

# *Derbyshire Family History Society*



**Illegitimacy—Records that  
might help**

**The Rivers family of  
Derby—World War hero**

**The Mercer's Story**

**Post Mill Community Centre  
Home for the South  
Normanton Group Meetings**

*Sep 2013*

*Issue 146*



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

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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 Bridge Chapel House, by cheque or postal order addressed to the Membership Secretary, or by using PayPal via our website.

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Please Note! Our website now offers the facility to renew your membership online, using PayPal [an account or debit/credit card needed]. 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 end of February. Sorry for the inconvenience but, as you can appreciate, the Society cannot stand the cost of posting magazines that may not be wanted. 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.



## **FROM THE EDITOR**

Welcome to the September issue of our magazine and I hope you enjoy it. I'm a bit short on articles this time so there are quite a few fillers that have been pulled off our shelves. Please get your computers switched on or your pen and paper out and see about getting yourself in print. A lot of our contributors report having brilliant feedback to their articles. Talking of which, Tony Birks submitted a follow up article regarding his problem having two Jacob Birks in his tree and forgot to add an email and, being me, I never even noticed. If you want to contact Tony please email him at [tony.birks10@btinternet.com](mailto:tony.birks10@btinternet.com)

Now a request from our membership secretary. If you have a problem or want to contact her about your membership, please quote your number or, failing that, your address. You might think your name is unique, but it frequently isn't and it would help her to sort "t'other from which". Thanking you all kindly.

We are still working on having an open day next year with various speakers and invited guests. I know I asked once but is there any possibility of someone taking on the organisation? Someone who can give their full attention to it would be much better than all of us trying to do two jobs at once. If you can possibly give us a hand then get in touch.

Finally have you thought about depositing your family history with us. We have been lucky to rescue one or two that would have been put in the bin [horrible thought!]. A copy here would save that dreadful possibility, might help other members and also, maybe, put you in touch with someone of your family who you didn't know about.

Enjoy your magazine, see you next time.

*Helen*



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### **MEETINGS 2013**

#### **DERBY—ST MARY’S CHURCH HALL, DARLEY LANE,**

**DERBY—Tuesday at 7.30 p.m.**

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 10th Sep | Strutts of Belper<br>Ruth Jordan                   |
| 8th Oct  | Marry ‘em off, kill ‘em off<br>John Titford        |
| 12th Nov | Tithe Enclosures, Maps and Awards<br>Dudley Fowkes |

#### **GLOSSOP—BRADBURY COMMUNITY HOUSE, MARKET**

**STREET, GLOSSOP— Friday at 7.30 p.m.**

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 7th Sep | The Construction of the Dinting Arches<br>Tony Brocklebank |
| 4th Oct | A Story from the Newspapers<br>Victoria Rowe               |
| 1st Nov | Lost Buxton<br>Tony Swann                                  |
| 6 Dec   | An Edwardian Christmas<br>Chris Makepiece                  |

#### **SOUTH NORMANTON—POST MILL COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**SOUTH NORMANTON—Friday at 7.30 p.m.**

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 20th Sep | Thomas Cook<br>Danny Wells                           |
| 18th Oct | Tudor and Stuart Food<br>Mark Dawson                 |
| 15th Nov | Commonplace Books and Scrapbooks<br>Averil Higginson |
| 13th Dec | Christmas Party                                      |



## **DERBY MEETINGS**

**April 2013**

### **The Captive Queen—David Templeton**

David Templeton gave us a talk on Mary Queen of Scots concentrating on the captive years. She escaped from Scotland via the Solway Firth to England in 1568 believing that Queen Elizabeth would support her cause instead she was kept captive for 19 years. A court of inquiry was set up in order to clear her name of the charges in Scotland but she was not allowed to represent herself and no conclusive decision was arrived at. It was decided that she could not be sent abroad as her claim to the English throne was too great and they would rather have her where they could keep a watchful eye on her. She was, then confined to a number of castles and manor houses in and around Derbyshire as far from Scotland, the coast and London as possible to prevent any escape attempts and to keep Elizabeth safe.

George Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury was created her custodian and she spent years living in his properties with her court. Tutbury Castle was the least favourite of her prisons being a semi ruin in marshland. She stayed here four times but had to move on when conditions became unbearable. Wingfield Manor was quite a grand palace in comparison to Tutbury but smaller. Whilst she was here she was gravely ill and received the last rites but she recovered. Chatsworth House was not quite so much of a prison. Mary was allowed out riding but heavily guarded. This was used on seven occasions. Sheffield Castle became the main place for her confinement. She was there for 14 years and by this point she only had two rooms and 16 attendants. Doors were locked and windows barred and exercise was limited. Buxton was her favourite prison. The hall was built next to the Turkish baths and Mary was able to use these to ease her rheumatism. Worksop Manor was used twice. George was required to provide everything she and her entourage needed and consequently his finances, health and marriage suffered.

There were several plots and revolts whilst Mary was in captivity. The “Northern Rebellion” led by the Earls of Westmorland and Northumberland tried to reinstate the Catholic faith and replace Elizabeth with Mary but it failed and the soldiers dispersed back to Scotland. The Duke of Norfolk with the help of the Spanish plotted to assassinate Queen Elizabeth and again replace her with Mary. This was known as the “Ridolfi Plot”. The Duke had always hoped to marry Mary but Elizabeth would not give permission as the



two together would have been a force to reckon with. He had been partially involved in the Northern Rebellion and spent nine months in the Tower of London but this time he was arrested for high treason and executed. This was followed by the “Throckmorton Plot” led by Francis Throckmorton with the same intentions. This also failed. George Talbot’s health had deteriorated to such an extent by this point, 1585, that he was replaced by Sir Amias Paulet under much stricter custody. Future plots and Mary’s Trial will be covered in later talks.

### **May 2013**

#### Napoleon’s Lost Legions—John Taylor

John Taylor told us of the existence of French prisoners of war at the time of Napoleon. After the French Revolution, the Directory was set up to rule the country but the new government failed and Napoleon and his army overthrew this regime. The Consulate was set up with Napoleon, effectively, becoming the new ruler of France. There was opposition to this around Europe and Napoleon won many campaigns against these countries.

England was involved in much of the fighting and soldiers and sailors captured during battle were brought to England. There were 122,000 foreign soldiers incarcerated in England during this time. They were kept prisoner in hulk ships in various ports and on rivers. Lenient treatment was offered to those who promised not to escape but despite being guarded there were obviously some that absconded.

Success in all the various battles meant more prisoners and so some were sent to what is thought to be the first “prisoner of war” camp at Norman Cross near Peterborough. 300 men lived in one block and they were required to wear yellow uniforms (sounds familiar). The prisoners made artefacts such as toys, model ships and dominoes from wood and bone and straw marquetry. Some of these still survive today. There is a cemetery there with nearly 2,000 of these prisoners buried there. There is now an Eagle Monument on this site, to represent the French Imperial Eagle, to commemorate these deaths.

Some French officers on parole were moved to various parts of the country. Chesterfield became one of these places. Officers were billeted in private lodgings but still required to wear brightly coloured uniforms. They were allowed to walk within a mile of the town but were required to return by the



tolling of the church bell in the evening. Two Masonic lodges were formed by the officers and they found a sympathiser in Sir Windsor Hunloke of Wingerworth Hall, who supposedly moved the mile marker so that they could visit him at the hall. Some married local girls and stayed whilst others were repatriated with their families to France. Many of these joined Napoleon when he escaped Elba to fight again.

Many gravestones can be found for prisoners who died in various places in England but all who fought and died for France are commemorated at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. All French victories and generals are listed but you will find no mention of Waterloo in any French history books. We also appear to have the French prisoners to thank for the recipe for our Ashbourne gingerbread.

### **June 2013**

#### Customs and Traditions of the Peak District—Keith Blood

Keith Blood took us through some of today's events showing us how they were customs and traditions of the past. Some having been carried on through the centuries and some resurrected only recently. Some were specifically from one area and now spread to others.

In 2001, at the time of the foot and mouth outbreak, a lot of events had to be cancelled as was the case with Chatsworth House. Although it was still possible to drive through the land, the house had to be closed. When restrictions were lifted, the duke and duchess decided to open the house at Christmas. Christmas trees and decorations were set up all over the house and everyone was able to enjoy the festivities on a grand scale. Many properties have since followed suit. The tradition of the duke and duchess providing a Christmas party for all the estate workers and their families continues as in ages past. Rudolf and Santa are on the balcony of the inner courtyard as everyone arrives. Food and entertainment are provided. The children join in a sing song as they wait for Santa to put in an appearance, down the chimney with his sack.

The theme of Rudolf and his antlers led on to the next tradition, that of the Derby Ram and his curling horns. The Duke of Devonshire always provides the Ram, now Derby 29<sup>th</sup>. The first ram was acquired during the Indian Mutiny in Kotah. It was tethered in the temple yard and the commanding officer instructed Private Sullivan to capture it. He did and it became his constant



companion. It became the regiment's mascot, marched 3,000 miles, was present at 33 battles and received a medal. He, unfortunately, came to a sad end when jumping the wall of a well he fell in and drowned. A Derby ram continues to be the mascot even though regiments have merged and names changed.

The Duke then progressed to the keeping of breeds of cattle from the past. Long horn cattle have been kept at Duffield since 1800s and there is a herd there today. Tideswell still has a Cow Club, founded in 1838 that acted as a form of insurance for vets bills and death of cows. Tideswell was a prosperous town with five markets a year, for the selling of cattle and local produce. It continues today but only twice a year and no longer selling livestock.

Tideswell moved the Duke on to Well Dressings although he concentrated on Tissington. The wells, springs and other water sources are decorated to give thanks for the purity of the water and for them to be blessed. There were pictures of the decorations being made, from the design and the outline of seeds, cones and beans to the intricate building up of the creation with flower petals to add the colour. This tradition is thought to have originated in Tissington at the time of the Black Death. The tradition has now spread all over the county.

There were fertility rituals such as the floral dances brought from Cornwall by miners. They came to dig out the mines and brought their songs and dances with them. The traditions are now carried on by the Morris Men. The Garland Ceremony at Castleton coincides with Oak Apple Day and is thought to commemorate the restoration of King Charles II. The "King" rides through the town on horseback with a cone of flowers completely covering him.

Finally the one everyone knows, the Ashbourne Shrovetide Football Match. Hundreds take part in this medieval street football every year, except WWII and 2001 (Foot and Mouth). The ball is usually decorated in honour of the person who turns-up the ball. In 2003 it was Prince Charles and the ball was covered with various coats of arms.

Our traditions and customs will hopefully be celebrated for many years to come.

RUTH BARBER



## **GLOSSOP MEETINGS**

### **April 2013**

#### **Wills and Probate—David Lambert**

David began by explaining how useful wills can be in our family history research. Early wills were oral as few people could read or write or sign their name. These wills, known as noncuperative wills, were made before the family and a priest. It was only after 1837 that wills had to be signed and properly witnessed. When we are looking for wills it must be remembered that it is possible to find family members mentioned in the wills of friends and sometimes in the will of an owner of tenanted property. Spinsters often left interesting documents listing who was to have all their belongings, including their clothes. The beneficiaries were often nieces and nephews.

David then went on to explain how the laws of inheritance had developed since Roman times and also, if no will was made, how the estate was to be divided. We also learned the difference between real and personal estate, and who was not allowed to make a will in earlier times. Wills do not have to be written on paper and there have been instances of wills being written on a stepladder, a stable door, in a recipe book, on a four poster bed, and even on an egg.

To conclude the evening we were shown copies of wills covering a period of years and given a useful sheet of finding aids for indices and original documents.

### **May 2013**

#### **The New Record Office—Sarah Chubb**

Sarah is the Archives and Local Studies Manager at the newly refurbished premises in Matlock, and with the help of a powerpoint presentation we were given an overview of the new facilities. The Local Studies Library is now part of the new record office in which there are five miles of shelving. Four miles are taken up by archives and another mile by local studies. There are between four hundred and five hundred enquiries a month that need replies as well as the normal work of the thirteen staff. As well as Derbyshire archives they now hold the ones for Derby City, although there is still a local studies library in Derby. The Diocesan records are also held.

To illustrate the different types of resources they hold, Sarah took us through



their Fifty Treasures, which had been chosen by members of staff. These included a 15th century book of hours, deeds with many seals, correspondence from the 18th and 19th century concerning the abolishment of slavery, and an old recipe for Bakewell pudding from 1837. Sarah assured us that it was a very good recipe! Other artefacts included a 16th century map, a Russian military map of Derbyshire dated 1982 and some criminal records with photos from the late 1800s. There is now not only a search room, but a computer room, a meeting room and last, but not least, a comfortable room to sit and eat and make coffee.

The Record Office have three projects for the future—an online catalogue, a Manorial documents register and the digitising of the parish registers. We were assured that volunteers would be very welcome. The Record Office is open from 9.30 am till 5 pm on weekdays and every Saturday from 9.30am till 1 pm. A very informative evening concluded with a lively question and answer session.

### **June 2013**

#### **The Golden Age of Coach Travel—Arnie Manifold**

The presentation began with a short film outlining the history of coach travel. In the 1920s local owners converted their lorries at the weekend and holiday times by filling them with benches or even pews in order to take local people on an outing. As time went on charabancs became purpose built and after 1937 when workers got paid holiday coach trips became very popular. In many northern towns during Wakes week there was a mass evacuation by coach to the seaside. The film showed interviews with travellers, drivers and tour operators and the impression was of happy, noisy and leisurely trips.

Arnie then went on to tell us of the development of the coach businesses which we know today. William Webster of Wigan had a furniture removal business—his vans being converted at the weekends to take day trips to places like Southport. James Smith who specialised in tours was bought out by Websters and the joint enterprise was known as Smith's.

In 1928 in Bury, Spencer tours were running trips to Scotland including a trip from John o'Groats to Lands End. In 1930 this cost £18.18s for 15 days. In 1948 a seven day tour to Torquay cost £6.10s, ration books required. By 1948 a trip to Lourdes was possible for £45.



In 1960 the Smith, Spencer, Happiway Group was bought by Wilfred Blundell and became Smith's Happiway Spencer. Sadly Blundell died aged 55 and Harry Sawbridge became managing director. In 1982 the business was sold yet again and became Smith's Happiways, which was taken over yet again to become Shearing's Holidays. In 2005 Wallace Arnold and Shearings merged.

The presentation finished with pictures of coaches through the ages which reminded members of the trips of their youth and brought back many happy memories.

BERYL SCAMMELL

## **SOUTH NORMANTON**

### **April 2013**

#### The Arkwrights from 1700 to the Present Day—Mr C. Lea

Mr Lea began by quoting some comments about Arkwright made by his contemporaries. Jedediah Strutt thought him “perverse and ill natured”, and another gentleman described him as “vulgar and tasteless”. Josiah Wedgwood considered him an intelligent, sensible man and Robert Peel said that all looked up to Arkwright and imitated his style of building.

Born in 1732 Richard was the youngest of seven children born to a tailor. Indentured to become a barber in 1750 he set up business in Bolton. In March 1755 he married Patience Holt, daughter of Robert Holt, and their son Richard was born at the end of December. Sadly his mother died in October 1756. Five years later Richard married Margaret Biggins who had a dowry of £400. He built his first factory to house the waterpowered cotton spinning frame in Cromford. The water from Cromford Sough drove the water wheel that provided the power for the machines. When he built a second mill, he also built housing to accommodate his new workers. A hotel provided lodging for business visitors. Eventually he owned mills in Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lancashire and Scotland. He died just before his 60th birthday.

