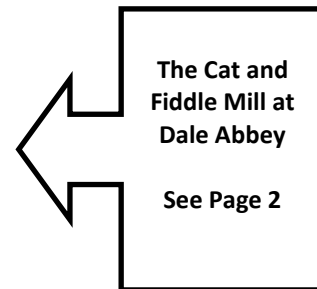


*Derbyshire Family
History Society*



Jun 2022

Issue 181

SOCIETY CONTACTS

Website: www.dfhs.org.uk
Email: queries@dfhs.org.uk
Secretary: Ruth Barber, 6 Field Lane, Alvaston, Derby DE24 0GP
Email: ruth.barber55@ntlworld.com
Membership: Catherine Allsop-Martin, 9 Barnstaple Close, Oakwood,
Derby DE21 2PQ. Email: membership@dfhs.org.uk
Editor: Helen Betteridge, 16 Buxton Road, Chaddesden, Derby
DE21 4JJ. Email: dfhs.editor@outlook.com
Chairman: Brian Slack, 160 Birchover Way, Allestree, Derby
DE22 2RW. Email: brianslack90@yahoo.co.uk
Treasurer: Mike Bagworth, 233 Ladybank Rd, Mickleover DE3 0RR
Email: m.bagworth@ntlworld.com
Book Sales: Linda Bull, 17 Penrhyn Avenue, Littleover, Derby
DE23 6LB.

SOCIETY REFERENCE LIBRARY

95 Nottingham Road, Derby, DE1 3QR

Opening Hours: 10 a.m.—4 p.m. TUESDAY and THURSDAY

10 a.m.—4 p.m. SATURDAY BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

The Society will give advice on the telephone [01332 363876 OPENING HOURS ONLY] and also by e-mail. Research can be carried out by post or by e-mail, both in our own library and also at Derby Local Studies and Matlock County Record Office. We ask for a donation of £5 and if more extensive research is required we will advise you before carrying out the work.

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

The Editor will accept contributions both by post and by email. Large articles covering more than 4/5 pages will possibly appear over two issues. If sending by email please remember to include your name, address and membership number. Contributions must be received at least two months before the publication of the magazine because of our printing schedule.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Society subscription is due on joining and thereafter on 1st January each year and renewal notices will be sent out at the beginning of December with that quarter's magazine. At the moment rates are as follows:-

BRITISH ISLES per family [at one address] £15

Please pay either in person at Nottingham Road, by cheque or postal order addressed to the Membership Secretary, or by using our website.

OVERSEAS—EUROPE £16 [magazines sent by air mail]

OVERSEAS—OTHER COUNTRIES £19 [magazines sent digitally]

For both the above payment in dollars or currency other than sterling please add the equivalent of £4 to cover the exchange charge. Alternatively payment may be made by on the website with no extra charge incurred. Standing orders are also still accepted. All cheques should be made payable to Derbyshire Family History Society in full NOT just DFHS or Derbyshire FHS as the bank will no accept cheques made out in this manner.

Please Note! Our website now offers the facility to renew your membership online. If you are unsure of your membership number please look at the address label on the bag in which your magazine arrived and you will find it the top corner. It would be helpful to quote this in any correspondence with the Society.

Please renew your subscriptions promptly. Due to the steep rising rates of postage no magazines will be sent out unless your payment is with us by the start of February. Sorry for the inconvenience but, as you can appreciate, the Society cannot afford to stand the cost of posting magazines that may not be wanted.

We are now offering the option of magazine in PDF format, sent by E-mail. Let us know if you are willing to receive it this way when you renew.

Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR SOCIETY INFORMED!

Any changes in your postal or email address etc., please let us know so that we can keep our records up to date. Many magazines come back to us as the intended recipient has moved house without letting us have the information.

**ZOOM MEETINGS TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY
EVENINGS AT 7.30 P.M.**

- 7 Sep Knitters, Nailers & Traitors—David Skillen
Exploring the way in which one family helped to change the way we work
and meet the man who betrayed Belper's secrets to the rest of the world
- 12 Oct Peak District Paupers—Tim Knebel
The fascinating and tragic lives of the paupers of the Peak District's past
- 9 Nov The Lumsdale Valley—Julian Burgess
A hidden gem tucked high away high above Matlock and a scheduled
monument of archaeological and historic importance
- 14 Dec History of the Postcard—Gay Evans
A plotted history of the humble postcard and its place in social history

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9148138555?pwd=VGhRdUJFSjUvZlhyMlZvUFc4U0tkUT09>

Front Cover Picture—Cat and Fiddle Mill, Dale Abbey

“Mr Samuel Smedley, of the Cat and Fiddle, Dale Abbey, has a turkey that has certainly beaten the record in the matter of fasting. The downy bird, which had been missing since November, was a few days since discovered hidden away between some sheaves of thatch in the turkey house. It had fasted more than the orthodox forty days and forty nights, and had even thus out-Tannered Dr Tanner. There is nothing like a prolonged fast to give you an appetite, and the enjoyment of eating, under such circumstances, must be fourfold in the case of a bird with a tolerably long neck. Mr Smedley thought his turkey had been corpsed by a fox, but the bird had only gone into retirement on the approach of the festive season. Instead of adorning the bench of some Derby poulterer's shop, this “Boobly Jock” as he is called in the Land o’Cakes, is still enjoying life within the shadow of the picturesque ruins of Dale Abbey.”

Derbyshire Times & Chesterfield Herald, 7 Jan 1888

FROM THE EDITOR

First the good news—we have moved!! We are most grateful to the Liversage Trust, who have allowed us to lease one of their buildings at 95 Nottingham Road, not far from where we were originally based. Unfortunately we have had to cut down on our stock quite a bit as we have gone down from 3 floors to 3 rooms, but hopefully there will still be plenty to interest our visitors—and I hope you will think of coming to see us. Please check with us first as I am not sure when we will be open to visitors—there are a lot of boxes to unpack and contents to display in the smallest amount of space we can manage. By the time you read this our phone number will have moved over and we are always available by email—either the Society official one or myself and Ruth on a personal one.

Our Open Day is moving on as planned. We have added another couple of stalls and the Museum has now offered visitors the chance of discounted parking. If you leave your car at the Assembly Rooms Car Park and then have your ticket validated by the Museum when you visit the Open Day, it will cost you just £2.50. We are most grateful for their help.

Meetings are starting again in September, for the moment by Zoom, but due to popular demand we are thinking of trying personal meetings next year. Again thanks to the Museum of Making who have offered us a room one afternoon a month from 2-4 and we shall put on a speaker, with a chance to go round the museum afterwards. The first meeting will be in March and will also be available on Zoom, which hopefully will attract overseas members. We have had several of our members who have told us they would like to come back for meetings, but don't like being out late at night. Hopefully an afternoon meeting will prove popular. Your comments would be welcome.

Finally this move is throwing up quite a bit of unexpected expense. We hope over time to save money by this move, but in the meantime if anyone could make a contribution—however small—to the moving and settlement of your society it would be most appreciated. Thank you very much for your continued support, we certainly couldn't carry on without it.

That's your lot for this time, hope you enjoy this issue.

Helen

CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE NO</u>
Society Meetings 2022	2
Front cover picture—Dale Abbey	2
From the Editor	3
The Will of Edward Owtram	5
Memorial at Stalbridge, Somerset	7
Breach of Promises	8
Days in Derbyshire—an Extract	9
Mary Argile—the Missing Mother	10
Protection for our Products	11
Family Hearsay	12
What If? - A Decision that Changed History	16
Murder and Suicide near Pleasley	20
The Battle of the Flowers—WW1 Peace Day	25
Pulpit in Birchover Church	27
Churches of Derbyshire—No 67 Dale Abbey All Saints	28
What They Did Not Tell Me	30
AGM Talk on Zoom—One Man & His Factory	37
DFHS Annual General Meeting—6th April 2022	38
A Family Jigsaw Puzzle	44
Lease and Release—Thomas Stocks	45
The Morton Family Contribution in Great Longstone	46
From the Papers	53
Stephen Orchard—A Tribute	54
Obituary—Kathleen Mason	54
Do You Recognise?	55
Research Centre and Library Update	56
Open Day 2022	Inside Back

THE WILL OF EDWARD OWTRAM

Edward Owtram, senior, of Dronfield, was buried on 19 February 1804 [as seen in the B.T.s and P.R.s, Dronfield, Derbyshire.]

In his will, which was dated 1 November 1803, he stated that he was of Dronfield, in the county of Derby, and a butcher. He appointed his son, Edward Owtram, to be his sole executor. He also appointed his nephew, Edward Owtram, of Grindleford Bridge, and Thomas Parker, of Dronfield, maltster, as guardians and trustees of his will, and gave each of them £5 for their trouble.

He instructed that his debts and funeral expenses should be paid first out of his estate. He then gave to his loving wife, Hannah Owtram, one dwelling house, with its appurtenances, situated in Dronfield, which had lately been in the tenure or occupation of his daughter in law, Martha Owtram, together with the sum of forty shillings a year [to be paid half yearly] during her natural life, and also the household furniture and other effects, which were her own property before her marriage with him [mentioned in a deed of covenant dated 10 July 1792.] He also gave his wife Hannah £5, to be paid within three months of his decease.

He then gave the following legacies:

- 1] To his son, George Owtram, £2 per year for life [to be paid to him half yearly].
- 2] To his daughter, Elizabeth Owtram, the same amount, on the same conditions, "provided she shall come in her own person to receive it".
- 3] To his daughter Sarah, the wife of Joseph Binney, the book debts owing to him by her husband, Joseph Binney, and also the sum of one shilling.
- 4] To his grand daughter Ann, the daughter of Joseph Binney, the sum of forty shillings per year for life [to be paid half yearly].
- 5] To his grandson William Owtram [son of his late son William] the sum of £20, to be paid to him when he reached the age of 22 years.
- 6] To each of his grandchildren, Sarah Owtram, Edward Owtram and George Owtram [a daughter and two sons of his late son William] the sum of £5, to be given to them as they reached the age of 22 years. But if any of them should die before the age of 22 years, then his or her share was to be equally divided amongst the survivors.
- 7] To each of his grandchildren Godfrey Bown, Hannah Bown, Ann Bown, Mary Bown, John Bown and William Bown [sons and daughters of his late daughter Martha] the sum of £5 on the same conditions.

- 8] To the above mentioned John Bown the sum of thirty shillings a year [to be paid half yearly] until he reached the age of 14 “for the purpose of procuring him education”.
- 9] To the above mentioned William Bown the sum of £10 a year, until he reached 12 years of age.
- 10] To his son Joseph Owtram the sum of £3 per year for life [to be paid half yearly].
- 11] To his daughter Nutty, the wife of William Morewood, the book debts owing to him by her husband, William Morewood, and also the sum of one shilling.

The yearly legacies were to take place from the day of his decease and were to be paid regularly by his executor and trustees out of his estate. He then gave all the remainder of his goods and personal estate to his son, Edward Owtram, after the payments of all the debts and other legacies, to be at his disposal for ever. He also gave him all his real estate, which consisted of about six houses, and land and tithes.

The will was signed by Edward Owtram, in the presence of Benjamin Ward, Samuel Ward and John Ward.

Probate was granted at Lichfield on 21 February 1804.

The personal estate was not above the value of £600.

This very detailed will interests me for four reasons.

- 1] Why did Elizabeth Owtram get her legacy “provided she shall come in her own person to receive it”? None of the others had this stipulation. Does anyone have any suggestions?
- 2] I am descended from Joseph Binney and his wife Ann Owtram. However here Joseph is married to Ann’s sister Sarah. Joseph and Sarah went as far as Leeds to marry by licence. Joseph therefore had to lie that there was no impediment to their marriage. This marriage was ‘voidable’, but it was obvious that Sarah’s father accepted it, as did the local vicar, because he baptised children of the second marriage. Did this happen often? Does anyone have a similar situation to this?
- 3] Why was a daughter called Nutty? She was baptised as Nutty in 1770, so it was not a nickname added later. Has anyone else seen this name? Does anyone know its origin?

- 4] Why did Edward Owtram leave the residue of his estate to his son Edward Owtram [born 1768] and not to his son George [born 1754]? Has anyone any ideas about this?

*Diana Moilliet [Mem 8509]
Wilderness, St Dunstan's Park,
Melrose, Scottish Borders, TD6 9RX
E-mail: andrewmoilliet@hotmail.co.uk]*

St Mary's Church, Stalbridge, Somerset



Seen in the above church—can anyone claim him or know anything about him? Kindly sent in by
*Valerie Jackson [Mem 56]
E-mail: valjackson500@gmail.com*

BREACH OF PROMISE

Selim Bright was a master goldsmith, a jeweller who also sold Derbyshire Spar and Ashford Marble from a shop in the Buxton Crescent. As old as the century, he lived into his nineties.

His son Michael Octavius Bright (1833–1892) was an assistant. One day in 1865 into the shop came Mrs. Dixon the wife of one of the family who owned a large Sheffield cutlery firm; she had brought her daughters to the Buxton “season” and with them was a 19 year old maid Annie Thorpe.

