

Derbyshire Family History Society



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The Elopement of
Susanna Hope

Pentridge Pew Wars

Deeds and Documents
for the Genealogist

Hartington School
from an old
postcard

Jun 2016

Issue 157

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

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

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

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

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

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

BRITISH ISLES per family [at one address] £15

Please pay either in person at Bridge Chapel House, by cheque or postal order addressed to the Membership Secretary, or by using PayPal via our website.

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

OVERSEAS—OTHER COUNTRIES £19 [magazines sent by air mail]

For both the above payment in dollars or currency other than sterling please add the equivalent of £4 to cover the exchange charge. Alternatively payment may be made by PayPal with no extra charge incurred. Standing orders are also still accepted.

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 start 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

I start this month with an apology for anyone affected by our March magazine troubles. The printer somehow managed to use a wrong database of members, so some people got two magazines, others none. I really must apologise for any inconvenience, this is hopefully now sorted out and we trust it will not happen again [fingers crossed!!].

Due to demand we are running a coach trip to Kew on 10th September, details on the website and elsewhere in the magazine. As always, if the coach isn't at least 3/4 full then it will be cancelled, so please come and join us. It is a smashing day out and the National Archives always comes up with something different. Anyone who would like to come along for the ride and go to Kew Gardens instead is very welcome.

The big event, of course, is our 40th birthday celebration at the Derby Central Library on 8th June. Please come and support us, it should be a great day with plenty for everyone. Family history is very different now to what it was all those years ago and we are having to adapt, but I think we still have a part to play in helping people uncover their family histories. It isn't all on the internet, no matter what we are told, and the amount of wrong information out there is unbelievable. In 40 years, the message has not changed. Check and double check all you uncover.

Finally, one of our big strengths as a society is the amount of family trees and histories that people deposit with us and that can't be accessed elsewhere. If you have Derbyshire ancestry then please consider depositing a copy with us. We would be most grateful and no doubt people in the future will also be pleased. Eventually we hope to get a searchable database of these histories to put on our website [usual problem, lack of volunteers—help always gratefully received!], so please give it some thought. At least you will have a copy deposited in a safe place.

That's all for now, hope to see you at the big bash.

Helen

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MEETINGS 2016

DERBY—FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, ST HELEN'S STREET, DERBY—Tuesday at 7.30 p.m.

14 th Jun	Elizabeth Mundy and her Times 1590 - Helen Chambers in the role
12th Jul	Bishop Legg—Stephen Orchard
13th Sep	A Parcel of Ribbons: How I went in search of an Indian Princess and found Jamaica—Anne Powers
11th Oct	Fire at Wilne—Sandra Stock & Margaret Gregory
8th Nov	Records Before the Tudors: What Chance? - John Titterton
13th Dec	Christmas Social

UNFORTUNATELY DUE TO LACK OF SUPPORT GLOSSOP MEETING GROUP HAS NOW FINISHED

SOUTH NORMANTON—POST MILL COMMUNITY CENTRE SOUTH NORMANTON—Friday at 7.30 p.m.

17th Jun	Vic Hallam, One Man and his Company—Robert Mee
15th Jul	Sir Walter Raleigh in Dronfield—Maureen Taylor
16th Sep	Slide Show—Averil Higginson
21st Oct	Card Crafts—Lydia E. Demitri
18th Nov	Harlow Wood—Mrs M. Thorne
16th Dec	Christmas Social

DERBY MEETINGS

Jan 2016

Writing your Family History—Thorsten Sjolín

Thorsten gave us an insight in to his family history and how he went about writing it down. As the name might suggest Thorsten is a native of Sweden but he now lives here in Derbyshire. He followed up all available leads for every member of his family, making a biography for each individual person. The research facilities in Sweden were open day and night making it easier to access records at a time to suit everyone.

His interest in family history over time progressed in to researching his wife's family and the name Brooking. It turned out that there was a "One name study" that they were able to link into and a Brooking Family History Society. Their interests then advanced in to DNA and through this have found links all over the world.

He explained how if he couldn't prove something; try to eliminate it following up every lead possible. Expand the history to take in members of the family other than the direct line and by doing this you might prove something you had previously thought impossible.

When you have compiled a chapter on each and you are satisfied as to its authenticity then it is time to think about publishing. You are obviously going to have to do it at your own expense and there are publishers who specialise in limited printing such as Vanity Publishers and Short Run Press.

Thorsten's talk was very interesting and humorous but due to my lack of knowledge about Sweden and DNA, I found it difficult to write about and I apologise for that but everyone appeared to thoroughly enjoy it.

Feb 2016

Boarding Schools for Girls in Victorian Derbyshire—Liz Keeley

Amidst some photographs that Liz had, was one of her 3xgreat aunt, Mary Addison born circa 1860. The story in the family was that she ran a boarding school for girls. Liz's investigations in to her own family lead her to look at boarding schools in Derbyshire as a whole.

It was generally known that in the 19th century there was little education for poorer children. Most were lucky if they attended Sunday school to learn to read and write. Wealthier families sent their sons to establishments like Repton School but where did the girls go? Using Glovers Directory, Liz found between 800 and 900 establishments in the years 1790 to 1914 in Derbyshire

offering education for girls.

Middle class ladies who had no means of support and found that they needed to earn a living set up these schools in their own houses. They had no official training to be teachers. Most took 10-12 girls of different ages depending on the size of the house. The subjects that were taught included embroidery, needlework, reading with propriety, grammar, history, geography and arithmetic. Some offered French, music, dancing and drawing as extra accomplishments. Sport was not taught as it was considered unladylike and would make women muscular and ugly. There were no examinations available for girls to take until 1870 but even then they could not graduate.

Over the years the schools became bigger offering more subjects and taking in more students. Sport was added to the curriculum.

There were lots of examples of schools in various parts of Derbyshire, Ashbourne, Buxton and Matlock. There were names that we recognised, Ockbrook Moravian, St Elphin's at Darley Dale, St Ronan's at Duffield, Friargate House, Derby Convent and Derby High School that started life on Osmaston Rd in what is now the Scout Headquarters.

Everyone was glad that their school days were over.

Mar 2016

Walker Lane: Derby's Whitechapel—Jane Whitaker

In 2010 the Wayfinding Project was started. Signposts with maps appeared throughout the town and using your mobile phone with the app you could obtain the history of that area. Jane Whitaker was involved with this project investigating the history of the streets of Derby. A ropewalk in Walker Lane was mentioned and although it turned out that there wasn't one there, the search turned up a colourful history of the area.

"Where was Walker Lane?" is a frequently asked question. It ran from Bold Lane/Jury St to Queen's St and is now known as Cathedral Rd. Originally this land was orchards and common land, Nun's Green and only sparsely populated but at the time of the land enclosures the area was built on. Mills appeared and with these the people began to arrive, looking for work. People from out of town and abroad settled here. There was an influx of Irish due to the potato famine. Housing was built quickly and cheaply to cater for them. There was an archway between houses on the street that lead to courtyards with a privy surrounded by houses. Some three storeys high but in most cases only one room on each floor and these housed more than one family. The area was grossly overcrowded and conditions were diabolical. There was no

drainage or sewers. Small industries, a slaughter house and dye works in the lane added to the worsening conditions. There was high unemployment in the male population, as it was mainly women and children employed in the mills. 53 licensed houses in the area provided their entertainment. There was starvation, child neglect and prostitution. Jane gave examples of some of the cases that came to court. The innkeeper of the Wheatsheaf was charged with diluting the spirits with vitriol (sulphuric acid). At another inn there was a brawl that ended with the two parties joining forces to attack the police. A woman was caught stealing a man's purse and she received 14 years transportation. Another woman was charged with child neglect and she was committed to the Asylum where she remained until her death 30 years later.

After many complaints about the area some attempts were made to improve things. Two schools were set up to provide some education, mainly for boys. One cost 1d whilst the other was free provided you could prove that you couldn't afford the 1d. Meals were free and clothing was provided. There were several chapels to offer assistance and spiritual advice.

In 1878 an Act was passed for the demolition and rebuilding of slum areas but there was no funding and the town couldn't afford it, so nothing happened. In 1898 compensation was available for redevelopment. By 1914 the courts had been demolished and the road widened and Cathedral Rd created. In 1930 Queen's St Baths were built and by 1940 there was virtually nothing else left. The latest addition is "The Joseph Wright College" at the junction of Jury St and the last remaining bit of Walker Lane, built on land where his house once stood. Student accommodation is now being built opposite the baths, towering seven storeys high. Hopefully it will bring new life to the area but not regain its likening to "WHITECHAPEL"

RUTH BARBER

GLOSSOP MEETINGS

Jan 2016

A Glossop family—Pat Dudman

This story did not begin in Glossop but in a small village called Leigh in Worcestershire. Leonard Tom Warner, Pat's grandad, was born there on the 21st December 1870. His father was James Warner who was born about 1800 and his mother was Rachel Anne Tudge who was much younger, being born about 1850.

In 1871 Rachel, who was James second wife, was living with her parents and her sons Arthur and Leonard Tom. By 1881 Rachel is left a widow with four children and is living in Somerset. Sometime after 1882 she became gover-

ness to the children of the Reverend Ward in Glossop.

By 1891 Rachel was living in Turn Lee Rd in Glossop and was no longer working but living on her own means. By this time Arthur Jesse was a clerk, Leonard Tom a joiner's apprentice and a daughter Amy Lily was a domestic servant. Leonard married a girl called Annie and they had five children- Elsie May 1893-1996, Bertram 1895-1997, Jessie Alice 1900-1902, Arthur 1903 and Alan 1911. Leonard was now working for Lord Howard of Glossop Hall as a carpenter until in 1915 he enlisted, at age 44, in the Royal Field Artillery. He received a letter from the estate promising that his job would still be there at the end of the war. He was active in many of the battles around Ypres, Arras and Bethune both in 1917 and 1918. His son Bertram was also a serving soldier. Leonard kept a diary when he could and also had time to draw a plan of a portable hay sieve complete with all measurements. At the end of the war he returned to Glossop and his job as estate carpenter. Sadly on the 16th and 17th September 1925 the estate of approximately 7400 acres was sold and Leonard had to find work. He became a licensee in Glossop until his retirement.

Pat also brought photographs ,postcards, letters and estate sale information which we were able to enjoy at the end of the evening.

Feb 2016

Glossop filmed archive by Keith Bates shown by Ernie Drabble

Some time ago Ken came and showed us a few of his films. At the end of the meeting he was discussing what would eventually happen to his archive. Ernie volunteered to look after it and received sixteen films from Ken.

At our meeting Ernie showed us several more of the films. These included Glossop then and now, Changes in the twentieth century, Pubs from 1800's to the twentieth century, Glossop gardens, The seasons, Manchester Christmas markets and Snow in Glossop. All the subjects were beautifully filmed and accompanied by suitable music and well worth preserving.

Mar 2016

Tales out of School—Alan Schofield

The omens were not good for the last meeting of the Glossop and High Peak Group on the first Friday in March. It started snowing at 3am in the morning and ended around 11-30am. I had made personal plans to go Whitby the following day and our multi-purpose vehicle lacked a snowplough frontage. By noon things were getting hairy and it was with great relief that reception at Bradbury House, Glossop rang to say that we were the only booked group user who had not cancelled their Friday night meeting. Alan Schofield, a for-

mer headmaster, 1951-2001, the booked speaker, living over the hill in Stockport, also a little way off a main road, was more than relieved at the outcome, and so fast forward to April 1st.

It was April's Fool Day but more members than usual turned up, but was it to hear the "last death rites of the group" or were they hoping to find out where they went wrong in the education system of their youth? Alan humorously tried his best to educate the senior citizens before him in the machinations of the education system through his 50 years of service. I lost count over the number of schools that he had "toiled and troubled" over --- sex education--- work experience --- careers advice when there were little or none in the schools catchment area. A case of sand bagging St Trinians without the innocent humour of Alastair Sims and George Cole

His introduction to Hulme School in cotton picking Oldham, Lancashire, was that new staff were entertained and invited to a formal trout dinner meal, he later realised that the new plebs were unaware that the real sherry was in a cupboard and not on the table. This was decadent as opposed to a school at Higher Blackley on the Bury / Middleton boundary of Lancashire --- pupils arriving at 9-20 am-ish, drugs, venereal disease, the pupils foreseeable future was to be 2nd or 3rd generation unemployed in the family.

Ofsted Reports give the illusion of progress, changes in parental attitudes, mobile phones, ice cream vans parked outside schools, cannabis smoking, baseball bats, motorbikes in the playground, an axe in a school bag (for self defence allegedly), seven fire engines at a school fire just after the completion of a 3 million pound makeover. No wonder he ended up counting the days down to a Saturday and retirement.

So goodbye from me and goodbye from them, there are tentative plans for an informal meet occasionally to keep in touch, most likely during the hours of daylight, so at last the members in Glossop and High Peak will see the light, now where are my glasses?

Bye for now
Keith Holford

SOUTH NORMANTON

Feb 2016

Jigsaw Puzzles—Rosemary Beney

The earliest jigsaw puzzles were used as educational tools for the children of wealthy families. Pictures of birds, shells and maps were glued onto thin boards and cut out. Maps of England were cut around the county borders.

In the early years of the 20th century, Mrs Edith Stockem was given an A.I. treadle jigsaw cutter and began to produce wooden jigsaws.. Her children, Simon, Jack and Claudia, and several grandchildren, all continued to make the jigsaws. Unlike the mass produced interlocking puzzles the individual pieces are cut in curves, straight edges do not necessarily belong on the outer frame of the picture, and pieces can vary in size as well as shape.

Mrs Stockem made a jigsaw puzzle for King George VI and more recently a puzzle shaped like a cello was made for Stephen Sondheim.

During World War II plywood was requisitioned for military purposes, so cardboard was used for jigsaws which were made to a standard format. Nowadays the individually cut pices of the wooden puzzles are being revived once more.

Mar 2016

If it wasn't for the Houses Inbetween—Bob Massey

Bob used the words of Gus Elen's most famous song for the title of his talk about the life and work of the famous music hall artist.

Ernest August was the fifth of the twelve children of Edwin and Mary Elen, born on July 22nd 1862. When he was 18 he became a barman in various public houses. Most of them offered entertainment also and he began busking, soon becoming known as the Costermonger Comedian. He spent a summer with a minstrel troupe at Margate, and in 1884 he had good reviews for his performance at the Royal Standard Music Hall—now the Victoria Palace.

He also toured the country. On April 4th 1883 he sang at Liverpool, April 8th in Manchester and at the end of the month he was back in London. In March 1902 the Nottingham Evening Post reviewed his performance at the Nottingham Empire Theatre.

He kept meticulous notes of his songs and his gestures and costumes as he performed them. Lipstick made it easier for audiences to see the mouth and read his words at a distance. A glove or scarf helped to emphasis gestures.

In 1907 Marie Lloyd was earning £500 per week, Harry Lauder £450 and Gus Elen came third with £300 per week.

He went to America on the S S Baltic, continuing his career until 1914 when he retired after 33 years in show business. He returned to England in 1916 when he returned to the stage briefly and also broadcast on a Music Hall programme on the wireless. In 1935 he took part in a Royal Variety Performance to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of King George V and Queen Mary.

He died on 17th February 1940 aged 77 and is buried in Streatham Park. He left an amazing £10,575. In 1941, on the anniversary of his death, his most well known song was played as a tribute to him. The song describes his pleasant house, with its very pretty garden. It would also have a lovely view of the river and surrounding countryside if “it wasn’t for the houses in-between”.

AVERIL HIGGINSON

I recently came across this photograph whilst looking through a box of family photographs. I have no idea who this person is, or anything about the photograph. On the back it has written in pencil;

‘Adams, 47 or 49 Woods Lane,
Derby’

As photo

Below these words is written
‘Adams. 12/A

Can anyone tell me any more about the subject? If you recognise this as an ancestor I’d be happy to give you the photograph.

