke/Haslington line, where an illegitimacy was obscured by the crediting of one Vernon with a life of 150 years!

In 2009, having learned more of the 17th-18th century Vernons of High Peak, I drew up a chart, more detailed, but of fewer generations, than the previous one and from this it became apparent that many lines had nearly all died out. This chart, dated August 2009, I am now lodging with the DFHS.

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After first making contact in September 2008 David and I have made an all out onslaught on our mutual ancestors. By December 2009 we were certain that we had resolved most of the problems, although we continued to absorb more details of the wider family. It seemed a bit pointless to have done so much work and acquired so much information without sharing it with others, and in the autumn of 2010 I started to plot it all out in chart form. This took twelve months and runs to four pages of A3, which has now been lodged with the DFHS. Although I have drawn up the chart I must stress that all the research that has gone into it was a shared effort.

For those who hoped, or were doubtful, that our descent is from William the Conqueror, the following may be of interest. In 1992 I was in correspondence with Robert Raymond [Roy] Vernon of Swadlincote. He told me that in 1931 his father [Robert Vernon of Peak Forest, seventeenth born of the eighteen children of Francis Vernon and Martha nee Birchenough], heard that there was to be a memorial erected in the chateau of Falaise to commemorate the Battle of Hastings and to show the names of all the Norman knights who accompanied William to England. Any descendants of the knight could apply to attend the celebrations. Roy sent me a copy of the correspondence his father had with the committee, and of the invitation he received.

Another contact was the late Eddie Vernon of Dove Holes—a mine of information culled from his father, but unfortunately undated and nothing in writing. He told me that there was a big family bust-up amongst the Vernons of Tideswell. At the time I had heard of only one Vernon of Tideswell and this was unconfirmed. It is now apparent that this bust up was highly probable!

Inevitably there are still a few loose ends—the two brothers William and John of Fairfield and their great uncle William of whom nothing further can be found; and any possible descendants of John and Ann of Sparrowpit, who had three sons, have not yet been investigated. These are all to be found on Chart II dated August 2009. We are still working on and hoping to find the identity of both the wife and mother of Richard the Younger, who appears on pages 3 and 4 of the Chart dated September 2011.

It's amazing to realise that, having nearly died out by the late 18th century, the family proliferated at the rate it did over the next one hundred years; and that all the Vernon records—births, marriages, burials, memorial inscriptions and censuses of and at Peak Forest—are of people who, ultimately, were of

the same, then quite recent, descent.

This article is intended to accompany the charts now lodged with the DFHS and to complement the one David Threlfall has written on the subject of the Vernon Outing he organised in the Spring of 2012 to Peak Forest [High Peak] and Tong [Shropshire].

SYLVIA M. BROWNE, December 2012

## LEVEL CROSSING FATALITY

An inquest was held at Long Eaton on Tuesday relative to the death of Hilda Astle, aged three years, daughter of a Midland Railway point holder, living at 9 Main Street, who was knocked down by a passenger train at Long Eaton junction crossing.

William Webb, signalman, stated that two trains were signalled, and after one had passed he unlocked the hand gates for a cyclist. After booking the train he turned to relock the gates, and saw two boys running across the rails, while the deceased was lying in the down four-foot crying. The other train was approaching and he shouted to the girl to keep back, but she ran straight into the train. Witness thought the children must have slipped through the gate with the cyclist. A bridge was provided for the public, and as a rule he kept the side gates locked.

Dr Beane stated the child's left leg was severed and there were other injuries. Death was due to shock, as the result of injuries.

The Coroner complimented the railway employees on the promptitude in rendering first aid.

A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

*Derby Mercury, 26th Mar 1915*

## BARR COLONISTS

*"The English race gets continually into the most unheard of scrapes all over the world by reason of its insular prejudices and superiority to advice, but somehow they muddle through and when they do they are on the ground to hold it." Manitoba Free Press, December 1903*

**Barr Colonists.** You have never heard of the Barr Colony? You're in good company, as mention of the Barr Colony often generates a blank look even among Canadian historians. The Barr Colony was the last great emigration scheme in English/North American history. Was my maternal grandfather, George Lowe, a Barr Colonist?



*Rev I.M. Barr*

It was on the mind of Rev Isaac Montgomery Barr, an expatriate Canadian parson, that the All-British Colony was born. Barr had had this idea for a long time; he was well into his middle years before he knew that his dream of establishing a colony somewhere in the British Empire would really happen. By 1902 he had lived outside the British Empire for nineteen years, having left Canada under a cloud in 1883. Any dreams and plans Barr may have had were complicated by a failing marriage, financial disagreements with congregation and bishops. He fled Canada for the United States. During the nineteen years, he moved from parish to parish, shed his first wife and gained the trust of local moonshiners, where he married again, and this scheme sustained him. But somewhere in the recess of his early life a grandiose plan had been in the making.

Somewhere between Washington and Great Britain the project dissolved. Within weeks of arriving in London in January 1902 Isaac Barr had a new plan. Armed with several impressive letters of recommendation he launched a written assault on Mr W.J. White, an official of the Department of Immigration for the Dominion of Canada. Barr had said in his first letter that he had just received a license from the Archbishop of Canterbury to preach in England and work with the Colonial Continental Church Society [CCCS].