What happened next resulted in a breach of promise trial in Derby the next year. Annie’s lawyer read out extracts of “eighty folios of letters” she received between May and October 1865 after returning to Sheffield in which Michael clearly talked of marriage. The lawyer drew regular laughter from the court by exaggerating phrases from the letters. I interpret one of the last letters as saying that when he told his father that he wished to marry, he expected his father to set him up in a similar shop. However he claims his father refused feeling that marriage to Annie was unsuitable and so he “hoped she would understand.”

He told Annie she could keep the jewellery he had given her and offered her £20 for the return of his letters. The case proved against him Annie was awarded £500 damages.

The London Gazette reports that Bright, once of Buxton, now of Cheapside in London and of no occupation is now a bankrupt so perhaps Annie received little or none of the settlement.

As M Octavius Bright he was in court again in 1874 having paid a bill from a Manchester hatter with a cheque which was not honoured by the bank. The cheque was signed by Octavius and his father Selim Bright “a Buxton jeweller.” Selim Bright had to confirm in court that both signatures were in his son’s handwriting and that Michael Octavius had no authority to sign his name on a cheque.

I believe Bright was charged with fraud and deception at least twice more; one perhaps ending a short lived marriage in Sheffield and the last in 1882.

Michael Octavius married Catherine McKay, twenty years his junior, in Manchester Cathedral during 1883 and they lived in London; where he was working as a commission merchant in 1891. At his death in 1892 he left a

wife and three children.

His wife became a cookery teacher in a board school and one daughter became a teacher.

Geoffrey Sutton
E-mail: geoffsutt@sky.com

From 'Days in Derbyshire', by Spencer T Hall, published in 1863, recalling Derby as it might have been seen by William Hutton, the second edition of his history of Derby having been published in 1817

“Derby even then—and it is scarcely thirty years ago— was very different from Derby now, containing much less than half its present number of inhabitants. No Arboretum for the living, nor General Cemetery for the dead. No Railway Station nor Railway. No Midland nor Royal Hotel. No Temperance Hall, nor public Baths and Wash-houses, and the Town-hall a structure very unlike the present. The Jail then in Friar-gate, and not a house where Vernon-street forms so fair an approach to where it is now. The Infirmary on the London-road was quite in the country. The mile to Osmaston was as lonely as is now the mile beyond it. The mansion of Derwent Bank, so finely seated, had no neighbours in Duffield-road; and Kedleston-road, past the Elms, was as thinly inhabited. Babington House, now presenting so commercial a physiognomy, was then a most respectably dull old family residence. Exeter House, in Full-street, once the headquarters of the Prince Pretender, was still there, but has since been demolished to make an opening for a road. St. Helen's House, then noted as the residence of a family worthily distinguished, with its ample gardens and beautiful pleasure-ground - how changed! the house now in decay and the garden covered with streets. There was not then a single church in Derby with a spire—neither had the Roman Catholic church a tower, nor was the present Nunnery built. The ivied tower of old St. Alkmund's, like the stumpy one of its neighbour, old St. Michael's, was in singular contrast to that which was thought worthy to be dedicated to all the Saints. Many a private mansion then, is a public institution or place of business now. Stage-coaches and post-chaises were arriving at and departing from every large inn; and not a single omnibus or cab could be seen. Along Victoria-street ran the Markeaton Brook uncovered; Green-hill was a comparative solitude; Burton-road had the appearance, and almost the character, of a little town apart. The Old Silk Mill was still looked upon as a building of magnitude and importance, and Windmill Pit a place of historical interest that strangers were expected to visit.”

THE MISSING MOTHER – MARY ARGILE

I have been investigating the name Argyle/Argile family for many years and like many other families it has led to finding members in many countries of the world and helped to reconnect members. It has been a most rewarding investigation.

There are always a number of loose ends that I have not been able to tie up particularly as you work back to before the nineteenth century as records become more patchy. However I would like to solve the mystery of Mary Argyle, daughter of Samuel and Hannah Argile of Pentrich. She was baptised in Pentrich church in 1791, the daughter of Samuel Argile and Hannah Farnsworth, the family living in Hartshay. There were also other siblings.

In 1815 her daughter was baptised at Pentrich church, Emma Alton Argile; then in 1819 at Belper Independent chapel, Joseph Argile was baptised as Joseph Horton Argile, no father mentioned. From that date I have found no trace of Mary Argile.

It is interesting that Joseph was baptised in a different chapel, did the Pentrich vicar refuse to baptise another child with no father mentioned?

The surname Alton is fairly common in the Pentrich area, and I suspect the “Horton” of Joseph was probably an error, maybe due to dialect, and should have been Alton.

The two children then appear living in Scarthenick, when they both married. Emma showed no father on the marriage certificate, but Joseph showed the occupation of the father as a miller. Both families moved to Sheffield within a few years.

Mary Argile’s parents died in the early 1830s. I have traced no wills from them.

My suspicion is Mary probably had a liaison with one of the Altons, which I have no way of proving, but I wonder if anyone who has researched the Derbyshire Alton family has any information – a long shot, but you never know!

Ian Argyle,
Email: ian.rosecott@outlook.com

This article appeared on the same page as a report of a fatal accident involving my great grandmother, and I thought readers may find it interesting. Was it ever the same?

THE DERBY DAILY TELEGRAPH TUESDAY MAY 19TH 1931

PROTECTION FOR OUR PRODUCTS

Appeal of Lady Ferrers at Melbourne Quota System

'I am convinced that the Conservatives will be returned at the next election, but when we do get in no magic wand will solve our difficulties.'

Lady Ferrers said this when she presided at a meeting organised by Melbourne Conservative Association at the local public hall last night. Lady Ferrers added that their party must be united with less 'back biting' and grousing.

Mr G H Hogbin, prospective Conservative candidate for the Holland with Boston division, agreed that there was too much grousing in the party and added,

'In my own constituency, which I believe is the largest agricultural constituency in the country, I have had to listen to a great deal of grumbling about the little our party did for agriculture when in office during 1924 to 1929. During these years we passed 24 Acts and measures of benefit to agriculture.'

Sir Cecil Paget, a member of the audience,

'I lose £400 a year on my farm.'

Mr Hogbin continued, *'To my friend I would commend him to the sugar beet subsidy, the duty in imported hops, the assistance given for marketing and sales produce. What about rural housing, roads, the reduction in tax for agricultural motors and tractors, and the de-rating for farm land and buildings? I understand that de-rating Melbourne has benefitted by no less than £1000. The policy of the Conservatives in regard to agriculture was to protect our home products. The quota system would be an infinitely greater protection for wheat producers than a tariff.'*

Sir Cecil Paget caused a laugh when he asked, *'Is it not time that the Conservative Party pulled its finger out of its ear.'*

Mr Hogbin did not reply.

*Susan Boud [Mem 3018}
E-mail: sueboud@hotmail.com*

'Family Hearsay'

My paternal grandfather was Frederick William PLACKETT (b.1864 in Derby d.1947 in Sandiacre at 83). I just missed meeting him by 2 years. He married first Lydia BECK of Sandiacre in 1884 (abt.1863-1896 at 33) then, after her death, married her niece Hannah Mary HARTOPP in 1898 (1875-1945 at 70). I assume that Hannah was first employed as a nurse-maid for the children when Lydia became ill, but have not been able to confirm this. Frederick William had three children with Lydia, and then another nine with Hannah between 1885-1918 (when Douglas was born his eldest half-brother Hedley was already 33).

My paternal great-grandfather, Frederick William's father, was Frederick Thomas PLACKETT (b.1830 in Aston-on-Trent d. 1866 in Derby General Infirmary at 36). He married Jane STEVENS of Draycott Bridge in 1856 (1835-1926 at 91) and they had five children. He was a 'Goods Guard' on the railway and, it was said in the family, that he died in a railway accident. I spent a long time fruitlessly trawling the lists of train accidents and railway-related deaths and found nothing, but finally found the Derby Infirmary record of his death - 'from Pneumonia'. This is one of many instances of family hearsay becoming misleading. It is most likely that Frederick Thomas was involved in, perhaps, a minor accident whilst working on the railway which eventually led to complications and his death in hospital.

Frederick Thomas having died, Frederick William was left, at two years old, with his four siblings, fatherless. The youngest Thomas Alfred was born in the year his father died; the eldest Herbert Stevens was eleven. Jane (STEVENS) PLACKETT, now widow, married Henry Simon CUNDLIFFE of Macclesfield (1843-1916) and they had five children; now ten children in the family ranging over 24 years.

A quick 'aside' here: Agnes Hannah CUNDLIFFE (1876-1962 at 86), fourth child of Henry and Jane, married John BESTWICK of Long Eaton (1866-1910). Parents Henry and Jane, in their old age, then lived with Agnes and John on Derby Road, Sandiacre. Agnes (CUNDLIFFE) BESTWICK was my half-great aunt and spent her final days living alone in the tiny cottage behind the Risley Church graveyard where I met her a number of times as a boy. She was known in the family as Auntie Agnes.

Frederick William was then apprenticed/trained as a butcher and in 1881 was 'Grocers Assistant' to William Stevens in the Pork Butchers Shop, Church (now Town) Street, Sandiacre. William STEVENS of Canal Side, Sandiacre

(1824-1889) was Jane (STEVENS) PLACKETT CUNDLIFFE's eldest brother and Frederick William's uncle who bought up Frederick William and his sister Selina. In 1891 Frederick William was a Pork Butcher in the Co-op on Town Street. Now the second 'family hearsay' conundrum: Frederick William is said to have received a 'grant' from the Huguenot Society to pay towards his butchery training. This seems to support the wider 'hearsay': that the family is descended from a Huguenot immigrant family and the name Plackett is derived from Plaquet - a French surname widely distributed throughout northwestern France. This contention has been supported by references to the lace-making Placketts in Breaston, originally as cottage industry and later in the Plackett Lace Factory with a head office in the Lacemarket in Nottingham. However, the Huguenot Society can find no record of the grant.

Collating all the data about Derbyshire Placketts, much of which has come from the DFHS and Ancestry.com, we can trace all Placketts who come from Breaston, Long Eaton, Sandiacre, Stapleford and Nottingham - and other Derbyshire areas back to John PLACKETT resident in Ratcliffe-on-Soar (? 1642->1712) and his wife Ann ? of Stanford-on-Soar (d.>1702) who had eight children, and from whom all the Derbyshire Plackett contingent seem to be descended..

I needed to find out if John PLACKETT was indeed descended from a Huguenot line so I joined the Huguenot Society and investigated their extensive archives. There is no reference to the Plackett name in the Huguenot records. There are just two references to the Plaquet name: Jean PLAQUET and his son Pierre PLAQUET who was christened at the French Huguenot Church in Threadneedle Street, London 16 November 1628. (Pierre's wife is named as Madaleyne WILLOQUEAU). A link between John Plackett of Ratcliffe-on-Soar and Jean and Pierre Plaquet in London seems rather a 'long-shot' - but not, of course, impossible.

Then I found references to Placketts widely spread throughout Northamptonshire, including John PLACKETT (abt.1505-1546) in Little Brington, Northamptonshire and many more, and finally Robert PLACKETT (fl.abt.1371-1387) of Neubottel/Newbottle, Northamptonshire. Robert PLACKETT is mentioned in the Post-mortem Inquisition of William de Ferrariis/de Ferrers, III Baron Ferrers, Lord Ferrers of Groby (Leicestershire), (1332-1371) grandson of the fifth Earl of Derby, as a 'Bond Tenant' in Newbottle. A Bond Tenant was someone who swore fealty to the Lord of the Manor, to protect and support him in times of war and to perform duties on the Lord's land/demense as required; when not going about the Lord's business he was able to farm land of his own. He would have been mentioned

in the Post Mortem Inquisition of an important Lord, listed as an asset in his estate. The De Ferrers came over with William the Conqueror in 1066 and were awarded about 210 manors, many in Derbyshire and Northamptonshire. So now it seems possible that the Placketts (who may well then have been of the French Plaquet family) came over in the Norman army as ordinary soldiers (bondsmen fulfilling their duties to their Lord) associated with the Norman nobles, especially the De Ferrers lords, and were still serving them in the 1300s as humble agricultural workers. The De Ferrers lords came originally from Eure in Normandy, and the majority of French Plaquet families are still resident around north-west France.

Thus, Placketts may have been resident in Northamptonshire since the Norman conquest. Why then do we find one representative alone in Ratcliffe-on-Soar in the mid-1600s? Of course - the Civil War started in earnest in 1642 when Charles raised his standard on Standard Hill in Nottingham. In 1643, '45 and '46 royalist Newark-on-Trent was under siege by the parliamentarians, and in 1645 many royalists were massacred at Shelford (nr. Rushcliffe) - close to Radcliffe-on-Trent. Ordinary, mostly agricultural, workers joined the armies of both sides and Northamptonshire was an early centre of recruitment, unrest and skirmish. It is quite possible that John PLACKETT was part of this 'rabble-army' and marched from north Northamptonshire to Nottingham to be part of these battles. He may have escaped, become disillusioned, or seen a better life in prospect by moving along the Trent away from the fighting and ending up at Ratcliffe-on-Soar. It is not possible to tell which side he may have supported, but many Placketts in Derbyshire were 'chapel' rather than 'church' which may indicate a Puritanical leaning. He may have made his way down the Trent from Nottingham to reach the river Soar so that he could follow it down through Loughborough and Leicester and home to Northamptonshire; perhaps meeting Ann on his way through Stanford-on-Soar and deciding to stay. All this is of course conjecture and most probably unprovable - but is a more believable scenario than the 'family hearsay' of the Huguenot connection.