Sue Boud [mem 3018]
E-mail: sueboud@hotmail.com



ROUND AND ABOUT

COACH TRIP The Society is running a trip to the National Archives, Kew, on Saturday 10th September. It starts from Full Street, Derby, at 7.30 am and returns at 4 pm. The cost is as usual £15. See the website for full details. Payment can be made via the website or contact Helena Coney [address on inside cover] who is organising the trip. Quite a few people begged us to run a coach this year, so we are doing so, but we can't run at a loss so please support us and make sure the coach is reasonably full otherwise it will have to be cancelled. It's a good day out and if you don't want to carry out research, walk to nearby Kew Gardens and have a good time there.

DONCASTER HISTORY FAIR Doncaster & District Family History Society are organising a Family and Local History Fair with speakers at Doncaster Deaf Trust on Saturday 24th September. There will be a number of local church and heritage charity groups and various craft stalls as well as family history stalls. If you want to know anything more, please contact vchair@doncasterfhs.co.uk

CHESTERFIELD AND DISTRICT FHS are also hosting a Family History and Heritage Fair with crafts stalls at Outwood Academy, Highfield Lane, Chesterfield on Saturday August the 27th. Again there will be a lot of stalls of interest and further details are on the website www.cadfhs.org.uk

LEAVES FROM THE TREE is a book by Annabel Bailey, which could be of interest in this part of the world. It is about four hundred years of living on the land, each 'leaf' being an imagined episode about real people, their times and places, gathered over generations into one family. The book is the result of several years of research into the Phizacklea, Poslethwaite, Bowley, Ward and Wilson families. Copies are available at £10 plus £2.50 postage from Annabel at The Malt House, Great Shefford, Hungerford RG17 7ED, e-mail annabel.bailey1@btinternet.com

RENEWALS Very early, I know, but when it comes to renewing for 2017 could I make a plea to do so as early in the new year as possible. The printer actually posts out the magazine for us at a very favourable rate, but those that haven't renewed by the 1st February are not on their list and the Society have to post out at double the cost. Overseas magazines cost around £5, a very big chunk of the membership rate. We are looking into various ways of getting round this, but meantime this is an early reminder to renew your membership as soon as you can. Thank you very much.

LAMBETH ARCHIVES is currently closed to both the public and its staff. The staff arrived on 8 April only to find it closed because of concerns about security in the building. They do not know when it will reopen, but hopefully not too far in the future. Len Reilly, the Archives and Library Manager, informs us that they can deal with written enquiries in a very limited way, but obviously not with personal visitors. If that is any help or you want to know more, please check with archives@lambeth.gov.uk

NORTH DEVON RECORD OFFICE has given us the good news that they have been saved from closure. Get more information at this link. www.northdevonjournal.co.uk/North-Devon-Record-Office-saved-closure/story-29130614-detail/story.html

SOMERSET & DORSET FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY is setting up a searchable database of photographs of named people from those two counties, hoping it will become a valuable resource that gives people across the world opportunities to find images of their relatives. It is a wonderful idea and the sort of project I would love the Derbyshire Society to get involved with. Problem!! As always, lack of volunteers. There are now very few of us involved in running our Society and we haven't got time to take on anything more. Is there anyone out there who would like to start this project and co-ordinate it so that people with Derbyshire ancestors might have a chance to find photographs of their relatives too. Get in touch if you are interested. You don't have to live in Derby of course.

DERBY FAMILY HISTORY FESTIVAL look at the advert on the inside back cover and please come and support us. If you have an unknown photograph you want dating or just want to know more about it, then bring it along and have a chat to Maxwell Craven who will be doing this service as well as giving a talk. There will be plenty more to do as well, so help us make it a day to remember. Also if you know anyone who might like to become a member, get them to come along and join on the day as there will be special offers available for that day only. Our Society has had tremendous backing from both the Derby Local Studies Library and the Derbyshire Record Office, so lets make it a good one.

ARCHIVAL STORAGE With the support of the Derbyshire Record Office the DFHS are stocking supplies of various archival material to keep your family history safe from deterioration. We are launching at the above festival on the 8th June. After that date have a look at the website and if you want anything special, we can arrange to order it for you.

Trying to Identify Old Photographs

We have in the family a very fragile album of photographs some of which we believe to date from the 1870's. Unfortunately none of the pictures are captioned, as seems to be the norm for the time, but several of them have been identified by elderly relations over the years.



One picture that remained unidentified seemed to be unusual in respect of the attire of the gentleman. All of the other photographs in the album show people apparently dressed in their Sunday best, but in this one the man is wearing clothes which can only be described as “casual”. Does this give a clue as to the identity of the couple?

My great-great-grandfather George Baker was born in Uttoxeter c1812 and at some point married Mary Barber from the Melbourne area (I have been unable to find any record of their marriage despite assistance from the DFHS). Their first child was born in 1838 and from the 1841 census onwards I have traced the family around various addresses in Derby. In 1841 George was a “fireman” (possibly at The Park foundry?) but in the 1851 and the 1861 census he was a gardener; an occupation which was confirmed on various birth and marriage certificates over the years.

There was talk in the family of George being a staunch member of the teetotal movement while some of his children had a reputation for drinking and my late uncle speculated that this was the reason why nothing was known of at least two of his children. I have since discovered that one of his sons, Joseph, moved to Rochdale with his family and died aged 56 in 1895 just 12 days after his wife who died from, amongst other things, cirrhosis of the liver. Another son, George, moved to Halifax and died aged just 41 in 1889 from alcoholic poisoning. Perhaps the family talk was correct? Another son, Henry, was in the Royal Marines. Another son, my great-grandfather John,

remained in Derby and as far as we know avoided the worse of the demon drink! When John died in 1910 he was caretaker of the Congregational Chapel in London Road.

Could George's membership of the teetotal movement or his job as a gardener explain the attire of the gentleman in this photograph? George died in April 1870 in the Infirmary from peritonitis following an operation for a strangulated hernia and so if this photograph is of George and Mary then it must date from the very late 1860's or early in 1870. We will never know for sure who the couple in the photograph is but it would be nice to think that it is my great-great-grandparents.

Photograph 2



Unlike the many photographs in the family's fragile old album, this wedding picture is approximately 16cm by 11cm in size and card mounted. However, I had absolutely nothing to go on to identify it other than "about 1900" being scribbled on the back.

So where to start? What about the couple who must be the parents of the bride or groom – what is the significance of their headwear? They both bear a remarkable resemblance to two photographs in the aforementioned old album which had been identified some years ago by an elderly relative as James and Ann Nanson.

James Nanson was born c1835 in Boston in Lincolnshire and married Ann Jennison in St Mary's Church in Nottingham on 29th June 1856. Ann was born c1837 in Derby. They had at least eight children; Harriet (c1859-60), John (c1861), Samuel (c1863), Robert William (c1865), James (c1868), Herbert (c1872), George (c1874) and Mary Ann (c1875).

In the 1861 census Ann and the young John were living in Crosby Place in Nottingham but by the 1871 census James and Ann had moved to Derby and were living at 24, Parcel Terrace.

What is my connection to the Nansons? Ann Nanson (nee Jennison) had a sister, Eliza (born c1827 in Belper) who was my great-great grandmother. Eliza married John Allen (or did she – there is something of a mystery about this*). Eliza had my great-grandmother Eliza Ann Jennison (c1855), John Allen Jennison (c1859) and there was also an Emma (c1862) whose birth certificate I have not been able to trace. In the 1861 census Eliza and Eliza Ann were living next door to Ann and John Nanson in Nottingham but there is no trace of Ann's husband James Nanson or Eliza's "husband" the mysterious John Allen. On both Eliza Ann's and Emma's wedding certificates their surname is Allen and their father is given as John Allen but I have found no record or trace of him. Tragically the young John Allen Jennison and the young Harriet Nanson both died on 17th January 1860. My late uncle recalled visiting an "Auntie" Emma Smith, sister of his grandmother, at Chapel St Leonards on the Lincolnshire coast and remembered her as being a "rather forbidding old lady". Mary Ann Nanson, known as Polly, was a close friend of my grandfather's sister Emma Baker. Emma, her widowed mother Eliza Ann Baker and Eliza Ann's granddaughter Kathleen Moore all moved to Chapel St Leonards and lived next door to "Auntie Emma" and her husband Harry Smith on Anderby Lane. Emma and Kathleen later moved down the coast to Skegness.

And so back to that wedding photograph! James and Ann Nanson were Rechabites – does this explain their strange headwear? I think, therefore, that this must be a Nanson wedding. Given the suggested date of c1900 and searching FreeBMD for Nanson weddings in Derby between 1800 and 1911 the options are:

- John Nanson and Alice Taylor in 1883;
- Robert Nanson and Hannah Loughenbury in 1887;
- Samuel Nanson and Elizabeth Fletcher or Mary Jane Storer in 1888;
- James Nanson and Charlotte Hanson in 1899;
- Harold Nanson (son of John and Alice) and Margaret Holt in 1909.

Thus 1899 seems to be the most likely. I believe the lady to the right of Ann

Nanson is my great-grandmother Eliza Ann Baker with her husband John behind her and to her right their daughter Mary Elizabeth. Mary Elizabeth was born in Littleover in January 1880 and so if this picture is dated 1899 she would be aged 19 – she certainly looks older than the 8 she would have been at the 1888 wedding. In this case her siblings Emma (c1882) and my grandfather George (c1887) would have been about 17 and 12 respectively. Is Emma the bridesmaid in front of Eliza Ann and Mary Elizabeth, with George on the right?

Ann Nanson died in 1912 aged 76 and James died in 1920 aged 85.

Mary Elizabeth Baker married Harry Moore in 1905 but she died in 1918 aged just 38. She was buried in Nottingham Road Cemetery in the same grave as her father John, who had died in 1910. Eliza Ann Baker died in Chapel St Leonards in 1933 at the age of 78 and was buried in the village churchyard. Emma Baker died in hospital in Boston, Lincolnshire in 1967 aged 85. Kathleen Moore died in 2010, just two weeks short of her 101st birthday.

(* The only definitive documentary evidence of John Allen that I have found was as a witness, along with Eliza “Allen”, at James and Ann Nanson’s wedding in 1856 – however the birth certificates for Eliza Ann Jennison (1855) and John Allen Jennison (1859) confirm that Eliza and John were not married, although the young John’s middle name alludes to John Allen being the father. The death reported in the “*Nottinghamshire Guardian*” on 19th January 1860 was of “*aged 10 months, John, son of Mr John Allen, Crosby Place, Nottingham*”. Eliza Ann Allen (or should that be Jennison)’s marriage certificate of 1879 states her father to be John Allen, a sawyer, deceased. Emma Allen (or Jennison)’s marriage certificate of 1891 states her father to be John Allen, a builder, but does not say that he was deceased. Eliza Allen’s death certificate from 1895 states that she was the widow of John Allen, a general labourer. So, who exactly was this John Allen and what was the nature of his relationship with Eliza Jennison?)

Simon Baker {Mem 7958}
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For King and Country

*Dedicated to troops at Harpenden,
Notts and Derby Regiment 1914*

*I was one of those who enlisted first, the old flag to defend;
We joined the Notts and Derby [of recruits there seemed no end]
I remember the time when the Germans, our country did defy
And the sons of every country came forward prepared to die.*

*We lads from the colliery district, and round about the Trent,
Were put on special training, and off to Harpenden sent.
They have there a breezy common, an ideal place for drills,
Reminds me of our camp grounds, amongst the old Welsh hills.*

*We billeted with the townsfolk, during our stay down South.
I shall always remember our marches in the country round
about.*

*Lord Kitchener came to inspect us, in a lovely park near by,
He said we were just the fellows to make the Germans fly.*

*The Notts and Derby Regiment will always keep its fame,
Call them by Sherwood Foresters, Robins Hoods or other name.*

*I am told there are amongst us the "ragged twenty eight",
Who had served their years of service and joined again of late.*

*We are anxious to get into Belgium and eager to reach Berlin,
Side by side with the French and Russians and the Indians now
brought in;*

*We await a glorious victory for the troops of the Allied Force,
For Bravery, Distinction and Honour, the Darbys will share, of
course.*

*[Thanks to Beryl Scammell who found this when sorting through some papers.
She has no idea where it came from, but thought our readers would be interested.
Thank you Beryl, I thought it was great—Ed]*

THE FLOOD DISASTER AT DERBY

[The following is taken from a small booklet that was sold in aid of the Mayor's Flood Fund in 1932. Especially interesting as Derby Council are busily destroying as many trees and as much green space as they can to try and stop it happening again]

Markeaton Brook, which runs through the centre of Derby, has been a source of trouble throughout the ages. Local records furnish many instances of the flooding of the town when this turbulent stream overflowed its banks, but the worst visitation of all was that of Sunday, May the twenty second last.

Heavy rain had been experienced for a few days previously, but there was no reason to anticipate the inundation that followed. From the hills around Kedleston and from the high ground in the neighbourhood of Mickleover, there came an avalanche of water such as human ingenuity was powerless to control.

As the brook enters the town, it passes by St John's Church and along what is known as Brook Walk until it approaches the gas works in Ford Street. Here is the beginning of a huge culvert leading to the River Derwent, constructed ninety years ago, in the hope of saving the central thoroughfares from the flooding that had proved so disastrous in the past. Until this last occasion, it has served its purpose admirably, but so great was the volume of water that it was now impossible to find a passage.



The flooded Markeaton Brook in full force, having twisted the iron railings near Merchant Street

The result was tragic. Unable to pass under the bridge, the water poured into the streets and many houses were filled to a depth of six and seven feet. In the low lying parts of the town it gathered quickly, and by ten o'clock on this memorable Sunday morning, shops in the Corn Market, St James's Street, and the bottom end of St Peter's Street were immersed halfway up the windows. Tablets on the walls at certain spots, indicating the height of the great

flood of 1842 were covered, and a new [and, let us hope, unbeatable] record was established. The centre of the town presented the appearance of a lake and the sight was unforgettable.



Havoc in the Midland Drapery Store

The water subsided almost as quickly as it had risen, leaving a trail of ruin behind it. The extent of the damage can never properly be estimated, but the conjectural figures of £400,000 has not been challenged. The biggest sufferers were, of course, the tradesmen, whose individual losses in some cases were very heavy. Most sympathy, however,

was due to residents in the poorer districts, who in some cases had lost their all.

The Mayor lost no time in opening a fund for the relief of the worst victims, and the ready response that was given to his appeal has been a credit to all classes. More remains to be done, and this little brochure has been produced as much with the idea of raising money for this object as to place on record some lasting souvenir of an event that will live in local history.

The Corporation is seeking, by expert opinion, to determine the cause of the

Salvage scenes in St James's Street



calamity. This in itself may not be difficult. More to the purpose will be the discovery of some means that will prevent its recurrence. The inhabitants have a right to expect this, and with the resources of science at their command, they will be satisfied with nothing else.

No one who saw the centre of Derby on the Sunday morning will ever forget the amazing spectacle of the main shopping district of a modern industrial town turned into a lake. The water swirled in the streets, twisting and tearing up road surfaces, broke plate glass windows, poured into the basements and ground floors of the shops and stores, and swept into banks and municipal offices, spreading damage everywhere.



Flooding in The Strand

The electricity supply failed and so did the telephone service, and the town was soon in a plight that it had never imagined possible. The worst areas were the Cornmarket, Victoria Street, Sadler Gate, St James's Street, the Strand, Green Lane, Albert Street and Bold lane. All the large stores and shops suffered heavy damage and only in one or two isolated cases was the loss covered by insurance.