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The CCCS was the most rigorously evangelical of the several missionary arms of the Church of England. The society had just hired another clergyman with an interest in immigration and much more recent Canadian experience. Though the Reverend George Exton Lloyd was a native Londoner, he had received his theological training in Canada and had been ordained as an Anglican minister there. This tall man had an impressive record as an educator and missionary and it was due to a lung ailment that had cut short his stay in Canada and brought him back to London to convalesce for two years. While Barr's past had been one of unhappy bishops, far fetched schemes, and unsuccessful marriages, Lloyd's was without blemish. Though British he had studied at the University of Toronto and served with the Queen's Own Rifles during the Northwest Rebellion.



*Rev G.E.Lloyd*

Like Barr, Lloyd had spent a brief time on the Canadian Prairies as a young man but his exploits were far more glorious than Barr's. Here was a genuine hero who now set out to spread the word all over the British Isles about the opportunities available on the Canadian prairies. Lloyd's official responsibility was to arrange for the ministrations of the Church of England to be available to colonists in their new homes. As he spoke to large gatherings of prospective emigrants, he was often asked questions about Canada, and for this reason he decided to write what became a fateful letter to the editor of the London Times.

The heading in the September 22 1902 edition was innocuous enough. It read "The Canadian Wheat Belt". He had a very strong conviction that the Canadian prairies must be filled with people of British stock.

*"Millions of acres of the finest agricultural land in the world are being offered by the Canadian government [160 acres head free] to all bona fide settlers and yet English people are looking on while American [who generally know a good thing when they see it] are rushing over the border by the thousands to seize the opportunity and, of course, the future reward."*

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Lloyd offered to do what he could to help people form themselves into groups for the purpose of emigrating. He suggested why not a large party for next March. Newspapers from all over the British Isles printed Lloyd's letter.

Prime Minister Laurier's decision to send Canadian troops to South Africa had not been universally popular. But there was more agreement on the need for increased immigration and Laurier gave it top priority by appointing Clifton Sifton, Minister of the Interior, a ministry that included the Department of Immigration. New employees must work hard to keep their jobs. Immigration must increase. The organized Northwest Territories – Saskatchewan, Assiniboia, Alberta and Athabasca must be filled with farmers. They were according to Sifton, better than imperialistic Americans, better than southern and Eastern Europeans.

It was not surprising then that the Canadian Commissioner of Immigration paid attention to the letter he received in his London office in August 1902 from an unknown clergyman named Isaac Barr. The Reverend Barr offered to help English farming families settle on the Canadian Prairies. When the commissioner agreed to pay for a pamphlet entitled "*British Settlements in North Western Canada in Free Grant Lands*", Barr told the English press that he had the commissioner's endorsement. Newspaper readers concluded that the Canadian government supported Barr's scheme and the All British Colony was born.

Barr met with the Canadian Deputy Minister of the Interior, James Smart. Barr, full of excitement, summoned his trip out west for the Promised Land. His trip took him through bustling Winnipeg, upstart Regina and leaving the main CPR proceeded by branch line to the colony of Saskatchewan. He did not mention the regular stagecoach to Battleford took him along an old wagon trail used mostly by Metis. The trail led north and west through prairie, furrowed by the tracks of buffalo strewn with their bones, through gullies and over rudimentary bridges. On his return to Britain he described the road as excellent, all streams bridged and bad spots graded. In truth the road consisted of a path for a single horse. He went on to say that the land consisted of beautiful, rolling fertile prairies, like park land, under clear blue sky – thousands of acres producing abundant game and rivers teeming with fish. These were the pictures placed before many people in England. No mention was made of long winters, late springs, the early frosts, the tormenting mosquitoes

or the tenacious sloughs. Barr gave the impression that preparations in Saskatchewan were already underway when in reality there was but one advance man who was compiling a list of prices in Battleford, which was actually a little town, population made up of Indians, Metis, cowboys and retired mounted police. It was a crucial crossroads of the fur trade and an important Northwest Mounted Police post.

Barr summed up the general advantages of his wonderful scheme as follows. "*Good climate, conducive to vigorous health, notwithstanding the occasional extremes of heat and cold; fertile soil suitable for ranching and mixed farming; an abundant rainfall with good water everywhere easily obtained, some timber for building, fencing and fuel as well as many other advantages.*"

The majority of Barr Colonists came to Canada to become farmers or homesteaders, pursuing the promise of "*Land for everyone, everyone will live upon his own land*", as one of Rev Barr's promotional pamphlets proclaimed. And according to homestead regulations set up by the government of Canada "*Every male over 18 years of age is entitled to a homestead or free grant of 160 acres – a quarter of a section. Or women who are the sole head of the family may apply.*"

In the last days of September, George Lloyd and Isaac Barr came face to face for the first time. Barr was fifty five years old, short and thick set. The tall little Lloyd was fourteen years his junior. And although the two men shared a common vision, their methods and personalities were very different. Unlike the commissioner's office, Lloyd had made a real attempt to check Barr's credentials. Their meeting ultimately resulted in one of the largest colonization enterprises in the Canadian West – an enterprise fraught with mismanagement, dissention and disillusionment.