His son, Richard Junior, married Mary Simpson, who bore him six sons and five daughters. All the sons went to Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge. Richard [2] carried on making loans and became a banker. He bought estates country wide for each child. His son, Richard [3], married Martha and lived at Sutton Scarsdale Hall. Robert had Stoke Hall, Calver, Charles lived at



Dunstall Hall, Staffordshire and John had land in Herefordshire. John had two sons Johnny and Henry. Johnny's son John died in 1952 and Henry's daughter lived in Bolehill House. The latter two were the great great grandchildren of Richard Arkwright.

Mr Lea ended his talk with a brief history of the Arkwright Society and their efforts to keep the Cromford Mills active and self supporting.

### **May 2013**

#### Sir Joseph Banks—Dr Cheryl Berry

Doctor Berry is the chairman of the Sir Joseph Banks Society and told us about his life and the Society formed in his memory. Though born in London his family's estate was at Revesby in Lincolnshire. Whilst a child at home he preferred to explore the countryside and his favourite book was his mother's book of herbal medicines. Sent to Harrow and, later, for a year at Eton, he hated the Latin and Greek based education. At the age of 17 he went to Christchurch College, Oxford. He inherited his late father's estates when he was 21 and concentrated on learning land management.

Five years later he went on a voyage to Newfoundland and Labrador on the 'Niger'. On seeing his first polar bear he described it as a huge white cow. The specimens of plants were destroyed by storms on the return journey, but his notebook survived. On his return he found that he had been made a member of the Royal Society.

The Admiralty ordered Captain James Cook to visit Tahiti and at Banks request the Royal Society asked the Admiralty if Banks and seven friends could join the cruise, three of whom were artists. The luggage included boxes and different types of jars for transporting their collection back to England. After fulfilling his errand in Tahiti Captain Cook opened an envelope from the Admiralty, which contained orders to explore the Southern Ocean to see if there was land there. They first saw New Zealand, spending six months exploring and circumnavigating North and South Island. The strait between the two islands was named after Captain Cook and when the ship made its first landing in Australia, Cook named the bay Botany Bay in honour of his passenger's interests.

After his return from that voyage, he spent years cataloguing his specimens. He was befriended by King George III and became involved in the develop-



ment of Kew Gardens. He was elected as a member of the council of the Royal Society 1774 and became the president in 1778, a position he held until his death in 1820.

John Shaftoe Burton has written “Sir Joseph Banks Rooted in Lincolnshire”. The book is published by the Sir Joseph Banks Society. A row of old cottages in Bridge Street, Horncastle, have been turned into shops, meeting rooms and is the home of the Society’s Archives. Next year, from February 1st to the end of April the Society is holding an exhibition of artifacts associated with Sir Joseph in Lincoln.

### **June 2013**

#### **From Rent Collector to Bible Student—Raymond Briddon**

Mr Briddon began his talk by showing a picture of a former mill pond, which was part of his childhood playground. Being the youngest of five children he said he was thoroughly spoilt, but was nevertheless properly brought up by loving parents. After serving in the Army during World War 2 his father went to work in Drabble’s Mill as a dyer. Ray is still pleased that some of the cloth dyed by his father was made into shirts for the 1966 Cup Final Teams.

Whilst attending the Charles White Secondary Modern School at Tansley, Mr Briddon took G.C.E. O levels. In any spare time he worked on a farm at Riber. He enjoyed farming but it was too illpaid to make it his career. Then the position of a Junior Clerk was advertised for Bakewell Council Offices. He applied and was accepted. His first job was to collect the money from the public toilets and his other task was to make the tea and coffee. Very arduous for one who could not boil a kettle. When the area was flooded he and his fellow workers had to make sandbags.

Eventually he became a rent collector whose round covered Winster, Youlgrave, Curbar, Eyam and many more. His car became his office and the view from the office window included Chatsworth, Haddon Hall, Monsal Viaduct and many well dressings. When council houses were sold only two of the four collectors were needed. Having completed 34 years with the council Mr Briddon decided to retire and become a local preacher.

After an interview at Sheffield University he took a three year course in religious studies 1998-2001 and gained a B.A.Hons degree. He went on from



2001 to 2005 to get his Ph.D., then finally to Manchester University 2006 to 2008 to obtain a Master's Degree. He was now aged 60.

Now that both he and his wife have retired they both visit 24 schools, telling bible stories. They use appropriately dressed puppets to act the stories to the enjoyment of all.

Our members also enjoyed his very interesting story.

AVERIL HIGGINSON

### **INQUEST AT SHARDLOW WORKHOUSE**

An inquest was held at Shardlow Workhouse on Monday by Mr W.H. Whiston, on James Turner [53], blacksmith of 26 Dale-avenue, Long Eaton.

Violetta Turner, the widow, said deceased had had very good health, except for attacks of bronchitis. On July 2<sup>nd</sup> she was told he had injured his throat, and she afterwards saw him at the Nottingham General Hospital. He had been out of work for some time, and this had caused him to worry, but he had never threatened his life.

Police-constable Fane, who found deceased lying in a field near Hemlock-avenue, said there was a wound in his throat about three inches in length, and the man was bleeding freely. Deceased was semi-conscious. He was attended by a doctor and taken to the Nottingham General Hospital. Later he was brought up at Derby County Petty Sessions, and was ultimately discharged on promising to enter Shardlow Workhouse.

Annie Buxton, matron at the workhouse, said deceased was admitted on Aug 14<sup>th</sup>. He was very weak and had several fainting attacks, whilst his breathing was very bad. He died on Sunday night having been depressed in manner in the interval. Dr S.B. Gay, the workhouse medical officer, said deceased had suffered from pneumonia. Death was due to heart failure, caused by the wound in the throat.

The jury returned a verdict of "Suicide whilst of unsound mind".

*Derby Daily Telegraph, 8 Sep 1914*



## *43 Years in the Derbyshire Police*

*The following talk was given by Ernie Drabble, M.B.E., at the Annual General Meeting of the Society in April. Hardly any visitors turned up and it was such a good talk that we decided to put it in the magazine for the enjoyment of our members.*

Ernie gave us a talk about his career in the Derbyshire Police Force after the AGM. It was a shame there were not more people there to hear it. It was very interesting seeing how policing has changed over those years.

Leaving home aged 16 he joined the Force as a cadet in 1961 and was based at the Police Headquarters, which at that time occupied the top floor of Smedley's Hydro at Matlock. The cadets were required to do six weeks in each of the Headquarters Departments, and the following May he transferred to the Divisional Headquarters at Buxton, where he served until joining the regular force in May 1964.

Following 13 weeks Initial Training at Pannal Ash, Harrogate, he was stationed back to Bank Road, Matlock. There were no civilian typists employed at that time and all reports and files had to be typed out in the officers own time at their homes or lodgings.

He was on duty the night of the flood in 1965 in Matlock. A marker still remains on the footbridge over the river in Hall Leys Park showing the height the river attained that night. A bus was carried by the flood water from the garage on Bakewell Road, down the A6 road and deposited it in the centre of Crown Square. The next morning workers were ferried across the valley in the backs of Quarry Dumpers as the town remained under water.

In a separate incident a 200 ton piece of limestone fell from the rock face behind houses on Dale Road, Matlock Bath, demolishing one. Fortunately no one was injured, but explosives were required to break it up before it could be removed.

He married while serving at Matlock he then transferred to a police house at Glossop. He gave us some detailed accounts of cases he had been involved in, the discovery of brass rollers, stolen from a print works, near a railway



line when 10 minutes spent in an elderberry bush resulted in the two offenders being arrested when they returned with their wheelbarrow to claim their ill-gotten gains.

He was involved in the case of 21 year old Student Susan Elizabeth Renhard, in 1983. She was murdered in Cave Dale, Castleton and he talked us through the investigation, the reconstruction and the eventual identification and conviction of the offender.

Also the case of Colin John Grindley, who was murdered execution style for just being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Over the weekend of 13-14 May 1989 two men armed themselves with a sawn-off .22 rifle intending to commit a "tie-up" robbery using handcuffs which were in their possession. Both had a history of petty crime; and one had just finished a five-year sentence for tying up the landlady of a pub in the Lake District and stealing £500 from her till. Having been unsuccessful in their plans to rob, the men in the early hours of Monday 15th May 1989 drove along the A6 Bakewell to Buxton Road. At Taddington Dale in a lay-by they came across an entirely innocent member of the public, the deceased, a married man with two young children, who had parked his Vauxhall Estate car probably for a rest after his long drive from Croydon. The Defendants saw his car and proceeded to way-lay him. They handcuffed his hands behind his back and took him to a shallow cave near to the lay-by. There they laid him face down in the dirt and shot him twice through the back of the head at some time between 2.45 and 3.50 a.m. The killing amounted to a cold-blooded execution. The Defendants stole a small amount of money from the deceased together with his suitcase. The case against the Defendants was one of overwhelming circumstantial evidence; neither made any comment when questioned or offered any form of defence at their eventual trial at Birmingham Assizes. Both were convicted and sentenced to Life Imprisonment. In 1999 Central Television made two 30 minute programs outlining the 12 months painstaking police enquiries and the Forensic Results which identified and brought about the successful prosecution.

He outlined the siege of a rented cottage in the isolated country hamlet of Higher Chisworth in 1993 by two dangerous criminals serving long terms of imprisonment for armed robberies who had escaped from The Mount Prison after assaulting a Prison Worker, fracturing his skull in the process. Surrounded by armed police the men refused to surrender themselves for 3 days.



During this time families occupying other dwellings in the hamlet were prevented from returning to their homes for the duration. A large quantity of weapons and ammunition were recovered from where they had been secreted both inside the property and in a nearby plantation. Stones from jewellery stolen by means of armed robberies had been hidden behind electric plugs and switches and in the roof of the cottage.

He appeared in the first Aladdin's Cave the BBC "Crimewatch" program filmed outside of the London Studios. There were so many stolen items recovered that the TV crew spent two days with Eric Knowles filming the sequence at Buxton Police Station.

Ernie is retired now and probably like all family historians, he wonders how he had time to go to work.

RUTH BARBER

### INQUEST

Details of a painful fatality were given at an inquest held by the District Coroner [Mr R.W. Sale] at Scropton on Thursday, relative to the death of William James Archer [3½], son of William Archer, farmer of Hawthorne Farm, Scropton.

The evidence of the father showed that on Wednesday he was in a field in company with a boy loading a cart with mangolds. Deceased was also there and when the cart had been filled, a seat was found for him by the side of the boy who was driving the vehicle. Witness walked behind and when the cart reached a gate at the bottom of the field it gave a sudden jolt, with the result that deceased fell off. He fell under the wheel of the cart, and although the horse was promptly pulled up the wheel went partly over deceased. He was picked up and a doctor summoned, but he expired shortly afterwards.

John Turner [13], who was driving the cart, said when he reached the gate the wheel went over a large stone. The mare stumbled and he released the little boy's hand to steady the horse, and the child fell off between the shafts. Dr Crerar stated that deceased had sustained severe injuries to the chest and two broken ribs.

The jury found that death was due to shock following the injuries received.

*Derby Mercury 16 Oct 1914*



# OLD AND NEW NEWS FROM THE NORTH

The outpatients department of yet another hospital, provides and promoted another slant on the hotchpotch, hocus pocus, heartache and hiatus in family history. In May I was originally minding my own business in the outpatients department of the University Hospital of South Manchester, change of location, change of tea blending in the cafeterias. I was deep into reading "Former People" which covers the lost legacy of Russian aristocrats, beginning with the 1917 Russian Revolution and ending at the death of Stalin. Two mature ladies came and sat within full hearing distance, just a vacant seat between us. The two were well known to each other, but had obviously not met for some time. The Russian Revolution fell literally by the wayside and I surreptitiously began to "earwig their family scandals and socialising." Well it did fall within the general scope of family history research.

**Lady No 2** was being brought up to date on family affairs by **Lady No 1**, both legal and extra marital. It got very personal when **Lady No 2**, asked about an obvious black sheep family member. I quickly deduced that this particular sheep had told enough white lies to ice a wedding cake.

**Lady No 1.** " We now have nothing to do with her (emphasised) or the children!"

**Lady No 2.** " Oh ! "Why Not?"

**Lady No 1.** " Well, they were doing 'Family History' at school and the children put John (black sheep's live-in boyfriend) down on the family tree instead of their real dad. We only found out when their school rang up to ask if this was 'OK!' I bet their next School Report is endorsed---"Must try a little harder?"

Another perfectly possible pot (black) hole in family history occurs when a family member resorts to changing their birth name by deed poll. I have two different versions to offer on this theme. One very personal, the other related to me by a fellow travail / traveller. In the 1970's, the Ordnance Survey, my employer, found that it was both convenient and reliable to employ, on a temporary basis only, the student sons and daughters of serving field survey staff, in the post of field assistants.. Two references were required, not a little appreciation of the technical work involved and the legal requirement to sign



the Official Secrets Act, both on joining and leaving the service of the OS, this dual signing was required on each and every occasion. It was not, to put too fine a point on it “a case of once your in, your in for life, or as long as you were a student.” This was long before unemployment appeared in any great numbers on the face of the UK. “Job Centres, Sure Starts” and a multitude of mumbo-jumbo quasi employment prospectus would appear on the future job market.

Son Christopher took over the previous role of an elder brother, both enjoyed the varied robust outdoor lifestyle, no two days were the same, life was rosy, or appeared to be. The money was good and assured, even if a little irregular. Christopher had casually asked about the mechanics of changing a surname, he was then about to leave Manchester Polytechnic and start a degree course in Graphic Design at Newcastle Polytechnic. Come his last Friday, come the hour, and did it come! I remember it as if it were yesterday, despite this event being almost 40 years in the past.

The Chief Surveyor pulled the plug in the following manner.

C S. “Christopher everything that needs to be signed has arrived, except the form reminding you that you will still be bound under the terms of the Official Secrets Act. I will give the form to your dad for you to sign .”

Christopher, “ But, I am not called Holford from Monday. ”

C S. Outward appearance now an unhealthy blend of incredulity and apprehension. “ How is that ?”

Christopher. “I will have then changed my name by deed-poll!”

C S. Looks at me for paternal and eternal guidance. Getting none, he asks “What then is your name from Monday ?”

Christopher. “ Christopher Storab!”

C S. Foreseeing future fireworks. “B\*\*\*\*\* Hell, Christopher the Civil Service doesn’t cater for a person to start a job with one name and ending it with another. It sounds very Middle Eastern to me, MI5 will be round like a shot at your dads' making some inquiries. For all our sakes, please sign the Official Secrets Act reminder form with --- Holford! ”

My mother could not, and never would, accept this change of the family surname, indeed it was years later before she accidentally found out about his dastardly deed-poll dilemma. The rest of the family learned to live and still lives with it. There were however two quasi logical explanations in Christopher's mind for the change of name. Christopher's logic, Part 1, was that any



graphic work endorsed with the name “Storab” was more likely to stay in a reviewer’s mind, than that with the appendage “Holford.” Part 2. “Storab” had both a literal and topographical relevance for him. One year he spent the entire summer on the Isle of Raasay, a small island between the Isle of Skye and the Scottish mainland. Storab is a deserted Celtic village settlement on Raasay.

So a new name a new location, this time Lytham – St – Annes. The evening conversion had somehow sauntered into the whys and wherefores of student whims and wherewithal. I ventured to state that I was acquainted from family student experiences with all the back streets and short cuts in Derby, Manchester and Newcastle-on-Tyne. I had moved the same furniture so many times that I could look at an item and state without fear of contradiction – “that will fit in the car – that will go in the trailer!” My own story ended with the ultimate – the dastardly deed-poll débâcle.