Important municipal records in the Town Clerk's office were badly damaged, and the staff have been busy sorting and drying them ever since. A sad spectacle was the scene of desolation in the congested areas bordering upon the course of the Markeaton Brook. In Willow Row people were unable to leave the bedrooms, and Nuns Street, Brook Street, and St John's Terrace were other streets to suffer badly, whilst Ponsonby Terrace and Shelton Terrace, where the inhabitants suffered badly from the flood last September, again became involved.

On Monday the crowds in the town were startled by an explosion at the shop of Messrs Samuel in the Cornmarket, shutters and windows were blown into the road and ten people had to be treated at the Infirmary for injuries, whilst the police had a busy time collecting watches and jewellery.

A meeting of the tradespeople appointed a committee, with Mr C.A. Newton as chairman, to investigate the causes and take such action as they deemed necessary. The Mayor, Ald W.H. Salisbury, lost no time in opening a fund for the relief of the sufferers in the poorer parts of the town, and within a fortnight about three thousand pounds had been subscribed. The fund is still open and subscriptions will be gratefully received.



The flood wrecked the floor of St Werburgh

The vaults of the Derby branch of the Midland Bank were flooded to a depth of four feet, the strong rooms in which are the bank books, specie and all records were submerged, and the doors unapproachable. Pumping was carried out at the rate of hundreds of gallons a second and officials awaited an opportunity to enter the strong room to salvage what they could.

Tramcars were unable to run the full length of Osmaston Road owing to the overflow of

the covered brook, which runs from Normanton. St John's Terrace, off Bridge Gate, and Nuns Street were also under water. The main road at Little Eaton was flooded, and inhabitants had to come to Derby by way of Bread-sall. A wall in Brook Street was swept down and residents in Bold Lane were busily engaged in the afternoon cleaning slime from furniture. Allotments on the outskirts of Derby were transformed into lakes, and heavy damage was done to growing crops. Hotel cellars were flooded, and in some cases public rooms were so much under water that no use could be made of them during the mid day opening hours.

Duffield experienced the worst flood ever known in the district. Occupants of more than 100 houses awoke about 4 a.m. to find they had become suddenly marooned in their bedrooms, and by five o'clock water was up to the bedroom windows. As if a gigantic reservoir had been released, the little river Ecclesbourne had in a short time become a raging torrent. Agonised cries of "Help", "Save us" and "Get us out, we are drowning", were heard, the rain was still falling, and gave the first indication of the plight of the families who were then beyond reach on "Duck Island".

The Ecclesbourne was rushing along, carrying away bridges, logs, furniture, garden implements, fowl and duck pens with their occupants, sheep, dogs, cats, barrels, barrows, outbuildings, kennels and gates, and tearing up garden produce and fruit trees. Quickly the floods spread over a wide areas as the Derwent could not take the water fast enough. The main street became impassable and no one could get through to Derby. Portions of the pavement and the road were torn up and water to a depth of four feet poured into the houses on either side.

By this time people in all the houses in Tamworth Street had been forced to take refuge in their bedrooms. Cries for help still came from the people on Mill Green, but no one could reach them, and the bridge—a new structure—leading to the island, was torn from its concrete bed and floated downstream.

At Darley Abbey and Allestree districts, hundred of acres were overflowed by the swollen Derwent. Children paddled knee deep in the water in the Morledge, near Thorntree Lane, where the flood rushed down from Victoria Street, Albert Street and Exchange Street like a waterfall.

The Cattle Market escaped, although the Derwent reached the very top of the wall on the river side. Fears were entertained for the safety of the Long Bridge, against which two huge logs crashed and became lodged, unable, because of the height of the river, to float under.

Caravan dwellers with their amusements in the Morledge fair ground were lucky to escape being swept into the river, for when the flood went down it dragged a stationary traction engine to the edge of the railings. The stench from the mud was unbearable, and one of the caravan dwellers asked Councillor Hoare for supplies of disinfectant.

There was no loss of life and few animals. Two dogs and a pig were seen floating under the Cattle Market bridge.



Families in Chester Green watch the rising flood waters

The Elopement of Susanna Hope

In 1794 the citizens of Derby were shocked by a scandal involving the Susanna Harriot Hope daughter of Charles Hope, the Rector of All Saints, now Derby Cathedral. The family were friends of the painter Joseph Wright of Derby and a portrait of Susanna painted a few years before her marriage was sold at Christie's in 2009. It's a pleasant and very conventional picture of a well to do young girl. Wright doesn't seem to have seen anything in her to suggest she would later cause the kind of scandal that nudged its way into the national press at a time when it was mostly preoccupied with a raft of treason trials.



Susanna Harriot Hope by Joseph Wright

On 22nd May 1786 seventeen year old Susanna Harriot Hope married Joseph Seymour Biscoe at All Saints Church, Derby. For the first seven years the Biscoe's life together seems to have been a happy one, living in Derbyshire and Mansfield. A daughter Mary was born the year after their wedding. There were no further children and in October 1793 the couple moved with their daughter to Kent, taking the lease of Shoreham House the following year from Robert Home Gordon, an old school friend to whom Joseph had been reintroduced by their mutual acquaintance Richard Lee. All three men had wealth derived from Jamaican sugar estates.

Biscoe, Gordon and Richard Lee all enjoyed country sports, and Robert Gordon and Richard Lee regularly came down from London to go riding or

shooting with Joseph Biscoe. Richard Lee never stayed more than a couple of days before going back to his business in London, but Robert Gordon often stayed several weeks at a time, and the Biscoes stayed with him in turn at his hunting box in Kent.

It was at this point that Robert Gordon fell head over heels in love with Susanna and she was undoubtedly attracted to him. Had Joseph Biscoe shown any concern, the affair might have ended before it began. Instead he continued to go out all day shooting, often with Richard Lee but frequently on his own, leaving Robert Gordon alone with his wife. Although Biscoe claimed to be completely unaware of what was going on, the servants were not. It had become common for Robert Gordon to sit for hours alone with Susanna, sending her seven year-old daughter out of the room, and only picking up his gun to go out shortly before Biscoe was due back. Several times when the men came in from shooting Robert and Susanna sat up into the small hours, with Biscoe and Richard Lee having gone to bed hours earlier.

On the 21st October 1794 matters came to a head. Joseph Biscoe had gone to London on business and Susanna rode out accompanied by the coachman Francis Swindel. When she met up with Robert, Swindel was told to drop back to where he could not hear their conversation. Her maid Margaret Sparks was already suspicious because that morning Susanna had asked her to leave her chest of drawers unlocked, which the maid had not done as she wanted to know what Susanna took out. It was clear to the servants that an elopement was in the offing. When Gordon and Susanna got back in the middle of the afternoon two of her brothers were already there, news had got back to the family and it seemed they were well aware of her impending flight. They had spent their time drinking quantities of Biscoe's wine while they waited and then only a short time talking to Robert Gordon before leaving again.

The servants then became aware of a scene being played out between Susanna and Robert Gordon. He was pleading with her to elope with him, stamping noisily up and down in the parlour. She was crying that she could not leave her child. He called for some laudanum to calm her, but the servants, with a somewhat melodramatic turn of mind, suspected that he meant to drug and kidnap her. In any case they had no laudanum and could only offer hartshorn (a kind of smelling salts) or wine and water.

As it grew dark the lovers left the house unobserved and walked several miles, pursued by Biscoe's coachman, before obtaining a chaise at a local inn to take them to Robert Gordon's London house in Albemarle Street. There they occupied separate but adjoining bedrooms. It was not enough to save her

reputation, and Susanna now knew that she had burnt her boats.

The scene was set for a scandalous court case in which the young William Garrow (who featured in the BBC series *Garrow's Law*) would play a part. Joseph Biscoe, sued Robert Gordon for damages claiming £10,000 for Gordon's 'criminal conversation', i.e. adultery, with his wife. Even for a wealthy man £10,000 was a large sum, equivalent to nearly a million pounds in relation to retail prices, or over ten million pounds relative to average earnings, today.

On the 8th December 1794 a special jury hearing was held before Lord Chief Justice Kenyon. Technically it was the 'Trial of Mrs Biscoe for Adultery with Robert Gordon Esq.' although Susanna did not attend. Robert Home Gordon was able to afford some big legal guns and his defence team included Thomas Erskine (later to be Lord Chancellor), William Garrow and a Mr Burrow, while Joseph Biscoe had Messrs Bearcroft, Gibbs and Perceval on his side.

The Biscoe servants were called to give evidence, with Biscoe's team clearly having decided to paint Susanna as a wronged woman, seduced and possibly made drunk and abducted by Robert Home Gordon. They represented the marriage as blissful and Gordon as a cad who had betrayed his friend's hospitality.

Robert had ensured that Susanna would not be called to testify by admitting adultery from the outset – it would have been hard to deny since the couple had been living together since October – and so his legal team worked hard to reduce the amount of any damages to be awarded.

Biscoe's team called several witnesses to testify to his years of happy marriage and that he had been an indulgent husband. However the first hint of where the trouble lay came when an old college friend, George Biggin, described Biscoe as being a man of very reserved character. This gave Erskine the opening he needed and he portrayed Biscoe as a man who would rather spend all day out hunting or shooting than at home with his wife – a man who 'in consequence of his own gross negligence, permits his wife to have an improper intercourse [unchaperoned meetings] with other men, which may ultimately terminate in the ruin of both'.

Without attempting to destroy Biscoe's honour Erskine made clear that it should have been obvious to anyone, and particularly Biscoe, that allowing his wife to sit up until three in the morning with Robert Gordon was asking for trouble. Why, Erskine asked, if Biscoe had first become aware of the danger in August, had he not put a stop to it? Why had he done nothing to at-

tempt to reclaim his wife's affections? Why had he remained in the same room as the lovers while they sat side by side on a 'sopha' and did nothing about it? Indeed why when they had gone out riding with Richard Lee, who proposed that all four should stay together, had Biscoe said 'no, let them go on by themselves, they are made for one another'?

'After this gentleman sees that his wife's affections are alienated from him, instead of putting any check or reins upon them, he encourages the defendant, and then comes into a court of justice to complain of them', said Erskine.

It was a devastating opening statement, representing Biscoe as having thrown his wife into the arms of Robert Gordon, and it was backed up by Richard Lee, appearing as a very reluctant witness. Not only was he a friend of both men, but he was the business associate of Robert Gordon who had grown up with him almost like a brother. Moreover it was Richard who had re-introduced Gordon to Biscoe and who had then watched Gordon fall head over heels for Susanna while her husband did nothing to prevent it. William Garrow asked Richard if he had thought Biscoe was 'a prudent discreet, cautious husband' and Richard answered 'I do not think he was'.

Richard was then asked by Biscoe's lawyers whether he had thought that Gordon had gone to Kent with the intention of seducing Susanna.

'I took it for granted, and I thought him criminal', replied Richard. But when challenged as to why he had done nothing to prevent it he told the jury that 'I should have thought it extremely improper to interfere in any degree.' Poor Richard was clearly caught in an impossible situation, deeply disapproving of Robert Gordon's conduct but not feeling it right to intervene or interfere, and believing it was clear that Biscoe did not care enough to put a stop to the affair.

Kenyon was scathing in his summing up:

On the part of the Defendant they tell you, that Mr Biscoe has stood by and seen his wife debauched; and, if that is so, he is one of the most atrocious men living. And if you see Mr Biscoe to be the pander of the lusts of the Defendant, give him not a farthing, but give the Defendant your verdict. But on the contrary, if you shall be of the opinion that the Plaintiff was put off his guard, by pretended friendship, and that he has been robbed of his domestic comforts by the foulest conspiracy, I think no damages but Ten Thousand Pounds will satisfy the fair calls which Mr Biscoe makes on your honours and your consciences for justice.

In spite of the evident adultery, and Lord Kenyon's censuring of Richard Lee,

the Jury obviously felt that Biscoe was partly to blame. They withdrew for only a short time and although they found in favour of Biscoe the claim for damages was halved to £5000.

Susanna probably never saw her daughter again, for she was put in the care of Joseph's sister Mary and brought up in her father's household. Joseph Biscoe finally obtained a divorce in 1796 and remarried in 1799, having seven children with his new wife Stephana Law. In December 1795 he sold his richly furnished house at Edge Hill, Duffield and most of its contents, which you can see listed in an advertisement in the *Derby Mercury*.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
By Mr. SHAW,
On Monday the 7th day of December inst.
and continue until all is sold,

THE NEAT HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,
BELONGING TO
JOSEPH SEYMOUR BISCOE, Esq.
At EDGE HILL near Duffield.

Consisting of large 4 post Mahogany and other Bedsteads, with Corded Dimity and Calico Furniture; twelve very excellent Feather Beds; a quantity of Hair and Wool Cranky Mattresses; large Blankets; Counterpanes; a considerable quantity of neat Mahogany Furniture, amongst which are a Dining Table, with Circular Ends, 16 feet by 4 feet; a pair of Round Card Tables, covered with green Cloth; Pembroke Tables; an elegant Mahogany commode Side Board; Celleret, Brass Hoop'd; Wardrobes; Chest of Drawers; Chest on Chest; Wash Hand Stands; beautiful Chairs, with Hair Bottoms, and others stuffed in fine Canvas, covered with white Corded Dimity, and Chintz Borders; elegant Window Curtains, to match the Furniture of the Chairs, with Chintz Border; beautiful Japann'd and Mahogany Fire Screen Stands and Frames; a large assortment of China, Glass, and Earthen Ware; handsome Pier and other Looking Glasses; a beautiful Brussels Carpet; Wilton and Scotch Carpets; Stair Case and Bedside Carpets; elegant Steel Grate; Bath Stoves; large Kitchen Range; a Mangle; Harpsichord by Kirkman; Barometer; Thermometer; and all sorts of Kitchen, Brewing, and Dairy Utensils.

Catalogues of this valuable sale, may be had one week previous to it, at Mr. Turner's, Bull-Head, Duffield; Black-Head, Ashborne; Lion Inn in Wirksworth; Matlock Old Bath; Miss Brown of the George Inn, Alfreton; and of Mr. SHAW, Market-Place, Derby.

The Goods may be seen one week before the time of sale.

N. B. Mr. SHAW most respectfully informs the public, that each morning's sale will commence exactly at ten o'clock, and continue until four.

Susanna and Robert Gordon continued to live together but did not marry until some years later, a codicil to Robert's Will implying that by 1812 they were married under both English and Scots Law. This was important as he had substantial estates in Scotland. Robert died in Brighton in 1826 and, as they had no children, when Susanna died in 1839 most of the property went to Robert's cousin Sir Orford Gordon of Embo.

It seems a sad ending to a whirlwind romance and elopement and I can only hope they were happy together.

Anne Powers

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DERBY AND THE RAILWAY

On 30th June 1840 the opening of the North Midland Railway line was completed. It had taken some time to finish, owing to its numerous tunnels and bridges. Trains brought guests from Leeds to Derby, and travellers ate their lunch on the stone platform, whilst listening to a band playing. A description of the Derby railway station reported:

"It is a wonderfully extensive place, which astonishes every person arriving there for the first time. So stupendous and magnificent does everything appear that imagination almost leads passengers to suppose they are arrived at a market place for steam engines".

Another account of the opening of the Derby and Birmingham Railway described that:

"All Derby was in a bustle on that eventful morning. I was first on the spot, and had ticket no 1. Every director was present. Preliminary experiments had been made daily for a week and upwards, yet everything seemed in a state of confusion; everybody spoke or commanded, and when the carriages were to be brought up to the temporary platform, it was found that something was to be done to the iron stop of one of those circular moving machines in the ground which serve to turn the vehicles. The operation was performed with bad and inefficient tools, and took some time to be completed."