At the turn of the twentieth century in Britain there were thousands of people who wanted to start a new life; soldiers home from the Boer War, farmers unable to own the land they worked, butchers and bank clerks facing a lifetime empty of adventure. In February 1903 the results of Rev Barr's lecturing and the project began to unfold. Almost 2000 people had signed up. Barr had been to the prairies to inspect a parcel of land between Battleford and Edmonton, and the Reverend George Exton Lloyd had joined the Colony.

Barr assured the Canadian government that most of the potential colonists were experienced in farming. The government wanted to believe that all Barr said was true, so they accepted his word. The success of the proposed colony was dependent on many things, but farming experience was crucial, and when all was said and done, most of the Barr colonists had no farming experience at all. They gave up good positions and homes to follow Rev Barr to what must have seemed to them, later, the end of the Earth. The fact that he didn't know what he was taking them to was no excuse. Some of the papers came out with warning that April was no time to land hundreds of immigrants in the middle of the prairies, but the English race is often stubborn and what it sets out to do, it will do, at all costs.

But Barr was in charge when on March 31 1903 the S.S. Lake Manitoba sailed from Liverpool. The former troop ship had been built to carry 700 soldiers, now 1960 men, women and children crammed themselves on board with an enormous amount of luggage included sewing machines, pianos, china, carpets and whatever green Englishmen deemed necessary for survival. There were two other ships, the Lake Champlain and the Lake Meganitic, that left Liverpool for Canada carrying Barr Colonists.

And green they were. Some of the Colonists were people of quality. Some of the men were dressed as though for a weekend at some fine country estate, attired in breeches and top boots and well armed with guns, revolvers and, in deference to the frontier, sheath knives.

Much discontent and almost riots took place on the long drawn out voyage. The Lake Manitoba had the largest group aboard, probably they suffered the most. Food was scarce and almost uneatable, quarters were cramped and all were very unhappy. Rev Barr had to keep out of sight for fear of his life.

Though Barr had promised that the majority of his colonists would be farmers, only about 400 really were. The rest were townsfolk, warehousemen, dressmakers, jewellers, furnace men, caterers. After a rough passage, the ships docked at St John, Brunswick, about Easter time. One needs little imagination to envision what the unloading of all these English people meant to the then quiet and small harbour town. The men, women and children, dressed as they were, quite outrageously for pioneering, with their mountains of luggage, did not look fit for such an expedition to the far unknown prairies. But go they must.

They skirted Montreal, stopped in Ottawa and followed the Ottawa River north through well settled farming country. Caught between the lives they had left behind and the lives they had yet to begin, the passengers stared out of the windows at a cold and rocky landscape where the only signs of life were the stunted evergreens and scrawny aspens struggling to survive.

Across the country they travelled, the tourist coaches were most uncomfortable and the most chaotic as mothers attempted to feed and amuse children. Cinder dirt lay on everything, the seats, the floors, and the food. The women attempted to cook their family meals. Impatient women argued over how long they had been waiting for a turn at the stove. Most men were unquipped to cook their own meals, and for that matter were unable to as well. Although the country they travelled through was barren, silent and cold, the coaches they travelled in were crowded, noisy and warm, very warm. Seeking cool fresh air, passengers opened windows, then the engine blew smoke in. They fled to the open spaces on the platforms between the cars, but the cold air drove them back inside to endure the chaos.

Some of the Colonists decided to stay in Winnipeg and work for a while. The prospects were good in Manitoba for anyone who was prepared to work hard and who had no qualms about living outside the city. A man could expect about thirty five dollars a month and free board and room.

When they left the train that had brought them across the country to the shacks of Saskatoon, many of them had never driven a horse let alone harnessed one to a plow. The transformation into farmers began on the 320 kilometre trek north and west to colony headquarters. The CPR line had been built in haste, unaware of the lack of readiness in Saskatoon and the colonists boarded the train, which sped across the country at 35 miles per hour. Passengers were jolted constantly in their seats and literally thrown from side to side as the train careened around the curves.

In Saskatoon came the news of the Barr Colony. Advance publicity supplied by the lead Rev I.M. Barr said that many of the new comers were wealthy. The colonists had been told to wait until they got to Saskatoon before they bought farming equipment and groceries. Rumour had it that some of them were city bred and knew little about farming. It would be so easy to sell to folks like that. The merchants rubbed their hands in anticipation.

The unloading place, Saskatoon, a small struggling town with a wooden sidewalk, one or two little stores, an immigration building and a post office, became almost overnight a sprawling tent town. Here were these strange people with endless personal effects, far more than they would have brought had they known of the nature of their destination. Too late – the Promised Land had been painted too rosy.

On Sunday April 19 a celebration of morning prayer was held in the large dining tent of the colony camp at Saskatoon. The camp contained a variety of styles, army surplus bell tents were by far the most numerous. They may have been graceful, but comfortable they were not. They had been designed for the spartan life of a military camp. They leaked if accidentally touched after a storm. Barr's quarters outshone even the government marquees. The tents were made of duck, a lighter better quality material than canvas. Only Barr's tent and the one for the press flew the Canadian colours, all the other flags flapping in the prairie wind were British flags of various kinds.

"Bain" wagons were on view, made of a second rate material. A rectangular, high sided green box rode on wheels painted red. The lack of springs in the chassis could be offset by a spring mounted removable seat, separately purchased. Canvas schooner tops and the hoops to hold them were extra too. Some tried to save money by purchasing only three hoops instead of six.