A fellow female travail / traveller however ventured to suggest that in the surname changing charade her student son story was grippingly more graphic and germane than mine. The family name was “Travers” but it had originally been “Trotsky.” Her husband’s grandparents were Lithuanian Jews. In 1917 they saw the way the wind was blowing in Russia and decided that the family should make an exit before events became beyond their control. They escaped to England and were walking the streets of London when they came across a cinema where the advertising billboards announced that the male star of the film was named ---“Travers.” The grandparents had by then decided that it would be inadvisable to be walking the streets of London with the surname --- “Trotsky.” “Travers” they took to be a very portent sign, and purely on the basis that both names began with the letters “Tr.” they subsequently changed the family name from “Trotsky” to “Travers.”

In the subsequent years, Travers family members had been told that the original family name was “Trotsky” together with the circumstances surrounding the need to change it to something with less of a revolutionary nomenclature. All had accepted the reason for changing the original family surname without the need for cross-examination, cryptic comment or complaint. That was until her son started a degree course in Chemistry at Oxford University and then spent the following summer working on a kibbutz in Israel. He came back home, filled and fired up by his latter day kibbutz companions, swopping his degree course from Chemistry to one of Politics, Philosophy and Economics. Subsequently he changed his surname by deed-poll back to “Trotsky” saying



“that the change in 1917 was a sleight on the family name !”

What with “ fabricating fractious families and circuitous changes of the family surname” you will be reassured to learn that another 'blot on the family research landscape!' is declining in popularity . A survey has been undertaken by 'TheKnot.com' about female non-name takers.' In the 1990's the number of married women who kept their own surname was almost 25%. This name keeping has been steadily dropping. The Knot Survey, allegedly, found that in 2011 the proportion of newly married women retaining their name had now dropped to 8%. So Knot to be sniffed at, take your pick---Ms, Mrs, Missus, Ma'am or Mademoiselle.

Another conundrum for you. Which “Gideon” as a teenager changed his name by deed-poll to “George” and Barak Obama, changed it to “Jeffrey” without the need for legal niceties ?

KEITH HOLFORD

### **THEFTS FROM SLOT METERS**

A series of thefts from gas meters was alleged against Godfrey Jenkinson, motor driver, House 8, Court 1, King Street. The prosecutors were three tenants of houses in Devonshire Street, namely Edwin Johnson, Chas Wm Chapman and Wm Mills and the sums said to have been stolen were respectively 5s.7d, 10s, and 5s.5d.

Detective Sergt Savery stated that on the previous day prisoner called at each of the houses and, saying that he had come to collect the money from the slot meters, was allowed to do so, opening the boxes with a key. Later the occupants of the dwellings became suspicious and communicated with the police. On being arrested at his home in the evening prisoner declared that he had not been in Devonshire Street. At the police station he was identified by prosecutors and he then told witness where to find the bunch of keys he had used.

A remand until Monday was ordered and bail was refused, the Chief Constable stating that there were other cases to be inquired into.

*Derby Mercury 31 Dec 1915*



## HOW FAR BACK?

Most family researchers start with themselves and work backwards until they hit a brick wall which we all do sooner or later. This is of course the common way of researching the family, but there is a variant which might not suit everyone, especially if you have a fairly common surname.

A one-name society is only concerned with people with the same name and as that name more often than not is a fairly uncommon name, research is reasonably straight forward. I stress “reasonable” as nothing in family history research is simple. Researching a one name group spans a wide field, covering everyone with that name. The problem, as you must realize, is to find out how all these people are related to each other (if indeed they are). This is where wills and certificates are useful, but certificates only go back to early 19<sup>th</sup> century although wills go much further back. So eventually you come to this famous brick wall. Is that the end? Not necessarily.

Anyone who has been to the National Record Office in Kew is well aware that records go back a long way. The problem with many of them is that they are written in medieval Latin and not everyone can manage to read this. However, they are being transcribed albeit fairly slowly, understandably enough. So what use are they then? More than you think at a first glance. All right, people are only mentioned in these old records if they had done something they shouldn't have done or paid tax or bought land because they are administrative and legal records. This, of course limits the number of people mentioned. If your ancestors were peasants or servants or similar (something that applies to most of us), the chances of finding them is slim.

My wife has been researching people with the name Brokyng, Brooking and a lot of other variant spellings for a number of years and the earliest one she has found so far is one in 1277 in East Anglia. Any chance of connecting this person with any other people with that name? Perhaps not, but the Brooking heartland today is South Hams in Devon where they appear as early as 1454. There were a few of them around Great Yarmouth and one was a merchant dealing in red herrings (there are such fish) and wool. Looking into social history of the time it is possible to draw certain conclusions like we are fairly sure that the early ones came from the Low Countries where you still find people with that name. The theory that the name meant people who



lived by a brook was laid to rest a long time ago. If this theory had been correct, Britain would be as full of Brookings as of brooks. There is another explanation which could have something to do with water, but research is ongoing there.

The reason for the Low Countries Theory is that there were many contacts between East Anglia (Great Yarmouth) and what is now Holland and north Germany. Fishing was important and catches were often bought and sold even before the boat had arrived. Forward buying and selling is nothing new that bankers in London invented recently!

Then they disappear from East Anglia and turned up in London and Devon. Why is that? They followed the wool trade which moved from East Anglia towards Devon. Some are found in the Cotswolds, an area that produced high quality wool so it seems that they controlled wool from source to export and eventually included spinning and weaving and making clothes for export through Totnes, Dartmouth, Plymouth and Exeter and, of course, .

Some became soldiers (archers mainly) and participated in the Hundred Years War. We know that because every soldier in that was recorded. After some centuries there were of course a number of farmers and ag labs and we are now into an era where we can follow the families as long as they stayed fairly put and did not move into the cities. We have no end of “loose horses” in London of which many were mariners, but where did they come from? We are certainly never short of research projects.

So, if you have an unusual name, you can find ancestors way back albeit with little hope in being able to claim them for certain. But more and more documents are being transcribed and available on-line, making it even more exciting to be a family history researcher!

***Thorsten Sjolín***

***E-mail: [thorsten.sjolin@btinternet.com](mailto:thorsten.sjolin@btinternet.com)***



## *Can Anyone Help?*

Although I am a fairly recent member of the DFHS, I have noticed that there is no mention of the Castleton, Hope, Bradwell areas. My family's last name is HOWE. We have, through various genealogical websites and the Derbyshire Record Office, been able to trace the family for several generations, but the problem is that there were no middle names and Johns, Williams and Roberts were in abundance. Perhaps someone can steer us in the right direction.

Th Howe family settled in The Hills in Bradwell. John Howe [1763-?], who was my 3x great grandfather, we think, originally came from Castleton and was a coal miner. He married Ann Palfreyman in 1788 and Charles, who was my 2x great grandfather, was a product of this union. He married Sarah Dakin and at some point they moved to Liverpool. I believe he was a stone/brick mason and worked on the construction of the Nelson Docks and the rail road to Manchester. He later retired to a small farm in Wormhill and he and his wife are buried in the cemetery at St Margaret's church in Wormhill.

William [1837-1916] his son, who was my great grandfather, married Elizabeth Slack and he was a lime agent for the Dove Holes. My grandfather, John [1869-1917], who was also a stone/brick mason, married Mary Jane Wilson. Her family was originally from Yorkshire, but they settled in Liverpool. John and Mary Jane and their nine children emigrated to Victoria, B.C., Canada, in 1911. John continued in his line of work until his death in 1917.

My father, Joseph [1898-1974] was the family historian and in his family history he mentions that the Howes were originally thought to be Norwegian Vikings. The name Howe is mentioned in the history of Bradwell as early as the 1400s. At that time the name was spelled How.

When I was in England in 2011 I went to the cemetery in Hope and located, I believe, the grave of my 4x great grandparents, William Howe [1727-1808] and Hannah Dakyn. It was interesting to note that the name was spelled How and yet in another epitaph on the same tombstone, the name was spelled Howe. I know that the birth, marriage and death records are at St Peter's, Hope, as the church at Bradwell wasn't established until 1868. In a record



listed by the Mormon Church it states that William was the son of Henry and Sarah Howe. I cannot, at present, substantiate this.

I also visited the museum in Castleton and noted the name, How, in the history of coal mining in the area. Despite the fact that we have received most helpful information, we can't seem to establish a definite link with the Howe families in Castleton and number of the Howe names in Bradwell publications. Any information on the Howe family in Derbyshire would be greatly appreciated. Many thanks in advance.

*Ms Tivola Howe [Mem No 7618]  
Kamloops, B.C., Canada*

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## *More Help Wanted!!*

I am trying to trace living relatives in the Derbyshire area. My great grandfather was James Meredith who was a preacher and lived in Derbyshire in 1890. He began the Corden Street Mission in Derby before eventually returning to Cornwall in the 1930s.

His son John was born 1878 in Cornwall and went to live with his grandson in Shelton Lock around 1946.

Is anyone related to this family or can help to trace someone who is.

*Jill Cox [Mem 7694]  
Australia  
E-mail: jilliancox2011@hotmail.com*



## *And Yet More!!*

Help needed to find a "lost" relative. Millicent Florence BRAMLEY was born at Heage to Martha Bramley(1836-1907) towards the end of 1857....no father on the birth certificate. Millicent is on the 1861 census living with her maternal grandparents, Joseph and Hannah Bramley, she is aged 3 and entered as Millicent F CROOKS. Her mother by this time has married Samuel CROOKS on the 31st January 1859. They go on to have 14 more children, most of whom stayed around the Horsley/Denby/Heage area.

Millicent however just disappears after 1861. I have looked on all the Census returns until 1911, death records from 1861 under both surnames, and found absolutely nothing. I searched other counties, still no luck. Her sister Minnie Crooks born 1867 (my great grandmother) certainly never told her family about Millicent. Was she sent away, was her father Samuel Crooks, or did Martha get pregnant to another man in 1857? I would be most grateful for any help in finding what happened to my great great aunt Millicent after the 1861 census. Thanking you, with fingers and toes crossed.

*Jean Simpson [Mem 2823]*  
*E-mail: jasnowdrop@aol.com*

## *Letter to the Editor*

Dear Editor,

Belated congratulations on our new look Society Magazine. I like the size and the entire format is even better than the old version. It's handy size makes it possible to be popped into a small bag and read on journeys or even in hospital waiting rooms!

One article especially appealed to me and that was the "Barr Colonists". What wonderful brave, resourceful and hardy folk our predecessors were. As I reached the end of the article where Hilda Talbot writes of her grandfather leaving Chesterfield, Derbyshire, in 1906 for Canada, ancestral bells started to ring.

My aunt Lilian, who was born in 1911, lived with her grandparents, Thomas and Emma Elizabeth Richardson. She was on hand to absorb much family



history concerning her grandparents, which happily she passed onto me. Thomas Richardson, born in Chesterfield in 1850, had two brothers, John William [1858] and Joseph Henry [1860], who went to Alberta, Canada, possibly about the same time as the Barr Colonists. Aunty Lilian remembered these two brothers coming to stay with them whilst they were on leave.

I have no way of knowing if they were part of the Barr Colonists, but I am sure conditions for them must have been very similar to the ones described in Hilda Talbot's article. Even if my relatives weren't directly involved with this expedition I am sure it would have taken a lot of courage and hard work to make a life for themselves and their families.

I look forward to the next issue.

*Angela V. Richardson*  
*E-mail: alegna9949@hotmail.co.uk*

## **DEATH BY SUICIDE**

Early on Tuesday morning the wife of Mr Thomas Fletcher attempted to cut her throat with a razor. She was attended by Dr Woolley, of Heanor, but in spite of every attention she died on Thursday morning. The deceased had been ill for a long time, which had brought her into a very desponding frame of mind.

The inquest was held on Saturday evening by Mr W.H. Whiston, coroner.

Thomas Fletcher, storekeeper at the Shipley Collieries, said deceased was his wife, and was 48 years of age. She had recently had a severe attack of rheumatic fever, which had left her very low and desponding. Early on Tuesday morning witness came downstairs and found his wife sitting in an easy chair, with blood flowing from a wound in her throat. On the floor lay a razor which witness had missed for some time. Dr Woolley was sent for, and for a time he gave hopes of her recovery, but she gradually sank and died on Thursday morning. The jury returned a verdict that deceased committed suicide during a fit of temporary insanity.

*Derby Mercury, 27 Feb 1884*



## **CRUSHED BY A FALL OF BIND**

An inquest was held on Friday into the death of GEORGE ARTHUR STANLEY, aged 26, of Codnor Gate, who sustained a fractured spine at the Britain Pit by a fall of roof and died at the Ripley Cottage Hospital.

George Stanley, a deputy at the same pit, spoke to seeing his son after the accident, but the latter could only say that his back was broken.

Thomas Hodgkinson, a dayman, who was working with deceased, said he heard the fall and at once went to Stanley's assistance. He was got out in less than a minute and complained of his back. The place seemed quite safe and there was a prop set under the piece of roof that fell. The deputy had examined the place just before the accident.

George Walters, deputy, said he saw Stanley half an hour before the accident when he was shovelling bind into the bank which he [witness] had brought down with a shot. He considered there were plenty of props set and that the roof was quite safe.

Mr J. Hill, representing the Derbyshire Miners' Association, asked what kind of timber was used – if it was Norway or the new kind. The reason he asked was that some timber which was being used gave. Norway timber did not give but the green timber did. Witness said there was no green timber there at all.

Replying to H.M. Inspector of Mines, witness did not agree that the fall disclosed a weight break.

The jury returned a verdict that deceased met his death by being crushed by a fall of bind.

*24 Sep 1915, Derby Mercury*



## **SOPHIA LOCKE**

This was the headline over an article in "The Macclesfield Courier" of 1848.  
**Sophia Locke, alias John Smith, alias James Birch, commonly known as  
"Old Locke."**

**"A singular case of concealment of sex."**

Sophia Locke lived at Sutton, a small village on the southern outskirts of Macclesfield, Cheshire. She afterwards resided in both Glossop and New Mills, plus other places in Derbyshire. She was married as a man and died at Macclesfield in 1848.

The particulars of this concealment of sex, in this town, have come to light during this past week. The facts, as far as we have been able to gather them, are the following :--- On Saturday, the 16<sup>th</sup> September, Mr Bland, one of the Medical Officers of the Macclesfield Union (workhouse) received a certificate requiring his attendance upon a person described as John Smith, aged 48, by trade a cooper and tinker, belonging to Macclesfield but residing in Derby Street as a lodger at the house of one, Mrs M'Cann.

Mr. Bland attended the individual in the course of the day, and found the complaint labouring under an account of dysentery. On looking at the person and hearing his voice, Mr. Bland was struck with their peculiarity; the face, lips, general expression, and the voice being of a woman. Mr. Bland asked the landlady of the house whether the patient was a man or a woman.

Mrs. M'Cann replied by saying " I don't know Doctor; all I can tell you is that he and his wife have lodged here for nine weeks, always dressed as a man, and followed the occupation as a knife grinder and spoon maker."

Mr. Bland on hearing that there was a wife, requested to see her. In answer to Mr. Bland's inquiries the wife stated that she had lived with him for 14 years; that she had met him first at New Mills, Derbyshire; although they were living together they were not married; that she had 11 children; that he had followed the trade of knife-grinder and tinker and sometimes got as much as 10 shillings a day. The statements thus made by the woman satisfied Mr. Bland for the time being that he was in error in supposing the individual calling himself her husband to be a woman; but subsequent visits served to re-awaken his suspicions. In the meantime the symptoms of the disease became



more aggravated, and the individual died on the Saturday morning.

Mr. Bland immediately proceeded to the house and ascertained that the person was beyond all doubt a female. He again questioned the woman calling herself his wife, she denied having any knowledge of the sex of the deceased till the day before the death, when the deceased requested that she should allow no one assist her in laying out the body, but sew the it up immediately in a sheet, which she did. It was in that state when Mr. Bland visited the house almost immediately after the death.