And a sting in the tail. So far we have assumed the French connection with the Placketts as immigrant Plaquets, either in 1066 or late-1500 to early-1600s. Plackett being a derivation of Plaquet (or Placquet, or Placet etc.), or, in my opinion, most likely a diminutive of the ancient French 'Plaquier' - 'a worker coating a wall with plaster or cement' (geneanet.org). That is, 'the plasterer'. However others have proposed a derivation from Blackett, an English name (or possibly Scottish) being 'black-head' or 'dark-haired'. That is, we may be British and not French at all!

The Blackett family, in their recent genealogical and family history book, cite Blackett as being from Blackheved and derived from (again) a Norman lord at Hastings. The Blackett centre continues to be based around Northumberland (Matfen and Stanhope) where they were assigned by William to repel Border Rievers from coming over the border from Scotland. The Blackett link is supported partially by the signature of 'Anth.(sic) Blackett alias Plackett' on a document of 1656 concerning the deafforestation of 'the late Forest of Galtres' (in Yorkshire). The Blacketts of Northumberland were very much involved in mining and spread their operations southwards into the English midlands. At Winster, Derbyshire there is the old (Lady) Placket(t) Lead Mine off Birchover Lane, dated <1540-1900. It is unclear how this mine got its name - should this, perhaps be Blackett Mine as there seems to be no Plackett family associations locally?

On the other hand, the Clan Douglas Society suggest that the Blacketts were, in fact, Scottish rieviers themselves, associated with the Bell family who's base is at Blacket House nr. Eaglesfield and that " ... this old West Marche Clan, one of the eight great riding families of the Scottish Border since the early 1100s, were retainers of the Great House of Douglas and also allied with the best border families through blood and friendship. Their land holdings were extensive, and to survive, they engaged in the "rieving" of the period and participated in many battles against the English." Perhaps the Norman de Ferrers connection is only 'family hearsay' too.

This is where I have got to in my researches - rather a brick wall. It may not be possible to trace a family line, person by person back in time, as before the 1600s records are scarce for the hordes of agricultural labourers who in death just disappear from history. Without doubt the Placketts, for hundreds of years, were in this class. But chance associations can appear from time to time that indicate the general direction of a family's history. So if anyone has further light to throw on our Plackett ancestors please let me know.

*Anthony Plackett [Mem 5717]
E-mail: tonyplackett@btinternet.com
6 Oak View, Earnshaw Bridge,
Leyland, Lancashire PR25 1YN*

WHAT IF?????

A DECISION IN DERBY CHANGED HISTORY

On Friday 6th December 1745 a decision was made in Derby which might have changed the course of history as well as the dynasty of the United Kingdom.

In 1745 King George II was on the Throne, put there by an Act of Parliament after chasing out the Catholic King James and turning to the Hanoverian and Protestant line. By now they were well entrenched, but a new generation was growing up in the person of a strikingly handsome Charles Edward Stuart, son of the Old Pretender and a legitimate heir, who decided to make another attempt to regain his father's rightful Throne. Loyalty to the old royal family still persisted and there were Jacobites everywhere, especially in Scotland where James was considered the Chief of Chiefs and the representative of Scotland's royal house since the early sixth century.

The old Highland clans were fiercely loyal to their chiefs and many of the chiefs were equally loyal to the Stuarts – although there were some exceptions. So when Charles landed at Glenfinnan on the West coast of Inverness-shire and raised his banner, the clans rallied to him and an army began to grow as he gradually worked his way through Scotland. The story of his arrival in Edinburgh and his early successes is familiar history. Flushed with triumph he marched with high hopes into England and made towards London where he confidently expected to take the crown.

On December 4th the Highlanders reached Ashbourne, via Lancaster, Preston and Macclesfield, and the Prince stayed at Ashbourne Hall. As at other places en route his father was declared James III and VIII by Proclamation. At Ashbourne this took place at the Market Cross, Charles wearing a 'scarf' over one shoulder and shaking hands with local girls that had turned out to see him. Jacobitism was strong in Derbyshire and between Ashbourne and Derby crowds of local people turned out to cheer and display the white cockade.

The Whig Duke of Devonshire and his son Hartington had come to Derby a few days before to arrange for the protection of the district. Several hundred men enlisted as a kind of 'home guard' and the Duke paraded them in a field outside the town. On Tuesday December 3rd, on hearing that the Jacobite army was within a few hours' march away, many of the town's principal citizens packed their valuables and left to stay with friends in the countryside,

and the Duke led away his volunteers by torchlight at 10 pm on the road to Nottingham, leaving Derby unprotected.

After a stop at Radbourne Hall the Highlanders at last reached Derby in the late afternoon of December 4th. It was growing dark and the Prince, on foot, walked into the centre of the town and was conducted to Full Street where he put up at Lord Exeter's House. After washing and refreshing himself he attended evensong at All Saints [now the Cathedral].

Derby, sadly, gave the Prince a luke-warm reception. The bells rang out, the Old Chevalier was proclaimed King but there was little demonstration in the streets. At this time a contemporary described the Prince as being a fine figure of a man, six foot in height with a majestic presence and a very good complexion. He wore a 'Scotch bonnet' with a white silver rose. The complexion, so often noted, was unusual as most people were disfigured by smallpox, which the Prince somehow managed to evade.

A local reporter from the Derby Mercury of December 12th wrote "*.....the vanguard rode into the town, consisting of about thirty men, clothed in blue, faced with red; most of 'em had a scarlet waistcoat with gold lace, and being likely men, made a good appearance. They were drawn up in the market place, and sat on horseback two or three hours; at the same time the bells were rung and several bonfires made to prevent any resentment from 'em that might ensue on our showing a dislike to their coming among us. About three in the afternoon Lord Elcho, with the life guards and many of their chiefs, also arrived on horseback, to the number of about one hundred and fifty, most of them clothed as above; these made a fine show being the flower of their army....they had several bagpipers.*"

Of the main body of infantry, the author of this piece of reporting was rather less flattering...."*a parcel of shabby, pitiful looking fellows....dressed in dirty plaids, dirty shirts without breeches....they really commanded our pity rather than our fear.*" What did he expect of a body of men who had just marched hundreds of miles over rivers of mud which then passed for roads in hard winter conditions and who had crossed the Pennines and splashed through boggy fells and icy rivers? It must also be remembered that Scotland was, to most English, a remote and foreign place, and its inhabitants regarded as illiterate barbarians at the best of times. What curiosity, surprise and perhaps contempt must have filled the minds of many English on beholding these tattered inhabitants from that distant land.

On the whole the response in England had been very disappointing and even at Manchester there had been talk of going back. Lord George Murray had

always advocated retreat if there was no general uprising in favour of the Prince or military help from France. All but the Prince himself looked gloomy, but so far he seemed to be unaware of any despondency until the following morning. That evening, in front of a roaring fire at Exeter House, he had talked about such details as whether he should wear full Highland clothes when he entered London.

Marching to meet the Jacobite army was the fat and odious Duke of Cumberland, a young man of the same age as the Prince who was also his cousin. He rode at the head of 10,000 trained soldiers. General Wade, with more forces, was also not far off. Things certainly looked black, but the Prince's instinct to go on was right. France was already arranging for a large force to land on the south coast and march on London in his support. Some of the highest in the land who were in public life and in London, pondered on whether to come out openly for King James and King George had practically packed his bags in readiness for a quick getaway back to Hanover, but to the dispirited Scottish leaders there seemed no future in going on.

In the cold dawn the Prince's high hopes of the previous evening were dashed when he had at last to face the real feelings among his followers. Eager to start, the Prince had risen early and was about to go out to see how things were progressing in the town. A chieftain, John Hay of Restalrig, who was with the Prince, afterwards wrote down his account of what happened: *"Charles was just going out and had put on his bonnet, when Lord George Murray came in and said to him that it was high time to think what they were to do; Charles asked him what he meant as he thought it was resolved to march on. Lord George said that most of the chiefs were of a different opinion, and thought that they should march back to Ashbourne and join the army from Scotland, which was believed to be following them fast."*

A Council was called soon afterwards at 8 am, probably in Exeter House itself. Those who were present with the Prince were Lord George Murray, the Duke of Perth, the Earl of Kilmarnock, Lord Elcho, Lord Ogilvy, Lord Pitsligo and several clan chiefs. The argument raged all morning of the 5th December, with Lord George Murray advocating immediate retreat while the passionate Prince declared "over my dead body". We will never know who was for and against or even what actually happened as no reports exist. But eventually the Prince was persuaded, much against all his instincts and better judgement, to agree to the retreat.

On Friday the 6th – known as Black Friday to Jacobites – the Prince emerged from Exeter House at nine o'clock, mounted on a black stallion, and turned towards the north. Sir John Macdonald was heard to say "A Macdonald turn

his back? For shame!”), thus voicing the secret thoughts of most of the Highlanders who found themselves marching back the way they had come instead of preparing for an encounter with Cumberland. Two hours later and there was hardly a Highlander left in the district and the long march to the terrible slaughter and final end of Jacobite hopes had begun.

So was Lord George right in his decision to retreat? The answer must be a firm ‘no’. With hindsight we can see that success generates success. The French and Welsh would have joined forces with him and those many thousands who nurtured a love of the Stuarts, but were at first reluctant to declare themselves would have been carried with the tide and joined the Prince. London was already on the verge of panic and the inhabitants prepared for an invasion.

The battle, on the other hand, might have been lost when Cumberland and the Prince met somewhere on the road, which is now the A6 between Derby and London. Even so it would have been a glorious defeat and not the genocide of Culloden. The Highlanders had a good chance of winning, their courage and toughness making up for their lack of formal training. Had the Bonnie Prince fallen in battle his memory and following would be no less passionate than it is today, it might have been even more so.

And if the Prince had marched to victory and become Charles III? Inevitably there would have been no Prince Regent, no Queen Victoria, no abdication and no Queen Elizabeth II. A completely new set of sovereigns would have shaped our history, maybe for better, maybe for worse. Something we shall never know, but it’s fun to speculate.

And Derby? Exeter House has long since gone, all but its panelling which once graced the Public Library and is now God knows where! Swarkestone Bridge, where an advance guard was posted and which was the southern most point of the march, still remains. All Saints is now known as the cathedral and it is here where one can best picture the Prince, full of hope and confident that God was on his side, kneeling in prayer and hoping for the victory that would never come. As for Ashbourne it is difficult to imagine this peaceful countryside being assaulted by the bagpipes and Gaelic oaths of the Highlanders. If only the sluggish inhabitants of Derby had roused themselves to ignore the blandishments of the Devonshires and declare themselves for their true King and Prince, the decision taken in Council on the 5th December 1745 might well have been different.

The Murder and Suicide near Pleasley

The inquiry was opened on Friday last before C.S.B. Rusby Esq. coroner and a respectable jury of whom E Hollowes Esq. jnr. was foreman. The jury having viewed the bodies, which already began to show traces of decomposition, the first witness was called.

Eliza Wass who deposed: I live at Houghton and am the daughter in law of the deceased John Wass. The young man lying dead is Robert Brown farm servant, who died yesterday 2nd April, aged 19 years.

The widow of the deceased John Wass was the next witness. She was highly distressed and sobbed most bitterly.

She deposed: The body viewed by the jury is that of my late husband, John Wass, farmer. He died yesterday aged 64.

My late husband went to bed after me on Wednesday night. I went about 10 o'clock, and he came up soon after. He called the men up in a little after four -yesterday morning, and got up himself about half an hour after. He called the men several times before they got up, and complained of their not getting up at once.

He said, Oh dear me, they will not get up by calling or ringing I shall be forced to get up myself. He then got up himself, and went down. I went off to sleep again, and perhaps half an hour after I heard the report of a gun going off downstairs. I came down undressed at once, and saw the man (Brown) lying on the floor in the kitchen. I went to him directly. I tried to raise him up, and my son Wm came in and helped me to do so. Then I sent him for some Brandy. I could hardly tell whether Brown was alive or dead then. I tried to get some gin into his mouth, but his teeth were set. My son William and me brought him into the house, and put him on the floor there (indicating one side of the room).

I had not seen my husband then. My husband afterwards came upstairs to me while I was dressing, and gave me his purse out of his pocket and said, "Take it and take care of it" There was little money in it. He then came downstairs. He was not a minute up. I came down for a few minutes after. I did not see my husband then but in about five minutes after I heard the gun go off in the parlour. They could not open the door and I went round and looked through the window, and saw my husband lying dead.

(The witness here became faint and had to have some water given to her)

Deceased shaved last on Monday morning. It was not unusual for him to carry his razors in his pocket, (a razor was found in his pocket after he had shot himself) He generally kept his razor in the parlour cupboard. My husband has been in a very low way some time. He began to be unwell last August and complained of a pain in his legs.