Discontent had been brewing since the colonists had been cramped onto the Manitoba. The train journey had given them long hours to ruminate. By the time they reached Saskatoon there was much to be angry about, and it was easy to blame Barr for everything. Barr climbed upon a black sea trunk facing angry colonists. He refused to admit that he had received commissions from the Saskatoon shopkeepers and was greeted with boos and hisses. He then became defensive. "*If I have made money out of these supplies, I say it is not of your business*". Someone shouted that Barr had bought potatoes from the Soukhobors for sixty cents and sold them for a dollar. A letter was produced proving that Barr had arranged for commissions from the merchants. The letter was handed to Rev Lloyd and he agreed that the signature looked like Barr's, as it was the same as the one on the pamphlet. Barr left the tent and Rev Lloyd spoke to the crowd and urged them to get on the trail.

Belongings now had to be packed into the covered wagons. One family had brought a library, musical instruments, fine china, a microscope, a grandfa-

ther clock, oil paintings and, like many others, precious belongings from their home in England. It was a pathetic sight. Now food, stoves, tents, bedding and oxen had to be purchased. The trek of over two hundred miles was still left, over unbroken prairie which stretched away to the northwest, bare and gently rolling. In knots of two and three, the wagons set out. Ox teams covered the ground with maddening slowness. Buggies took advantage of the openness. Prairie schooners with white canvas covers hid heavy loads of furniture, farm implements and trunks. Tethered to some of the swaying wagons were milk cows, and riding on top of some of the loads were crates of domestic fowl, cackling and crowing in distress. Women and children followed behind some of the wagons. One driver called out "*Westward, the star of Empire wends its way*".

The Hospital Scheme proved to be the most practical of all of Barr's proposals. While still in London he made arrangements with two doctors to accompany the colonists on their long journey ahead. However when the two arrived in Liverpool to board ship they suddenly decided this was not what they wanted and fled. Upon arrival in Montreal two graduates from the Montreal Medical College became a part of the Colony, although Dr Keating returned back east. Dr Amos was later joined by Dr J.T. Hill and Miss Stiles, a colonist with some nursing training. In the summer of 1903 the hospital consisted of a large community tent equipped with a three legged cot, mattress and pillow, and service was provided on a rather hit and miss basis. Illnesses were few, however, the injuries consisting of those that fell prey to the axe, unable to handle it properly. In 1904 Mable Drew established a small private nursing home with three beds.

By the time they reached Battleford [very near where Lloyd had been wounded in the North West rebellion 18 years earlier] the colonist's discontent with Barr came to a head. They asked Lloyd to take over leadership of the colony and eventually named their settlement Lloydminster in his honour. Lloyd and his family remained with the settlement for a few years, then moved to Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, and became principal of Emmanuel College [1908-1916].

As each group of settlers left the government camp at Battleford, they found the first miles of the trail wonderfully invigorating, but just when the New World dream seemed possible again it all went wrong. The fertile plain gave way to rough bush and the firm sandy trail to huge sloughs. Some of the Col-



onists that had purchased horses and wagons in Saskatoon thought they had learned everything there was to know about driving horses and staying out of sloughs, but they were wrong. Some of the wagons got stuck up to the axles and as the day wore on one of the horses refused to go any further. Some Canadians who were passing told them it was obvious that the horses were tired, and they should be rested and fed as much as they could eat. A farmer stabled the mare and gave them oats for the other horses and milk for themselves. While the men pitched the tents nearby, the farmer's wife allowed one of the women to bake some bread in her oven. After resting overnight the Colonists moved on.



*Oxen and wagon stuck in the mud*

As the settlers inched their way across the prairie they were plagued by mosquitoes, more sink holes for the wagons to get stuck in, and lack of feed for the animals. The wagons were so loaded down when they tried to ford a stream that the oxen would stop for a drink and the wheels would sink down into the mud. Once that happened it was a big chore getting the wagon out. Everything had to be unloaded, then packed to shore and two or three teams would be hooked on to the wagon to pull it out. Life was especially hard on the women. The wagons were so loaded down that most of the women walked and possessions had to be left along the trail. Some of the women carried babies all the way from Saskatoon and women that were pregnant also walked behind their wagon. Due to prairie fires it was also hard to find enough feed for the livestock. These people had a very false view of what the west was really like.

The Post Office played a very important part for the newcomers. Communication was important, especially for those that were no less than 6000 miles from home. People back in England were encouraged to write many letters. The Lloyminster post office in the Saskatchewan Electoral district of the Battledowns was born on July 22<sup>nd</sup> 1903.

Granddad, George Lowe, had lived from the time of his birth in Brampton, Chesterfield, met my gran who was living in Birmingham and they were mar-

ried on the 15<sup>th</sup> April 1900 in Birmingham. Granddad worked for Philip Harris & Co, Birmingham, for five years but both of them are listed on the 1901 census living in Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

Leaving his wife and two small daughters behind in England, my grandfather and his brother, John left Liverpool on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 1906, sailing on the S.S. Victorian and arriving in Quebec on 18<sup>th</sup> May 1906. It is possible that they both worked for a time in Winnipeg and I have a letter of recommendation that was written in 1906 from Philip Harris & Co in Birmingham. However they did have a destination in mind – Lloyminster. Granddad possibly had some friends that had already come and had encouraged him to come or they were the last of the Barr Colonists. As granddad and John worked their way across Canada they were engaged in lumber work, also along the way they did some bridging and gold dredging. At some time in their stay in Canada John decided to go back to England, arriving there in October 1906.