CHRISTMAS 1900

Mr Cavendish's bounty to the Relatives of West Derbyshire Men serving in South Africa

John Barton of Bakewell—Son in 10th Hussars recently dead by enteric at Blomfontein

Mrs Holme of Bakewell—Husband in R.E., ill at Pretoria

Mrs Littlewood of Bakewell—Son in Volunteer Corps Derbyshire Regiment at Springfontein

Mrs Howard of Bakewell—Son in Imperial Yeomanry Derbyshire Corps

Mrs Kay of Bakewell—Son in Royal Horse Artillery—South Africa

Mrs Gee of Bakewell—Husband in Yorkshire Regiment

Mrs Gowland of Eyam—Husband in West Yorkshire Regiment

Mrs Middleton of Grindleford Bridge—Husband in Yorkshire Regiment

Mrs Hollins of Monyash—Grandson in Reservists—Royal Engineers

Mrs Verrier of Sheffield [formerly of Longstone] - Husband in Somersetshire Light Infantry—Just home

Mrs Evans of Darley Bridge—Husband in Imperial Yeomanry

Mrs Southern of Wirksworth—Husband in Imperial Yeomanry

Mrs Casterton of Wirksworth—Son in Volunteer Company, Derby Regiment

Mrs Udale of Wirksworth—Son in Imperial Yeomanry

Mrs Bacon of Wirksworth—Son in Imperial Yeomanry

Mrs Brocklehurst of Wirksworth—Son in Imperial Yeomanry

Mrs Brough of Wirksworth—Son in Imperial Yeomanry

Mrs Webb of Matlock—Husband been in S, Africa, at present in Ireland

Mrs Brennan of Matlock—Husband returned wounded at Modder River

Mrs Harrison of Matlock—Husband at Front

Mrs Farnsworth of Matlock—Husband at Front

Mrs Barnett of Matlock—Husband at Front

Mrs Stevenson of Clifton nr Ashbourne—Husband in Grenadier Guards

Mrs Whybrow of Clifton nr Ashbourne—Husband in 1st Derby Regiment

Mrs Wilson of Clifton nr Ashbourne—Husband in 2nd Coldstream Guards

Mrs Nash of Roston—Husband in R.F.A.

Mrs Atterbury of Ashbourne—Husband in Grenadier Guards

Mrs Faulkner of Ashbourne—Husband in Grenadier Guards

Mrs Holmes of Ashbourne—Husband in Imperial Yeomanry

Mrs Jerram of Ashbourne—Husband in 1st Kings Royal Rifles

Mrs Bull of Ashbourne—Husband in 1st Battalion Derby Regiment

Mrs W. Lee of Ashbourne—Husband in 1st Battalion Derby Regiment

Mrs Samuel Sellers of Ashbourne—Husband in Derbyshire Imperial Yeomanry

Mrs Howard of Ashbourne—Mother of Private Howard, 1st Battalion Derby Regiment, died at Sterkstroom

Mrs Turner of Ashbourne—Mother of Private Turner, Volunteer Co Derby Regiment, died at Pretoria

Mrs H. Connell of Ashbourne—Husband in Grenadier Guards

Mrs J. Sellers of Ashbourne—Husband a sergeant Ammunition Column R.F.A.

Private Tunncliffe of Ashbourne—4th Battalion Derby Regiment

Mrs Edwin Prince of Ashbourne—Husband in 7th Dragoon Guards
Mrs Chadwick of Ashbourne—Husband 1st Battalion Derby Regiment
Mrs Gibson of Tideswell—Son in Volunteer Co. Derby Regiment
Mrs Sherratt of Ashbourne—Grandson in 1st Battalion Derby Regiment
Mrs Redgard of Hognaston—Son in 2nd Coldstream Guards. Killed
Mrs Birch of Doveridge—Husband in 5th Battery R.F.A.
Mrs Hough of Scropton—Husband in Kings Own Royal Rifles
Mrs Merrick of Cromford—Son serving at Front
Mrs Millward of Wetton—Son invalided home
Mrs Geo Bee of Shirley—Husband at Front
Mrs Bull of Shirley—Son at Front
Mrs Sweeney of Asherton Lane—Son at Front
Mrs Repton of Matlock—Husband reservist at Front
Mrs Jane Harrison of Marston Montgomery—Son serving in South Africa
Private E. Morley—last Liverpools. Invalided home
Mrs Hudson of Bonsall—Son at front with Army Service Corps
Mrs Millward of Bonsall. Son at front in Grenadier Guards

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

My family history lies largely in Hertfordshire, and I have long been a member of Hertfordshire Family History Society.

Two of my great great grandfather's sisters moved to St Alkmund, Derby, with their families, in the 1850s. Their married names were Ann Tew and Hannah Wren. Their maiden name was Vigus, and they were born in the Hertfordshire village of Standon.

If anyone can trace themselves back to these ladies, I would be happy for them to e-mail me so I can give them much more information. I have extensive information on Ann and Hannah's father John Vigus, who was at the Battle of Trafalgar in the Navy and later was transported to Australia for sheep stealing, for instance.

Valerie Monaghan

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I am currently undertaking a Surname study of all the Moorcrofts of Derbyshire and East Staffordshire, which all appear to lead back to Boyleston/ Church Broughton/ Snelston. I am also interested in DNA and would be keen to find other members who have done DNA testing, not necessarily DNA matching but what you do with the long list of numbers and lists of people you get back. I would also like to link in with any DNA projects that are happening in Derbyshire, that anyone is aware of. The Moorcrofts have been around Derbyshire since the 1500s and I would like to see if it goes back past the records. There are also a large amount of Moorcrofts in Lancashire, but I don't think they are connected to the Derbyshire Moorcrofts.

Louise Acraman [mem 7987]

E-mail: louiseacraman@googlemail.com

In 1256 the County Court of Derbyshire, which until this time was held at Nottingham, was granted permission by the King to be held at Derby on Thursdays. Furthermore, the itinerant court of the King's Justices for all pleas and inquisitions in the county of Derby [known as an Eyre] was also granted to be held at Derby instead of Nottingham.

[www.finerollshenry3.org.uk]

CHRISTMAS IN THE WORKHOUSE 1910

In consequence of Christmas Day falling on Sunday this year the usual festivities took place on Saturday, Christmas Eve. The various portions of the building had been profusely decorated with evergreens supplied by noblemen and gentlemen in the neighbourhood. The large dining hall of the house and aged men's block, as well as the various wards in the infirmary, presented a very pleasing and attractive appearance. Great praise is due to the various officers and nurses, who displayed much artistic skill in making and arranging the various mottoes, etc., usual at this festive season. The house was astir as early as 6 o'clock. Breakfast was served at 6.45, consisting of bread, butter and tea. The interval between breakfast and dinner was occupied by the inmates in games of dominoes, bagatelle, draughts, etc., and the usual pipe of tobacco was well patronised by the male portion of the house. The dinner



was on the tables at 12 o'clock, and consisted of a splendid supply of roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, and the usual Christmas pudding with sauce was in great requisition, the supply being quite equal to the demand. The usual gifts of tobacco for the men and packets of tea and

sugar for women, with oranges and apples, were passed round the tables to the great pleasure of all concerned. Needless to say, ample justice was done to the substantial meal provided. Amongst those who were present and did all in their power for the pleasure of the house were: Mr J.Potter [vice-chairman of the Board], and the following Guardians – Mr Fowke, Mr Mee, Mr Bell, Mr Taylor, Mr Bakewell, Mr Oswell, Mr Limpenny, and the following gentlemen – Messrs Amos Fearn, Hill, Carney, Hadfield, Brown, and Dodd, with Dr Iliffe, the medical officer of the institution.

It will easily be seen what a great amount of work the arrangements for the dinner entailed on the master and matron [Mr and Mrs J.Moffitt], the superintendent nurse [Miss Goodwin] and her staff of nurses, Mr C. Turney at the

aged men's block, and the porter [Mr J.Evans] at the house. That their labours were in every way a success was shown in the perfect arrangements that were made and as efficiently carried out. At the close of the dinner Mr J.Potter proposed, in a breezy little speech, a vote of thanks to the master and matron, and the whole of the staff of officials, for the splendid arrangements made for the day's enjoyment. This was seconded by Mr Fowkes in a few very appropriate words, and supported by Mr Taylor, and being put to the vote was carried with great cordiality. The Master [Mr Moffitt] in a few felicitous sentences acknowledged the vote on his own behalf and his officers, speaking in very pleasing terms of the officers of the institution, of whom there was not a better staff in Derbyshire. In closing he moved a vote of thanks to the guardians and visitors who had graced the proceedings with their presence and help. This was seconded by Mr H.Hutchings [assistant master], and supported by Mr J.Evans [porter], and carried amid general cheering. The inmates then adjourned to their several wards, and spent the afternoon after their own inclination.

At 5 p.m. tea was served, consisting of bread and butter and plum cake. This meal was thoroughly enjoyed, and at the usual hour the house retired to rest, with happy and grateful feelings for such a pleasant day. At the aged men's block in the afternoon an hour's pleasure was provided for the inmates in the shape of a concert, the accompanist being Mr W.H.Dodd [organist of St Peter's Church] and the soloist Mr T. Brown. This was heartily enjoyed by the old men. Gramophone entertainments were also given to the aged females in their various wards. It should be stated that the beverages supplied for dinner included beer, mineral waters and coffee. The Christmas services were held on Sunday, the Rev W.A. Knight preaching in the morning and administering the Holy Communion. In the evening a musical service was held, when the Christmas hymns were sung and the service thoroughly enjoyed.

Appended are a few particulars in connection with the house which may be of interest. Number of inmates Christmas 1910, 625, Christmas 1909, 673; classified as follows: Able-bodied men [nominally] 57, 29; Temporarily disabled men 39, 110; aged and infirm men 316, 288; total men, 412, 427; able bodied women [nominally] 27, 16; temporarily disabled women 39, 73; aged and infirm women 125, 126; total women, 191, 214; boys 9 to 16 years, 2, 1; boys 2 to 9 years, 3, 11; girls 9 to 16 years, 2, 3; girls 2 to 9 years, 3, nil; children under 2 years, 12, 7; total children, 22, 32. Average weekly number of inmates during past year 600; average weekly number of inmates previous year 634. Number of indoor officials, excluding nurses, 14; number of outdoor officials, excluding nurses, 12; Number of nurses, 17; total 43. Age of oldest male inmate 91; age of oldest female inmate 91; age of youngest inmate 2 months; number of male patients in the infirmary 79;

number of female patients in the infirmary 82; total 161. Number of admissions during the year 1090; number of discharges during the year 1058.

The following is a list of presents for the inmates:- Mrs W. Evans, Darley Abbey, load of evergreens; Mr H.H. Raphael, Allestree Hall, load of evergreens; Lord Scarsdale, Kedleston Hall, load of evergreens; Earl of Harrington, Elvaston Castle, load of evergreens; Mrs Barnes, Renals Street, Derby, Christmas tree, also toys; Mrs Attwood, Radbourne Street, tea and sugar; Rev A.E. Hunt, St Alkmund's Vicarage, cake and oranges; Miss Wright, Hayes, Alfreton, Christmas cards and letters; Mr C.Ollerenshaw, Nottingham Arms, London Road, case of oranges. Gifts for the Infirmary: Ladies Brabazon Society, tea and sugar, tobacco for men, Christmas cards; Miss Bobart, St Mary's Gate, toys; Mrs Newman, Wardwick, toys.

Provisions etc., prepared for Christmas dinner: Rounds of beef, 817lbs; Christmas Pudding, 700lbs; Apples, one each, 625; Oranges, one each, 625; tea, 2 oz each female [extra]; sugar ½ lb each female [extra]; tobacco, 1 oz each man or ½ oz snuff; ale, 45 gallons; mineral waters, 8 doz; pipes, 3 gross; Christmas trees, 1 house nursery and 1 infirmary nursery.

Decorations: Aged men's block, Mr Turney [attendant] assisted by inmates; Main body of house, Mr Evans [porter], Miss Foster [assistant matron] and Mrs Holmes, assisted by inmates; infirmary Supt Nurse Godwin and other nurses under her supervision. The following gentlemen also kindly assisted: - Servers Mr Tom Taylor, Mr J. Potter, Mr H.Bakewell, Mr Carney, Mr Hadfield, Mr Limpenny, Mr Fowle. Carvers: Infirmary, Mr J.Oswell [guardian], Mr Bailey [farm Steward]; Aged men's block, Mr Amos Fearn, Mr F.C. Hill; house, Mr F. Bell, Mr H. Mee, Mr Bennett.

Derby Daily Telegraph 28 Dec 1910

Found in St Alkmund's Parish Register:

28 Jun 1620

As he was taken into the gaol at Derby, a guarded prisoner threw himself off St Mary's Bridge, as he was going over it, and drowned. He was buried by the side of the highway, close to the foot of the bridge.

[Don't you just wish Time Team could investigate? - Ed]

THE PEW WARS AT PENTRIDGE 1819

Many disputes having arisen respecting the right to the pews within the church at Pentridge, it was thought necessary to call several parish meetings in order to ascertain the actual rights of the several Claimants.

No 1 Mr Wm Strelly in right of his house on Ripley Green

No 2 contains ten sittings belonging to five different houses

Mr Thomas Moss of Ripley – 2 sittings

Mrs Wathey [Jno Turton's tenant] – 2 sittings

John White – 2 sittings

Thos Walker [Josh Assen's tenant] – 2 sittings

Mrs Bradley [Thos Moore's tenant] – 2 sittings

No 3 Samuel Booth, wheelwright, Pentridge Lane and purchased by him from one Sandom, produced bill and receipt and says no other claim was made when he purchased. Booth rebuilt the seat and Sandom says he and his family had used that seat without hindrance for many years.

Mrs Wathey says that the seat formerly belonged to her farm at Woodside but being dysenters Sandoms were permitted to sit there, cannot say when any of her family occupied it. Booth continues in possession.

No 4 This seat has been occupied together with No 13 one half of each seat, late Daniel Woolley of Hartshay the other half of the same Mrs Wood and Samuel Turton her tenant at Ripley. The two seats were repaired jointly by the occupiers and bill produced.

No 5 This seat together with No 12 were originally in one extending nearly from the middle aisle to the South Aisle – 5 is in possession of Samuel Fletcher late Suttons – and 12 in occupation of Mr Epworth tenant to Mr David Strafford at Ripley. As to No 5 Fletcher brings evidence and proves that forty years since it was occupied by late Josh Sutton's mother, since that time Betty Hunt living in the same house occupied, and since that time William Lomas living in the same house had it in possession. As to No 12 Strafford says with consent of Suttons his father divided it from No 5 and that Mr Bowler gave him the small portion adjoining the South Aisle, in order that Strafford might have an entrance from the South Aisle, that notice of his intention was given in church and also publicly at Ripley. He built the seat, put a lock and his name upon it and has enjoyed it ever since, says he heard that some claim was attempted to be made out, but was never brought forward.

Mr Joseph Farnsworth owner of the Red Lion Inn at Ripley claims Nos

5 and 12 as belonging to the house where he lives, late Miss Woods, says that Mrs Bradley tells him that Sarah Turton of the Red Lion gave leave to Mrs Sutton to sit there in order to be nigh the parson, and that the two seats were always used by Moores and Turtons, tenants to Miss Wood at the Red Lion Ripley. He says that objections were made when Strafford divided the pew and Miss Wood was sent to about it, but does not know that any right was ever exercised since that time.

Mr Thos Moore of Ripley says that Mrs Bradley told him she never informed anyone that Turton gave leave to Sutton.

No 6 Mrs Dannah of Ripley

No 7 John Norman [White Leigh] John Topham [Pentridge], one half each

No 8 Anthony Storer – Pentridge

No 9 Benjamin Topham, Widow Marsden, both of Pentridge, one half each

No 10 Jonathan Clee – 3 sittings, William Booth – 2 sittings,
George Topham – 1 sitting

No 11 One sitting unclaimed – Free

No 12 See No 5

No 13 See No 4

No 14 Robert Whysall claims the pew in right of his house at Ripley

John Norman claims two sittings in it, which two sittings John Topham says he gave to Norman and that they belonged to houses, his property in Ripley, late Coopers.