On being further questioned, the woman stated that the father of her 11 children, of which she had previously spoken, were by another husband who was dead, and the reason she gave for living with the deceased was that she was promised maintenance, which promise was faithfully kept by the newly deceased.

The surviving woman has since, we understand, divulged to the Registrar of the District the real name of the deceased, which was Sophia Locke. Although she was described on the certificate of the relieving officer as being aged 48, Mr. Bland is convinced from her appearance that she could be not less than 60 years old.

It appears that she was the daughter of a man named Locke, who was a scissors grinder and tinker. He had several children besides the deceased, she appears to have been the only daughter. He led the life of a gypsy travelling from place to place with his family and carrying with him a tent. The deceased was born in a cave near Croker Wood in Sutton, and a highly respected lady of the neighbourhood was present at that time.

At 3 years of age she assumed male attire, and accompanied a brother to various towns, visiting public-houses and dancing to a violin which he played. In this manner she grew up to womanhood, and then later commenced the trade of her father. The family, it appears wintered on Biddulph Moor ( south of Leek near Mow Cop), it was only known as hearsay among the natives of that place that she was in fact a woman. Subsequently it became well known among them from the following circumstances taking place:-- A quarrel took place between her and a man, and a pitched battle was the result, this took place on Bolton Green, in which she was the victor. In the contest her chest became over exposed, and thus proved what had been previously been ru-



moured. On another occasion her sex appears to have been divulged by a Biddulph man with whom she quarrelled at Glossop.

About 25 years before her death a singular circumstance connected with her history occurred. She was in the habit of visiting Winster, Derbyshire, practising her vocation as a scissors -grinder, etc, and while there she became acquainted with a married gentleman, who unaware of her sex, offered her £5 to marry his servant girl with whom had become over acquainted . The offer was accepted and the marriage took place in Winster Church. Suffice to say that the former servant girl bore a child, from accounts given of the manner in which the child was brought up and treated by the deceased, it was taught to call her “father” there is little doubt that they received considerable support and assistance from the “husband” and the true “parent.”

They lived together for about 7 years, when, from some cause which does not appear to be known, they separated. Afterwards Sophia Locke lived with several women, for different lengths of time; one man claims that it was at least seven in number. About 14 years ago she became acquainted with the woman she was living with when she died, they had lived uninterrupted for that length of time, travelling all over England. Last year they were picking hops in Worcestershire, living happily together, they could each earn half a guinea a day.

KEITH HOLFORD

### HOLIDAY TRAGEDY AT ILKESTON

During a boat excursion on the Erewash Canal from Ilkeston to Trent Lock on Monday, a boy named John Daykin, 11 years of age, whose parents live at 62 Awsworth Road, Ilkeston, walked to Trent Lock and was given a ride in the boat on the return journey.

When Ilkeston was reached after ten o'clock he was missing, and on its being stated that a splash was heard in Potter's Lock the police dragged on Tuesday for several hours, and eventually found the body.

*Derby Mercury, 6 Aug 1915*



# *The Mercer's Story*

by Judy Bradwell

Robert Middleton, mercer, tobacconist and coinage expert, at least when it came to the vexed question of clipped silver, makes his first known documented appearance in the records of St Thomas a Becket's, the parish church of Chapel en le Frith; christened 2 August 1677, daughter of Robert and Mary Middleton.

Ellen, as she is also styled, lived to adulthood and married John Warwick on 28 October 1695. Robert and his wife would have at least 10 children, seven of them boys. This is so obviously a family well settled in Chapel en le Frith and with plenty of good connections. Robert was a close friend of William Bagshawe, the former vicar of Glossop who became one of England's leading dissenters. Robert would also be one of the major contributors to the chapel, which Bagshawe's successor, James Clegg, would establish at Chinley. Those of Robert and Mary's children that survived, and most of them did, would mostly marry within the local community.

Robert's own parenthood is uncertain. Despite a search of Middletons and their pedigrees in Derbyshire and beyond it has not been possible to identify his family with any confidence. Middleton was a common surname in the Derbyshire of Robert Mercer's day. Robert is an equally common first name alongside the Middleton surname. The background of all obvious Derbyshire Middleton families has been checked. Parish records, wills and documents so far reveal no satisfactory link to this family of Chapel en le Frith. A Robert Middelton [sic] is mentioned in documents involving land in Wormehill in the Derbyshire Feet of Fines as early as 1448 and Derbyshire is dotted with this family name.

If Ellen was Robert's eldest child a likely year of date for the father's birth would be around 1650. This unfortunately falls in the centre of the Civil War period when church records were seldom kept. His marriage to Mary has also not been found, and this would have been well after the Civil War had ended. However there is a possibility that Robert's immediate family might have come from Sheffield, and here the only clue lies in the common first names of Robert's family and what may perhaps be the children of his grandparents.



In the early 1600s an Edward Middleton and his wife Alice Taylor established a large family in Sheffield. The children, all baptised at the cathedral of St Peter [and St Paul] in Sheffield, were Alice 1910, John 1612, Anne 1614 died 1615, Robert 1615, Edward 20 January 1617 died April 1618 and twin Anthony [1], Anthony [2] 1619, Sara 1621, Elizabeth 1624, Martha 1627, Margaret 1630 who married Robert Staniland March 1657 at St Peter's, and Jonathan 1634, buried June 1684 Sheffield, who married Alice Staniland in April 1670.

A son, Robertus Middleton, son of Robert Middleton, was baptised at St Peter's, Sheffield, in 1644, but Robert the mercer's father was more likely to have been John given that this was the name of his eldest son, if a traditional pattern of family names was followed. At that time—and the practice is often continued today especially through the use of second names—it was common to give children family first names and these followed an accepted pattern, though obviously with exceptions.

- The first son was named after the father's father
- The second son was named after the mother's father
- The third son was named after the father
- The fourth son was named after the father's eldest brother
- The first daughter after the mother's mother
- The second daughter after the father's mother
- The third daughter after the mother
- The fourth daughter after the mother's eldest sister

With the sons of Robert Middleton, the mercer of Chapel en le Frith, this offers a good match. Robert and his wife Mary named their sons John, Richard, Robert, Edward, Ebenezer, William and Septimus. This would indicate, if this family was following the traditional pattern for names, that Robert's father was John and his wife's father Richard. Robert was named after Robert the mercer. The real pointer would lie with son Edward, born about 1690 and named [tradition said] after the father's eldest brother. This would fit the name of Edward in the Sheffield family.

It is perhaps unfortunate that the daughter's names—Hellin/Ellen, Mary [after her mother] and Ann—do not offer any such clear pointers. Nor indeed does the Robert, son of Robert from 1644.



The names of John and Edward belong in generations of the Middletons of Middleton Hall, Lonsdale, but the history of this family is well known. The John Middleton alive in the 1600s was a major-general in the reign of Charles I and killed in the battle of Hopton Heath in 1642. Out of six brothers in this generation three were killed in the King's cause. The family has been well documented [See *A Tour in Westmorland* by Sir Clement Jones, published 1948].

However, there were earlier members of this family with sons. Oliver Lewis Myddleton who married Joan Franson is listed with Edward, William, Thomas and Ann, Joan 1 and Joan 2, of Middleton, Yorkshire. Their son Thomas may be the one who married Margaret Lasselles about 1478; their sons were John, Roger, Richard, Robert, Geoffrey, George, Edward and daughters Ann and Elizabeth. Geoffrey married Margaret Kirkham and their son John, born about 1508, married Ann Tunstall. John and Ann had a son Edward in 1546; he died about 1599. Middleton in Lonsdale is an area bordering on Westmorland, Yorkshire and Lancashire, and it has changed counties several times.

There was an extensive Middleton family in Middleton, near Royton, Lancashire; they were Catholics at the time of the Civil War and died out as a family on the male line. No connection has been found.

Sheffield, however, is not far from Hope and the Middletons were a large family in an area that included Tideswell, Eyam, Smalldale and Bradwell. Robert here is a common first name with Middleton; Edward is not. Despite tracking Middleton families and their wills, and mentions of them in wills, no Robert Middleton mercer is apparent. As he was able to establish a good business and had the respect of those well known in the community it is likely he came from a substantial background.

There is an area of Hyde, Cheshire, called Middleton, but that was named far later. This line has been traced back to a Robert Middleton born 1605 in Hope, who was the father of, among other children, Robert, Richard, Ellis [born 1630], William, Thomas, James and John [*The Middleton Family* by Beth Blands Engel]. However there is no trace of this being the family of Robert Middleton mercer. The birth dates of the sons would not seem to accommodate a Robert who was born about 1650, especially with a father named John.



There is the marriage of Maria Middleton to a Hugh Bradwell in March 1655/6 at St Thomas a Becket's, but the first known child of Robert Middleton the mercer was baptised in 1677, so this would be an earlier generation. Does Maria Middleton provide an earlier link to the later Chapel en le Frith family? Records do not show any.

A will, dated 28 November 1695, exists for a Thomas Bradwell which mentions a daughter Mary married to a Robert Middleton. Thomas is leaving the messuage where he now lives with two barns and a stable, to his wife Catherine for life and then to his brother Edward Bradwell. Thomas has 'grove of lead' which are to be sold and the money divided between family members who include Edward, Catherine, Martha, the wife of Adam Barber, and Mary the wife of Robert Middleton. Thomas' brother Hugh Bradwell, of the City of London "barber-chirugion" is also named in the will, as are a grandchild Dorothy Charlesworth and a Rowland Middleton the younger. Rowland is not a family name of the Chapel en le Frith family. [A Rowland Middleton was mayor of Shrewsbury in 1673 and a mercer]. No child named Thomas has been found in Robert the mercer's immediate family.

The first mention of a Rowland Middleton crops up in the IGI as a marriage. On 17 April 1592 he married Eleanor at Howden, Yorkshire. Howden is close to Snaith which is another area where there was a Middleton family living. Another Rowland Middleton married 14 June 1581 to a Jane Thomas at Bishop's Castle, Shropshire, and this would surely provide a closer link into a later family in Shrewsbury and the mayor of that city. A Rowland [Rollin] Middleton married an Isabelle Marshall in Bradwell 22 January 1676 and this at least fits Hugh Bradwell's will. At Howden, again, a John Middleton has a son John born 20 May 1615, married 1640, but the dates do not fit Robert the mercer's family.

Middleton was, it seems, a common enough surname, given perhaps to a family living in the centre of the 'ton' or town, and indeed to several families in several towns. The hearth taxes from the Chapel en le Frith area give no help in establishing Robert's prosperous and well-connected family here. There are Middletons in Hope and Brough in the Hope taxes; two John Middletons, two Martin Middletons and a Humphrey Middleton in Hope [which includes Bradwell], and a Richard Middleton with two hearths and a Robert with one hearth in Brough. There were also Middletons in Tideswell. In his book *An Historical Guide to Tideswell and its Church*, the Rev J.M.J.



Fletcher describes the church's Meverill tombs as once—300 years ago—having an escutcheon “now left blank bearing the arms of Middleton”. These arms also appeared on the quarter coat, where the blank quartering now is, Rev Fletcher says and adds “Some of the brassed appear to have been removed about the year 1688”. There were Middletons in the Tideswell area in Robert the mercer's day, but again no link has been traced. The available hearth tax records from the Sheffield area are of no help. In 1629 an agreement is made by a John Middleton of Wannesley, among others. However Wannesley is in Nottinghamshire. The Wolley Manuscripts, where these details appear, states that it is the manor of Matlock that is involved. I can find no link. Those styled Lord Middleton were originally members of the Willoughby family.

Writer Seth Evans in his book *Bradwell Ancient and Modern* shows a Robert Myddleton and a John Medalton [sic] in the Pleas in the Bradwell entry for 1399, the time of Henry IV. “The Middleton family ranks among the very oldest in the district” says Seth Evans. “For 600 years they have been located here and are here still in various branches.” He lists the John Myddleton and Robert Myddleton of the Pleas and the two Martin Middletons, two Richard Middletons and the Thomas Middleton who are listed as freeholders in 1734. However, my research has yet to link any of these families to that of Robert the mercer.

Historian Joseph Tilley addresses the subject of the Middletons when it comes to Leam Hall at Woodland Eyam. The homestead, he writes, was that of the Middletons whose line [so far as male heirs were concerned] became extinct by the death of Robert 1736. The estate passed by the female line and a later heir to the estate, Marmaduke Carver, adopted the Middleton name. The Robert Middleton who died in 1736 is not Robert he Chapel mercer who died 27 July 1734, the latter a fact recorded by James Clegg in his remarkable diary of his life in Chinley.

Robert the mercer was buried on the 29th in the chancel at St Thomas a Beck, so there was an important link to the church in Chapel en le Frith. However the Middleton name is not among church's seat-holders from 1641 [*The Parish Church of St Thomas a Becket* by William Braylesford Bunting]. There are no Middletons listed as church officers [wardens] and these names are known back to 1610. The first to take up such a post is Ebenezer Middleton who was the people's warden in 1714 and 1715 and he was Robert's son.



Did Robert marry the daughter and heir of a Chapel en le Frith shopkeeper and thereby inherit a father in law's business. There is no clue that this was so and all the known daughters called Mary of the right period—her first child was christened in 1677—have been checked. Has anyone else traced the early history of this Middleton family and found any promising leads?

For Robert Middleton will be a force to be reckoned with in the small township of Chapel for at least 50 years, and a surprising amount is known about him and his family. He and his wife Mary—her maiden name unknown—left many descendants.

*To be continued in the December issue*

*Judy Bradwell*

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### RIPLEY CYCLING FATALITY

An inquest was held at Ripley on Tuesday, relative to the death of Albert Henry Walters, colliery banksman, aged 26, of Greenhill Lane, Alfreton, who, after an accident near Butterley Farm, died in Ripley Cottage Hospital on Sunday last.

Mr H.H. Holmes, colliery manager for the Butterley Company, said he was driving a pony and trap up the company's private road on the 3<sup>rd</sup> instl, when he saw deceased on a road racing machine, with low handle bars, come over the brow of the hill and descend the slope rapidly in the centre of the road. The horse was walking, and when eight or ten yards away deceased appeared to rear himself up and at the same time the machine wobbled and came straight across as if it were deceased's intention to pass on the wrong side. Witness, who realised that a collision was inevitable, stopped the horse dead but deceased ran into the right hand shaft, which penetrated the left hand of his neck.

Dr Anderson said a post mortem had revealed the left clavicle to be dislocated, the first and second ribs fractured, and the apex of the left lung destroyed. The cause of death was hemorrhage from the wounds.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death" and expressed the unanimous opinion that no blame attached to Mr Holmes.

*Derby Mercury 23 July 1915*



## NEW WESLEYAN CHURCH



The new Wesleyan Church at Mickleover was formally opened on Wednesday. The church is planned to seat 250 adults and is so arranged that additional seating accommodation can be provided by extending the front towards the main road. There is

a rostrum to seat six persons with provision for a large choir at the back of the same. Included in the plan is a minister's vestry, large schoolroom with provisions for future extensions, kitchen and lavatory accommodation. The elevations are designed in the free Gothic style of architecture and are faced with red pressed bricks and stone dressings. The windows of the church are glazed with ornamental leaded glazing, a special feature having been made of the windows to the choir. The ventilation is by natural means, ample inlets and outlets having been provided. The heating is one the low pressure hot water system. The artificial lighting is by incandescent gas. The architect of the buildings is Mr A.E. Lambert, of Nottingham. The land was purchased about seven years ago, and the contract was let to Messrs Parks and Son, of Grantham. The estimated cost of the building is £1,570.

There was a big gathering at the opening ceremony. Doors were unlocked by Mrs T.A. Reed and Mrs White, the former saying that Mickleover people had done nobly. Their vision of a beautiful sanctuary had become a reality, and they would prize the privilege of worshipping there.