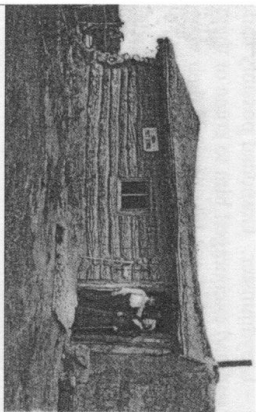
My granddad arrived at Marwayne, a little community that had been settled in 1903. Prior to obtaining the land another gentleman had petitioned for the land, but had not followed any of the necessary conditions. It took the government some time before it cancelled the first application and the land was made available, but after a long wait granddad obtained homestead entry on 5<sup>th</sup> March 1908. My gran, mom and aunt arrived in Canada on 19<sup>th</sup> April 1907. Their trip had not been so arduous as there was now a rail line.

During the wait granddad worked in the Edmonton area on the Clover Bar railway bridge and for the Daly Coal mine at Clover Bar. That first winter the family lived in a tent in Edmonton while granddad would go back and forth to Marwayne to cut logs, stacking them in a tee pee fashion so that they could dry out. Finally they were able to be on their land. During the summer granddad was kept very busy building a log home for his family and with the help of their oxen "Tom and Bill", they plowed and sowed vegetables in uncultivated land to air their food supply. Clearing the land and plowing was part of the requirements in order to be able to get title on a homestead. They



*The Lowe family  
Mum Hilda, George Lowe, Aunt  
Winifred and my gran Annie*

received the Daily Mirror newspapers from back home in England and, making good use of these, gran made a paste of flour and papered the walls. On 12 December 1908 my uncle, George Albert, was born at Marwayne, he later died in a coal mine accident at Luscar, Alberta, at the age of 19. My gran had been a cook in Birmingham, now she baked bread for the bachelors and took in washing to supplement their income. At one time granddad was making a ditch for the purpose of watering the animals and discovered a natural spring. This was a real find and neighbours came from miles around for water.



*Lloydminster District—the Post Office at Marwyn*

Marfleet who emigrated from Wainfleet, Lincolnshire.

I had contacted the Marwayne library requesting information and they kindly gave me Gordon Hancock's name, an old timer in the district. After contacting him we made arrangements to meet. He took us to where granddad's homestead had been, as well as where Christ Church, Tring, had been and where Tring School had once stood, having been torn down in the early 1950s. My mom and aunt would have attended Tring school, but unfortunately there are no buildings on the land anymore. The little spring that granddad had found was still trickling water that day we were there.

In 1918 granddad and family moved to the Clover Bar and the family grew one more time with the birth of my Uncle Jack on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1918. He died in 1915 and he, his wife, Uncle George, gran, granddad, dad and mom are all buried in the Clover Bar Cemetery.

Was my grandfather a Barr Colonist? I think he was. The first bunch came in early 1903 and granddad came in early 1906, likely being one of the last of

the Colonists to come to the Lloydminster area. Last summer my husband and I went to Lloydminster. There is a Barr Museum, once the old church, but unfortunately it is not open as they cannot get volunteers to run it. Sad, I would have loved to see what is in the old building.

JOAN P. TALBOT-WEGERT

**Acknowledgements**

- My mother, Hilda Talbot [Lowel] for submitting the Lowe story into the book "Pioneering the Parklands", printed 1967.*
- Echoes of Marwayne Vol 22 1986-1988*
- Rose MacDonald, a 90 year old friend from Lloydminster who loaned me newspapers pertaining to the Barr Colony Jubilee.*
- Archivist Emilie, Lloydminster Archives*
- Memoirs of Henrietta K. Butler*
- The Encyclopaedia of Saskatchewan*
- Saskatchewan's Top News Stories, Beginnings and Landmarks*
- The Canadian Encyclopaedia*
- The book "Middling Through" by Lynne Bowen*

**STRANGE STORY OF A SOLDIER'S LOST MEDAL**

A remarkable story of the recovery of a lost medal has just come to light. Mr Cudworth served through the Burmese War, receiving a medal. About nine years ago, while walking along the Ashbourne-road, Derby, he lost his medal and all efforts to recover it were fruitless. Soon after the outbreak of war in South Africa he enlisted in the Imperial Yeomanry and took part in the operations around Kimberley. One day Trooper Cudworth noticed a man wearing the Burmese medal. Quite naturally he accosted the man with the remark "Hallo mate, I was in Burmah too, but I lost my medal. Let's look at yours." The wearer assented and the yeoman, to his great surprise, found it was the identical one which he had lost, for his own name was engraved on it. The wearer was put under arrest and after an investigation the rightful owner was able to prove his identity, and received his own back again. Trooper Cudworth has just been invalided home, and vouches for the truth of the story.