No 15 Belongs to the ancient farm houses in Marehay and Hartshay

In Marehay John Shirland, Robert Whysall, Thos Whysall

In Hartshay John Norman, William Tagg, Geo Argile

John Bonsall, John Woodhead

No 16 Is in possession of Robert Godber and Joseph Farnsworth. Farnsworth says the whole pew belongs to the White Lion at Ripley and that Godber has no right in it, that he built and paid for it about 20 years ago, that said Godber's father and he quarrelled about it and in order to settle the dispute Farnsworth accepted two pounds from Godber for permission to sit there during his life, but if he brought as many with him to Church as would fill the

pew Godber was to turn out.

Godber says he is entitled to half the pew in right of a house or houses at Greenhillocks, which his father sold, now inhabited by Parramore, but he did not sell the pew with the house, and he believes his father paid half the expense, but has no proof of this.

No 17 Belongs to John Wright Esq as owner of Butterley Park

No 18 John Staley of Ripley

No 19 Samuel Fletcher in right of the house at the mill at the Lane End

No 20 Henry Strafford built with the leave of the Vicar and Churchwardens about four years since

No 21 John Woolley built and paid for this pew three or four years since. Joseph Farnsworth says that John Flint has a right to three sittings in it as belonging to some old houses sold by him to Flint at Greenhillocks and that he frequently sat there before the seat was built by Mr Woolley

No 22 James Turton at Ripley and Jonathan Woolley of the Coppice built this seat by permission of the late Vicar

No 23 John White of Ripley, Edmund Clark of Pentridge – one half each

No 24 John Topham built and paid for this about twenty years since in right of the house he lives in at Pentridge

John Fletcher makes a claim in this pew in right of a house now pulled down

No 25 James Walters of Pentridge

No 26 The Butterley Company

No 27 Ann Beighton, William Booth both of Pentridge – one half each

No 28 Built and occupied for nineteen years by Mark and Andrew Moore of Pentridge, say that at that time James Taylor had a right in said pew, they asked him to pay part of the expense, which he refused and said he would get a seat elsewhere upon cheaper terms.

Samuel Booth occupier of late Taylors house, claims but does not know whether Taylor defrayed any part of the expense, nor does he know that Taylor ever had said pew since Moore erected it.

No 29 George Walters of Pentridge says this seat has always been occupied by himself and family, whenever they went to church

No 30 John Wright Esq for Butterley Park

No 31 Michael Brambley of Pentridge

No 32 Andrew Walters of Pentridge

No 33 Was unanimously agreed by the parishioners at the Vestry Meeting to be given to Mrs Elizabeth Strelley of Waingroves in lieu of her right where the pulpit and desk now stand

No 34 Unanimously allotted by the parishioners to Misses Beresford and Outram for Butterley Hall in lieu of a seat in the Chancel

No 35 Attached to Amberley Farm by Mr Lockett

No 36 Unclaimed – a free seat

No 37 Butterley Company

No 38 William Fletcher of Pentridge

No 39 Samuel Fletcher of Pentridge built by his father

No 40 William Booth in right of his grandfather's house at Pentridge, Willm Lomas tenant

No 41 Built and occupied by John Topham in right of his house and property at Ripley, late Cooper's. When the old pulpit and desk were removed from the site, they were placed where they now stand in a pew at that time belonging to Strelley, Newton and Cooper. John Topham the representative of Cooper inclosed the greatest part of this old site by direction of the vicar [the other two claimants appear to have neglected making their claims] and has enjoyed and occupied it ever since 1799 and no other person had any part of the expense or has ever exercised any right therein.

Mrs Elizabeth Strelley now makes her claim for two sittings and her son agrees for her to take No 33 in lieu of her right in 41.

Mr Willm Booth representative of Newton makes the same claim of two sittings. Topham says Booth received more in width in his present pew No 42 the equal to the 2 sittings he claims in No 41, that addition in width being a part of the site of the old pulpit and desk. The parishioners offered

Booth one half of No 33 in lieu of any right he might have in No 41, which offer he declined.

No 42 William Booth of Pentridge part in right of the Dukes property and part in right of Newtons property at Ripley i.e., as much as was taken from the site of the old pulpit and reading desk.

No 43 Widow Marsden of Pentridge – Coningree Farm

No 44 Revd H. Peach – Widow Flint tenant White Leigh one half. Flint says Geo Argile of Padley Hall has gone to church 70 years, and tells him this seat is equally divided between Flint's farm and late Sutton's farm at Pentridge. Samuel Fletcher tenant Asherfield farm late Suttons claims part for himself, says part belonged to late Roger Walters, part to late E. Sutton, but does not say what part. Geo Argile Junr says his father told him that Roger Walters and S. Booth had a right in said pew.

No 45 Misses Beresford and Outram – Butterley Hall

No 46 Revd H. Peach of Padley Hall – Geo Argile tenant

No 47 and No 48 Vicars seat

The unappropriated ground behind the South door is claimed by Joseph Shipman and Robert Godber as belonging to the house he now lives in opposite the wire mill. The Chancel has been fitted up at the expense of His Grace the Duke of Devonshire, who permits the same, i.e. the south side to be occupied by the Sunday scholars and the north side by such parishioners as have no private sittings within the church and strangers.

Organ Gallery. Social parishioners undertook to build this Gallery on condition that they might dispose of the seats. This was agreed to by the parish and they do not appear to have fully settled their accounts, and therefore such seats only are entered where the right is fully ascertained and allowed.

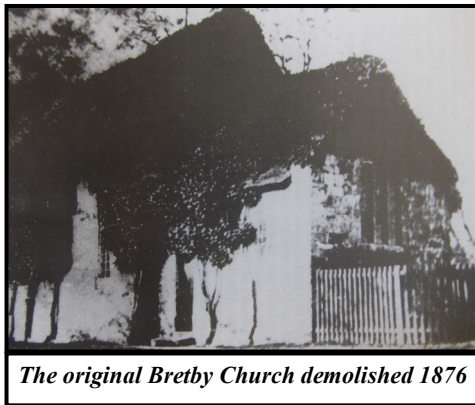
No 1 Mr John Fletcher late of Stafford; No 2 Mr William Booth; No 3 Jno Woolley, Denby; No 4 Mr George Elliot of Ripley; No 5 Mr Job Booth of Pentridge; No 6 Mr Joseph Hunt, Butterley Park, purchased from Committee; No 7 Mr John Woolley; No 8 I believe Henry Moore; No 9 Late Mr Henry Strafford; No 10 Mr John Bowler, Butterley Park; No 11 Mr Wragg, agent at Butterley Works; No 12 John Fletcher, Senior, Now marked as John Woolley's tenant; No 13 Mr James Fletcher

[I had no idea that sitting in a church could cause such dissension, but what a wonderful insight into days past –Ed]

CHURCHES OF DERBYSHIRE

42. Bretby St Wystan

Bretby owes its name to Danish invaders who wintered at Repton in 874. At the time of the Conquest in 1066 it was a small agricultural settlement belonging to Edwin, Earl of Mercia. In 1209 it was granted to Stephen de Segrave, who built a mansion and a church at the foot of Bretby Mount, the pair separated by a moat. A chapelry of Repton it is first mentioned in a charter dated Oct 18th 1228 and, like its mother church, was dedicated to St Wystan.



On the dissolution of Repton Priory in 1539 the great tithes were sold and passed into the hands of Sir Thomas Stanhope when he purchased the manor in 1585. In 1552 the Church Goods Commissioners reported that Thomas Prater was curate and in the church were two vestments, one of red silk, the other of black worsted. There were also two small bells and a handbell, three altar cloths, a sacrament case, a silver chalice and paten, and two towels.

In 1650 the Parliamentary Commissioners reported that Bretby was a chapelry of Repton, and the Earl of Chesterfield was responsible for providing a curate. At that time the living had been vacant since the Earl's estates were sequestrated.

The old church was demolished in 1876, but from a contemporary engraving it would appear that the north and south walls were lighted by two square-headed, two light windows of the Perpendicular period just below the roof, which had evidently been raised during the 15th century. On the south side was a pointed doorway, as well as a square headed modern priests' door to the chancel. A square wooden bell turret containing two bells was over the west gable. The only part of the old building incorporated in the present structure is part of the west wall supported by two buttresses. The 6th Earl of Chesterfield, who died in 1866, was the first of his line to be buried at Bretby, outside the east end of the church, where he rests with his wife and son.

The present church is erected on the same site as the old structure with the addition of an aisle and vestry on the north side. It is built in the Gothic style the church consists of a chancel with a north vestry, nave and north aisle. At the west end is a wooden turret containing five bells. The pews are of pine and the Chesterfield family pew was furnished with two padded chairs.



The three light east window is inscribed to the memory of the 6th Earl of Chesterfield and behind the altar is a valuable painting of the Crucifixion given by the Countess of Chesterfield. On the north side of the family pew is a three light window to the memory of the 7th Earl and on the south side of the nave are two stained glass windows in the Burne Jones style to the memory of the Countess and her daughter. A bronze tablet on the south wall of the nave commemorates those parishioners who gave their lives in the 1914-1918 war, while the most notable memorial is a tablet inscribed in memory of Benjamin Disraeli by Ann Elizabeth, Countess of Chesterfield "*A record of a much prized friendship and a lasting regret.*"

THE REGISTERS

The register of baptisms dates back to 1766. Up to 1813 they record only the name of the child and parents and average only four or five per annum. Few children were given more than one name and there is little variety. From 1813 to 1897 there is a separate register. For baptisms after this date the register is still at the church and an appointment should be made with them should you wish to view it. Marriages only started in 1911 and the first two books up to 1959 are with the Derbyshire Record Office.

Apart from the Chesterfield family graves, interments prior to 1895 took place at the mother church of Repton, but in this year half an acre of the Castle field adjoining the church was consecrated as a burial ground. Again the book is still at the church.

The memorial inscriptions were completed by the Derbyshire Family History Society and a copy is available at our headquarters at Bridge Chapel House in Derby.

Deeds, documents and indentures for the Genealogist

When I first started researching my family history in the early 1980s one of the first things I was encouraged to look for was 'primary evidence' - contemporary records of events, set down at the time by people with direct personal or official knowledge of those events.

Probably the most often used item of primary evidence we use is the parish register. In those heady days 30-odd years ago one would visit a county record office and be handed the actual registers to research. Though many registers had already been transcribed and printed in years gone by, such transcriptions invariably had a cut-off date [generally 1837 for marriages and 1812 for christenings and burials]. For details after those dates one had no option but to arrange trips to record offices, or research civil registration records and census records [requiring trips to St Catherine's House or Portugal Street in London where all the records then were]. None of this could be done at weekends, so all trips meant taking a precious day off work. Since then the internet has made it possible to 'do' one's family tree sitting in an armchair with a cup of tea in one hand and a mouse in the other.

Or has it? In an earlier life I was an auditor. The paper trail had to be followed and confirmed. I's had to be dotted and T's crossed to eliminate the slightest possibility of error. This approach should also apply to researching one's family. Many genealogical records have been transcribed and either printed or put on CD in the last couple of decades. Transcripts are useful short cuts, but should not be 100% relied on without checking original sources – transcribers are not infallible and are often confronted by the most appalling handwriting, and of course the earlier the detail the more chance there is of error. The people who check transcriptions sometimes miss errors too. And we all know of the troubles with the 1911 census, but I will not dwell on that.

Family trees [drawn up sometimes with well-meaning but undue haste to prove descent from before 1066] are even more fraught with danger for the fledgling genealogist. People make assumptions like 'well it must be him because the name fits'. Now, if that leap of faith is wrong, then all the earlier generations will also be wrong. I'm not saying avoid all ready-made family trees, I'm saying check them out to satisfy yourself all is ok. I have known people spend literally years researching the wrong family because they found their supposed ancestor on a tree drawn up by someone else.

These days many parish registers have been scanned, effectively enabling us to view the real thing rather than a printed transcript. Other well known ex-

amples of primary evidence are bishops transcripts, birth/marriage/death certificates, official records such as the various censuses, tax lists such as hearth tax returns, poor law documents such as settlement examinations, and deeds and documents which include wills, property deeds, manorial records such as copyhold admissions and surrenders, and a plethora of other deeds and documents drawn up for purely legal reasons which often contain genealogical nuggets.

It is a popular misconception that all the documentation that comprises primary evidence is in official archives. Thankfully, much of it is, but much of it isn't and anyone who has been on [say] the Ebay on-line auction website will surely have noticed the huge numbers of old deeds and documents being offered willy-nilly. Most of them are unique, and many of them end up abroad. There are rules governing the export of historical documents. Some items such as court rolls are expressly prohibited from being exported, but there are no such restrictions on other, more day-to-day documents such as probated wills and property deeds as long as an export licence has been obtained. Unfortunately most of the documents on Ebay are offered by people with no knowledge of [or interest in] export licences – the result being that there is little or no control over what is being sent abroad. As a family historian I'm concerned about the possibility of primary evidence relating to my ancestry effectively being lost forever.

In the ideal world all deeds and documents would be hoovered up by archives such as county record offices and local museums but, apart from items and collections of great historical significance which simply have to be acquired, this doesn't happen. This is not only due to a chronic lack of cash but also of storage space, and staff to catalogue it all – a county archivist once said to me 'at the current rate of cataloguing our acquisitions it'll be 150 years before we'll be able to let the public know everything we've got'. This is where we – the researchers – could play a part. Original documents enable family historians to discover more about their ancestors than just baptism, marriage and burial; similarly local historians can gather pieces of the parish history jigsaw together. For example, a property deed is drawn up to record the legal transfer of land etc from seller to buyer. But it is often far more than this – we may well discover the property had been in the family for several generations, all names carefully recorded to prove title; the older deeds often give details of individual field names and acreages enabling us to visit the place our ancestor(s) once owned. Just as useful are the hand-drawn location maps/plans contained in many 19th century deeds. Occasionally we learn that the property owner had been declared bankrupt and the sale forced to pay off creditors. We sometimes learn that cottages are newly built - vital information for the local historian. There's another aspect to property deeds – they

bear original signatures [or marks] of one or more of the parties involved, and of course with a bit of luck you may one day hold in your hands a document an ancestor once held in theirs.

As for wills, modern copies are obtainable from the appropriate probate registry - the charge for supplying copies from [say] The Principal Probate Registry in London for wills dated from 1858 is £10.00, and for copies of pre-1858 wills from the Lichfield Record Office the charge is £7.00 plus a search fee of £14.00 per half-hour. But for a comparable amount it might be possible to acquire the contemporary copy of the will used to obtain the grant of probate – I know what I'd rather have. Another bonus in acquiring probated copies of wills is they often needed to be examined by [and thus bear rubber stamps of] the various companies such as railway companies, utility companies etc in whom the deceased had shares – often only nebulously referred to in the wording of the actual will as 'all other my personal estate and effects'.

To illustrate the desirability of acquiring deeds and documents I thought the reader might be interested in some examples of the more readily found items, and the gems they sometime contain:-

Wills – Probated wills are one of the more common documents which turn up. Specific items are often mentioned, such as the family bible, particular items of jewellery or silver, or furniture such as pianos, and those items are accompanied by the names of whoever are meant to inherit them. Named servants and housekeepers of long service are left cash or small mementoes. Very occasionally the wording may provide the answer to a long-held genealogical mystery – the most unusual clause I can recall is in the will of a lady whose thus far unmarried daughter was the last of the family line. In order to keep the family name going she decreed that the daughter's future husband must agree to adopt her surname otherwise the money would go elsewhere.

Of specific Derbyshire relevance, I have a copy will of William Fox of Melbourne which is annotated 'He dyed 26 April 1788', a fact which probably isn't recorded anywhere else.