A dedicatory service was then held, the Rev G.H.Carnson, of Preston, and formerly superintendent of the Derby Green Hill Circuit, being the preacher. Tea was provided.

*Derby Daily Telegraph 24 Sep 1914*



## *Murder in South Derbyshire*

Memorial Inscription from Church Gresley Cemetery

*"In loving memory of Rose Mary Louisa the dearly beloved daughter of William and Louisa Foster who sacrificed her life on June 10th 1921 [in defence of her honour] aged 21 years. Time may pass from year to year and friends from day to day, but never with the one we loved, from our memory fade away. Peace, Perfect Peace. This monument was erected by public subscription."*

This inscription has long intrigued me. Did Rose kill herself after an assault, did someone kill her? The latter was more obvious as the public collected a sum of money to pay for her headstone. I finally decided to trawl the papers and this was the result:-

William Foster was a clerk and had been born in Polesworth, Warwickshire. He took a job at a sanitary works, probably in Woodville, and moved into lodgings in Albert Village just down the road. He married a local girl, Louisa Scarrott, and their first born Rose Mary was born in 1899 barely nine months after the marriage.

By 1921 the Foster family were living at Occupation Road, William then working as a cashier at Mansfield's pipeworks in Church Gresley. Rose was then 21 years old and had been walking out for about two years with Jack Boss, a 25 year old clerk for Green and Co's Pottery Works, also at Church Gresley. In May 1921 the couple became engaged and on Friday June 10th walked together with Rose's mother and her young brother, George, on a shopping expedition. Returning home the young couple went for a walk by themselves towards the hamlet of Spring Cottage.

Having prepared supper for the pair, the parents began to get anxious as time went on and nothing was seen of them. About 11 o'clock Jack returned, but not with Rose, instead in company with his father, a chorister at the church. Jack was looking very strange, was incoherent and could only stammer out the name Rose. His parents explained he had reached home about 10.40 in a distressed state, they asked him what had happened and as they couldn't make out his reply brought him to the Foster's house. Soon afterwards he gasped "I'm done" and lapsed into unconsciousness.



A search party was immediately organised by friends and relatives of both families, and throughout the night roads and fields all around were searched. The banks of a reservoir and the canal were searched in vain. At last at 7.10 a.m., on the Saturday morning, police-constable Howdon came across the dead body of Rose. She was found in long mowing grass about 20 yards from the reservoir.

The unfortunate girl was removed to Messrs Haywood & Co's Pipe Works to await an inquest. Meanwhile Boss lay at the girl's home in unconscious condition and was attended by two doctors. He had still not recovered consciousness on the Saturday afternoon and Dr McPherson of Overseal ordered his removal to hospital.

After the inquest John Boss was arrested and in October 1921 stood his trial at the Ashby de la Zouch assizes. Death was evidently due to strangulation, there were abrasions on the nose and windpipe and great force had been used. Her poor father, William Foster, was a pathetic figure in the witness box. He explained how the pair had gone for a walk and his daughter's body was found the next morning near a reservoir. When Boss returned from the walk without his daughter he appeared in a dazed state.

William Boss, father of the prisoner, said his son returned at night perfectly dazed. He explained that at the age of four John had fallen some ten or eleven feet onto his head and was unconscious for about twelve hours. After serving with the forces in Egypt and Syria there had been a marked change in his manner. He had developed fits of sullenness, suffered from periods of depression and looked strange about the eyes. He had also developed strange tendencies and would stand for an hour at a time biting his nails. His father had him medically examined, having formed the opinion that he did not know what he was doing.

Dr Dixon, medical superintendent at the Leicester City Mental Hospital, spoke to examining the accused at Leicester Prison and said John Boss was in a state of semi stupor and he had concluded he was mentally unsound. The defence claimed there was abundant evidence on the question of insanity. Summing up, the Judge said if the jury were satisfied then there was no evidence to show that it was anything less than murder. It was up to the defence to prove insanity. John Kesterton Boss was found guilty and sentenced to hang, the provisional date of execution being the 16th November.



The date of execution was reported in the papers and before the sentence could be carried out, an old comrade of Boss's, a Mr Christopher Skelton of Maryport, Cumberland, came forward with additional evidence leading to an appeal.

It appeared that Skelton had recognised Boss as a soldier who served with him in the Northamptonshire Regiment in Egypt and Palestine. Skelton wrote to Gresley and communicated with his aunt, Mrs Hardy, whose husband got in touch with the county police. As a result he was interviewed by the police and, on their instructions, went to see the solicitor for the defence, who promptly launched an appeal.

It turned out that Mr Skelton was doing clerical work for the battalion and Boss frequently assisted him in a similar capacity. A Mr Belfield, of Swadlincote, who had been addressing the Coalville Men's Adult School, invited the members to sign a petition for a reprieve, and a large number did so.

At the beginning of December the Home Secretary recommended to the King that he reprieve John Kesterton Boss for the murder of his sweetheart, Rose Mary Louise Foster.

John Boss had been serving his sentence in His Majesty's Prison, Woodhill, but after the successful appeal he was certified insane and sent to Bedlam. Here he would remain until he died in 1962, aged 66. A better fate? I don't think so.

Reading between the lines it would appear John was suffering from shell-shock, possibly with existing damage already there from his fall as a child. Nowadays this would have been picked up long before he had chance to murder his girl, and hopefully treated. Poor Rose has long been forgotten and her remains lie in the cemetery, with plenty of people walking past her headstone, perhaps reading the inscription and wondering about it briefly before walking on and thinking no more about it.

Do any descendants remain?



# THE TRADESPEOPLE OF CRICH

Found and abridged 1998—Written in 1880

With our worthy vicar I must begin  
His duty is to save from sin,  
His sermons and his prayers should raise,  
Our hearts to God in thankful praise.

Our Doctor next comes to my view,  
In cleverness he's beat by few;  
His skill and talent gain renown,  
The finest man in all the town.

Of Lawyer Harris not much is known,  
The less the better you will all own;  
For if from him you want advice,  
You'll have to pay a heavy price.

In Mr Boag you'll see combined  
Largeness of heart and soul and mind;  
He's shrewd of thought, in words polite,  
His life with all his acts unite.

Of Mr Coupe, there's no offence  
In saying he's a man of sense;  
To ought that's good his hand he'll lend,  
The poor in him possess a friend.

Joseph Howitt is a decent man,  
Most of his workman say,  
And for their sake we hope he'll live  
Their wages long to pay.

Above him lives his brother Harry,  
A gun he used to love to carry;  
But now he's got a shop and wife,  
He has to lead a steadier life.



Mr Burton has only one arm,  
But to make up for that he's got a large farm;  
He's also got three servant chaps,  
And so he takes no harm perhaps.

Mr Cowlshaw's an upright man,  
In all his ways and dealings;  
He studies business while he can,  
And is possessed of proper feelings.

Mr Storer is a very good man,  
Who works for God below;  
And when he's done what good he can,  
To heaven I'm sure he'll go.

Mr Wightman's just and true  
To all he'll do or say'  
Of such as him we have but few,  
He's honest as the day.

Miss Walker keeps the King's Arms Inn  
In order and control;  
Sells brandy, whisky, rum and gin,  
And ale to make folks roll.

Joseph Rollinson works hard,  
He also keeps a shop;  
But, as I've many more to name,  
With him I must not stop.

Thomas Dawes he keeps a grocer's shop,  
Sells all you may desire,  
But if you say too much to him,  
The fat is in the fire.

Another upright man I reach,  
Whose name I mean to mention.....  
Joseph Whitaker [I've heard him preach],  
To do good is his intention.



George Stocks works in the frame,  
And he contrives to do what's right;  
Joseph Slack he does the same,  
They both work hard from morn till night.

Charley Walters lives above,  
A barber and hair cutter;  
Scissor grinder too he is,  
Sells hair oil rich as butter.

There's Joseph Brown I won't forget,  
A framesmith very good;  
And if his work I meant to blame,  
I could not if I would.

There's Edward Bown, a neighbour good,  
As all around will say;  
'Twould cheer you up to see his face  
If you should pass that way.

Samuel Stocks works very hard,  
His children do as well;  
But which brings home of money most,  
There is no need to tell.

John Haynes, our only joiner here,  
Make aught you may require,  
In shape of tables, box or drawers,  
He'll suit each small desire.

Ralph Smith who lives at Dimple House,  
A butcher used to be;  
He leads a very easy life,  
For retired now is he.

A respectable draper is Mr James Lee,  
Candles he makes and keeps a farm;  
He also deals in sugar and tea,  
Churchwarden too, and does no harm.



Next to him lives his friend John Perry,  
Who deals in apples, pears and cherries;  
Potatoes, oranges and fish,  
[Which many think a dainty dish].

John Dawes he does the rates collect,  
A shop he keeps of toys;  
He penny pipes and 'bacca sells  
For naughty little boys.

Fredrick Curzon a tailor is,  
That doth his work right well;  
Caleb Gratton lives next door,  
Who cakes and pies does sell.

Mrs Howitt and Miss Poyser  
Dressmakers are first class;  
For style and fit it well is known  
There's none can them surpass.

John Stocks is a very good baker,  
Pork pie and sausage maker;  
His flour is good, his bread is clean,  
The sweetest and freshest that ever was seen.

Vaughan Taylor he in beef doth deal,  
Mutton, also lamb and veal;  
His weight is just, his price is fair,  
His customers this all declare.

John Higton is a butcher too,  
In cutting up he's beat by few;  
His quality and quantity both alike are good,  
So buy a pound or two off him if I want you ever should.

Robert Foster is a real Englishman,  
One of the real olden kind,  
Honest, straightforward and upright,  
He always speaks his mind.



William Thorpe lives just below,  
He is a man of taste and sense;  
For flowers and snuff there's lot will own  
He spares no trouble or expense.

John Saxton a churchwarden is,  
A lawyers clerk besides;  
And if you want your will to make  
In him you must confide.

Richard Young he is a farmer,  
A plumber and a glazier too;  
He is a tidy sort of fellow,  
But alas, he is a Blue.

Mr Kirk who lives on Bown's Hill,  
A very good Draper's shop does keep;  
And when he's selling off his things,  
You'll get your clothing cheap.

Mrs Wigles sells bull's eyes,  
A school she also teaches,  
Of little girls and also boys,  
Not yet in their breeches.

George Smith a man of principle,  
His sons the same may be;  
A wheelwright is that none can beat,  
A farmer too is he.

Another blacksmith have we got,  
Thomas Taylor is his name;  
And if I say he nothing knows  
I shall be much to blame.

Mr Twigg's the Parish guardian  
And reliever of the poor:  
With his smashing trap and pony  
Rides the parish o'er and o'er.



A toyshop Mrs Wetton's got;  
Sells dolls, the child to please:  
And lollypops and ginger beer  
So strong it makes you sneeze.

Mr Hunt he saddles makes,  
His work he well doth do;  
And if you want your harness good,  
You'll get it strong and new.

Mrs England keeps a shop,  
Sells sugar, tea and barm;  
Samuel Holmes he does the same,  
He also has a farm.

Of publicans I've not said much,  
But we have got a lot:  
The stuff they sell is nothing worth,  
Makes man a brutish sot.

John Wetton is the parish clerk,  
"Amen" he shouts on Sunday;  
In earnestness he does his work,  
Though he be hoarse on Monday.

But he's still more solemn charge,  
The graves are in his trust;  
Which hold the wicked and the good,  
The righteous and the just.

My story now is finished,  
My yarn I now have spun,  
Adieu my fellow brethren,  
My criticising's done.

W.H.

Crich, May, 1880

*[By permission of the Editor, Crich Area Community News]*



## **WHEN CHATSWORTH WAS A SCHOOL**

It may be difficult to imagine, but during the war years Chatsworth was inhabited by a girls' school. Penrhos College in Colwyn Bay was commandeered by the Ministry of Food and the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire offered Chatsworth House to the homeless school.

So 250 girls, all boarders, hundreds of desks, chairs, tables, beds, etc were all transported to Derbyshire and the school was allowed the complete freedom of the house, gardens, park and woods. Only the famous library was closed, and even that was used for private music lessons. Pictures and other valuable pieces were put in store, but many were left and the girls were greeted each morning by a huge painting of Henry VIII.

The magnificent Painted Hall became the assembly hall and chapel with the choir sitting on the stairs. Dormitories ranged from 32 girls—housed in the large dining room—to a mere 8 in the smaller rooms, mainly for seniors. The juniors shared en masse. All the state rooms accommodated 16-20 girls, while bathrooms were scattered and various. One had mirrors round the wall, one was sunken in the floor and one was so enormous that 5 or 6 could and did bath together.

Hockey, lacrosse and cricket were played on the cricket pitch, the orangery made a rather draughty art room and the squash court became the gymnasium. Various labs found a home near the kitchen regions while the theatre became a marvellous place for dancing and dramatics.

There were very few rules. Only the sixth form used ink for writing, dustless chalk was used on the blackboard and running anywhere indoors was forbidden.

The large beer cellars made superb air-raid shelters and one evening two enemy aircraft dived out of the clouds to machine gun the house, thinking it housed military personnel. They were later shot down in Lincolnshire.

Thanks to the Duke and Duchess a Welsh school found peace during the war-time years and I only hope they appreciated just what a fine home they had in Derbyshire.



## DERBYSHIRE RECORD OFFICE UPDATE

### **Record Office receives an award.....**

Derbyshire Record Office was delighted to receive the Inspiration Award for Best Special Project at the 2013 Derbyshire Heritage Awards. We received the award for our building and artist-in-residence project, which has transformed the interior of the building. The artist in residence, Paula Moss, was funded partly by Derbyshire County Council, and partly by Arts Council England. If you haven't visited the Record Office yet, do come along and see what's changed.

### **.....and a commendation!**

The artist-in-residence and building project was also one of four finalists out of seventeen nominations for the East Midlands Heritage Awards' 'Resilience & Innovation' category. The award recognises innovative practice and ways in which museums and heritage sites can become stronger organisations.

We are delighted to have beaten off so much competition from around the region to receive the commendation for the new building. The response by our customers to the building shows what an impact the project has made:

*"The refurbishment is really fantastic. The new Record Office is light and airy, very welcoming, modern and a wonderful environment for study and research. The displays around the building really add an extra ingredient visually, especially the window vinyls. I love the colour scheme too!"*

*"Just to say how much I like the new Record Office building and that it feels more inclusive and welcoming ... Well done to all the staff for keeping our history vibrant and relevant for the next generations of local historians."*

*"The new work rooms and facilities are absolutely wonderful. Surely these facilities are the envy of all other Record offices? They're definitely the best I've used during my research."*





*Details of bespoke  
window coverings  
and furniture*



### **Manorial Documents Register Project**

The Manorial Documents Register (MDR) Project for Derbyshire has just been set in motion. Neil Bettridge has been appointed Archivist for the MDR Project, and his aim is to check, revise and find out about the existence and whereabouts of manorial records for the county and to make the information available online on the new MDR which is run by The National Archives. Over thirteen months Neil will be checking the catalogues, lists and indexes of many libraries, archives and other places where manorial records are stored.

By the end of the project we will have a better knowledge of what manorial records there are for the county and where they are located. We also hope to make people more aware of what manorial records can offer to researchers and how they can be used with a number of outreach activities. Another particular aspect of the project is to encourage volunteers to take part in the project, especially in researching the histories of the county's many fascinating and diverse manors. Anyone interested in finding out more about the MDR project should contact Neil on 01629 538179 or at [neil.bettridge@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:neil.bettridge@derbyshire.gov.uk).