*Illustrated Police News, 1 Sep 1900*

## BUS OVERTURNS AT STANTON

The accident occurred about 4.55 pm., at the bend in the road on the Burton side of Pidcock's Row. The bus, one of the Invincible service on the Burton-Newhall route, owned by Messrs Parker Bros' Garage, Swadlincote, was going from Burton towards Newhall when, at the blind corner at Pidcocks Lane, it ran into the rear of a four-wheeled one horse dray, owned by Mr George Bird, licensee of the White Horse public-house, Stanton, and being driven by his son. The bus overturned and the following were injured:-

John Cooper, of Coalpit Lane, Swadlincote, the driver, injuries to head and stomach.

Harrington Bradbury, of Union Road, Swadlincote, the conductor, cuts to the face.

Fred Hardy, brewery labourer, Stanton, injuries to both legs.

Mrs Lee, of the Pack Horse Inn, cuts to the face

Mrs Bale, of Council Road, Stanton, cuts on the head.

A lady from Gresley, cuts about the head.

The least seriously injured were able to walk home and none was treated at the Infirmary. The driver, however, was taken home in a car and received medical attention.

The actual cause of the accident is not known, but it is thought the driver came suddenly upon the dray on rounding the bend and applied his brakes so vigorously that when the two vehicles touched, the bus overturned. It was dusk at the time and apparently no-one, except those involved, saw the occurrence. They, however, agree that it was due to the splendid driving and presence of mind of the young driver that no-one was more seriously hurt.

Describing his experiences to a Burton Daily Mail Reporter immediately after the smash, Mr Fred Hardy, who works at Messrs Truman, Hanbury and Buxton's Burton Brewery, said:

*"I was walking home from work, and had just been offered a lift by young Bird, whom I knew, and all of a sudden we heard a noise like a shell dropping. I was thrown out over a hedge and found myself in the bottom of a ditch. George jumped to hold the horse, and I rushed to the overturned bus. I tried to open the emergency door at the rear, but could not, so I smashed the glass and pulled out the women and children."*

When he got home he found both his legs were injured. He said he was not,

however, conscious of this at the time, but later had to send for a doctor. He was unable to walk and will probably be on the sick list for a week. Mr Hardy was seriously injured in one leg, by shrapnel during the war.

When the crash occurred the driver, Cooper, was struck violently in the stomach by the steering wheel and he received internal injuries. Also his head came into sharp contact with the windscreen, causing further hurt.

In addition to their cuts and bruises, the passengers suffered from shock. Mr George Bird had a remarkable escape from serious injury.

The road was greasy at the time—just after lighting up time. Every window in the bus was wrecked, some of the wheels were torn off and the bonnet and body work much knocked about. The dray was completely smashed and the horse slightly injured. It was treated by a veterinary surgeon from Burton during the evening.

Police-Sergeant Milward, of Newhall, was at the spot within five minutes of the occurrence and speedily organised the necessary measures for dealing with the injured passengers and getting the road clear. P.C.'s Horsley and Harris were sent for, and first aid was given to the injured. The passengers were naturally suffering severely from shock, and arrangements were made for those living some distance away to be conveyed to their homes. The road was blocked for some time and operations were hindered by the darkness of the spot. Fortunately, among the early arrivals, was Mr John Machin of Messrs Machin's Garage, Burton, and with as much speed as possible the damaged bus was set upright again, and eventually towed into a field. During the dark evening crowds of people went to the scene of the accident.

Motor bus traffic on this road—which is the main road from Burton to Atherton and passing the South Derbyshire coalfield—has very much increased of late. Quite a number of companies run buses on various routes on different sections of the road, and they all converge at Stanton. The road over its whole course is decidedly patchy in its nature. To Stanton from Burton it is wide and well metalled, but even in that distance there are a number of acute bends. Further on the surface and width are continually changing, and there are many fork roads and bends in the winding 18 miles to Atherton. The greater part of this road carries the present enormous bus traffic. Serious accidents are, however, extremely rare.



The driver, Cooper, and the conductor, Bradbury, were today, by doctor's orders, unable to be seen. They are suffering principally from shock and are confined to bed, but are said to be getting on all right.

Mr Parker, proprietor of the bus, told a Burton Daily Mail reporter today that from statements Cooper and Bradbury made to him, it would appear that neither saw lights on the dray. The driver said he was travelling at normal speed and did not see the other vehicle in front until he was a few feet from it. He attempted to pull out and pass and, at the same time, he applied his brakes, but the mudguard of the bus, it was thought, struck the dray, causing the front part of the bus to rise, while the rear part swerved round. This was responsible for the bus overturning.

The conductor, Bradbury, was standing behind the driver, and was thrown over head into the road, while the driver was pitched forward on to the steering wheel.

Mr Parker added that, apparently, from what he said, the conductor had the presence of mind to open the rear emergency door, allowing the passengers to get out while the bus was on its side. It will be noted that this is at variance with the story of Hardy, who said he opened the door after smashing the window, and dragged the women out.

The driver of the dray, George Bird, said that he saw the bus coming behind him when it was about 150 yards away. It had side lights on. Almost immediately afterwards the impact occurred. The dray was smashed completely, and when he extricated himself from beneath the ruins he was still holding the reins. He immediately attended to his horse which was, of course, very restive. He himself was shaken and bruised down one side. Bird contended that it was not lighting up time for ordinary vehicles and therefore he had no lights on his dray.