Mourning cards – Invariably drawn up by the direct next-of-kin, they are particularly useful when they tell us where the person was buried – not necessarily where we, looking back from 2016, would expect them to be.

Property deeds – You may be surprised to learn that this category of documentation is by far the most commonly available. I have many a deed which relates how the property came down three, sometimes four, generations to so-and-so the seller.

Before the numbering of streets in the early 19th century, deeds often identified a particular property by the naming the sitting tenant(s). Sometimes successions of tenants are shown for added clarification.

Sale particulars – these printed documents were very common before the age of the ubiquitous high street estate agent and the internet. They are of especial interest to the local historian, not least because they frequently contain detailed plans of the properties being put up for auction. They are also very useful for the family historian as they often contain details of sitting tenants, they have the facility to record the obligatory 10% deposit paid by the successful bidder, and when the auctioneers' office copies turn up (as they occasionally do) it will frequently have brief pencilled jottings concerning the success or otherwise of the sale.

Marriage settlements – these voluminous deeds provide the researcher with much sought-after primary evidence. There are generally details of parents and sometimes other relatives (all of whom will have signed or made their mark at the bottom), details of what money and/or investments and/or property each party is bringing to the marriage, and of course which parts of the country they all lived – which may well solve the brick-wall situation we invariably find ourselves in, that of 'where on earth did they come from?'.

These and literally thousands of other deeds and documents find their way onto the open market with frightening regularity. And don't fall into the trap of thinking 'all my lot were ag labs who couldn't read and write so there won't be anything relating to them'. You're probably right, but I've seen many a document relating to labourers who owned [either by freehold or copyhold] two or three cottages.

A few examples of the other sorts of documentation which turn up, though with much less frequency:-

I have several legal briefs used at quarter sessions trials, including one concerning a servant girl who was being prosecuted 'for a misdemeanor in concealing the birth of her bastard child' the details of which are quite harrowing. No mention of the father, who today would have been the one in court. It is a pure fluke this document survived the last 160-odd years – without it, a descendant of hers researching the family tree would have no idea of what she went through as a young girl.

I have acquired over the years several original parish registers including a 17th century Norfolk one; all of them have ended up in the appropriate county record offices.

I have a couple of Wiltshire chapel registers which will eventually go to the county archivist.

I have just acquired several school log books. These unique records turn up every now and again, so don't imagine they're all handed in to the archives when they get filled up.

Another recent acquisition is a (genealogically) priceless bound volume of 100 early Victorian claims by mothers of illegitimate children on the alleged fathers. Hopefully this in time will find its way to the appropriate record office.

'All this is very interesting' I hear you say – 'but if there is something out there relevant to my research, how do I find out about it?' And this is the stumbling block – there is currently no co-ordinated network to enable researchers to check whether [say] their great-great-grandfather's probated will is being offered somewhere for purchase, or whether some of the early deeds to their cottage are up for sale.

The result is that without official or semi-official places for it to go to, much historically significant paperwork is being shredded or burned simply to get rid of it, runs of property deeds that have been tied up together – literally in red tape – for centuries are being broken up and scattered to the four winds, and it seems to me there's an opportunity for someone to fill a gap in the genealogy world and earn a living monitoring deeds and documents coming onto the market and alerting researchers [who must necessarily pay some sort of annual fee for the service, as no-one could provide this service for free]. Were I 30 years younger I would jump at the chance.

Or perhaps both family history societies and local history societies could set up funds for the acquisition of local deeds and documents with a view to selling them on to members for long-term safekeeping. There are two obvious stumbling blocks to this, firstly that not everybody who has ever lived had descendants, and secondly not every researcher belongs to a family history society – in my own case I have ancestors in 7 counties but I only belong to 2 societies. There is no perfect solution to the problem but the key issue is having somewhere for researchers to check periodically. There being no likelihood of official bodies picking up the baton, it is down to individual researchers and/or enthusiast groups such as local history societies.

One final point – virtually every single document available to purchase will be relevant to someone. Ignore it and who knows where in the world it may end up. But pay (say) £10 for it and you'll look after it – and that's the point,

to ensure all these wonderful bits of history survive for future generations to enjoy and appreciate.

Bill Lloyd
Chapel Books
Monmouthshire

Editor's Note: Having been a genealogist for 35 years and supplier of books deeds and documents for 25 years, Bill has an interesting perspective on this aspect of family history research of which few of us are aware. He can be contacted by email at info@chapelbooks.co.uk and if anyone living in the UK cares to send a list of families or towns/villages being researched he can let you know what's available. A long shot perhaps, but 'nothing ventured' as they say.

THE 1881 CENSUS

On 4th April 1881 the census of the United Kingdom was taken. In the March 30th edition of the Derby Mercury was printed the following advice:-

“Every householder in Derby on Saturday next will have received a schedule, which he will have to study, and if necessary to take advice upon, but which he will not be able to fill up accurately and finally till the morning of Monday 4th April. An authorised enumerator will call for it in the course of that day beginning his labours soon after sunrise, and as many of these officers will have many hundreds of houses to call upon and not less than as many difficulties to get over, it will be no more than common sense and common kindness to have the schedule ready filled. The householder will have to enter the name, sex, age, condition, whether married, unmarried or widowed, profession or occupation of every person who slept in his house on the night before—that is the night following Sunday 3rd April. There will be no difficulty in complying with the demands of the Registrar General if our summary be carefully read, and the advice given therein duly acted upon.”

[So now you know and from my experiences with the 1881, quite a few did not carefully read the summary nor duly acted upon it.]

ASSAULT ON A CONSTABLE

William Foster, aged 55 [out on bail], was charged with using violent threats towards Samuel Rose, constable of Chellaston, and throwing a large stone which struck him on the hip. There were two counts in the indictment, the first charging the defendant with a common assault; the second with assaulting the prosecutor, he being a constable – in the execution of his duty. A number of witnesses were examined in this case, and from their concurrent testimony it appeared that the defendant claimed to occupy a small portion of land at a nominal rent from the Marquis of Hastings, as the Lord of the manor at Chellaston, which claim was disputed by the parish, and that the prosecutor, Mr Rose, who is constable of the place, had destroyed the fence which the defendant had planted, in order to contest the alleged right set up. This took place on the 11th of April last. While the prosecutor was engaged in pulling down the fence named, the defendant came and threw a large stone at him, which taking effect on the hip, seriously injured him. [The stone was produced in court, and is a most formidable missile]. The defendant on doing this was taken into custody, handcuffed, and brought before a magistrate at Derby.

On the cross examination it was proved that the defendant had on one occasion paid one shilling as a yearly acknowledgement to the Marquis of Hastings, and also that when handcuffed and taken to Derby, no warrant had been obtained for this purpose.

The Chairman said the right to the land was not the question to decide. The jury would consider whether the defendant was justified in throwing the stone, and whether, if they found him guilty of an assault, it was to be considered a common assault, or committed while the constable was in the execution of his duty. In the latter case the county would have to pay the costs. Guilty of the common assault and the jury recommended the defendant to mercy on the ground, that he no doubt fancied he was protecting his property.

Lord Waterpark, in passing sentence, warned the defendant to be more careful in future. Had the large stone which he threw at Mr Rose hit him on the head or stomach the result might have been fatal. He was fined 20s and discharged.

Derby Mercury, 6th July 1836

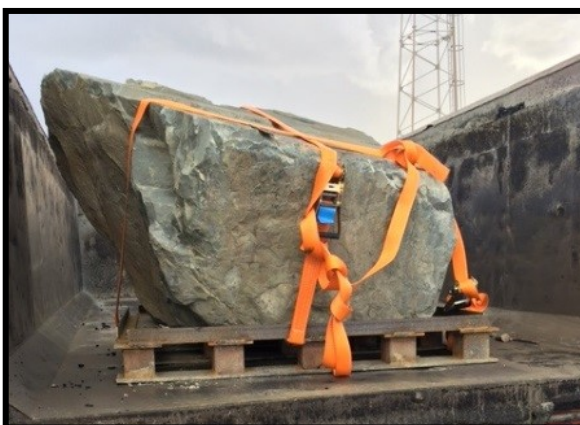
OLD AND NEW

News from the North

I started the new year with a late afternoon jaunt out with the local paramedics when I fell into a cold frame and a shard of glass pieced the side of my wellie, entering my left calf. A few words of belated wisdom to the uninitiated, if you have an unplanned visit to A & E try to make it earlier in the day rather than later. On admission 8 victims were awaiting treatment, whereas 4 hours and 12 stitches later, at 8 pm, it was a full house with a bum and blood on every available seat. If you read on, more strange but true “Shaggy Dogs Stories” courtesy of the Magistrate's Court, and a new name Paul William Marriott, a local lad to Chinley, enters my orbit. So onward with a mixed confection of Marriott, marmalade, moonshine, magistrates but not necessarily in that order.

The name of a former Whitehough resident, Paul William Marriott, who died on the 23rd February 1957 whilst serving on National Service during the Cyprus Emergency 1955-59 is to be included on a new memorial to the 371 Cyprus veterans who lost their lives during the campaign. The project is the brainchild of David Littlemore, himself an ex-Cyprus serviceman who was upset to discover that the Cyprus Emergency is the only “Active Service” in which British lives were lost and have no memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas near Lichfield, Staffordshire. It is hoped that the next of kin of the 371 personnel who lost their lives will attend the unveiling ceremony to be held on Sunday August 21, 2016 at the National Memorial Arboretum, they may also be eligible for the Elizabeth Cross.

The stone for the memorial is a large rock transported from Cyprus by the Royal Air Force Marine Services. A plaque on the rock, shaped into the outline of the Island of Cyprus, will read – “In honour of the British Services Personnel who died during the Cyprus Emergency 1955-1959” and in memory of the 371 who lost their lives. We will remember them.” A copper time capsule, with



the names of all those who died in Cyprus while serving their country, will be inserted into the rock.

My involvement began when I was contacted out of the blue by a person having an uncle who was the best friend of Paul William Marriott, thus hoping to both to spread the word around regarding the dedication on the 21 August at Alrewas and to learn more about Paul William Marriott. Websites operating under the names of cyprusveterans@gmail.com and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission were the obvious places to start. Ernie Drabble also put in a spoke. Paul's service number was given as 23283900 and he was serving with the Royal Regiment of Artillery, and is buried in Plot 24, Row A, Grave 17 in Nicosia Cemetery. Not many family graves need an armed escort per visit but the Nicosia Cemetery is situated in the buffer zone between the still squabbling Cypriot and Turkish enclaves. Permission to visit the cemetery needs prior notice and an armed United Nations escort within restricted hours of daylight. End of story, but it isn't.

Based on the date of his death more personal details of Paul William Marriott came to light by using the resource of a local newspaper, The High Peak Reporter. His death was reported in the March 1st edition, 1957, as being 23 February 1957. He was the second son of Thomas William Marriott and his wife Evelyn, nee Hardy. The family lived at 8 Eccles Terrace, Whitehough. They were notified by telegram that he had died in Nicosia hospital, the result of traffic incident. Whether the facts surrounding his death was a subterfuge, the family later came to believe that he had been shot whilst on a patrol in the hills.

Paul William Marriott was 19 years of age, before his call to arms he was employed at Forge Bleachworks (J. J. Hadfield's) Chinley. He was a stalwart and star footballer for Chinley A.F.C. A memorial service was held in Whitehough Methodist Church, the Rev J. B. Eade officiated, the organist was Mr. V. J. Hodgkinson the Chinley chemist. His former comrades in Chinley A.F.C. attended en mass.

From Marriott to mutts, Dog Tail No 1. In 1971 I had not long been a magistrate on the New Mills Bench, later to be merged with Chapel-en-le-Frith Bench, which in-turn merged with the Buxton Bench to become the High Peak Bench. Dog tales/tails became part of the cross section of occasions in Court, making victims especially cross after being bitten by a dog. The solution is that magistrates have a choice, a dangerous dog order can be made in the following terms, either "an order for the dog to be immediately destroyed" or "an order made for the dog to be kept under control." The dog is effectively placed on probation under a Court order.

Evidence was given in Court that a party of family hikers were walking back from Kinder Scout towards Hayfield village centre. Seemingly, without so much as a warning bark, two mature Alsation dogs came flying out of a gateway, a small girl in the party put up a protective hand and one of the dogs proceeded to completely sever one of her fingers. The finger was packed in ice and the girl was rushed to hospital, between the intervening time elapse of the alleged episode and the court case being heard, evidence was offered to the court that the finger had been successfully grafted back to her hand. The owner brought the dogs to court and offered to demonstrate their docile nature, the offer was declined out of hand thus ensuring that no magistrates lost a finger. The owner produced a wodge of dog show documentation designed to deflect the decision of the magistrates. For those long in the tooth, like the dogs, they were then currently featuring in TV adverts for "Goodboy Chocolate Drops for Dogs." Additionally the dogs were then the current "Cruft's Obedience Champions " Bow Wow !

Unexpected things and occurrences continually happen in my world, quite co-incidentally, if not to emphasise the danger of animals, and on the morning that I was putting the finishing touches to my quarterly words of wisdom for your delectation, my attention was drawn to following story in the morning paper. All I know about horses is that one end bites and the other end kicks. "Poppy Hill, a nine year old girl from Stoke-on-Trent was disfigured when a horse she was feeding with a carrot bit off the top of her thumb, and swallowed it. She was admitted to Royal Stoke Hospital and now must learn to write with her left hand. Doctors say that once the wound is healed it is possible that Poppy's thumb could be reconstructed using part of her toes." Touché !

Shaggy Dog Tail No 2. When the Chapel-en-le-Frith and the Buxton Magistrate's Bench were in the process of merging, to ease the situation individual magistrates guested in each others court. Solicitors from local law practices were also undertaking the same manoeuvre. Life is but short, both lawyers and magistrates have their own traits and tribulations. With frequent appearances in court both had a good idea of each others attributes or otherwise. A regular solicitor at the New Mills Court, Mr. H. was so long winded that rumour had it that his mother gave birth to him under a barrage balloon during WW2." The Buxton Bench alas were quite unaware of what was coming from out of town !

A local farmer in New Mills, Fred Handford steadfastly and obdurately operated a milk round delivered in the old fashioned way by horse and cart. He was most days assisted by a dog and a young lady. On his farm he eschewed the use of all mechanical aids and lived on his own terms --- "The Good

Life.” On a morning delivery in the Low Leighton area of New Mills the combo were working their usual 2 x four -legged system, dog and horse, when an aged pedestrian, accosted the farmer / milkman, to the effect that his dog had just bitten him. The accusation was made three times and each time the claim was denied by Fred Handford. Later, in high dudgeon, the aged pedestrian reported the incident at New Mills Police Station. The Court was told that the denial was technically correct, the dog was not in his ownership but was in ownership of his female assistant, a fact that Fred omitted to mention in his denial to the complainant.

At the Court hearing in Buxton, on behalf of the dog , Mr H a long winded solicitor called a stream of customers on the milk round as defence witnesses. It was an attempt to convince the sitting magistrates that over a long period of time that the dog's paws were perfect and more to the point that it kept its teeth to itself. It was nearing that time when a the brake for lunch would be both opportune and appropriate, the local Buxton magistrate sought some assurance from the Clerk to the Court on the number of character witnesses that were still to be called. On learning that there was still a quite large backlog the local magistrate sotto-voce remarked “ I know who wants putting down and its not the ruddy dog.”

There was a bizarre sequel of sorts in that in March 1976 Fred Handford went missing, the High Peak Reporter April 2 reported that “there was now concern for a 56 year old New Mills farmer who had disappeared over a week ago. ” This was a follow on from the March 26 1976 edition which stated that “Fred Handford of Ball Beard Farm, New Mills had not been seen by his partner since 6-15 pm last Thursday evening.” The National Coal Board Mine Rescue Team were called in to search the old mine workings and local pit shafts both on the farm and in the locality, the circumstances of his then unexplained disappearance and his whereabouts since still remain a mystery in April 2016.