He could not walk much. He did not appear to have his mind affected. He was nervous and low. Mr Sparks, surgeon of Mansfield, attended him. Mr Sparks last saw him alive, last Sunday but one. Mr Bowmer's death on the 1st of January excited my husband very much.

By the Jury: He seemed as if he could not remember. He thought the barn was robbed. The gun was kept in the house to shoot crows. It was a single barreled gun. He was much milder than before in his temper.

The gun was here produced. It is an ordinary single barreled one.

By the Jury: My husband never threatened to kill himself.

Mary Wilson wife of Thomas Wilson, and sister of Mrs Wass deposed: I have lived here 7 years since my husband left me. I came downstairs about half past five yesterday morning. I was alone in the kitchen, the men being in the stable.

I was boiling the men's milk for breakfast, and stooping down putting more sticks on the fire, heard the report of a gun close to me. I turned round and saw the master going into the parlour. I did not see whether he had anything in his hand, but I ran into the kitchen at once. I had not seen him in the room before I heard the gun. I ran into the kitchen "and the man was dropped". He was lying on one side, and his head on the step. I tried to remove his arm, and said "Robert" a time or two, but he gave no answer, but made a sigh. My sister ran downstairs in her nightdress. She said "oh dear" what is this. She then went upstairs, and I followed her. The master came to her and brought the purse and said "Take this, and take care of it". In a short time he was missing and soon after I heard a report of a gun in the parlour.

The deceased, Brown summoned Mr Wass some time back for assaulting him. He struck the lad with a three grained fork, but I believe the lad struck him too. They made up the case. They frequently quarrelled, and had had words about a naked candle in the building. Mr Wass had frequently found a candle naked in the stable. Mr Wass said he would not allow it as the place would be on fire. Brown said he had done it before and they had high words. They often quarreled.

A sister of Mr Wass went deranged. I believe she was in an asylum once.

By the Jury: Wass never used threats to the boy. Brown used threats towards Wass and this agitated him. He threatened to knock Wass's brains out. Wass has complained to me of Browns foul language. Brown was a yearly servant hired last May.

George Ellis, farming lad to deceased, aged 15, deposed: I got up yesterday at 25 minutes past four. No one was up except Robert Brown. We went in the stables and stayed there for half an hour doing the horses. Master then came in the stables. There was no one else except Brown and myself. Master told me to take some hay in the cow house. Brown said if he gave some hay to the cows in that fashion they would soon eat more than the horses. Master said nothing to that but went along the causeway to come into the house. When master got near the gate he grumbled because Brown had not got the horses done. He said "You ought to have done the horses long since". Brown was going to pull his watch out but found he had not got it. He asked master what time he would have the horses done. Brown wanted to send me in for the watch and I would not come in for it. Brown then came in himself for it. He and the master did not talk angrily together.

When Brown came in the house I was on the causeway against the stable. I did not see Brown any more alive. I heard the gun go off in about 5 minutes. I ran up the close when I heard the gun go off and remained there until Frederick Marshall shouted me down and told me to go and fetch the policeman. I have heard Brown and the master quarrel often. Master and Brown quarreled almost every time they came in the stable. I would not fetch the watch because I was afraid Mr Wass would be hitting me. About 2 months ago Wass said hanging was too good for me. When Brown asked me to fetch the watch I said I would not come in by myself. I was frightened. Brown said "I durst go in" Wass appeared very angry when he came in the house. I saw Wass go past the window with the gun after he had shot Brown.

Frederick Marshall labourer said: I heard that Mr John Wass the deceased, had shot his man. I came straight down to the place I found the servant man Brown lying on the floor of the house place, with his head reared against the cupboard. I examined him and found he was quite dead. Pembleton and I put a pillow under his head, and we remained in the house awhile before we could find where Mr Wass was. The missis came down stairs ,and we inquired of her where he was. She said she didn't know, and told us to look round – he might be in the parlour.

Pemberton and I went to the parlour door, and as we got to it we heard a

report of a gun in the parlour. I ran out of the house, and sent the boy off on horseback for the policeman. I then came back and went in the parlour, and found Mr Wass had shot himself, and was dead on the floor. We could not tell where the wound was until he was washed. The gun was lying at his feet. I heard Wass fall against the door after the gun went off.

James Pembleton, labourer, Shirebrook: I followed Marshall into the houseplace, and found Brown on the floor reared against the cupboard. He was dead. In about 20 minutes Mrs Wass told us to go and look for the master. I went into the parlour, and just as I opened the door the gun went off and smoke came in my face and suffocated me. I called for help, and something came bump against the door and shut it. Mrs Wass went to the window and said Mr Wass had shot himself, and I then forced the door open. I found Mr Wass on the floor with his head against the door. He was wounded in the head. He just drew breath once and died.

John Haslam, labourer, Stoney Houghton deposed: That he undressed the deceased Brown. There was a wound on his back on the right side. It was about as large as a hen egg. The shirt produced with a large hole underneath the position of the shoulder blade was the one upon him. The wound appear to be caused by shot. There are shot marks on the wall (The jacket and coat of the deceased were produced each with a large hole in them).

John Wass son of the deceased farmer, was called to prove that his father generally kept the gun loaded, and took it upstairs when he went to bed at night.

Haslam, recalled, proved searching the clothes of both Wass and Brown. On the former he found a razor, two knives (clasp) a bullet, powder flask, and one percussion cap also 6s 6d in money and some keys.

James Wass, colliery agent, then deposed: I am the eldest son of the deceased. I came over a fortnight ago. My father was agitated in his manner, and seemed sunk in his flesh. He was much annoyed by Brown's conduct. He would get up and walk about and seem as if he did not know what he was doing. He complained of his stomach and his heart, and I did not think he would live long. He was very irritable and would take up things in a purposeless way. I advised him to walk in the fields more. He would draw the clock up two or three times and constantly open the case. He had no delusions. He offered a cow a few days back at considerably less than its value.

George Wakefield Sparks, surgeon, Mansfield: I attended Mr Wass for about

ten years. He had been in a nervous hypochondriacal way lately – for 6 or 8 months. He had suffered from dyspepsia, and fancied that he was worse than he was. He never exhibited traces of insanity as far as I could tell. He was always perfectly rational. I saw him 10 days ago and thought him rather better. He was never ill enough to be confined to the house, I do not think he had any disease of brain, which would prevent him having control of his actions. I considered him weak and nervous. I believe him to be perfectly sane. I have never heard of his doing anything queer. He made his will some short time ago. I had advised him to do so as he troubled himself about business. I consider him to be suffering from nervous irritability but not madness.

There is a mortal gun shot wound in Mr Wass's head, and a similar wound in the body of Brown. He is shot through the lungs. I consider the charge was fired at a distance of 5 yards.

By the Coroner:- I consider Mr Wass to be responsible for his actions, although irritable. The irritation was that of anger, and no doubt the deed was done in the frenzy of passion.

The Coroner said he had so far heard no evidence of insanity.

The jury having asked a few questions, the Coroner summed up the evidence, leaving it to the jury to consider whether Wass was guilty of murder or manslaughter in the case of Brown, and whether they considered him to be sane at the time he fired the shot, and also leaving it to them to decide whether he committed suicide whilst insane or otherwise.

The jury debated an hour and a half and then decided that Brown was shot by Wass while insane, and that he committed suicide in a state of unsound mind. The inquiry lasted upwards of 5 hours.

Derbyshire Times and Chesterfield Herald 11th April 1868

*Jonathan Wass [Mem 1638]
E-mail: jwass@talktalk.net*

The Battle of The Flowers – WW1 Peace Day 1919

In a recent article (The Battle of the Flowers - March 2022) the editor/Helen talked about the Derby peace medals and whether any still existed.

So far I have not come across any of the children's peace medals or cups from the gala but I have come across an unusual peace medal. Just to explain I am a researcher with the Darley Abbey Historical Society and our first world war project looks not at the men from the village who died but at the men who came home from the war – Using the census and service records of the 113 men listed on the St Matthews Church Roll of Service.

A former Darley Abbey resident lent us her great uncles war medals to be recorded and photographed. Amongst these were the British War/Victory Medals and also a “Darley Abbey” Peace Medal.



As you can see from the photos the medal is similar to other peace medals with the wreath design around the perimeter and the words “Peace -1919” in the middle of the medal. However on the obverse it is inscribed with the word Darley Abbey and the recipient's name - T Wren Jnr RAF. This medal appears to have been hallmarked (i.e Silver) and the hallmarks “Anchor” for Birmingham, “Lion Passant” for the London Assay Office, “U’ for 1919 and additionally a makers mark, “WJD’ for William James Dingley of Warstone Lane, Birmingham. Dingley was a noted silversmith and medal maker.

Compare this with the children's peace medals which were made of lead and were inscribed with Alderman Rowbotham's name. See over for pictures.



So where did this medal come from? Was it one of the special medals awarded for the sports events and the regatta held in Darley Park? However “Thomas Wren’s” name is not on the list of winners so it is unlikely to be one of these.

If Thomas' medal had been won at the regatta why would he have had his name inscribed as T Wren Jnr and why add RAF and not the competition won? One of the Life Saving medals awarded at the regatta recently came up for auction and it is quite different in design with the name and competition won inscribed on the obverse of the medal.

Is it more likely that Mrs Ada Evans of Darley Hall paid for commemorative medals for some or all of the men listed on the Roll of Service (113 in total) and hence why Thomas is listed in this way together with his service in the RAF. (At this period the Evans family although they no longer owned the Mills still owned all the property in the village).

From the census records there is more information about the family;

In 1911 Thomas Wren Snr and his sons Thomas Wren Jnr and William were living at 4 Hill Square Darley Abbey. Thomas Jnr aged 14 was working in the Evans Mill as a “knotter”, William being listed as a schoolboy aged 12.

Their father Thomas was a veteran of the Boer War and re-enlisted in the Notts and Derbys regiment in Oct 1914, his records show the family had moved in the meantime to 2 Poplar Row.

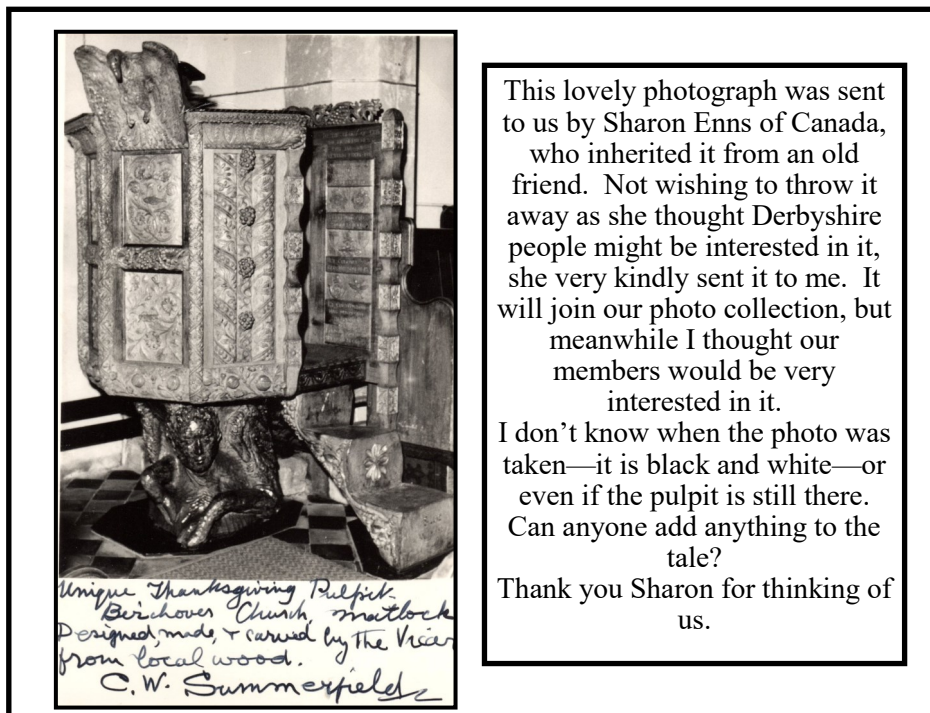
There is a photo of William in army uniform but there are no army records, just a newspaper reference to a Pte W Wren being discharged from the army in 1918.

Thomas Jnr records show that he joined the RAF in March 1918 aged 23 but there is some discrepancy in the ages shown, however his father is listed as “next of kin” to Thomas Wren of 2 Poplar Row so despite this it is likely that this is the correct record.

Unfortunately only a few records exist so some questions remain. Where was Thomas Jnr before he joined the RAF? Was he in a Reserved Occupation or did he join the army and later transferred to the RAF as it would be unusual that he only entered military service in 1918 when he was in his twenties.

If you have any thoughts about Thomas or have any Darley Abbey relatives please let me know as it would add to the project.

*Liz Lockwood [Mem 2081]
E-mail: b.plockwood@btinternet.com*



This lovely photograph was sent to us by Sharon Enns of Canada, who inherited it from an old friend. Not wishing to throw it away as she thought Derbyshire people might be interested in it, she very kindly sent it to me. It will join our photo collection, but meanwhile I thought our members would be very interested in it.