*Burton Daily Mail, 11th February 1925*

## *Round and About*

**CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL ARCHIVES** will reopen to the public on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2013, following its closure for extensive building works. This work has been possible through a generous grant from the Albert Reckitt Charitable Trust. From 22<sup>nd</sup> January, the reading room for the Archives and Library will be open weekly from Tuesday to Thursday 9.15 to 16.45, with lunchtime closures occasionally necessary. Appointments are advisable and bookings can be made for a reading desk, microfilm/fiche reader or a computer. Bookings can be made by email at [archives@canterburycathedral.org](mailto:archives@canterburycathedral.org) or by telephone on 01227865330.

**HONOURS TO THE FAMILY HISTORY COMMUNITY** – Two members of the family history community have been awarded honours in the New Year Honours List. The honour of MBE for services to genealogy and family history in the UK New Year Honours List has been awarded to Pauline Litton, one of the Vice Presidents of the Federation of Family History Societies. She has worked tirelessly to help people with their family trees and has been involved in a number of organisations that are connected with genealogy and family history.

Brenda Murray is a member of the Liverpool and South West Lancashire Family History Society and she was awarded the BEM in the 2013 New Year Honours List. Brenda, who is 88, received the award for "Services to Heritage and History". She is one of the original founders of the Liverpool History Society and tirelessly campaigned for a bronze bust of William Gladstone to be placed in Seaforth, Liverpool, his birthplace. Congratulations to them both.

**IRISH SUCCESS** – Following years of lobbying by CIGO [Council of Irish Genealogical Organisations] GRONI [General Register Office of Northern Ireland] has now implemented new regulations which allow for all future death registrations to note each deceased person's parents names. Up to now only the deceased's date and place of birth was recorded, and even that practice only dated from the end of 1973. The new regulations came into force on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2012.



## BRIDGE CHAPEL HOUSE RESEARCH CENTRE AND LIBRARY

### NEW ACQUISITIONS AS AT 1 JAN 2013

Certificates:	Birth	George Copnall, 1863, Doveridge James Smith, 1838, Derby
	Marriage	William Cresswell/Sarah Bacon, 1860, Chapel en le Frith
	Death	6 certificates for Mary Smith, viz:- 1852, Derby, widow of Thomas 1865, Derby, wife of William 1865, Derby, wife of John 1867, Alfreton, wife of George 1867, Derby, widow of Christopher 1867, Belper, widow of Thomas
Family Trees & Papers:		Vernon of the High Peak Nurse Eliza Cash 1866-1954 Thomas Cash of Derby 1858-1887
Military:		Obituaries of Canadian Residents born in Derbyshire

### THE BALLAD OF CODNOR CASTLE

In olden days, a castle stood serene  
Amidst a pleasant, verdant English scene -  
The Vale of Erewash.  
A fortress, yes, a bastion great,  
A vast and noble, proud estate,  
Was that of Codenour.  
The romance of those early ages  
Is written down in history's pages  
For all who wish to delve.  
Prior to the Norman Conquest, it was known,  
That, on this site, secluded, overgrown,  
An earlier castle stood.  
Captured by William, who did the same convey  
Through Robert Fitzwarner, a noble of that day,  
To William Peverel.  
No mention in our records then appears  
Of Codenour, for the next one hundred years,  
Until around 1154,  
William the Conqueror, whilst he ruled our land  
Set up, for the tax collection, by Command,  
The Domesday Book.  
The names of Codenour Cottars [i.e. villagers] appear,  
Maybe some of our forebears could be mentioned here  
Nine centuries ago.  
William Peverel—William de Codenour by name,  
Had, as heiress, Isolda—who became  
The first Lady de Grey.  
And so the castle and its lands passed to the Barons Grey,  
Who there, within its portals, held their sway  
For generations nine.  
Two thousand acres was the parkland fair,  
And knights and archers held their revels there,  
At Codenour.  
With towers, moat and chapel, such a stately home—  
Yet many a Lord de Grey found cause to roam  
Far from its lands—

On pilgrimage and wars in which they fought,  
 Like Cressy, Poitiers and at Agincourt,  
 Their name held high renown.  
 Bold Robin of Loxley surely passed this way  
 Whilst roaming Sherwood's boundaries in his day,  
 Near Codenour.  
 King Edward Second tarried at this fortress home  
 After a fight, when rebels had been overthrown  
 At Burton upon Trent.  
 'Twas here from Codenour one Lord Grey was sent, by Henry Fifth,  
 then King,  
 On mission forth, to Scotland, to escort and bring  
 Hotspur's son, to England.  
 In 1458 Henry, a chemist, and the last Lord Grey,  
 Made one John Clarke, at salary of two pence per day,  
 Keeper of Parks, at Codenour and Aldecar.  
 One John, Lord Grey, during the 13th century, in Kent,  
 At Aylesford, had founded with intent,  
 A Priory—Carmelite.  
 Henry, the last Lord Grey, was buried there,  
 And thus his final resting place did share  
 Along with other Grays, in 1498.  
 Unto the Lord and Lady Zouch, all the estate they passed,  
 Lady Elizabeth being Aunt and heiress, of Henry, the last  
 Lord Grey of Codenour.  
 This family of Zouch became a household great,  
 And, for six generations, there they lived in state,  
 At Codenour.  
 To this great Derbyshire establishment, young Bess of Hardwick came,  
 To learn the ways of etiquette befitting to her name,  
 At Tudor Codenour.  
 A Doctor Neile, Archbishop of York, eventually did obtain,  
 From one Sir John Zouch, these lands and dwellings to his name,  
 At Codenour, in 1634.  
 To castle walls that once were 5 feet thick 'tis said,  
 And avenue of trees that to the entrance led,  
 Decay was setting in.  
 The last known occupiers of this castle would appear to be,  
 Sir Sreynsham Masters and his family,