### **Introductions to the Record Office**

We are pleased to announce the reintroduction of our Introductions to the Record Office sessions. These free sessions provide an introduction to the work of the record office, our services and the collections we hold. They will enable new users to get to grips with the type of information we hold relating



to family and local history and how they can find the information they are looking for. These sessions will include a display of archive and local studies material and a tour of our newly refurbished office.

For more information on these sessions, including dates and how to reserve a place, please see our website at [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/recordoffice](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/recordoffice) or call us on 01629 538347

### **Contacting the Record Office**

Should you have any queries you would like the record office to answer, either about our service or our collections, please contact us:

By post: Derbyshire Record Office, County Hall, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3AG

By telephone: 01629 538347

By email: [record.office@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:record.office@derbyshire.gov.uk)

KAREN MILLHOUSE  
County Archivist

### **DERBY MAN'S SUDDEN DEATH**

The sudden death of John Groves, 57, of 29 Abbey Street, was inquired into at an inquest held on Tuesday by the Deputy Borough Coroner [Mr W.J. Holbrook]. The evidence showed that deceased, who was a labourer at Messrs Boden's lace factory, had been in poor health for the past ten years. He had been attended by Dr Cook who, however, had not seen him for the past four months. On Saturday he stated that he had never felt so well, but later collapsed while cleaning boots and rapidly became semi-conscious. Dr Cook stated that the cause of death was a rupture of a blood vessel in the brain. The jury returned a verdict agreeing with the medical evidence.

*Derby Mercury, 17 Sep 1915*

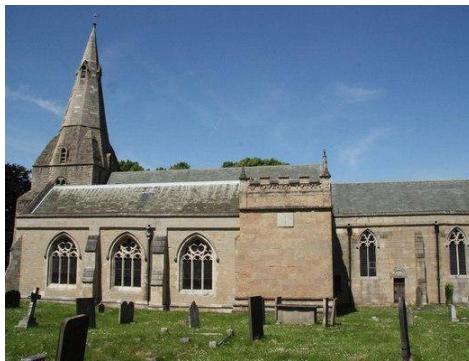


## CHURCHES OF DERBYSHIRE

### 31. Bolsover St Mary & St Laurence

Bolsover is now known as a mining town and even when it was an agricultural community it still had a deserved reputation for metal work. Even ignoring the well known castle it still contains a number of interesting buildings of architectural and historic merit, not least of which is the parish church of St Mary and St Laurence.

The Manor of Bolsover formed part of the large estates given by William the Conqueror to William Peverel, but Domesday Book contains no mention of a church and the first documentary reference is to be found in the grant of the Church to Darley Abbey early in the reign of Henry II.



The right of presentment remained in monastic hands until the sixteenth century, when it fell to the Crown. From 1617 onwards it was held by one or other branch of the Cavendish family, except for a brief period during the Commonwealth, being in the hands of Dukes of Portland for over 150 years.

It is difficult to imagine what the church was originally like since it has suffered two disastrous fires. The first occurred in January 1897 and virtually destroyed the entire fabric, except for the Tower and the Cavendish Chapel. However an almost complete rebuilding was carried out at a cost of £10,000 and the church was re-consecrated in 1898. The second fire broke out in 1960 and this time rebuilding cost some £70,000. Apart from the destruction of the fabric, records also disappeared. However, it is believed that the building was restored to its original condition and certainly its appearance seems to agree with that of a photograph published by Dr Cox in 1875.

The church has some interesting features. The baptistery at the East End of the North aisle, holds a fragment of the early church. On the East Wall stands the Bethlehem Tableau, a fine example of the work of the medieval



mason. The stone slab was discovered during an 18th century restoration. The font and cover were the gift of the parish of Chesterfield at the 1898 restoration.

In the north east corner is part of a coffin lid of a Saxon farmer showing the tools of his trade—the axe, shears, sickle and ring. A new pulpit, with curved stairs was made by Shepherdsons of Stockport and fitted round a pillar to the North of the Nave.

After the fire of 1960 the opportunity was taken to re-allocate the space available for congregational worship. The choir and organ console were moved out of the chancel and the organ to the West End. The Sanctuary and Altar were brought forward in the chancel, nearer to the congregation and the East end of the chancel was partitioned by an open screen to form the Lady Chapel.

The Cavendish Chapel was built in 1618 to house the great monument to the memory of Sir Charles Cavendish and his wife Katherine Ogle of Bolsover Castle. Sir Charles, son of Bess of Hardwick, purchased the ruins of the Norman castle in 1613 and had begun the rebuilding before his death in 1617. There is also a lovely memorial to the second Duke of Newcastle, who died in 1691. Amazingly only this chapel and the tower were left standing by both fires.

The original registers for Bolsover are deposited at the Derbyshire Record Office, Matlock, but because of the fire many are missing. The following survive: Baptisms 1603-1751, 1813-1873, 1953-1968; Marriages 1603-1714, 1755-1941, 1955; Banns 1653-1657, 1952-1984; Burials 1603-1646, 1653-1746, 1813-1898. In addition baptisms after 1716 and burials after 1714 are scattered and incomplete.

The Derbyshire FHS has copies of many of these registers, plus the Bishops Transcripts for the missing years [where they survive]. We also have the memorial inscriptions for Bolsover and many articles on both the village and the church.



## **ILLEGITIMACY**

It has been said that everyone has at least one ancestor born out of wedlock and many have several. This can bring your family tree to an abrupt halt, sometimes there can be clues that might lead you to suspect who has fathered the child, but usually it is impossible to prove.

First indication of illegitimacy is a blank space on the birth certificate. Next step is a look at the parish register where there might well be a telling note from the vicar. Don't expect them to be polite either. Such names as love-child, basebegot, spurious or byblow are relatively mild. Some bluntly put bastard, whoreson, or unlawfully begot. Either way it comes down to the simple fact that a single woman has given birth to an illegitimate child. Very occasionally you may come across a vicar who has named the father, usually with a note in the margin making some comment about the mother and the circumstances of the birth. One register in Nottingham has the same comment against all the illegitimate births—"This mother is a strumpet".

There are some other indications. A large gap between children when there is an elder daughter could mean that the grandparents are passing a baby off as their own, seeking to cover up their own and their daughter's shame. And this, of course, is the problem. Families went to great lengths to keep their guilty secret and make the task of modern family historians even more difficult.

There can be clues to paternity. A surname given as a middle name could be the father's surname. Look at the address where the baby is born, too, if it is not the home address. It could be a mother and baby home or a workhouse, which might lead to records you can consult. It could be worth looking up the will of someone you believe is the father of the illegitimate child as such children had to be acknowledged as such in the will, often described as the 'reputed' child. Always be aware, though, that the wrong man could be named as the father.

In the 16th century JPs would examine the circumstances of an illegitimate birth in an attempt to discover who the father was and order him to pay maintenance. By 1610 mothers of illegitimate children could be sent to the House of Correction for up to 1 year. In 1732/3 an Act was passed required women pregnant with an illegitimate child to declare to the authorities she was carry-



ing a child and to name the father. This act also prohibited the sending back to their home parish a pregnant unmarried woman. Ten years later another act ruled that an illegitimate child's parish of settlement was the same as its mother, not that of its father. The mother could not be moved back to her parish of settlement until at least a month after the birth.

The Poor Law Act of 1834 annoyingly makes illegitimate ancestors harder to trace. Before that date it was the responsibility of the local parish to pay up-keep for an illegitimate child and, needless to say, they were not at all happy at the prospect. They would want to get maintenance from the father. If he failed to support the child, the mother could have him arrested on a justice's warrant and put in prison until he agreed to do so. Local authorities issued public funds to maintain the mother and her child until the father could do so. These public funds were supposed to be reimbursed by the putative father, though this rarely happened. In an attempt to stem the rising costs of poor relief, the local authorities attempted to reduce their liability for illegitimate children by forcing the father to marry the mother.

The 1833 Poor Law Report revealed that the Poor Law as it stood encouraged licentiousness because parish relief was so readily accessible for bastards and their mothers. More relief was issued to maintain illegitimate children than to support legitimate children. Not only was relief given, but costs were rising because mothers were shipped back to their original parishes to avoid long term responsibility for their illegitimate children. Young men, accused solely on the word of the mothers and unable to pay the surety, were forced into early and unsuitable marriages whether innocent or guilty.

All of this, of course, leads to some paperwork. First step in this process are bastardy examinations. The mother would be quizzed by parish officers or Justices and the name of the father would be demanded. I was delighted to find a bastardy examination existed for one of my forebears; I wasn't so delighted to find that the woman had acknowledged 'carnal knowledge' of three brothers at the same time, which puzzled the parish officials somewhat. They got over the difficulty by making all three pay an amount towards the mother and child, which didn't help as to the actual father but made a wonderful story for my family history. These sort of documents are often verbatim accounts of what was said.

Some fathers, having been found to be culpable, would hastily leave the par-



ish. Churchwardens would be dispatched to find him, a marriage licence bought and the errant father brought back and 'persuaded' to marry. Expenses incurred by the officials will be recorded in Churchwarden Accounts.

All these documents, if they have survived, will be housed in the Record Office or Archives of the county in which the birth took place. Some may be in the parish papers, others in quarter session records.

The Bastardy Clause in the 1834 Poor Law Act made all illegitimate children the sole responsibility of their mothers until they were 16 years old. The mothers of bastard children were placed in the same category as widows for poor relief. They were expected to support themselves and their offspring. If they were unable to do so they would have to enter the workhouse in their parish. There would no longer be any penal sanctions against mother or father for non support of their children and the putative father for the first time was absolved of any responsibility for his illegitimate offspring. A woman now had the option of applying herself for the Bond from the Petty Sessions. In many cases the father married the mother soon after the birth of the child or made private arrangements for the child's upkeep, in which case no record will be found of his name among bastardy documents.

One particular nasty consequence of illegitimacy was the rise of baby farmers, who took in an infant for payment. If the infant was young, this usually included wet nursing. Some baby farmers adopted children for lump sum payments, while others cared for infants for periodic payments. Illegitimacy and its stigma were usually the reason for a mother's decision to put her children 'out to nurse' with a baby farmer, but baby farming also meant foster care and adoption in the period before they were regulated by British Law.

Particularly in the case of lump sums paid for an adoption it was obviously more profitable for the baby farmer if the adopted child died, since the small payment would not cover the care of the child for too long. Some adopted numerous children and then neglected them or murdered them outright. Again reading articles in the paper can show likely cases of neglect, some of which were actually brought to court. After a series of scandals parliament began to regulate baby farming until adoption and foster care came under the protection and regulation of the state.

Illegitimate children can be found in all classes of life. Before the 20<sup>th</sup> cen-



tury it was illegal for illegitimate children to inherit, so among prosperous families you may find that a trust was set up to care for the child's welfare. Most, of course, were not that fortunate. A look at the assize records for the 19<sup>th</sup> century will reveal many babies that were murder victims and a look at any paper for the same period will show a large number of babies dumped in rivers or ponds, no name for any of them. Occasionally the parent will be found and the mother will be arrested, but none of them ever got a large jail sentence. It is as if the courts had a secret sympathy with the mother's reasons for getting rid of an unwanted encumbrance.

If the child was born in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and there was a dispute over maintenance, hearings would have been held in petty sessions. If these have survived they will be found at the County Record Office. The case might have also been reported in the local newspaper and you tend to get more of the story from a newspaper.

The Legitimacy Act of 1926 legitimized the birth of a child if the parents subsequently married each other, provided that they had not been married to someone else in the meantime. Another act of 1959 extended the legitimization even if the parents had married others in the meantime, but neither act changed the Law of Succession which barred any legitimate child from inheritance. Eventually the Family Law Reform Act of 1969 allowed a bastard to inherit on the intestacy of his parents.

So if you have come to a full stop in your family tree because of illegitimacy, there are ways and means of getting around the problem. Not always solvable by any means, but it often makes an interesting story to pad out your family history and if you do find documents to back it all up, then what a wonderful story it makes.

Incidentally, we have a lot of our members who, when starting out the family tree trail, were told by older family members "Oh what do you want to do that for. Nothing interesting in our family". It often means there is an illegitimate child in the family and, even now, a matter of shame and something to be covered up.



## **DERBYSHIRE MEMORIES**

*The following excerpts were written by Gladys Wood between 1973 and 1976 and given to us many years ago in book form. The following stories refer to the early 1900s and make very interesting reading.*

### **SCHOOL DAYS AT DERBY MUNICIPAL SECONDARY SCHOOL**

It is January 1910 and I start as a pupil at my new school, in Abbey Street. The building is not at all attractive from the outside; it stands towering above the buildings packed around it. But I have to go to it because, although only young, I am determined to teach when I grow up—I don't know why—and in 1910 there is no other school in Derby, apart from "private" schools where the Senior Cambridge or The London Matriculation, the two qualifying examinations, can be taken.

As I enter the Entrance Hall I stop to look at the notice board, on the left, where photographs of girls show me how to fasten my hair back—if I have curls, they must be tied back with a ribbon—I my hair is long and straight it can be plaited in either one or two plaits.

But I don't like the building; the covered playground has such a low ceiling and the open playground is so small.

I am unfortunate to have one of the ground floor rooms along the corridor as a form room. I say unfortunate, because it is so dark. On winter afternoons the caretaker comes in to light the open flame, finger like jets, jutting out like the arms of an octopus, from a heavily hanging bracket.

For walking to and from school I wear a stiff brimmed, straw boater. Round the crown is a navy blue band on the front of which is a monogram of the four letters, D.M.S.S., embroidered in gold coloured silk. In winter some of the girls wear the boys' caps with the monogram on the front. In later years Miss Keay, the headmistress, introduces a thick, navy blue pork pie shaped hat for winter wear, which is much better as it pulls down over the ears.

Now it is December and Christmas party time is here. It is all very exciting to arrive by cab and see one another in party frocks—to have our hair loose—to wear long gloves—to compare fans—and to dangle our programmes on our arms whilst we dance the waltz or the veleta or the circassian circle. I



well remember the day, three years later, when I go to order the cab and the proprietor says, “Sorry, miss, we have no cabs now—only taxis.” I can’t bear the thought of going in something that glides away—no steady trotting of the horse to take us along.

Today is a March day and we are all at the Temperance Hall; the boys are here too, for it is Prize Day. We girls are in white frocks and the boys look very smart in stiff white collars and ties. Here, together we sing our ‘adopted’ school song, “Forty Years On”.

As I get older I am allowed to stay after school for the Reading Circle and the Debating Society and one winter evening, we, the Fifth, go to the Albert Hall to hear Walter de la Mare read his own poems.

On reaching the Sixth Form we add gold stripes to each side of the monogram on our hat bands—one, two or three, according to which Sixth we are in. But it is 1914 and during that long summer holiday war comes. When the “Midland Bull” goes to tell us that enemy aircraft are about, I take my books and do my homework by oil lamp in the cellar. We little thought, in the previous March, as the boys treble voices gave strength and tone to our singing, that it was to be the last time the two schools would sing together. There are to be no more parties—no more Prize Days—no more societies meeting after school—the war clouds hang over everything.

Slowly the sixth form year goes.

Now, the members of the active Old Girls Guild invite us to their meeting. At this meeting everyone seems to be knitting—khaki gloves, khaki helmets, khaki pullovers and khaki socks; some are knitting in navy blue wool too.

And so on, firstly to July 1916 and me with it, for me it is “Goodbye” to D.M.S.S., later to be known as Parkfield Cedars. And secondly, to July 1975 when Parkfields Cedars joins the great Comprehensive School to be known as “Parkfields”.

#### ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT

As November 11th comes round again I remember a new experience I had in April 1915. And as it is International Women’s Year, it seems the right moment to tell how the Women’s voluntary organisations helped the war effort.



Through my mother being a member of one of these I had my first experience of being up all night.