I don't know when the photo was taken—it is black and white—or even if the pulpit is still there. Can anyone add anything to the tale?

Thank you Sharon for thinking of us.

CHURCHES OF DERBYSHIRE

67. Dale Abbey All Saints

The story of the foundation of Dale Abbey is now history. In the reign of King Stephen a baker of Derby abandoned his calling and took up the life of a religious recluse, in a cave he had carved in a nearby rockface. After his



death a pious lady persuaded the Augustinian canons of Calke Priory to found a sister house. But the new priory was short lived. After about twenty years the canons were ejected by Henry II for persistently offending against forest law and sent back to Calke.

The Premonstratensian canons of Topholme in Lincolnshire were the next to set up a house in Deepdale.

But this attempt quickly failed when the Prior killed himself after being forcibly parted from his mistress. So it was not until William Fitzpatrick, Seneschal of Normandy, added endowments that the abbey was successfully founded in about 1200, the church being started soon afterwards.

Of the church the only recognisable feature that survives today is the great east window and the bases of the columns, all early English in style and consistent with a building date in the thirteenth century.

Nothing now remains of the Abbey either, apart from the old Infirmary and Chapel plus a few odd ruins that can be seen down the hillside. But walk round the village and fragmentary remains appear built into the houses. There are remains of a gate house in a farmyard and another house was built out of what was formerly the abbey kitchen.

All Saints itself shares its roof with the once infirmary, once pub, now private house. When it was a pub—the Blue Bell—there was a connecting door through from the church and anyone who walked from pew seat to bar stool was said to be going ‘from salvation to damnation’. These words may have

originated with the Rector in 1820, who reportedly ordered the door to be bricked up.

Inside the church all is as it was in 1634—which is when the pulpit with clerk's pew and reading desk was installed. The screen and the box pews, all higgledy piggedly and overflowing into the aisle, date from the seventeenth century or before. It is possible to sit in one of the box pews with your back to the vicar, who deals with a pulpit that leans at a very tipsy angle.

On the north wall are the remains of a medieval wall painting depicting the Visitation. This was discovered under layers of plaster in 1931, where it had been hidden for some six centuries. Greatly restored it is worth seeing. Most unusually there is a gallery, which it is believed was once used by the infirm patients, to separate them from the healthy flock downstairs.

The font which once stood in the abbey church served as an ornamental urn in the gardens of Stanton Hall for many years, but in 1880 was returned to Dale and is now the font of the little church. There is also a chalice which, in spite of the church's tiny proportions, is reputed to be the largest in England.

An old chair was presented by the 4th Earl Stanhope, a branch of the Earls of Chesterfield. This 4th Earl was a nephew of William Pitt and died in 1855. He had a great affection for this church and called it 'my little cathedral'. After he presented the chair it became known as the 'Bishop's Throne', the implication being that Lord Stanhope was the Bishop, a joke that carried on even after his death. His memorial tablet reads "The Right Hon. Philip Henry, Earl Stanhope, of Chevening, Kent, Lord of the Manor and Lay Bishop of this Church, who died March 2 1855". Apparently the original inscription read 'Bishop of this Church', but the word 'lay' was added in order not to offend anybody.

Because the church was controlled by the Abbey it was outside diocesan jurisdiction, which made it a 'Peculiar'. For this reason marriages could be performed without the reading of banns. Thus, before the 1753 Marriage Act, Dale Abbey was the Gretna Green of the Midlands and 50 or more weddings took place there each year. Always worth a look if you have lost someone in this sort of area who might have run to this church to get married.

WHAT THEY DID NOT TELL ME

My parents were not very interested in 'family' – my father would answer questions if asked, but my mother was very dismissive. My grandmothers talked mainly about their childhood – I only wish I had asked them more.

The only time photographs were ever brought out was when my oldest child started at secondary school. The class was given a project to do. They were to go to three elderly members of their family and ask them about their early lives, then they were to write it all up, with photos, and family trees. Our next child had to do the same, but unfortunately not the third. My parents helped with this and I learned a lot I did not know.

It was only when I retired and became interested in genealogy and particularly when I joined Ancestry that I realised just how much I had not been told!

I would like to start with the family of my mother's mother, **Elsie Brown**

Elsie's ancestors

Henry Brown (b 1800) Lacemaker of Lenton had the following children; Mary Ann, Charles, Eliza (b 1840), Alice (b 1844) and five others.

Charles had a son Charles Wass Brown

Eliza Brown was the unmarried mother of Ernest Brown (1868) born in Lenton but raised in Darley Abbey. Father of Elsie Brown (1889) plus three more children.

Elsie married George Stanley Fletcher in Derby in 1915, and they were my grandparents.

Elsie was born and grew up in Darley Abbey, and she and her sisters and her father worked in the Evans Mills there. They lived in one of the Mill cottages in Brick Row, they had cousins living next door, and other family in the village. My grandmother had a happy childhood and talked about it a lot, but she always seemed to imply that the family was very poor. For instance, she still remembered how envious of her friend she was, when her friend was given a wooden pencil box with a sliding lid and which had a top part that swung open. Elsie's parents could not afford one for her. My father put their poverty down to the fact that Elsie's father Ernest was illegitimate, and this held him back in his career at the Mill.

With the help of Ancestry I looked at the history of this family. Elsie's father Ernest Brown was born in October 1858 Park St Lenton and was indeed

illegitimate. Ernest's grandfather Henry Brown a lacemaker was very concerned with Ernest's welfare. Ernest initially lived with his grandparents, his mother and her youngest sister Alice. But there seemed to be a lot of illness in this family home. Ernest's aunt, Jane Brown, had died there of phthisis in February 1858, aged 28, Ernest's grandmother died in August 1859 of apoplexy, and may well have been ill for some time already. Ernest's mother Eliza Brown died in 1866 of phthisis – maybe she was already ill when Ernest was born. So it was decided to send Ernest as a nurse child (foster child) to Darley Abbey, which would be a much healthier place for this young child to grow up, and where there would be work for him in the Mill when the time came.

Over the years grandfather Henry grew quite wealthy, as did many lace makers in Nottingham. Henry's youngest daughter Alice, was married to a solicitor's clerk, who, as the son of a gentleman also appears to have been quite wealthy. and the couple had no children. Henry and Alice decided to put their wealth towards having some Almshouses built. The money was put into a Trust, and would be invested wisely. Henry died in 1889, Alice in 1909, but the interest from the money was to be shared between Ernest and Charles Wass Brown, another (I think) illegitimate grandson of Henry, until the death of the last of the two cousins. Ernest died in 1915, and Charles Wass in 1932. The Almshouses were then built, according to Alice's detailed instructions (nobody quarrelsome or with a drink problem need bother to apply!) and they are still there now.

This was news to me. But given that Alice died in 1909, and Ernest in 1915, that meant that for six years Ernest should have received a substantial income from the Trust. I had heard nothing at all about this – I just presumed that the trustees in Nottingham had lost touch with or forgotten about Ernest.

It is well over ten years since I found out about the details of Alice's will, but I only recently had another look at this family when I began writing this article. Ernest had left a will - £518, which according to Wikipedia is worth about £50,000 in today's money. Some of that money must have come from the Trust - a millworker would not have earned so much money. Also Elsie's brother, who died in Flanders in 1916, also left a will - £189 - about £15,000 today. Elizabeth would surely have been the beneficiary of both these wills.

Elsie and her sister Gertrude married in 1915 and 1925 respectively, and left home. Gertrude died in 1933. The third sister, another Alice, born 1894, 'was a mother's help' in the 1911 census. Alice was weak-minded, although in the 1939 Register she was working as a cotton spinner at the Mill, but I'm not sure she always worked.

Elizabeth died in 1946 at the age of 84, and Alice was still living with her. So Elizabeth lived for 31 years and probably supported from her inheritances. She died of senility. They must both have needed a lot of help from my grandmother in Derby – my grandmother looked after me sometimes and I remember being taken to Darley Abbey. In about 1950, Alice could cope no longer and went to the Pastures Hospital.

The Brown family held yet another surprise that I doubt if my grandmother knew about. Henry Brown the lace maker had a daughter Mary Ann, who married into a very wealthy lace making family. Henry and Alice provided for Mary Ann's children in their wills, but the bulk went to Ernest and Charles Wass as they presumably considered Mary Ann's children would be adequately provided for by their father's family.

Mary Ann had seven children. One of her sons Charles Henry died quite young, and his widow Mary earned her living from making children's frocks. Mary and her son Sidney went on to found the Bairnswear knitwear factory. But this was not Sidney's only achievement - Sidney Shephard was MP for Newark, he was part of Churchill's cabinet, he was High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire, Master of the Hounds and had residences in Elston and in Scotland, but he was my grandmother's second cousin! All this time Elsie was sitting in the back room of her small terraced house in Derby, unpicking jumpers and reknitting them (probably to Bairnswear patterns) and turning skirts and sheets, and doing everything possible to save money.

Next I would like to write about the family of Elsie's husband George Stanley Fletcher.

George's ancestors

Thomas (1814) and Frances Clark (1818) of Faversham had the following children: Samuel Stephen, Eliza Clark 1842, Walter James and Albert George (snr) plus four more children.

Eliza married George Fletcher (1838) in Gloucestershire in 1865. They had the following children: Charles Henry, Albert George (jnr) 1868, Thomas William and three daughters.

Albert George Fletcher (jnr) married Emma Bramwell near Buxton. They had one son George Stanley and five daughters.

George Stanley Fletcher married Elsie Brown of Darley Abbey in 1915, and they were my grandparents.

Albert George Fletcher was born in Gloucestershire, and his wife was born in Burbage near Buxton. Albert George was employed by the Midland Railway and transferred to Buxton, where he must have met her. Within a

few years he had been transferred to Derby where they stayed. My mother's cousin remembers hearing rumours about a railway fatality in the family, under the bridge at Buxton, but there were no more details. It was always presumed however, that the fatality was one of Emma's relatives because they were the people who came from that area. I looked up Emma's family in the censuses; her father had five brothers and her mother also had five brothers, but these uncles were mostly weavers or coalminers or agricultural labourers – just one of them was a plater in 1871. However, he was living in Whaley Bridge, 35 miles away from Buxton, and, in any case, in the 1881 census he was a farmer of 17 acres, and certainly not fatally injured.

So memories got confused over the years. But I think there was indeed a family railway fatality which occurred in Bath, several years before Albert George (jnr) and Emma ever met.

This incident introduces another Eliza – Eliza Clark of Faversham who married George Fletcher of Gloucestershire in 1865. George was a farmer, or a teasel grower or a labourer on various documents. Then children arrived, and George must have realised that he would be much better off if he could find employment with the Railway than remaining a casual labourer. By 1873 they had moved to Wellingborough where he soon became a railway servant. He was then transferred to Bath, to the splendid Bath Green Station on the Midland Railway.

On the marriage certificates of his sons Charles and Thomas, George was declared to be a shunter. There was a marshalling yard at Bath Green Station. Shunting was dangerous work, and shunters were at the bottom of the Railway hierarchy. They had to couple and uncouple moving wagons, there was no cover from the elements as there was for drivers and guards. Accidents were commonplace – apparently at the Toton sidings in Nottinghamshire an ambulance carriage was kept on standby for dealing with emergencies. It must have been specially difficult in winter with snow and frost making the track and rails slippery. And indeed, there was a date of death for George Fletcher in a family bible, which had been shown to my mother's cousin - 21st January 1879. Poor George had been crushed. I heard nothing about this from my family.

On the 1881 census George's wife Eliza is still living in Bath with her six children. - she was a widow. I have never found a public record of George's death, nor a local burial. Due to recent circumstances I have not travelled to Bath to look up old newspapers and burial records, but I am as sure as I can be that George Fletcher is the subject of the family rumour.

George's death must have been a terrible shock for Eliza, but she did marry again, just over seven years later. This, I must admit, made me very suspicious – had George become disenchanted with the responsibilities of a growing family and the horrors of shunting, and done a runner? After seven years he could be declared dead and Eliza would be free to marry again. But on reflection, I do not think this is the case. Firstly, two years after George's death Eliza was still living in a Railway cottage – with one exception, all the occupants of nearby cottages were railway employees. Secondly, Eliza had been given work at Bath Green station. She was a Ladies Attendant. But this station was a splendid building, and it must have been quite a prestigious position. Thirdly, her two oldest sons had been offered office work on the Midland Railway at Bath, not track work. The Railway was well known for its generosity to widows and orphans of its employees' but they would have to be sure to help out only genuine cases in order not to give employees the wrong idea. (In fact her son, Albert George (jnr) worked for the Midland Railway until he retired. Her eldest son, Charles Henry, on the other hand, did what I suspected his father of doing – he absconded at Long Eaton without notice and joined the Army!)