*D.F.H.S. March Qtr 2013 Page 72*

Who purchased it in 1692.  
 Sadly into decline, the once great castle fell,  
 That proud ancestral home that had been loved so well,  
 At Codenour.  
 Depicted on engraving of the 18th century,  
 Are ruins of the West Wall, all there was left to see,  
 At Codenour—in 1727.  
 Sometimes I gaze toward the skyline there -  
 And, in imagination, see a retinue of men, and maidens fair,  
 En route for Codenour.  
 The land and ruins presently to N.C.B. belong.\*\*  
 But, from the past, its history will ever round it throng,  
 At Codenour.

*\*\* National Coal Board*

**Written by J. Searson in 1983/84**

### MELBOURNE'S OLDEST INHABITANT

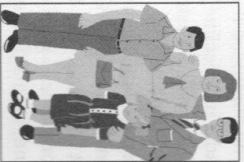
There has just passed away at King's Newton Mr Thomas Wyles, who was in his 97<sup>th</sup> year. The deceased was remarkably active and sprightly, retaining his mental and physical vigour to within a few days of his death, up to which time he was invariably to be found working in his garden. About 18 months ago he lost a septuagenarian daughter, and quite recently another daughter, who, with her husband, Dr Little, came as refugees from Lille. Mr Wyles was enthusiastic in the temperance movement and a pioneer of the United Kingdom Alliance. He was a non-smoker and a vegetarian. His was a remarkable personality. His vigour of body, intellectual alertness, energy, cheerfulness, dogmatism, fond of anecdote, humour and readiness at repartee, aptitude for study, made personal contact with him not only a pleasurable experience but a means of education. He was a geologist and climbed the Alps when over 80 years of age. He was formerly a schoolmaster and had a large number of pupils under him at Allesley, near Coventry. Mr Wyles came to reside at Kings Newton in 1908.

*Derby Mercury, 27th Nov 1914*

*D.F.H.S. March Qtr 2013 Page 73*



**We welcome new members who have  
joined the Society by 14 Oct 2012**



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**Members with additional/updated interests**

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- 6552 Mr A Pinder, 9 Central Drive, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 9RW,  
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- 7068 Mrs C L Locke, 156 Peet Road, Roleystone, Western Australia, 6111, Australia, Email: dloce@bigpond.net.au
- 7676 Ms C Pilkington, 1 Dubh Macdonald Road, Inverloch, Fort William, Highland, PH33 6JA, Email: carolinecampbell79@hotmail.co.uk
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- 7711 Mr & Mrs K Wain, 12 Bradbury Drive, Wingeworth, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S42 6SL, Email: kdwain12@yahoo.co.uk

**Please note that you can now update your interests online by logging in to the website and going to the Members Interests section**  
**These are emailed to the Members Interest Co-ordinator and will appear here as usual**

**It saves me time and ensures I don't make transcription errors**

Searching

NAME	Parish	CTY	DATES	No.
BAYMAN	Birmingham	WAR	1817-1853	7068
BEAUMONT	Birmingham	WAR	1817-1853	7068
BEAUMONT	Derby	DBY	1840-1853	7068
BICKERTON	Sudbury	DBY	1800-1880	7068
CHACKRETT	All		after 1800	6464
CHACKRETT	All	HAM	1700-1900	6464
COATES	Belper		1750-1850	7708
COATES	Belper		1750-1850	7708
COCKES	Wirksworth	DBY	1789-1880	7068
DEDDICK	Ashbourne	DBY	1778-1843	7068
DUDLEY	Selston	NTS	Any	7728
DUESBURY	Derby		1750-1850	7708
FLINT	Ticknall	DBY	after 1850	6552
KIRBY	Clay Cross		1881-1895	7711
KIRBY	North Wingfield		1881-1895	7711
KIRBY	Pilsley		1881-1895	7711
MAKIN	Ashbourne	DBY	1795-1800	7068
MAKIN	Ashbourne	DBY	1795-1800	7068
MAKIN	Derby	DBY	1795-1846	7068
MAKIN	Stockport	CHS	after 1771	7068
MAKIN	Stockport	CHS	after 1771	7068
MEAKIN	Derby	DBY	1795-1846	7068
MEAKIN	Stockport	CHS	after 1771	7068
MEAKIN	Stockport	CHS	after 1771	7068
MEAKIN	Stubbury	DBY	1830-1855	7068
NEWTON	Wessington		before 1841	7732
REEK	Somercotes		Any	7728
SHARP	All		after 1800	6464
UNDERWOOD	All		after 1800	6464
WILKINSON	Repton	DBY	1800-1900	6552
WILKINSON	Ticknall	DBY	1800-1900	6552
WOOLLEY	Derby		1850-1920	7676
WRIGHT	Ironville		1800-1900	6464

All changes of address to be sent to to  
 The Membership Secretary at Bridge Chapel House  
 New/Updated interests (only) may be sent by email to  
 membersinterests@dfhs.org.uk