Let us go back to the first year of the first world war.

Every Tuesday night, around half past nine, my mother puts on her outdoor clothes and disappears into the darkness. Then, one night, in April 1915, when I am still a schoolgirl but on holiday, she asks me if I would like to go with her. Of course I would. I am so excited at the thought of being up all night. I never have been. At Christmas times I have been allowed to stay up till Midnight, but not all night.

So, this particular Tuesday, at nine thirty, when my mother puts her hat and coat on, I put my hat and coat on, too.

It is so strange to be going out at bed-time and so turning night into day.

My little sister is warmly tucked up in bed and we hope, asleep, and so that we don't waken her we open the front door very quietly and my father closes it just as quietly after us.

And where are we going as we step out into the night? We are going to a Work's Canteen.

Now I can't remember how we got to the canteen—walked I expect—nor where in Derby this particular canteen was, but I do know that for a girl in her early teens it was all very exciting.

At first there is not much to do. Men and women come in, in odd ones, and buy a bun or a sausage roll to eat with a cup on tea. The clock ticks on, we keep an eye on it. I understand that, at midnight, as one shift finishes and another one takes over there will be a rush of customers—mostly men. I am to serve the soup and take the money for it. We wait, and watch the clock's hands as they move towards midnight. To this day I can feel that waiting period. Already someone has opened the canteen door and then, as the hands reach twelve, the men pour into the canteen.

From then onwards, "all through the night", I am busy and enjoying this new experience.



Strange, but I can't remember walking home nor how tired I must have been!

And just think that all over the British Isles, women were helping in this and other ways.

#### A NEW HOME IN ENGLAND FOR THE BELGIANS

Did you know that we had Belgian Refugees in Derby during the First World War?

Come back in Time with me to 1915.

It is April 12th 1915, just 60 years ago, and we will climb Babington Lane, Derby, and make for The Unity Hall. Today, two rooms there are to be opening as a school. It is to be a branch of Gerard Street School. At this school, pupils pay weekly fees; but this branch of it is to be free to the 25 scholars who will attend. Why will they not pay fees? Because their "school money" is to be paid by Derby Education Committee. You see, pupils and teachers alike are refugees, refugees from Belgium which has been over run by the Kaiser's German Army. Our town, Derby, with other towns in the British Isles, is giving these terrified and desolate people shelter.

So now we've reached the Unity Hall, which is at the junction of Normanton Road and Burton Road, step inside with me and listen. You will hear that the children are not speaking English, but a language very much like French. It is Flemish.

I think you would like to know that the necessary arrangements for opening this special school for the Belgians in Derby were in the hands of Alderman Chambers and Alderman Wilkins, whom some of you will remember. The two rooms at the Unity Hall are to be rented at 10 shillings a week, which would cover the cost of cleaning and heating. One of the two Belgian teachers is to receive £6 a month and the other £5 a month [the rate paid to English teachers]. Mr Van Troostenberghe is to go to the school for 2 hours a week at 2 shillings an hour to help the children to learn English.

The minutes of the Town Council meeting also state that two children are going to The Practising School and will be excused fees.

Amongst my treasures I have a photograph which I took at Kedleston Road



Girls' School where I was a student teacher; on it is Marie, a Belgian refugee, I don't remember her surname.

Mrs Doris Furniss of Uttoxeter Road and Mrs Hilda Finley [now of Burton upon Trent] remember a Belgian family, The Smeekins. As children they played with Helena and Marie Smeekins. Two three storeyed, Victorian, bay windowed houses on Uttoxeter Road housed several Belgian families. When a new baby arrived in the Smeekins family they called her Angle because she was born here in Angleterre.

The Belgian children told tragic stories. Fathers, who turned back to collect some of their possessions, were seized by the German army, made to stand with their backs to a wall and every other one was shot. Their father was one who escaped.

The Belgian State horses were also brought to England, to Oakham. My cousin often saw them having their daily exercise in the Rutland lanes.

It is good to know that the Council, representing the citizens of Derby, did all it could to lighten the burdens of these people; men, women and children who, at a moment's notice, left their homes and scrambled on to boats to reach England and Safety.

And to show you how well the children settled here I can tell you that a little Belgian boy of six with hair ear length and wearing a white sailor suit, said to a little English girl, who was also six, "When I grow up I will marry you."

#### LIGHTS OUT

The year was 1916. Then, as now, September and October were the months when churches held their Harvest Thanksgiving services. But since 1916, with the words "Harvest Festival", comes another one to my mind "Zeppelin".

There is a reason for this, of course. The connection may seem strange to you, because many years have gone by since the evening when the two thoughts were linked together in my mind. Other people in Derby remember that particular evening too.

A friend of mine Mrs Pratt, was Lilian Andrews then and a child living at



Idridgehay, and she remembers that evening clearly because over a field she saw a monster airship, an enemy airship. It was a Zeppelin, one of the great airships designed by the German Count Zeppelin. You see it was war time and this was one of those evenings like all the others in those years of war when we didn't know what would happen next. It was early evening when she saw the Zeppelin hovering over Idridgehay—the crew seemed to be waiting for darkness to fall. She and her brother had walked a mile down Hillcliffe Lane to the Village Post Office. It was getting dark as they walked back home, so they lit the candle in the lantern they were carrying then. Remember there was no “summertime” then so Lilian thinks it must have been around six o'clock. They had not gone far when a man's voice called to them “Put that light out”. They did!

Later her father told her that after the children were in bed he and others went outside to look at the zeppelin, which was around for some time.

Now the connection with Harvest Festival for me is this—that that same Monday evening when my friend had already seen the zeppelin I was attending a Harvest sale of fruit, flowers and vegetables. It was the Monday evening following the Sunday when the Harvest Thanksgiving Services had been held at Junction Baptist Church, Derby.

As usual at a Harvest Festival, all the gifts together made a colourful scene and, to my thinking, no flowers are lovelier than the Michaelmas daisies with their different shades of mauve, than sweetpeas, frail with their clear gentle colours, than dahlias with their big round faces, or than the large white daisies with their yellow eyes.

But that Monday evening was not to follow the usual pattern although no one knew this beforehand.

So, there were groups of people doing differing things.

There were those busy at stalls. There were those wrapping up parcels to be given away. There were those preparing to sing or “recite” and there were those of all ages sitting quietly around.

Then, unexpectedly, a door was suddenly thrown open and a man's voice, full of urgency, calls “Put those lights out”. Of course they were put out as



quickly as possible. It wasn't quite dark for the moon was up and shone through the long narrow windows.

Hasty decisions had to be made.

Those who could arranged to go back the next morning. Everything was left just as it was, and it wasn't long before the room was empty and everyone making for home. We knew that "lights out" meant enemy aircraft about. I remember clearly how nervous one lady was because she had a long walk home. All the lamps, gas in those days, had been put out and couldn't be relit without the lamplighter. On the way home we passed a gentleman who said that the zeppelin appeared to be on its way to Burton, and we felt relieved and that we needn't hurry quite so much.

Other people at Derby station thought the zeppelin had gone, too.

That night I went to bed at my usual time—but not to sleep.

At midnight I was awakened by a terrific bang and I counted the bombs, 13, as they fell, and I wondered where they had fallen. Don't forget there was no radio and so, unless news travelled by mouth, we shouldn't know where the bombs had fallen.

It seemed that at midnight, Derby Station lights were put on again.

And the Zeppelin, now back over Derby, had found its target—so the bombs with their deadly load fell on Derby station area and the roads near by.

The call "Lights Out" lingers in the memory as a reminder of those war-time days—now fifty years ago.

#### A KING'S VISIT TO DERBY 1906

In the days when cabs and hansom stood in a narrow Victoria Street—when trams were horse drawn and only went short distances—when ladies of forty wore bonnets and capes—King Edward the Seventh visited Derby.

I saw him.

I was very small, but this is what I remember.



It is 1906 June 28th and, most important of all, a fine morning.

I am wearing my sailor dress. This consists of navy blue blouse and pleated skirt. The large collar is edged with three rows of narrow white braid. The dress has a separate front of cream flannel on which a gold anchor is embroidered.

My maiden aunt and bachelor uncle call for me early. After a walk we reach Sadler Gate. Usually I am with my mother and persuade her to turn into the yard to see the every busy blacksmith, but today I don't mind missing him for I am in a hurry and don't want to miss the King.

The Market Place is gay with flags and bunting. People are flocking into it and already little children are perched on fathers' shoulders. We cross the Corn Market. And now, at our destination, we enter a shop and climb the narrow staircase to a first floor front room. From the wide window of it we can see everything. Everything to me means policemen, garlands and union jacks. You may remember the window. Next to it were the four clock faces in perpendicular line. These told us the time at that moment, in four capital cities. It saddened me, in the last years, to see the clocks uncared for and stationary as though time stood still in Sydney, Delhi, New York and Capetown.

But on this June day in 1906 it is still fine. I am so anxious not to miss the King that I don't remember the procession, but I do remember seeing the King. He holds his hat aloft as he acknowledges the cheers. My eyes follow the open carriage as it turns from the Corn Market into the Market Place. The King receives a Civic Welcome when his carriage stops, but he does not get out of it. In 1906 there is no war memorial to have his attention. A photograph taken outside the Guild Hall shows a sea of umbrellas, so the rain must have come later.

On that visit to Derby Edward the Seventh unveiled the newly erected statue of Queen Victoria at The Spot. From then on this statue dominated that area and when it was moved I, for one, found it difficult to think of The Spot, Derby, without it.

*More personal memories next time*





## *BRIDGE CHAPEL HOUSE*

### *RESEARCH CENTRE AND LIBRARY*

#### NEW ACQUISITIONS AS AT 1ST JULY 2013

Parish Registers	Riddings St James: Marriages 1938-1961 Riddings St James: Burials 1901-1968
Certificates—Birth	Emily Smith d/o Joseph, 1842, Litchurch Derby Ralph Mortin s/o Ralph 1844 Chapel en le Frith Ralph Morten s/o Ralph 1845 Offerton
Certificates—Marriage	Ralph Morton/Ann Pearson 1839 Stockport Ralph Morton/Sarah Ann Paulden 1843 Stockport William Smith/Emma Mabbott 1852 Riddings Richard Parker/Harriet Smith 1855 Derby St Werburgh William Smith/Emma Cockayne 1857 Agard St Chapel, Derby John William Ashmole/Emily Smith 1874 London St Congregational, Derby William Henry Wathall/Angelina Smith 1880 Derby St James
Certificates—Death	Ann Mear, 1838 Melbourne, aged 60 Ann Smith, 1838 Derby, aged 4 Lydia Mary Ann Budworth Smith, 1892 Derby, aged 71 Please ask if you require copies of the above



Towns & Villages	Mickleover—An Old House on the Hollow The Story of 2 The Hollow, Mickleover
Family Trees/Histories	A Smith Family of Nottingham Geoffrey S. Crighton <i>[The above was given to us by the author and copies are available from him—please ask for details]</i> Smith of Derby Casselden
Wills	Ilkeston Wills Inventories and Administrations 1535-1699—Transcribed by Stephen Flinders

Mr A.N. Whiston held an inquest at Ilkeston Hospital on Friday, on the body of Elizabeth Bowen, daughter of Joseph Bowen, of 6 Florence Square, who is serving in the Sherwood Foresters, in France.

Maria Bowen, the mother, said she was washing the previous day in the yard, and the child was playing on the rug in the kitchen with a doll, which she pushed behind the fireguard. Seeing the doll burst into flames, the child withdrew it, on doing which she set herself on fire. Deceased went out of the back door, and witness was in front. She went into the house and saw the doll burning on the rug, and the child on fire in the yard. She rolled her in a shawl and then took her to the hospital. Deceased was one year and eight months old. All her clothes were burnt off, and she had been fully dressed.

Dr Grace Anderson said she saw deceased at the hospital. She was extensively burned over four fifths of her body and was suffering from shock and collapse, from which she died.

Miss Olive Appleby, matron at the hospital, said deceased was admitted at 1.15 the previous day and died the same night at 10.30.

The jury returned a verdict of “Accidentally burned” and recommended that a wire casing be placed inside the fireguard.

*Derby Mercury, 2 Apr 1915*



## THE RIVERS FAMILY

*Most people have heard of Jacob Rivers and his VC won during the First World War. He lived near our Society Headquarters at Bridge Chapel House and as we have applied for a Heritage Lottery Grant to help us fund research into serving men of the First World War I started by looking into Jacob's family. I was to be very surprised by what I found.*

George Rivers was born in 1859 in Amesbury, Gloucestershire, and became a railway labourer. He eventually moved to Derby, as many railway workers did, and met Adeline Holmes, whom he married in 1876 at Derby St Michael. The couple lived originally with her parents, Isaac and Emma, before moving to Wide Yard in Bridgegate, where they lived for the rest of their lives.



*Bridgegate in the 1880s*

The family appear to have lived in some poverty and George was obviously forced to take up other means to feed his growing family, as the following reports from the Derby Mercury testify:

1 March 1876 “James Allen and George Rivers were summoned by Wm Williams for trespassing on land in the occupation of Mr George Cox at Spondon. Rivers fined 20s and costs or 14 days”

19 Nov 1879 “George Rivers was brought up in custody charged with night poaching on the land of William Drury-Lowe Esq., at Locko Park, on the 12th Nov. William Longdon, a gamekeeper, stated that on Tuesday night last he was out watching and saw the prisoner go on to land occupied by Mr Drury-Lowe. He set a net. The keeper watched for a while, thinking that others might be about, but as none came he went to prisoner and found that he had 4 rabbits, 1 hare, several nets and large bludgeon in his possession. The Magistrates committed prisoners, who pleaded guilty, to gaol for 3 months hard labour.”

1 Feb 1886 “George Rivers and Thomas Anslow were charged with having in



*their possession 22 rabbits and 2 nets. Sergeant Goodall and Police-constable Bates were on the towing path near Deadmans Lane at 7 o'clock yesterday morning and saw the prisoners with the rabbits and nets. The officers chased them, but they threw the things away and escaped. Fined 5s and costs or 2 months."*

One wonders how he afforded the fines, he probably didn't but spent a lot of time in gaol. I have no doubt these weren't all his offences by any means.

George Senior eventually died in 1893, leaving Adeline with a large family to keep and no doubt the boys were running wild. One report in the newspaper describes them as a "*notorious family*" so they were evidently well known in the area. They continued to live in Wide Yard, at first with Adeline's mother, another widow, and then on their own, Adeline finally dying in 1937, aged 80.

The eldest son was another George, born in 1877. He probably accompanied his father on poaching expeditions, but after his father died he appeared to get well out of control and was frequently in trouble, no doubt adding further worries onto his mother's shoulders. There are some reports in the paper, but obviously a lot more were not reported, perhaps they got fed up with his name appearing. His exploits got wilder until at last he ended up in gaol. For instance in 1896 he was charged with loitering with intent to commit a felony and because of his previous convictions he was sent to prison for 14 days with hard labour. In 1900 he was fined 10s and costs for being drunk and disorderly in the Morledge "*this being his 10th offence*". Again in 1900 he and Joseph Wheatcroft were charged with breaking and entering a shop, Rivers having been several times sentenced for thefts. He begged for leniency and promised to turn over a new leaf, this particular crime being the result of a drunken freak. Obviously the judge was not impressed by this plea and sentenced George to 10 months imprisonment.

In the 1901 census George is still in Derby gaol and by 1911 he is back home with mum and working as a coal agent. Still not well behaved though, convictions arriving for burglary, drunkenness and in 1914 he was sent down for drunkenness after 34 previous convictions. Did he serve it or was he told to join the army?