If you are reading this while the toast is cooling in front of you, a headline “ Marmalade War breaks out as Scots raid awards” may prompt you to start to stocking up on the concoction. That banner headline ran after the recent World Marmalade Awards were held in Cumbria. Paddington Bear was nowhere in sight when the news broke in the national press. A surge in Scottish entries at the WMA has drawn claims and counter claims according to “The Times.” Food historians claim that England was first to make the preserve after importing marmelo, a sugary quince paste from Portugal, in the early 16th Century. By all accounts it was enjoyed by Henry VIII, which could indeed explain a lot in the course of British History.

For yonks it has been accepted that Janet Keiller of Dundee was the first to make the concoction of shredded peel, using Seville oranges purchased by her husband at the quayside at Dundee, where from 1797 it is recorded as having been produced on a commercial scale. 16 Scottish clans, including eight clan chiefs, have joined the fight to reclaim the marmalade as theirs --- a new “ Stirling of the Clans”category has now been introduced. English food historian Ivan Day has shredded and cooked the Scottish claims with a brave but brash statement “ There is only hearsay evidence about Janet Keiller and the origin of marmalade” That he has no current plans to visit Dundee is indeed a much wiser declaration.

“Moonshine emerges from the backwoods” was the headline in another newspaper report. Moonshine, fermented corn, distilled in a shed in the backwoods of Tennessee, U.S.A. was in former days the “ Spirit of Legend.” Marvin “Popcorn ” Sutton a bye-product of grizzled mountain men, remained outside the law. He became the subject of documentaries, and he allegedly, when he was able, he wrote a sober memoir. When firefighters came to douse a fire on his property in 2007 they discovered 850 gallons of moonshine stored in an old school bus. In 2009 after being sentenced to 18 months in jail “Popcorn” killed himself. A year later, a distiller bought the rights to his name and what was said to be his moonshine recipe. The same year Tennessee relaxed its strict drinking laws and is now experiencing a moonshine boom, large scale production is under way, celebrity endorsements have ensued, and tasting emporia tempt both the unwary and the experienced drinkers. For the further delectation the Ole Smoky Distillery in Gatlinburg sells jellies, soaps and moonshine marinated mushrooms.

Conveniently another story from America provides my tailpiece. Words of wisdom attributed to Eleanor Roosevelt – “A woman is like a teabag, you cannot tell how strong she is until you put her into hot water.” Two lumps of sugar please.

Keith Holford

Matters of Life and Death

I began my family history research back in 2004. My starting point was a handful of pages of sketchy notes made by my late Uncle, based on conversations he had with older family members and in which he mentioned a couple of dozen or so relations. Over the years I have fallen into the trap of looking into every branch of the family and, consequently, now have approaching 5,800 individuals in the family tree.

However, I have concentrated on the “core” family in trying to find out as much as I can about individual’s lives; their birth, their marriage, where they lived, their occupations – and, ultimately, their deaths. To this end, I have obtained numerous BMD certificate from the General Register Office and these have proved invaluable in both confirming I have the right individual and providing clues as to further family members. (The service from the GRO has always been exemplary and fortunately I have only rarely ended up with a certificate that has turned out to be not for whom I thought it would be.)

In some cases death certificates have provided a fascinating, and occasionally a very sad, explanation of the cause of death – and frequently necessitated recourse to the medical dictionary!

In a previous article I made reference to my great-great-grandfather Thomas Ashby who died in 1858 at the age of 39. His cause of death was “struck by lightning”. He was at the time a “servant in husbandry” so I wonder if he was killed whilst working in the fields? By then, he and his wife Maria (nee Beasley) had seven children. Maria subsequently remarried, to Daniel Mason.

My father’s aunt Mary Elizabeth Moore (nee Baker) died in 1918, aged just 38. Her cause of death was “accidentally suffocated following spasms in her throat”. A Coroner’s inquest was held and reported in “*The Derby Daily Telegraph*” of February 18th –

“Whilst staying with her mother at Wilmot-street, Mrs May (sic) Elizabeth Moore (38), wife of Harry Moore of the R.F.A., died suddenly and at the inquest held this (Monday) morning Dr. Fletcher stated that the cause of death was suffocation due to a spasm in the throat. The deceased has suffered for some years from chronic ulceration of the tongue and throat. The jury returned a verdict of death from natural causes.”

Mary Elizabeth and Harry had a daughter, Kathleen who was then aged eight.

Mary Elizabeth was buried on February 19th (she had died on the 15th and the Inquest was held on the 18th – things clearly happened more quickly in those days!) in the same grave as her father, John, who had died in 1910. Harry Moore subsequently remarried. Kathleen never married and lived to be 100.

My paternal grandmother Clara Ashby was married before she married my grandfather. She married Lawrence Hicks on the outbreak of WW1, on August 22nd 1914. Lawrence died just over a year later – on September 6th 1915, in Nottingham General Hospital. His cause of death was “suicide by cutting his throat while in state of temporary insanity”. In “*The Nottingham Evening Post*” of September 8th it was reported –

“ ”Suicide during temporary insanity” was the verdict returned at the inquest this afternoon on the body of Laurence John Hicks, 31, of Chandos-street, Netherfield, who cut his throat with a razor. Deceased had had a nervous breakdown.”

The tragic nature of Lawrence’s death probably explains why nothing seems to have been spoken about it in the family over the years. It is almost certainly the case that in those days mental illness and suicide had much greater stigma attached to them.

My grandmother Clara’s half-brother William Duffield’s wife and son both died in December 1916. Eleven year old Wilfred died on the 3rd in the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary from “tuberculous meningitis” and his mother Eliza (nee Page) died on the 28th at home – 22, Stanton Street – from “pulmonary tuberculosis and tubercular laryngitis”. She was aged 38 and both she and Wilfred were buried in the same grave as my great-grandfather Joseph Ashby, who had died in 1906. In 1925 my great-grandmother Elizabeth Ashby (nee Hallam, formerly Duffield) was also buried in that grave.

William’s brother John’s death was reported in “*The Derby Daily Telegraph*” of July 14th 1930 –

“Mr. John Duffield, of Madeley-street, Derby, died while on holiday in Llandudno on Saturday. He had only just arrived there with his wife, and was walking on South Parade when he fell. The ambulance was called, but Mr. Duffield died on the way to hospital.

Mr. Duffield had been in indifferent health recently. He was an employee of the packing department of Messrs. Bemrose, printers, of Derby.

Mr. Duffield’s brother, who lives at Whitaker-street, Derby, has been sent for. Mr. and Mrs. Duffield had no children.”

I think that John, who was 52 when he died, was for a short time licensee of the Crystal Palace, Rose Hill Street.

Two of my great-grandmother Elizabeth's sisters died relatively young within six months of each other – and both from phthisis. Clara Hallam died at the age of 24 in October 1878 and Jane Hallam died at the age of 19 in March 1879. They both died at home at 11, Searl Street. Their mother Charlotte had died at the age of 43 in 1865.

My great-great grandfather George Baker died on April 14th 1870 at the age of 53 in the Infirmary on London Road from “peritonitis following an operation for a strangulated hernia”. I have struggled to find details of George's birth, or of his parents. The census returns state that he was born in Uttoxeter. Searching the www.familysearch.org records I did find a baptism/christening of a George Baker in Uttoxeter on August 20th 1815. I have, rightly or wrongly, assumed this to be my great-great grandfather. Frustratingly, the record only gives his mother's name – Ann Baker. I initially thought that his mother must have been unmarried, but there are three other christening records in Uttoxeter where the mother's name is Ann (but still no father's name) – Mary (March 5th 1817), John (November 12th 1818) and Emma (April 8th 1822). I wonder if these are George's siblings. Mary was buried on March 9th 1817 and Emma was buried on April 21st 1822 – both in Uttoxeter – so both died when just a few days old and there is therefore no trail to follow with them. I think John may have moved to Stafford and from his marriage certificate I have the name Thomas Baker as his father, but this has not been much help.

My great-great-grandmother Mary died in 1884 and was buried in the same grave as her husband. There was a third interment in this grave – George and Mary's daughter Sarah Hunt, who died in 1892. She was actually buried on December 25th!

My grandfather, also George, died in the City Hospital in April 1938 at the age of 51 from “uraemia, complete urethral stricture and chronic nephritis”. I recall my father telling me that he visited his father in hospital while he was receiving a blood transfusion direct from the donor. My grandfather was buried on April 14th and the total cost of the funeral was £29 2s 3d! Thanks to the DFHS and the Nottingham Road Cemetery office I was recently able to visit his grave (along with the grave of my great-grandfather John and his daughter Mary Elizabeth). The report of his funeral in “*The Derby Evening Telegraph*” stated that George was employed by the L.M.S for about 37 years and that at the time of his death he was chief of a section in the Trains Office of the Divisional Superintendent of Operation. From the Railway Employment Records available at www.ancestry.co.uk I have found that he started working in February 1902, two days after his 15th birthday, on a salary of £15 but by 1908 had progressed to a salary of £57 10s.

My great-great-great grandmother Mary Barber died at “the Woodhouses” in Melbourne in 1856 at the age of 64 from hypochondriacal insanity – 9 years – and gradual emaciation from excessive use of laudanum (a tincture of opium). In the 1861 census her husband Joseph Barber, aged 70, was married to Mary Ann, 37, and they had a two month old daughter, Catherine. Was Joseph really a father at the age of 70?! In the 1871 census Joseph was living with his son – had Mary Ann died in 1862? The young Catherine (“Kate”) was living with Joseph’s son Henry. Joseph died at the age of 87 in 1877 – his cause of death simply being “old age”.

On my mother’s side of the family, my great-grandfather Herbert Day’s first wife Rose (nee Evans) died in Luton in 1891 at the age of 23 and less than seven months after they were married. According to her death certificate she poisoned herself with oxalic acid whilst temporarily insane (apparently this substance was used for cleaning metal and as a bleaching agent. Herbert was a painter and decorator, so was the acid one of his decorating materials?). An inquest was held but so far I have not been able to find any report of this.

It is, of course, the death of small children (and there were plenty of them) that are the most tragic.

My maternal grandfather Joseph Warner’s youngest sibling Wilfred Frederick Warner died in May 1914 at the age of 4 months from vomiting and convulsions. In the 1911 census their parents Joseph and Sarah Jane and their seven children (they eventually had ten) had been living at Sebastopol Terrace in Mickelover (opposite the church).

My great-grandfather (also Joseph)’s youngest sibling Percy Warner died in December 1897 aged six months from measles, broncho pneumonia and convulsions. In the 1891 census their parents Job and Elizabeth had been living in “The Common End” in Mickelover with nine children (they eventually had thirteen). The address on the young Percy’s death certificate is Monk Street, Tutbury with his father’s occupation shown as “bricklayer and innkeeper”. Percy’s birth certificate gives the address as Royal Oak, Monk Street. By the 1901 census the family were living in Derby Street in Horninglow, but by the 1911 census they were back living in Mickelover, in Sebastopol Terrace.

(Sebastopol Terrace must have been almost exclusively occupied by Warners; although the census returns do not give house numbers, the sequence of household returns in 1911 was –

My great-grandfather’s unmarried Aunt Miriam;

My great-grandparents Joseph and Sarah Jane and their seven children;

Miriam's brother and sister – the widowed Caroline Percival and widower Charles Warner;

Miriam's brother - my great-great-grandfather Job and three of his children (Job's wife Elizabeth was away staying with their daughter Caroline Walkerdine, who was about to give birth to her first child, in London);

It was more like Warner Terrace! And just for good measure, Joseph's sister Emily Elizabeth was a servant living at the Mason's Arms, which was on the end of Sebastopol Terrace).

My great-great-grandfather Job's youngest sibling Harriet Warner died on July 3rd 1855 when she was 1½ years of age with the cause of death being "accidently scolded". She was baptized on the same date – presumably as she was dying? There was a report on the inquest into her death in "*The Derby Mercury*" on July 11th –

"On Wednesday, the 4th inst., at Mickleover, on the body of Harriet Warner, a child aged eighteen months, whose death took place the previous day from the effects of drinking some boiling water. It appeared that the mother had placed a can of boiling water on the table, which she had taken out of a kettle on the fire, and during the time she was putting some cabbage in the kettle the child took hold of the can and attempted to drink the contents. The child was so much injured as to cause death in a few hours afterwards. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death"."

Their parents John and Mary had nine children, including Miriam who never married and lived to the ripe old age of 91. Job himself died in 1927 aged 76, with his cause of death being "sweeps cancer".

It was not uncommon for a subsequent child to be given the same name as one who had died. My great-grandfather's brother Samuel Warner was a blacksmith in Hilton when his daughter Dorothy Violet died just 12 days old in 1900 from "convulsions". Samuel and his wife Mary Annie named their next child, born in 1901, Dorothy Violet Mary.

Sometimes a baby was not even named. My great-grandfather's brother George and his wife Nellie had a girl in July 1909 but she died after 12 hours (she had been born prematurely) and no Christian name is given on the death certificate.

Back on my father's side of the family, my great-grandmother Eliza Ann Baker was born in 1855 to Eliza Jennison; no father is given on her birth certificate but we know that her father was John Allen (although we know noth-

ing about him). Eliza also gave birth to John Allen Jennison, in 1859; but in the “*Nottinghamshire Guardian*” of January 19th 1860 the following was listed under “*Deaths*” –

“On the 17th inst, aged 10 months. John, son of Mr. John Allen, Crosby Place, Nottingham.”

My great-great-grandmother Eliza’s sister Ann Jennison married James Nanson in 1856. In the 1861 census Ann and son John were living next door to Eliza and Eliza Ann in Crosby Place in Nottingham. There had been another death listed in the “*Nottinghamshire Guardian*” of January 19th 1860 –

“On the 17th inst, aged 1 year, Harriet, daughter of Mr. James Nanson, Crosby Place, Nottingham.”

Thus it seems that the two sisters lost infant children on the same day! Their death certificates show that they both died at 6, Crosby Place from “malignant sore throat 7 days”; the young John Allen’s father is given as John Allen, but both deaths were registered by Harriet’s father James Nanson – which only adds to the mystery of the identity and whereabouts of the elusive John Allen senior!

Of course, being reliant on the decennial census I cannot be sure that I have not missed any deaths of a young child as it was not until the 1911 census that the returns gave the number of “Children born alive to present Marriage” with those “still Living” and those “who have Died” also shown. Even then, with the BMD index prior to 1911 not giving the mother’s maiden name, it is not easy to identify any children who had died.

*Simon Baker [Mem 7958]
Email: s-baker1@sky.com*

From St Alkmund’s Parish Register, Derby

“My deare and onely sonne Henrye Coke, a full minister and a Preacher of the worde of God, having accomplished ye full age of twenty & six years, died of ye bleeding of a veine, broken inwardlye ye thirteenth day of July 1626 about high noone [Let my Soule dye ye death of ye righteous & lett my last ende be like his] and was buried in ye upper easte end of ye Chancel of St Alkmondes Church 14 July 1626”

**DERBYSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT SOCIETY OF FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE
Tuesday 12th April 2016**

The Chairman welcomed the significant number of members to the AGM and thanked them for attending. The meeting was declared open.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Ann Wolverson, Jean Bell, Sheila Newmarch and Kay Whittingham.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

These were distributed to the members and the Chairman asked the meeting if they would take the minutes from the last AGM as read. This was voted on and agreed by everyone and they were passed as a true and accurate record of the previous year's proceedings.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Stephen Orchard gave the Chairman's report.

A question arose about the protection of all the work and documents at BCH. It was explained that all computer data was backed up and copies kept away from BCH but that we had hard copies of various transcripts that obviously could not be replaced in the event of a fire. We are trying to get as much as possible digitally recorded but this takes time and volunteers.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Ruth Barber gave the Secretary's report.