This was however not the only tragic accident that happened in Eliza's close family. Eliza had three brothers – Samuel Stephen, Walter James and Albert George (snr). Samuel had decided very early on that his career was going to be at sea – he became a master mariner and emigrated to New Zealand in about 1873. The same year, the other two brothers decided to emigrate to Tasmania to work on the construction of the Railway there. They boarded the *Northfleet*, a three masted sailing ship which left Gravesend on 13th January 1873 laden with 340 tons of iron rails and 240 tons of other building material. There were 34 crew, three cabin passengers and 342 assisted emigrants. The weather was very bad, and on the night of 22nd January the *Northfleet* was forced to drop anchor 5km off Dungeness. The ship was run down by a steamer, and sank within less than half an hour. 293 people were drowned and only 86 were saved. I expect that news of the shipwreck reached the brothers' family in Faversham before the complete list of those who were saved or drowned – imagine their parents' anguished wait. Walter James was drowned at the age of 24, and his body was never found, but Albert George (jnr) aged 19 was saved. Undeterred by this terrible experience, he emigrated to Virginia in the late 1870's, married, had two sons and many grandchildren.

So in less than six years Eliza had lost her brother and her husband in fatal accidents. And I only found out about this when I started researching my family.

Now I would like to reveal the surprises which came out when I looked at the family of my other grandmother Ellen (Nellie) Burns of Long Eaton.

Nellie's ancestors

William and Sarah Burns had Elizabeth, Abigail, Hugh, Joseph and Eliza and four more children.

Joseph married Emma Davies and they had three children Albert Joseph, Nellie and Edith Minnie.

Hugh married Alexina Harris and they had three children, Bertha, Francis and Olive

Francis and his wife Gertrude Button had three children, Alan Douglas, Donald Francis and Laurence Hugh Henry.

Nellie was born in Long Eaton, but her mother Emma Burns died when she was six, so Nellie was brought up by her father's eldest sister Elizabeth who was married to William Tarry. They lived in Derby. Nellie's sister Edith Minnie was adopted by Eliza Burns, another sister of her father, who was married to Samuel Griffiths. The three of them emigrated to Pawtucket in Rhode Island. Nellie told me a bit about this, as she visited her sister in 1938, but I had not realised that another aunt was involved. Nellie's brother Albert Joseph stayed with his father, but yet another aunt, Abigail, took Albert Joseph under her wing – and she remembered him very generously in her will in 1941. Sadly he died less than three years later – he was an electrician and he was thrown off his ladder when he touched a live wire. He died of pulmonary thrombosis and bronchial pneumonia. His death certificate calls it an 'accident', but my father told my husband (why not me?) that a safety switch had been interfered with. Albert Joseph was 59.

Nellie's father Joseph died in Long Eaton in 1915. When I first started to become interested in Family History I decided I wanted to go and see if I could find his grave – and we actually did! To my great astonishment, the inscription stated that Joseph Burns was the beloved husband not of Emma, but of Alice! My father had died by then, so I asked my Uncle, and he knew all about it! Why had nobody had told me! Nellie was always bitter and frequently complained that her father had 'given her away', but she never mentioned an Alice to me.

When I joined Ancestry, I looked all this up. I started to see Nellie's point. Joseph had 'fostered out' his two daughters: his new wife, a widow had seven children. The youngest, twin boys, went to live at the Railway Orphanage in Derby, but several of the daughters must have moved into the family house. And not only that, Joseph and Alice had another daughter together, Elsie. I only found out about them from the records. Why did nobody ever tell me

that Nellie had a step-mother and stepsister?

The one member of Nellie's family I knew was Auntie Bertha, daughter of Joseph's brother Hugh. She was not married and lived in Breaston with her friend Dorothy. Bertha visited Nellie quite often and my father sometimes took Nellie over to Breaston. After I went away to Uni in 1964 I didn't see Bertha again.

Bertha was one of the first people whose death I looked up in Ancestry – in those days we had to search the GRO Quarter by Quarter. This took ages, because she lived until she was 95, and died in the Manor Hospital in Derby in 1979. That was where Nellie lived from 1971 to 1975 – I wonder if they ever met, or recognised each other.

I sent for Bertha's Death Certificate and another surprise was waiting – Bertha's death had been reported by her nephew, Laurence Burns. That meant that Bertha had a brother – I'd never heard him mentioned. He was called Francis Hugh and had died a long time ago in 1915. He had married, and he and his wife Gertrude had three sons, Alan Douglas, Donald Francis who died as a baby and Laurence Hugh Henry who died in 1988.

I could not find a date of death for Douglas Alan. Then Ancestry came to the rescue again. What it showed was that he had died in Burma as a prisoner of war and was buried in Thanbyuzayat War Cemetery in Myanmar. All of this shocked me – surely Bertha would have told Nellie, and Nellie would have told my father. He had several work colleagues and acquaintances who, even if they had fortunately survived, had suffered greatly as prisoners of war of the Japanese. And Alan Douglas was his second cousin.

I could find no death announcement in the Long Eaton Advertiser, but there was an article that his wife had sent in – a postcard from Alan Douglas saying he was well, and there was a photo. The postcard arrived in August 1943, but sadly by then he had already died, on July 27th 1943.

*Kathleen Geary [Mem No 6773]
E-mail: kmgeary36@hotmail.com*

AGM TALK ON ZOOM

VIC HALLAM

Following the AGM, we were given a talk by Robert Mee about Vic Hallam, a gentleman well known in the Marlpool, Langley Mill and Heanor areas in Derbyshire and Eastwood in Nottinghamshire.

Herbert Victor Hallam was born 1898 in Marlpool, one of six children to John and Clara. He initially followed his father down the mines but then joined his brother in poultry breeding. They made poultry sheds for their own use, then went on to sell them. The pool at Marlpool was drained and Vic bought the land in order to expand the business. He married in 1924 and he was joined in the business by his two brothers. They progressed from building poultry equipment to making all kinds of wooden outbuildings.

In 1938 they got the contract from the Miner's Welfare Committee to build a holiday camp at Skegness. New premises were obtained on the Nottinghamshire side of the river at Eastwood and the Valley Works were built. It was requisitioned by the government in 1940 as a munitions factory before the company could move in. It wasn't until 1946 that they moved in and they started to progress in to luxury items such as radio cabinets.

In the 1950s, when there was a shortage of school classrooms they began to produce prefabricated classrooms, then it was entire schools. This led to prefabricated houses and wood framed houses. They expanded back across to Langley Mill.

Several times the factory flooded being near to the river and the canal and in the mid 1960s the course of the River Erewash was altered and part of the canal was filled in. In 1962 the first motorway services station was built by them and erected on the M6.

The business went in to decline in the 1970s fighting a hostile takeover in 1973. Vic died in 1991 and the Company and the site finally closed in 1995.

DERBYSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ZOOM MEETING
Tuesday 6th April 2022, 7.00pm

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

APOLOGIES

None

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

These were made available to the members who had registered for the Zoom meeting and were accepted by those present.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Stephen Orchard gave his final report as Chairman
There were no questions.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The accounts for 2021 were audited and acceptance was proposed by Ann De Silva seconded by Brian Slack and with a show of hands.

Michael Bagworth gave the Treasurer's annual report.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Due to the resignation of Stephen Orchard as Chairman the election of a new one was required.

A nomination by Ruth Barber for Brian Slack to be offered the position was made and seconded by Mike Bagworth. The nomination was accepted by a show of hands. Brian agreed to accept the position.

Secretary	Ruth Barber
Treasurer	Michael Bagworth
Librarian	Helen Betteridge
Membership Sec.	Catherine Allsop-Martin

ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following members were nominated and duly elected by a show of hands.

David Brown, Alan Foster and Ken Wain.

DERBY MEETING GROUP ORGANISER

Brian Slack

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Michael Bagworth proposed that Steven Wells again be appointed as INDEPENDENT EXAMINER for 2022. Voted on and unanimously agreed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Brian updated us on the progress of the Open Day to be held on Wednesday 8th June 2022 in the Italian Suite at The Museum of Making. Two speakers and 17 groups and organisations have been booked for the day.

Monthly meetings are due to start in September via Zoom.

As was mentioned in the Chairman's report, new premises have been found for the Society. The property at 95b Nottingham Rd is on the ground floor, so no more stairs to climb. We hope to move in the next few weeks.

If anyone feels able to make a contribution towards the cost of our removal, it would be very much appreciated.

THE MEETING WAS DECLARED CLOSED

Chairman's Report

This is the last time I shall be reporting to the Annual Meeting of the Society, which it has been my privilege to chair. I have been supported in that office by an active and harmonious committee. The last few years have brought many challenges, most obviously the pandemic, but equally the remorseless advance of information technology and its impact on the way family history is understood. On my last but one day in office I signed the lease for our new premises on Nottingham Road, Derby, which we hope will provide a suitable base for the work of the Society in future. I recall our moving to Bridge Chapel House and the freedom it gave us to expand our work then. We now need less physical space and to devote more of our resources to serving a world-wide membership through the website. We shall also make savings in our expenditure, having run at a loss in recent years. Our excellent treasurer, Mike, will give more details of our financial position and future prospects.

The committee has met in mixed mode, some in person and some online, during the last year. A few visitors have made their way to Bridge Chapel House, but not in the numbers which justify its use. A steady stream of enquiries reaches us by email. Years ago we logged postal enquiries in order to keep track of them but the handful we have received over the last year do not need such a record. The Derby meeting remains in suspense and may resume later this year as a live video event. Brian Slack has been planning for this and, much more urgently, an Open Day we shall hold in June at the Museum of Industry in Derby. We already have support from many local history societies and will be promoting membership of our own society at the event. I am sure that Catherine will be very ready to organise new subscriptions and see that they are well-served by the Society.

We are currently packing up our library at Bridge Chapel House and disposing of items which will not be needed in our new premises. It is surprising what emerges from some of the cupboards, as any of you who have moved house after forty years will know. We are recycling as much as possible and selling some items but there are still things which have no further usefulness. The selection of essential items is under the supervision of Helen, as librarian, assisted by our Secretary, Ruth, and involves rather more hands-on activity than either of those job titles suggests. At present none of us leaves Bridge Chapel House without something for disposal or re-cycling.

The unseen army of people working from home continues to be an important part of our work. There is always transcribing and checking to be done. This is vital, not only in preserving information about Derbyshire and its people but in generating income for the Society when the finished results are made available on the internet. The first particular task I undertook for the Society

was seeing census index books through the printers, when book sales were a major line of income. There is now very little call for print and I see the last of our efforts from twenty years ago set aside for re-cycling. Dave and Linda now handle any book orders from home; in the past we needed a room dedicated to book sales.

I continue in membership of the Society and hope I have a few more years of volunteering to help in front of me. There is also the magazine to look forward to each quarter. It is amazing how Helen keeps up the standard. On behalf of all the members I want to thank to Committee and Officers for all their work in keeping the Society afloat and I add my personal thanks for their friendship and support over the last fifteen years.

Treasurers Report

The financial statement for 2021 has been prepared on a receipts and payments basis. The accounts of the Society have been examined by S J Wells & Co who have stated that the financial statements give a true and fair view of our affairs as at 31st December 2021.

Again we have made a deficit over the year but there are a number of factors to take into account.

There was a drop in membership between 2020 and 2021 ending the year with 612 members. This resulted in a fall of £2,265 in income from membership fees and a reduction of £400 in gift aid. There is no intention to raise subscriptions which were last raised in 2013 as any increase would not bring in a huge amount and would probably have a negative effect on the finances.

The Pay per view royalties fell by £770 between 2020 and 2021.

The running costs of Bridge Chapel House rose due to our gas supplier going under which has hit us hard.

As I have reported in previous years we are extremely fortunate to have a healthy reserve built up from the sale of our own publications in the early years of the society. The availability of so much information over the internet have rendered some of our publications redundant, e.g. our 1851 census booklets.

DERBYSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT for the year to 31st DECEMBER 2021

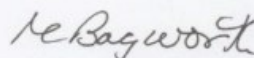
	2021	2020
	£	£
INCOME		
Subscriptions	8,970.78	11,236.00
Income Tax recovered through Gift Aid	1,071.93	1,472.78
Donations and Members Contributions	363.00	496.00
Sale of Publications	288.25	161.97
Interest on Investments	213.57	280.91
Postal Research	614.60	228.35
FFHS Pay per View	7,621.91	8,395.56
Pay as you Go on Website	375.00	315.00
Sundries		14.10
	<u>£19,519.04</u>	<u>£22,600.67</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Sundries	92.22	-
Stationery, Postages etc	138.40	846.15
Meetings, Open Days, Coach Trips etc	45.00	355.50
Journal	8,986.27	9,350.37
Reference Library	-	-
Insurance, Fees, Charges & Affiliation to FFHS	1,362.86	1,313.31
Equipment, Maintenance, including photocopier	-	-
Examining Accountant's Fee	500.00	500.00
Bridge Chapel House	13,734.21	11,591.97
Website	1,574.40	1,633.80
	<u>£26,433.36</u>	<u>£25,591.10</u>
NET INCOME (DEFICIT) against EXPENDITURE for the year	<u>£(6,914.32)</u>	<u>£(2,990.43)</u>
ACCUMULATED FUND Brought Forward	£44,170.03	£48,160.46
Add SURPLUS (DEFICIT) for the year, as above	£(6,914.32)	£(2,990.43)
Ddt Depreciation	£(362.94)	£(1,000.00)
ACCUMULATED FUND Carried Forward	<u>£36,892.77</u>	<u>£44,170.03</u>

P = agreed to
Previous year

DERBYSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

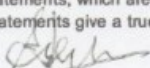
BALANCE SHEET as at 31st DECEMBER 2021

	2021	2020
FIXED ASSETS		
Furniture, Fittings and Equipment :		
Opening Net Book Value	362.94	1,362.94
Add Assets Purchased in year		
Deduct Depreciation in year	362.94	1,000.00
Closing Net Book Value	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£362.94</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Charities Official Investment Fund - Deposit ac	20,382.25	20,379.83
Lloyds Term Deposit	-	20,000.00
	20,382.25	40,379.83
Cash & Bank : Lloyds Classic Account	13,169.40	2,767.21
Lloyds Business Account	3,036.12	
Floats in Hands of Officers	305.00	305.00
	16,510.52	3,072.21
Pay Pal		355.05
	<u>£36,892.77</u>	<u>£43,807.09</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>£36,892.77</u>	<u>£44,170.03</u>
REPRESENTED BY:		
ACCUMULATED FUND Brought forward	44,170.03	48,160.46
ADD SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR	(7,277.26)	(3,990.43)
ACCUMULATED FUND Carried forward	<u>£36,892.77</u>	<u>£44,170.03</u>

 Michael Bagworth
Treasurer

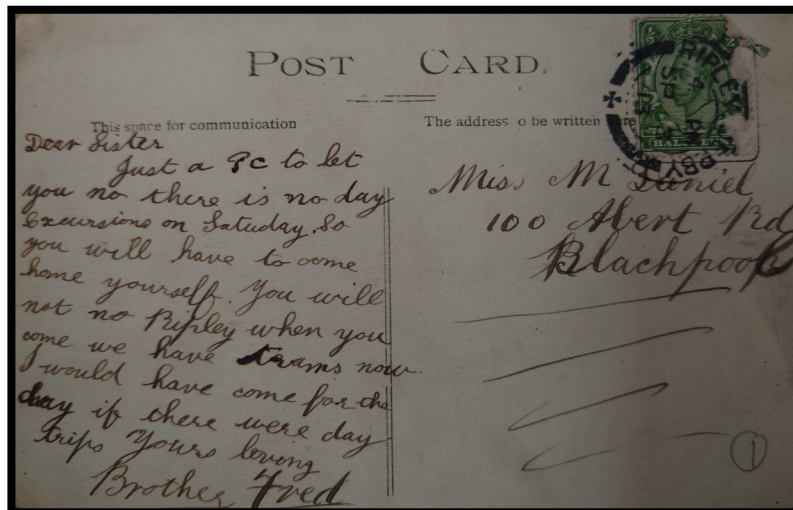
ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

I have examined the foregoing financial statements, which are in accordance with the books maintained by the Society. In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the Society's affairs as at 31st December 2021


S J Wells FCCA

A Family Jigsaw Puzzle

The Society is often given old family albums that have been found in house clearances, in the hope that we can find a family link. This is often not the case as the albums were abandoned because there was nobody left alive in that part of the family. The photos are rarely labelled and we have no way of connecting them with a distant family member. Two boxes of albums and photos we have at present have plenty of clues to identify them and we wonder if there is someone out there who would value them.



The photos centre around two men from Mapperley, Harry Searson and Peter Lee. They were roughly the same age and Peter Lee died in Bournemouth in 2011 aged 85. One connection between them seems to be the Home & Colonial Stores where Harry started work. Another connection is the army. There are books about the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry regiment, newspaper clippings about D Day anniversaries and pictures of German towns, especially Rendsberg, and people at the end of the Second World War.

Driving licences show Peter Lee living in Mapperley, Beeston and Poole, while Harry Searson had an address in Codnor. Harry's parents sent cards to him at Catterick while they were on holiday in Norway. There are other holiday snaps and cards from Switzerland, Bournemouth and Blackpool. There is an Aunt Maggie, who received a postcard in Blackpool from her brother Fred, posted on the day the trams came to Ripley [*see opposite page*]. A cutting from the Derbyshire Times of October 1984 concerns Herbert Lee and the statue of Lalla, the girl with the rose, in Queens Park, Chesterfield.

There is enough material here for a reconstruction of much of the history of the two families. Is there a relative out there who would like to tackle it? Or would someone simply like a project? Let us know before we find some other way of moving the boxes on.

STEPHEN ORCHARD

A rather unusual and poignant entry found on the National Archives site by Valerie Jackson.

[Mem 56], E-mail: valjackson500@gmail.com

Description: Closes on Higham Hillside and other lands:
Lease and release by Thomas Stocks to Richard Lee as in D37 M/T1124-25 to make effectual the title of Lee: Thomas Stocks being at the time...in bad state of health and under apprehensions of speedy death...so that only a short conveyance, on small paper was then executed....date 24/25 September 1735.

NB: The reference is D37 M/T1126-1127 and the document can be viewed at the Derbyshire Record Office, NOT the National Archives.

THE MORTON FAMILY'S CONTRIBUTION TO VILLAGE LIFE IN GREAT LONGSTONE

At the beginning of the nineteenth century there were three elder members of the Morton family residing in the village of Great Longstone. Thomas (born 1765) and Joseph (born 1756), who were most likely brothers, and Matthew (born 1776) who was probably a cousin of the first two. All three of them were still alive when the Census of 1841 was carried out. They and their descendants took an active role in the working and social life of the village throughout the century, and those who left the area no doubt played a role in the wider life of their country - two at least gave their lives in the First World War.

A tally through the six censuses taken between 1841 and 1891 shows that there was an average of eight Morton households in the village and an average of 29 individuals at any one time. Their means of earning a living were typical of the time. The women gave no occupation outside the home until a schoolmistress in 1871, though some from 1851 onwards gave dressmaker as their livelihood. No doubt the younger females in the family went out to service, probably at some distance from home. Most of the men were involved in the land - a few owned or rented land, but most were agricultural labourers. Some of them supplemented their income by combining lead mining or innkeeping with work on the land, but by far the most important alternative was the work of stonemason.

Joseph Morton (1756-1841) is a good example of earning a living from this dual economy. A survey taken around 1820 shows him owning and occupying a house, orchard, garden, and stackyard in what is now Sunnybank. He worked land along Beggarway, Mill Lane Close and on Longstone Common. Some was rented, but in his will executed in April 1842, he left Nether Mill Lane Close to his eldest son Jonathan, Seed Low Close on Longstone Common to the next son John, and Upper Mill Lane Close to his son James. The latter also inherited the house, its orchard etc. and its contents. Plus "all my hay, corn, cows, sheep and horses. All my implements of husbandry." and "a pew in Longstone Church."

In the 1846 survey for the Tythe Commutation Award, James was still occupying this property. Sadly difficulties - probably in the local and national economy - resulted in James having to borrow a total of £75 from the Earl of Newburgh between May 1846 and January 1847, giving his inheritance as surety on the loan. After James' untimely death in August 1848, the Earl took the widow and her son to the Chancery Court where in January 1852 he was awarded the value of the loan plus the interest and costs. Together these

totalled £145.5s.2d. To pay this sum the family had to auction James' inheritance at the Moon Inn, Stoney Middleton, on August 25th 1852.

However Joseph Morton's work as a mason lives on in the village. The Thornhill Papers in the CR0 at Matlock contain original invoices in Joseph's hand for work done on a house and barn in Church Lane in 1802/3. An account presented on February 7th 1803 totalled £3.2s.0d. and included:

1802 July Jonathan one day beamfilling chamber 2s
Sep 16 Me one day at steps in garden 3s.6d
Sep 16 Jonathan one day at steps in garden 2s
Sep 9 Repairing bakestone 1s

Clearly Joseph's more experienced work was worth more than that of his eldest son then aged 17 years!

The outstanding work carried out by Joseph Morton as detailed in the Thornhill Papers is that of the building of the new parsonage in 1830/1. His sworn statements and estimates are dated 12th February 1830, and the sum given for the work was £366.2s.8d. Joseph's plans and elevations for the work can be viewed at the Church of England Record Centre in London.

This new parsonage replaced an older, smaller property "in such a state of repair as to be uninhabitable" and which had formerly been an inn - probably the original "White Lion". Joseph, in his accounting, proposed to re-use some of the fabric of that house. This included old stone to go at the back of the new house, old slate for the stable, old flags for the scullery and cellar, and old timber into the floors. New stone was to provide a scapped front, 19 feet high and 36 feet wide, with ashlar corners, window cases, and fire-places. New wood went into the parlour floor, six new sash windows, a new front door, and the roof among other areas. The front door lock was priced at 7s.6d. Although extended by Charles Morton [see later] by the addition of bay windows on the east end of the front later in the century, the present vicarage stands as a testament to the integrity of Joseph Morton's work, and therefore of the man himself.

Further evidence of this integrity is shown rather uniquely in the survival of a letter written by Joseph Morton to the Vestry members. There seems to have been some dispute as to whether or not he had defrauded them in 1811 when holding one of the village offices. Fortunately the verdict has also survived in a statement signed by all the Vestry members in November 1822. This cleared Joseph Morton and laid the blame for the conspiracy against him on John Robinson, William Eyre and Francis Eyre.

Clearly the Church and its Vestry were central to life in the village for most of the Nineteenth Century. Until the organ was installed, music was provided by the Church Band, which was no doubt much like that described by Thomas Hardy in stories such as " Under the Greenwood Tree". Part of Joseph Morton's "third share of 4 musical instruments" must have been the bassoon he played in the Band, and perhaps also included the violoncello played by his youngest son James.

The J. Morton who made the three charity boards which still hang in the church today could have been Joseph or any of his four sons - Jonathan, John, Joseph or James. The boards are dated 1807 and 1838. This latter year saw the idea of restoration work in the church first raised. The agreed work was put out to tender and James Morton, Joseph's youngest son, was given the contract. He agreed to:-

take down all the old seats and the pulpit
The old pews to be used to cover the walls
The new pulpit to be executed out of the old one
The Reading Desk and stairs to be new deal

Inevitably disagreements arose when the Thornhill and Wright families refused to give up their private pews, and in July 1841 new contracts were given on a less ambitious restoration and James Morton was this time to be responsible for repaving the floor. However, this cannot have been the end of the matter since the full church restoration was carried out in 1871 under the guidance of the London architect Richard Norman Shaw. The cost was £1,545.

The control of village life by the Church and its Vestry was true for the whole of England until the growth of the large urban industrial centres overwhelmed the old system from the middle of the nineteenth century. Officers were appointed to administer particular aspects of the Vestry's work. These included Churchwardens, Overseers of the Poor and Village Constables.

In 1803, 1804, 1828 and 1829, Joseph Morton was a Churchwarden. As such he would have had to report twice a year to the Archdeacon concerning the state of the fabric of the church, the conduct or lack of it of the parson, the attendance at church of all parishioners and their behaviour inside and outside the church. He was also expected to report on the conduct of ale-houses in the parish and any breach of sexual morals. Miscreants in any matter were tried in church courts. Joseph would have been assisted in his tasks by a second Churchwarden, since they served in pairs.

Overseers of the Poor also served in pairs. Joseph Morton served as such in 1794, 1795, 1814, 1815 and 1833. His eldest son Jonathan served in this office in 1845 and 1848. The office was created in the reign of Elizabeth 1 under the Poor Law legislation, which made the parish responsible for looking after its poor. Local rates were levied by the Vestry as required and other monies came from the Poor Box and charitable gifts. In Longstone, such a gift is registered on one of the Charity Boards in the church - that is, under the will of Mr. Wright in 1762, £500 in land and rents was to be used for the clothing of 3 poor old men and 3 poor old women of Great Longstone.

Easter was the time for choosing the two Overseers at the parish meeting. If chosen they had to serve, without pay, keep the accounts, collect taxes and be answerable to the Justices of the Peace. Much of their work revolved around examining and assessing the poor entering the parish and where possible returning them to the parish of their birth which under law was responsible for them. This resulted in some unhappy journeys for single pregnant females since any parish was loathe to take on extra mouths to feed if this could be prevented. There is no clear reference to this happening during Joseph's term of office, but his accounts for 1795 show a charge of 1s.0d. for the Settlement Examination of one Ann Redfern on 8th September.

Village Constables were officers originating under the Manorial System, being then appointed by the Court Leat, which dealt with the practical aspects of village life. Again the position conferred status without pay. Constables became responsible to the Chief Constables of the Hundred and to the Quarter Sessions Magistrates. Their job included escorting prisoners to the Quarter Sessions and the Assizes, collecting national taxes such as Poll Tax and Hearth Tax, maintaining the highways, supervising ale-houses and raising the militia in times of need. Full accounts had to be kept and presented at Easter when the year's term of office ended. The accounts of Joseph Morton from Lady Day 1815 to Lady Day 1816 include several of these aspects of the work:-

Sept 16 To expenses for surveying the length of the Turnpike and Highways in this Liberty 7s 6d

Nov 24 Drawing Militia List 3s 0d Delivering same 3s 0d

Mar 29 Paid Sampson Hodgkinson, Sampson Wager and John Thornhill expenses attending the Gibbiting of Anthony Lingard 2 days each £2 8s 0d

This term of office covered the time of the Battle of Waterloo 18 June 1815, and in this context of war on the continent it is not surprising that the accounts record a total of 49 destitute people on the road, including 19 servicemen. Other members of the Morton family who served as Village

Constables were Reuben in 1861, Samuel in 1866, 1867 and 1870, and James in 1865, 1867, and 1870. These three were Joseph Morton's grandsons.