We know from various newspaper reports that George served in the First



World War and that either he or his brother was injured. But he is never mentioned by name. However part of the puzzle was solved by accident. Some of the burnt papers at the National Archives turned up a Joseph Rivers of St Alkmund, Derby, whom I had never heard of and further investigation showed that he was a son of Adeline and that the birth date matched that of George. For some reason, possibly his murky past, he concealed his true identity.

He enlisted on in the Sherwood Foresters on the 24 Aug 1914 and underwent the usual tests. His enlistment papers tell us that he was 5 feet 8½ inches tall, fair complexioned, blue eyes and brown hair with a tattoo on his left forearm and left leg. His military career turned out to be rather short as he was discharged on the 8th October 1914 "*unlikely to make an efficient soldier*". Hope of further scandal were dashed, however, when the doctor gave the reason for his discharge as "*Flat feet and ankylosed metatarsal phalampial joint - unable to march*". His military character on his discharge was "*indifferent*". No change there then.

The next child was Lucy who was born 1880 and married Isaiah Fieldhouse in 1903. She was the mother of 10 children, including twins.



Third born was Jacob Rivers who was born in 1882. Like his brothers and sisters he attended Orchard Street School. His way of escaping home and poverty was to enlist in the Royal Scots Fusiliers in June 1899 aged just 18 years. He was sent to Ayr and then spent the next 12 years seeing action in the Boer War and in India, where he was stationed for 7 years. Even he got into trouble when he was convicted in 1905 for breaking out of barracks. He was drafted to the reserve in 1907 and became first a coal agent along with his brothers, and then a labourer on the railway.

When war broke out he was recalled as a reservist, this time joining the Sherwood Foresters aged 32. His papers read that he was 5 feet 11 inches tall and his vision was still 6/6. He saw action throughout 1914 before being admitted to hospital in January 1915 with frost bitten feet. Discharged 6 days later he was sent back to the action and became engaged in the battle of Neuve Chapelle, which began on 10 March 1915. At the time a huge influx of



troops from Britain had relieved the French situation in Flanders and enabled a continuous British line stretching from Langemarck to Givenchy. This was to be the first time that aerial photography was to play a prominent part in a major battle with the entire German lines being mapped from the air. Weather conditions were poor but the early stages went very well for the British. The Royal Flying Corps secured dominance in the air and bombarded German reserves and transportation. After more than six hours Neuve Chapelle itself was secured and the advance ground to a halt. Primitive communication meant that the British commanders had been unable to keep in touch with each other, the battle became uncoordinated and the supply lines were disrupted. Three days later the German forces launched a counter attack and the campaign was officially abandoned. Allied troops suffered 11,200 casualties in exchange for capturing just over 2km of lost ground.

One of the casualties was Jacob Rivers, who earned the Victoria Cross for his achievements. He twice crept to within yards of the enemy troops and lobbed bombs at the German forces, forcing them to retreat. During his second attempt he was shot dead, the bullet passing right through the tobacco tin sent as a Christmas gift to the troops by Princess Mary. The Cross was presented to his mother at Buckingham Palace by the King in November 1916, so that although photos can be seen of Jacob wearing his cross proudly these are obviously a fake as Jake would never have seen his award. The medal is now in the Sherwood Foresters Museum, being presented to them by his sister Elizabeth after the death of her mother.

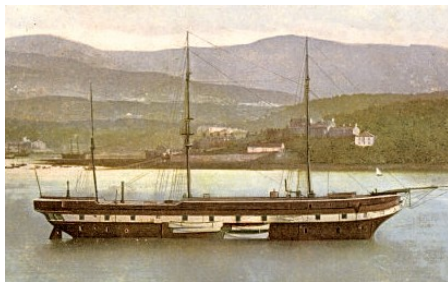
Jacob's body was never recovered, but he is commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial. When his mother died in 1937 she was buried in Nottingham Road Cemetery and the Sherwood Foresters, proud of their VC Hero, paid for the grave to have a remembrance to Jacob Rivers on the headstone. Another memorial was unveiled in the St Alkmund's Mission Room on Bridge Gate, which reads *"To the Glory of God and in Affectionate Memory of Private Jacob Rivers, V.C., Notts and Derby Regiment [Sherwood Foresters], who was killed in action at Neuve Chapelle March 12th 1915."*

Elizabeth Rivers was born in 1884. She married David Potter in 1914 and had eight children.

Isaac Rivers was the youngest of the sons and was born in 1887. He was lifted out of his poverty stricken home at a very young age. In the 1901 cen-



sus he can be found on the training ship ‘Clio’, anchored in the Menai Straits. By 1911 he is back home working as a coal agent and at some point entered the fighting in the First World War. There is a possibility from the medal cards that he joined the Grenadier Guards and went to France on the 26 July 1915. As with his elder brother he never warrants a mention and all we know is that either he or George was wounded at some point. With George leaving the Army very quickly it points to the fact that Isaac was the unlucky one.



*Training Ship Clio from a postcard*

The Clio was lent by the Admiralty in 1877 and had accommodation for 260 boys between the ages of 11 and 16 years. The payment required was 8s weekly. All the boys’ boots and clothes were made on the ship, giving

the boys a useful training over and above that they received in seamanship. A home was provided at Liverpool for the use of boys after leaving the ship, which they were encouraged to use between voyages. Typically boys would join the ship at the age of 11 or 12 and stay until they were 15 or 16. Discipline aboard was strict and the birch often used to enforce it. Food was limited in quantity and variety—biscuit, potatoes and meat were the staple diet with occasional green vegetables. Many of the new boys could not swim and needed to be taught—unfortunately some were drowned before they mastered the skill. Sleeping accommodation was usually in hammocks, which could be comfortable in the summer but icy cold in winter. Local Boards of Poor Law Guardians showed some reluctance in using training ships for boys in their care, which could be due to the cost of maintaining them, which was generally eight or nine shillings a week or a one off lump sum. A payment might also be required for a boy’s uniform.

So how did Isaac find his way onto a training ship? There is no proof, but I would guess that the family would be receiving poor relief from the Derby Guardians. With elder brother George getting into trouble and Isaac growing up and following a bad example, did the Guardians decide to put him where he could begin to earn his own living? The other possibility is that he had already got into trouble and the courts recommended him to a training ship.



Isaac married Annie Mary Wood in 1919 and had 8 children, all born in Derby.

Emma Rivers was born in 1889 and married Samuel Hudson in 1907, having four children.

She was followed by two sons who died quickly; John Henry born and died in 1890 and Joseph born 1891, died 1892.

The last child was born in 1894 after father George had died. She was named Adeline after her mother and married John Price in 1915. As far as we can tell she had just one son, John.

The Rivers family was a large one and it is to Jacob's credit that he did so well in spite of such poor beginnings. He is a worthy hero of Derby.

#### **TRAGIC DEATH OF JOHN GREATOREX**

The tragic death of John Greatorex, aged two years, the son of William Greatorex, a soldier of the Notts and Derbyshire Regiment, of 40 Shaw Street, Derby, who died as a result of scalds, was the subject of an inquest held by the Borough Coroner [Mr J. Close], at the Derbyshire Children's Hospital this morning.

The evidence of the mother, Rose Emma Greatorex, showed that on Saturday evening, she prepared a bath for deceased preparatory to putting him to bed. Boiling hot water was poured into a tin bath, which was placed on the kitchen floor, and that time deceased was outside playing with a neighbour's child. Witness left the kitchen to get some cold water, and as she left the room deceased ran in. Upon returning to the kitchen a few moments later witness found that the bath had been upset and that the child had been severely scalded. He was at once removed to the Children's Hospital.

Dr Janette Howard, of the hospital staff, said when deceased was admitted to the institution on Saturday night he was suffering from extensive scalds. Death subsequently took place, and was caused by shock following the scalds received.

After the Coroner had summed up the jury returned a verdict accordingly.

*Derby Mercury 15 Jan 1915*



## SINGULAR LONGEVITY DERBYSHIRE

To prove what walking and a mountainous country can do together, the following Authentic Extract will show. It was taken from the Book of the Parish Clerk, at Bakewell, a Market Town in Derbyshire. The twelve persons mentioned had, but very little illness during their lives.

### TAKEN IN THE YEAR 1782

Mathew Roberts	92 lived to be 98
Mr F. Roe	87 lived to be 92
William Smith	88 lived to be 92
Isaac Mollerham	84
George Fentem	87 lived to be 93
Thomas Brown	86
Robert Pape	82
George Drable	87
Mr S. Rce	81
John Drable	81
William Young	80
Joseph Waterhouse	80 now living

Total amount of ages 1014 years, existing in one town

*Kindly sent by Ernie Drabble M.B.E., but unfortunately I don't know where he got it from. Certainly a healthy lot in the north. Ernie also came across the following.*

An old man has just died at Blaydon, Northumberland, who could number 136 descendants around his family board. He had five sons, two daughters, sixty grandchildren and sixty nine great grandchildren.

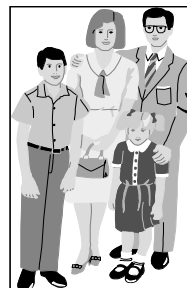
*Worcestershire Chronicle, 28th January 1899*

*[Don't we all wish we could find a gravestone like that one, preferably one with all the names and dates on.*

*Nothing like wanting jam on it as well!! - Ed]*



## **We welcome new members who have joined the Society by 10<sup>th</sup> July 2013**



- 7785 Mrs H Burton, 11 St Wystans Road, Derby, Derbyshire, DE22 3JZ, UK, Email: helbrtn@gmail.com
- 7786 Ms K E Petty, 49 Tennessee Road, Chaddesden, Derby, Derbyshire, DE21 6LF, UK, Email: ka.phil@ntlworld.com
- 7787 Mr J Moore, 1 Mylnhurst Road, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S11 9HU, UK Email: john.moore@angelitsolutions.co.uk
- 7788 Journals Officer, West Australian Gen Soc Inc, 6 / 48 May Street, Bayswater, Western Australia, 6053, Australia Email: journals@wags.org.au
- 7789 Treasurer Heanor & District Local History Society, 5 England Crescent, Heanor, Derbyshire, DE75 7BE, UK, Email: treasurer@heanorhistory.org.uk
- 7790 Ms S Goodwin, 48 Invermay Grove, Unit 2, Rosanna, Victoria, 3084, Australia, Email: shaneedolly@hotmail.com
- 7791 Mr D Stretton, 30 Pontefract Road, Ferrybridge, Kottingley, West Yorks, WF11 8PL, UK, Email: dswildgoose@gmail.com
- 7792 Mr J Williams, 20 Raglan Street, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL1 4AU, UK, Email: lord.jwilliams@hotmail.co.uk
- 7793 Mr C J Parker, 2 Kellaton Close, Warrington Road, Lower Ince, Wigan, Lancashire, WN3 4JU, UK, Email: c.parker@hhhs.net
- 7794 Ms M Amey, 18 Rope Walk, Melksham, Wiltshire, SN12 7PW, UK, Email: mamey@talktalk.net

## **Members with additional/updated interests**

- 2612 Mrs A D Newham, 196 Hassock Lane South, Shipley, Heanor, Derbyshire, DE75 7JE, UK, Email: andreanewham@hotmail.com
- 2946 Mr M Gottschalk, 6 Coletton House, St Mary's Drive, Brixham, Devon, TQ5 9FJ, UK, Email: gategarden@hotmail.com
- 6108 Mrs I Foster, 91 Nailers Drive, Burntwood, Staffordshire, WS7 0EY, UK, Email: irenefoste05r@yahoo.co.uk
- 6242 Mr & Mrs P R Randall, 1 St Mary's Mead, Broomfield, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 7ZT, UK, Email: randall850@btinternet.com
- 7148 Ms I Wilkinson, 43 Central Drive, Wingerworth, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S42 6QN, UK, Email: IW.central@hotmail.co.uk
- 7529 Mr J K Millward, West Trevadlock, Travadlock, Launceston, Cornwall, PL15 7PW, UK, Email: john@aspentree.plus.com



- 7726 Mrs C Smith, 120 Alferton Road, Little Eaton, Derby, DE21 5DE, UK,  
Email: carol.smith@btinternet.com
- 7738 Mr C Platts, 68 St Winifred's Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG2 8LR,  
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- 7755 Ms A Coutts, 25 Whiteoak Way, Nailsea, Avon, BS48 4YS, UK,  
Email: annecoutts806@hotmail
- 7760 Ms V Pluckrose, 10 Ryefeld Close, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire, EN11 0QL,  
UK, Email: vickilp@tiscali.co.uk
- 7761 Mrs J A Bell, 148 Alferton Road, Little eaton, Derbyshire, DE21 5DE, UK,  
Email: ijpbell@btinternet.com
- 7764 Mrs A Carter, 1 Ramsey Court, York Avenue, West Kirby, Wirral,  
CH48 3JZ, UK

## Searching

Name	Parish	Cty	Dates	No.
BRIDGE	Glossop	LAN	1720-1900	7568
BRIDGE	Glossop	LAN	1790-1970	7568
BROUGH	Derby		1753-1900	7777
BURROWS	All		Any	7777
BURROWS	Nottingham	NTT	1800-2000	7777
BUTLER	Breadsall		1800-1900	7777
CHALKLEY	Isle of Wright		1850-1990	7694
CHALKLEY	Middlesex		1850-1990	7694
CLARKE	All	SOM	Any	7733
CLARKE	Bristol	SOM	Any	7733
COOPER	All	DBY	Any	7733
DAVIS	Brinsley	NTT	1804-1804	7777
EVANS	Derby		Any	7795
FAULKNER	Derby		Any	7795
FERNLEY	Mellor		1700-1800	7750
FISHER	All	DBY	after 1800	7778
FLETCHER	All	DBY	Any	7733
GOODALL	Bradley		after 1700	7597
GOODWIN	Stainsby	DBY	1600-2000	7790
HIND	Atlow		after 1600	7778
HIND	Brailsford		after 1600	7778
HOLMES	Clay Cross		1800-1930	7787
KERRY	All	DBY	Any	7733
KEY	All	DBY	after 1800	7443
KIRKMAN	All	DBY	1800-1990	7694



KNIGHT	All	SOM	Any	7733
KNIGHT	Bristol	SOM	Any	7733
LOWE	Quarndon	DBY	1760-1900	7749
MEREDITH	All	DBY	1850-1950	7694
MEREDITH	Derbyshire		1840-1990	7694
MORRELL	Duffield		1800-1900	7777
NIELD	Glossop	DBY	1820-1950	7568
OATEN	All	SOM	Any	7733
OATEN	Bristol	SOM	Any	7733
OLDHAM	Glossop	DBY	1780-1900	7568
PEARSON	Cromford		after 1700	7597
SIMS	Belper		after 1700	7597
SMITH	Belper		1800-1900	7777
SPENCER	Middleton by Wirksworth		after 1700	7597
UNWIN	All	DBY	Any	7733
WILLIAMS	Ashbourne		after 1700	7597
WINTERBOTTOM	Glossop		1870-1960	7568
WINTERBOTTOM	Gorton	LAN	1930-1990	7568
WOODHOUSE	Bonsall		after 1700	7597
WYER	Shropshire	DBY	1750-1950	7694

**WHERE NO COUNTY IS STATED IT IS ASSUMED TO BE  
DERBYSHIRE**

All changes of address to be sent to  
The Membership Secretary at Bridge Chapel House  
Please note that you can now update your interests online  
by logging in to the website and going to the Members In-  
terests section.  
New/Updated interests may be sent by email to  
[membersinterests@dfhs.org.uk](mailto:membersinterests@dfhs.org.uk)



## **Derbyshire Family History Society**

**September Quarter 2013**



**The staff of Blackwell School [near Alfreton] in 1896. Presumably the headmaster is in the middle and it is noticeable that most of the staff are women.**

**Can anyone put names to faces?**