In a time when there was no National Health Service or state pension for the elderly, many areas produced Friendly Societies. Thus, in February 1769, just such a society was set up in Great Longstone. This Friendly and Charitable Society of Gentlemen Farmers, Tradesmen and Labourers met at the house of Robert Thornhill at the sign of the White Lion, which was later to become the site of the Parsonage or Vicarage. The club had one President, two Wardens and 12 Assistants who were all re-elected on the first Thursday in February each year. All the members had to live within 3 miles of the village, and they had to be between 18 and 35 years of age. There was a sliding scale of subscriptions:-

Subscription: 18-25 years charge 2s.6d
25-30 years charge 5s.0d
30-35 years charge 7s.6d

The Society continued well into the nineteenth century supporting its members and their families in times of illness or accident. Several members of the Morton family belonged to the Society, including Joseph and his eldest son Jonathan, plus John, Thomas and George who may have been brothers or cousins of Joseph. They all appear in records covering 1769 to 1818.

As a reward to themselves for a job well done, the Society rules included that there should be a Feast kept each Whitsun Thursday, with each member giving reasonable expense to it, but that before the Feast everyone should attend "divine service at the Chapel of Longstone in the forenoon." On 21st May 1807 the accounts show that 100 members sat down to eat at a cost of £6.5s., to drink at a cost of £7.17s.6d. and to smoke at a cost of 4s.0d. Music was provided at a cost of 13s.0d, no doubt by members of the Church Band, since in previous years the named musicians included Joseph Morton.

Two further self-help groups existed in the village. Between 1836 and 1901 there was an Association for the Prosecution of Felons formed to protect persons and property. Joseph Morton and his son James were members of this group. In the middle of the century 28 young men founded the Inkerman Lodge of Oddfellows, which was affiliated to the Grand United Order of Oddfellows or Leeds Unity. The Lodge came into being on 10th November 1855 to celebrate the victory at Inkerman on 5th November. The first Secretary was Charles Morton, the grandson of Thomas who had helped to form the earlier Friendly Society. Charles was born in 1814 and when he died in October 1870, the Buxton Advertiser reported his death and his funeral.

From the reports it is clear that, like his Great Uncle Joseph, he was a man of integrity, and that his Lodge had grown in importance and influence over the years. His accounts (no doubt like Joseph's before) were "always fractionally correct, and his elaborate balance sheet..... was a perfect model of its kind." His Lodge erected a notable memorial to him in the churchyard at Great Longstone where he is buried.

As a stonemason, one of the contracts won by Charles was to build the new schoolroom in 1862. The Buxton Advertiser of 7th June 1862 reported that Charles would work with George Eyre and that "the well known abilities of the contractors will, there is no doubt, produce a building in every way equal to the intended purpose as well as a great ornament to the village." This intended purpose could hardly have included the actions of one Samuel Morton aged 12 years in 1890. In the school logbook it is reported that he was among a group of boys who climbed the playground wall and threw stones at passers-by! The boys were caned and disallowed play for two weeks! This Samuel was a cousin of Charles, being the Great-Great Grandson of Joseph.

There appears to have been a school building in the village since 1787, and in January 1801 Joseph was one of those who signed the request for the appointment of Mr. Bee as Schoolmaster. Regulations made in July 1832 set down the school hours as 9.00 to 4.00 from Michelmas to Ladyday, and 8.30 to 4.00 from Ladyday to Michelmas. Holidays were to consist of 3 weeks at mid-summer and one week at Christmas - also Saturdays! The salary of the Schoolmaster was £24 per year - to include the teaching of Sunday School. A total of 24 pupils were to be taught free -16 from Great Longstone and 8 from Little Longstone.

Over the years all the descendants of Joseph and Thomas Morton must have attended the school and contributed in their various ways (hopefully more positively than young Samuel) to the life of the school and the village. School logbooks tend to record the negatives, but these can indicate a positive contribution to local life and activities.

*Thus poor attendance was the result of:-
Bakewell Fair in October 1885
Hay-making in August 1888
Willow peeling in May 1889 and 1890
Rabbit beating in November 1890
Potato picking in October 1891*

Such energetic pursuit of aid to local activities was, no doubt, the reason why my Grandfather, John William Morton, admitted to the Junior school in August 1888, was returned to the Infants to repeat his Standard 1 work in March 1889 as he was so far behind the work of his fellow pupils! At least he must have caught up by the July of 1889, when he was re-admitted to the Juniors. Joseph would not have been too pleased with his Great-Grandson, but at least John William went on to become a fair carpenter and joiner.

Another Great-Grandson of Joseph, William Morton, was for 26 years the groundsman at the Longstone Cricket Club. On the occasion of a collection in his honour the Buxton Advertiser reported him as a "faithful servant" and an "old and staunch friend of the Longstone Club."

Also George Morton, son of Charles and Great-Grandson of Thomas, carried on the family tradition by being a "valuable and regular member of the Choir of Longstone Church for upwards of 25 years." This was reported in the Buxton Advertiser of 27th September 1890 on the occasion of his marriage. Members of the Choir, the Vicar and the Churchwardens presented George with a silver cruet stand as a token of their appreciation to his contribution over the years. His wife received a work case and a pair of scissors.

Thus the Nineteenth Century ended with a fine record of service to the village community by the Morton family. Within 19 years of the start of the Twentieth Century, two of the family had paid the highest price possible for their country. Fred and Arthur Morton were brothers, sons of Jonathan and Rose Morton of 4 Victoria Terrace, and Great-Great-Grandsons of Joseph. Born in 1885, Lance Corporal 9966 Fred Morton was a career soldier with the Notts and Derby Regiment (The Sherwood Foresters) from 1905. Before the outbreak of the First World War he had served in India, and was transferred to France with his Regiment in the British Expeditionary Force of 1914. In 1915 he saw service in Gallipoli and Egypt before returning to France. He was wounded on four occasions, and his gallantry was recognised with the award of the Military Medal on 23rd July 1917. His last home leave was in June of that year. On 4th October his Regiment was in Belgium attacking Broodseinde, part of the operations directed at Passchendaele. During this attack Fred was killed. He has no known grave, and so he is listed among the 34,984 missing in the Passchendaele conflict on the memorial at Tyne Cot. His death was written up, accompanied by a photograph, in the High Peak News.

Born in 1888, Corporal M2/113489 Arthur Morton was a member of the Royal Army Service Corps, attached to the 38th Siege Battery. He joined up in 1917 and died of wounds on 8th March 1919. He is buried in the

Commonwealth War Graves Commission's plot in a quiet corner of the Municipal Cemetery in Lille, France. It is likely that he was wounded in the capture of Lille in the October of 1918 - so close to the end of the conflict! Two older sons of Jonathan and Rose also served in the war and returned home. This must have been of some comfort to Rose who also lost her husband in June of 1919.

*Originally written by Leri Morton and produced in the Doncaster Ancestor
Reproduced here by kind permission of the Doncaster & District FHS*

FROM THE PAPERS

Board & Education

At MICKLEOVER, near DERBY, a remarkably pleasant and healthful situation.

W. LEESON respectfully informs his friends and the public at large, that he has opened a SEMINARY at the above place where he proposes to board and educate 10 or 12 YOUNG GENTLEMEN on the following moderate terms, viz.

	L.	S.	D.
Board for young gentlemen under 10 years of age,			
per annum	0	12	0
Ditto for ditto from 10 to 12,	ditto	13	0 0
Ditto for ditto from 12 and upwards	ditto	14	0 0
Reading, Writing and Arithmetic	ditto	2	0 0
The Latin and Greek Languages	ditto	1	0 0
The English Grammar	ditto	0	10 0
Entrance		0	10 6

The greatest care and attention will be paid to the health, morals, and improvement of his pupils.

Mr. LEESON was some years ago a pupil of the Rev, Mr. Cursham's, of Sutton, and has since been engaged as an assistant in two or three very respectable Academies in and near London.

Derby Mercury, Thursday 13 October 1796

STEPHEN ORCHARD

Retiring Chairman

As you will have probably seen elsewhere in the magazine—notably of course in the report of the AGM, Professor Stephen Orchard has decided to stand down from his post of Chairman to the Executive Committee, much to the dismay of the remaining Committee members.

Stephen has done a long stint in this post since he was sweet talked into taking the position on—he will probably tell you he was bullied into it. But no-one could have done it better. He has kept the Society on a steady course, dealt several times with a new lease and generally kept the Cathedral Trustees happy. For all this time he has overseen a constantly changing—and unfortunately diminishing—Executive Committee.

We are going to miss Stephen, but luckily he has agreed to keep coming in as a volunteer, helping out where he can and carrying on with his projects, all of which we hope will eventually find their way onto the website. It was Stephen who found us a new Webmaster who has updated and took the website forward, indeed the two are now liaising to make our Memorial Inscriptions available to our members.

Brian Slack has agreed to take on the position of Chairman, but I hope he won't mind me saying he has a hard task to follow. Stephen's final job was to sign the lease on our new premises, it is now up to us to make it a fine tribute to one of the best chairman we have ever had. Thank you Stephen.

KATHLEEN MASON

On a sadder note we have to record the passing of one of our most loyal members and volunteers, Kathleen Mason. She helped out at Bridge Chapel House with visitors, did research and undertook transcribing and indexing. For many years she was the Wills Co-ordinator, getting the wills into a searchable database which is now available on our website. When ill health overtook her and she could no longer travel to our premises she happily had work dropped off to her so that she could carry on working at home. She will be sadly missed. The Society would like to pass on their condolences to Kathleen's son and daughter.

DO YOU RECOGNISE??



In the last magazine we published a picture of an unknown church, which had appeared in a set of photograph albums that were given to us. Thanks to our members this was identified as Selston, so we are now hoping that some of you might recognise the photographs below. There are three albums, one a wedding album—which is where the first photo is taken from—and the other two of children and various holiday locations. It seems to be the same couple so can anyone identify them. We would like to return the albums to a family member, I absolutely hate destroying photographs but we haven't the room to keep them permanently. Fingers crossed!!!



RESEARCH CENTRE AND LIBRARY 95 Nottingham Road, Derby

There are no new acquisitions to list this time, simply because we can't file anything as we are working out of boxes at the moment. Probably be twice the number next time.

To whet your appetite here is a preview of our new premises. Obviously the to let sign will be going and our name will go above the door, but this is how it looks at the moment,.



Stop Press: Latest moving date is towards the end of May, but it will take us several weeks to get straight. Keep an eye on the website as to when we are going to be open and in the meantime we are still going to be available on email so feel free to get in touch with your queries.

DERBYSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

OPEN DAY

**WEDNESDAY JUNE 8TH 2022
AT THE MUSEUM OF MAKING, ITALIAN MILL,
DERBY, FROM 10 AM TO 4.30 PM**

**LARGE NUMBER OF STALLS INCLUDING THE
DERBYSHIRE RECORD OFFICE, MIDLAND RAILWAY
SOCIETY, ALAN GODFREY MAPS, ROYAL CROWN
DERBY, REDFERNS COTTAGE MUSEUM OF LIFE,
NATIONAL BREWERY CENTRE, DERBY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, THE MAGIC ATTIC,
DERBY MUSEUM, DERBY & SANDIACRE CANAL TRUST,
SPONDON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, WINTERS
PHOTOGRAPHY, DERBY RECORD SOCIETY,
DERBYSHIRE HISTORIC BUILDINGS TRUST, ETC**

**TALKS IN THE RIVER ROOM FROM GAY EVANS, WHO
WILL ALSO BE RUNNING A QUIZ ALL DAY TO HAVE A
GO AT, AND LUCY BAMFORD**

**EXPERIENCED VOLUNTEERS WILL HELP THOSE WHO
WANT TO MAKE A START ON TRACING THEIR FAMILY
TREE, AND ADVICE FOR THOSE WHO NEED HELP. WE
WILL HAVE COMPUTER ACCESS TO ALL GENEALOGY
SITES AND SPECIAL OFFERS AVAILABLE TO THOSE
WHO WOULD LIKE TO JOIN OUR SOCIETY ON THE DAY**

**RAFFLE, REFRESHMENTS AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO
HAVE A LOOK ROUND THE MUSEUM.**

**COME AND SEE US AND PERHAPS WE CAN HELP YOU
TO KNOCK DOWN THAT BRICK WALL.**

Derbyshire Family History Society

Jun Quarter 2022



Help needed again please. While packing boxes this photo turned up and we are puzzled. It was taken by Derek Culpin of Allenton and lightly written in pencil on the back is 'J. Longbottom'. Is that the name of one of the ladies in the picture or the name of the firm? Can anyone help, indeed has anyone an idea as to what they are doing or making in this photo?

Suggestions would be most welcome.