Various suggestions were put forward as to possible ideas for the magazine, such as restricting receipt to those who attended the meetings. It was felt that this would not benefit us as most members live outside Derbyshire and many abroad. It was also felt by some that the subscription has been kept at a reasonable amount for some years and that an increase might be in order. The problem with this is that what we might gain in the increase might be lost by members not wishing to renew.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Michael Bagworth gave the Treasurer's annual report.

The deficit of £6,537 was largely due to our contribution to the fire safety upgrade that the Trustees of the Chapel had installed.

Pay per view on Find my Past is our best source of income although there is a slight reduction we think due to the release of the 1939 Register.

Voted and accepted by the meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following proposed members were elected unopposed for the coming year. There was no objection from those members present and no further nominees from the floor. Agreed by a show of hands- none against.

Chairman	Dr. Stephen Orchard
Secretary	Ruth Barber
Treasurer	Michael Bagworth
Membership Sec.	Catherine Allsop-Martin

ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following members were elected unopposed for the coming year, there being no objection from those members present and no further nominees from the floor. Agreed by a show of hands- none against.

Helen Betteridge, David Brown, Ernie Drabble, Alan Foster and Beryl Scammell.

MEETING GROUP SUB COMMITTEES

DERBY	No specific organiser at present
SHIRLAND	Averil Higginson Denis Dennerley Maureen Newton

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Michael Bagworth proposed that Steven Wells again be appointed as INDEPENDENT EXAMINER for 2016. Seconded by David Hall. Voted on and unanimously agreed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting.

Chairman's Report 2016

On behalf of your committee I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report for the past year. The committee has met on six occasions in Derby and the mild winter has ensured that even our Glossop members have been able to attend. We realised this year that membership of the committee has been stable for several years and we are anxious that new people should be nominated in future to fill the places which will fall vacant as the years pass. The committee are trustees of the Society's funds and responsible for policy and its implementation. This sometimes means practical work but, on the whole, it is enjoyable.

At each committee meeting we review our projects. The index of all registrars' entries for Derbyshire is on track, thanks to many hours of voluntary labour. The re-location of the Registrar's office in Derby, now split over two sites, has made life more difficult for staff and the volunteers. We continue to work on parish register transcriptions with the co-operation of the County Record Office and our present aim is to make good the gaps in our existing transcripts before tackling the registers which are so problematic that no transcripts appear anywhere. Our attempt to put transcripts online for the members' section of our website has met with certain technical problems which our webmaster is trying to resolve.

The index of Derbyshire wills in the Probate Register from 1858 is nearing completion. We also continue collecting memorial inscriptions from all over the county, working on public cemeteries as well as churchyards. The Derby cemetery records are being indexed in spite of the difficulties of reading some of the early registers. The number of queries has fallen during the year but those which reach us are often complex. There are limits to what can be found online and a reluctance to abandon lines of research which are mistaken. There really is no substitute for sharing the experience of other researchers when you come to a dead end. We have welcomed several people at the Library during the year who have been helped by sharing the difficulties they have encountered.

The Library is now running free from interruption by contractors. The Society has made a one-off contribution to the trustees for work on the fire alarm system which means that our data is better protected than in the past. A new lease is due during the coming year and the committee are in negotiation with the trustees over the terms. We are now subject to external disturbances as work commences on a new flood protection scheme in the city centre.

The Derby meeting has moved to the Friends' Meeting House in St Helen's

Street, not far from Bridge Chapel House. We were sorry to hear that the Glossop meeting has ceased. Very few people were attending and there was no-one left to take forward the planning of future meetings. The committee thanked all those who had worked to run the successful meetings of the past and agreed that funds would be made available should there be a group wishing to re-open the Glossop meeting, or any others within the county. Attendance at South Normanton has been small and the group would welcome new people to share their excellent programme. We can only run local meetings if there is demand for them.

We realize that the majority of our members live beyond Derbyshire and that many are overseas. Our link with them is through the magazine and Helen, as our editor, is grateful to those who send in articles to share with other members. Perhaps this is the year in which more of our members will write up interesting parts of their own family history and then rise from their computers and come to a meeting. Our thanks are also due to Helen for co-ordinating the work of the volunteers at the Library and carrying out research at Matlock on behalf of distant members.

Our Secretary, Ruth, has kept the minutes and correspondence but also helped Helen in the re-organisation of the Library after the contractors left. Mike Bagworth, our valued Treasurer, will speak for himself in presenting the accounts. Catherine Allsop-Martin has worked hard as membership secretary to keep the subscriptions coming in and see that members have the information they need. I am grateful to my colleagues on the Committee for their continued support and all that they do for the various projects and meetings. Linda Bull continues to look after our publications efficiently. Without such volunteers there would be no Society.

As I have indicated, your officers and committee are offering themselves for re-election with an invitation for others to join them. We will do our best to continue to develop the Society over the year ahead.

Secretary's Report

My report continues in a similar theme to every other year in thanking everyone working within the Society and the support of the members and as usual requesting new volunteers to help with our continuing work.

We have had a successful year, as Stephen has mentioned, proceeding with all the projects, we started some years ago. Nottingham Rd cemetery index has been completed up until 1920 and we have now moved on to Utttoxeter Rd cemetery. The early records of these have not been filmed very well and

are difficult to read but volunteers are ploughing their way through them and Helen has permission to look at the original registers to check them.

Our original records of Memorial Inscriptions are being re-typed as the old ones are looking tatty. They are being done in a different format so that they look as they did on the headstone.

Helen's First World War soldiers sit on three shelves of the research room waiting for their families to be added to the information. She has set herself what appears to be a lifetime's work.

As mentioned, the Registrars' project is progressing although with some difficulty in Derby as the Register Office has relocated to the Council House. We are allowed access to the registers, which are still at the Royal Oak building but unless there is a marriage on that day there is no heating.

After the trouble we had at the Conference Centre we left and held the remaining meetings for 2015 in the Chapel. We were grateful to the Trustees for allowing us to use this in the interim but it was a bit small and the seats rather uncomfortable. During this time we were able to find this new venue, at the Quaker Friends Meeting House on St Helen's St and had our first meeting here in January. It seems to be working well with Helen and I organising things but neither of us really wants this to be a permanent situation, so if anyone feels that they would like to take over there would be no objections. I am grateful for the assistance from Dave and Linda Bull at these meetings and for the help provided in the kitchen.

The final meeting at Glossop had to be postponed due to inclement weather but it has now been held. Two members of the Executive Committee are retiring from their positions and there is no one to take their places. The number of members attending the meetings has dropped considerably over the last couple of years. Our thanks go to everyone involved with the running of the group and we hope that they will continue as members. Ernie and Beryl are continuing as members on the Society's committee.

The number of members is decreasing each year and with the cost of postage increasing again, we find that the membership fee barely covers the cost of printing and sending the four magazines each year. We looked at the possibility of increasing the fee which is never popular or perhaps doing an e-magazine but we think that either reducing the number of pages per issue or having only three magazines a year might solve the situation. We do not have many articles submitted each quarter and Helen finds it difficult to fill forty pages. She trawls through newspapers and books to find things of inter-

est to include. It is time consuming when there are so many other things to do.

Our “40th” Anniversary is approaching and Helen is doing a sterling job organising this, so please acknowledge this hard work by turning up on the day to see what has been done and perhaps volunteer to help for a short time.

So, as I mentioned at the beginning, the request is the same as last year if anyone could spare a few hours each week to help with any of our projects, either at home or at Bridge Chapel House we would be grateful.

Treasurer’s Report

The financial statements for 2015 have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis. The accounts of the society have been examined by S.J. Wells & Co., who have stated that the financial statements give a true and fair view of our affairs as at 31 December 2015.

We have made a deficit over the year, but there are a number of factors to take into account. Works to Bridge Chapel House, comprising upgrading of the fire alarm and fire doors, new carpet to main office, and office furniture.

Membership for 2015 dropped to 958 from 1012 in 2014 and 1278 for 2013. This obviously affects our income despite having raised subscription rates in 2013. The committee are looking into way of reducing costs rather than increasing subscription rates.

DERBYSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT for the year to 31st DECEMBER 2015

INCOME	2015	2014
	£	£
Subscriptions	16,172.00	15,695.71
Income Tax recovered through Gift Aid	2,150.78	2,435.01
Donations and Members Contributions	924.90	321.50
Sale of Publications	425.93	627.05
Interest on Investments	889.03	1,753.66
Postal Research	615.90	1,029.55
Pay per View	5,324.08	5,545.87
Grant Received	-	-
Meetings, Open Days, Coach Trips etc	105.00	860.00
Cash in hand		17.98
	<u>£26,607.62</u>	<u>£28,286.33</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Publications for Resale -	-	158.80
Stationery, Postages etc	605.27	1,367.96
Meetings, Open Days, Coach Trips etc	437.00	3,859.00
Journal	9,165.21	9,000.01
Reference Library	12.00	38.50
Insurance, Fees, Charges & Affiliation to FFHS	1,315.03	1,401.20
Equipment Maintenance, including photocopier	65.52	527.99
Projects		
Examining Accountant's Fee	410.00	395.00
Bridge Chapel House	20,135.20	13,542.62
Publicity		
	<u>£32,145.23</u>	<u>£30,291.08</u>
NET INCOME (DEFICIT) against EXPENDITURE for the year:	<u>£(5,537.61)</u>	<u>(2,004.75)</u>
 ACCUMULATED FUND Brought Forward	£77,148.45	£79,803.20
Add SURPLUS (DEFICIT) for the year, as above	£(5,537.61)	-£2,004.75
Ddt Depreciation	£(1,000.00)	£(650.00)
ACCUMULATED FUND Carried Forward	<u>£70,610.84</u>	<u>£77,148.45</u>

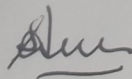
DERBYSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET as at 31st DECEMBER 2015

FIXED ASSETS		2015	2014
			£
Furniture, Fittings and Equipment :			
Opening Net Book Value		263.16	913.16
Add Assets Purchased in year		3,694.95	0.00
Deduct Depreciation in year		1,000.00	650.00
Closing Net Book Value		<u>£2,958.11</u>	<u>£263.16</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Charities Official Investment Fund - Deposit account	26,316.75		22,685.64
Lloyds TSB Term Deposits	<u>40,000.00</u>	66,316.75	<u>20,000.00</u>
			42,685.64
Cash & Bank : Lloyds TSB Current Account	327.53		32,734.17
Floats in Hands of Officers	<u>445.00</u>	772.53	<u>462.98</u>
			33,197.15
Pay Pal		563.45	1,002.50
		<u>£67,652.73</u>	<u>£76,885.29</u>
NET ASSETS			
		<u>£70,610.84</u>	<u>£77,148.45</u>
REPRESENTED BY:			
ACCUMULATED FUND Brought forward		77,148.45	79,803.20
ADD SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR		-6,537.61	-2,654.75
ACCUMULATED FUND Carried forward		<u>£70,610.84</u>	<u>£77,148.45</u>

Michael Bagworth
Treasurer

ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

I have examined the foregoing financial statements, which are in accordance with the books maintained by the Society. In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the Society's affairs as at 31st December 2015



S J WELLS & Co
Chartered
Certified Accountants
82a Vestry Road, Oakwood
Derby DE21 2BN

DEATH OF THE DERBY CENTENARIAN

We regret to announce the death of Mr John Hill, of 30 Trafalgar Street, Derby, who attained his 100th birthday on the 28th February last. Mr Hill celebrated his centenary by distributing £150 amongst local charities, as follows: Derbyshire Royal Infirmary £100; Royal Deaf and Dumb Institution £15; Railway Servants Orphanage £15; Royal Nurses' Institute £10; and the Children's Hospital £10.

The deceased gentleman resided with his daughter, who is a spinster 54 years of age, and had lived a very quiet life. He was formerly in business in the town as a bookseller, and had shops in Queen Street and Sadlergate. From this business he managed to save a good round sum of money, with which he purchased several houses, and was enabled to retire from business some 30 or 40 years ago. Up to becoming a centenarian he had enjoyed remarkably good health. He was, as was only to be expected, somewhat feeble but kept in excellent spirits.

Our representative well remembers calling upon him on his last birthday. He then found him comfortably seated in an armchair before the fire and in full possession of all his faculties, with the exception of his hearing, and on that account it was only with difficulty that one could converse with him. Despite that he was a very intelligent old man to talk to, and when asked how he was he cheerfully replied "*Nothing to grumble at. What can you expect at a hundred?*" Some short time ago, however, his health seemed to be growing more feeble but he still continued to come downstairs daily. He only took to his bed on Monday, and died on Tuesday morning from senile decay, aggravated by bronchitis.

Mr Hill was the oldest Oldfellow in the world and of this fact he was exceedingly proud. He was born at Alfreton on February 28 1803 and in 1823 he joined the Loyal Edwin Lodge at that town. It is believed that the lodge was broken up about 1844, for in that year he was transferred by "clearance" to the Spring of Love Lodge [Manchester Unity], Derby. He was still a member of the lodge at the time of his death, and had been receiving sick pay from his lodge continuously since 1895.

He had been in the habit of walking almost daily to the Mechanics' Institute for the purpose of looking at the papers. This habit he however had to give up during last winter on account of the cold, but he resumed it again when the weather was more favourable. He proudly boasted of the fact that he was a Radical in his younger days, and had remained one all his life.

In his early youth he knew from personal experience the fearful consequences of taxed food and his views on the question of the hour were expressed with characteristic outspokenness. He had never indulged in the habits of smoking or taking snuff, and was also a teetotaller, although in his younger days he used to visit a public house and have a glass of beer occasionally. He, however, did not do this, he said, because he liked the beer but because of the company he met at the house.

His father died at the somewhat early age of 41 from internal troubles, but his mother, who died in 1851, reached the good old age of 87, whilst he is survived by his daughter, Miss Ann Hill, who unfortunately does not enjoy the best of health. By his death a well known and familiar figure in the town is removed and a link with the early part of last century is severed.

Derby Daily Telegraph, 12 Aug 1903

A SWARKESTONE MAN AT WAR

A Swarkestone man, who has just returned home on leave, has seen service in this war in France, Egypt, Burma, India, Iraq, Syria and as a gunner on a ship bound for Greece. He is Corporal Percy Heath, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Frank Heath, of Swarkestone.

A member of the Royal Tank Regiment, he was called up at the outbreak of war and went to France. After being evacuated from Cherbourg he took part in Wavell's big push from Egypt to Benghazi.

While in the desert he twice had his tank knocked out by the enemy, and on one occasion he was the only surviving member of the crew.

In all his experience in various theatres of war he has only once been slightly wounded.

Derby Daily Telegraph
25 Aug 1943



RESEARCH CENTRE AND LIBRARY



BRIDGE CHAPEL HOUSE DERBY

Acquisitions at 1st April 2016

Duffield Cemetery Burials

Pastures Hospital Burials

Ashbourne Victoria Memorial Cottage Hospital Admission & Discharge
Register 1899-1914

Quarndon Then & Now—Bryan Harris

Death Certificates: Mary Jackson, Glossop, 1889, aged 73
James Marsland, Glossop, 1864, aged 49

Family Trees & Histories:
Morrell of Heage and District
Hurt [including Harper]
Backler [including Jones, Taylor, Button & MacAlister]

The death of Mr John Fox Gee

One of Hayfield's worthy sons

It is with deep regret that we place on record the death of Mr John Fox Gee which occurred in his residence on Tuesday last, in his 63rd year. In the rather lengthy list of worthies whose death it has been our painful duty to report during these last few months, none was better known or more highly esteemed than the subject of this obituary notice.

He was the son of the late William Gee, and his youth was passed at Spray House Farm, on the Park Hall Estate, farmed at that time by his father. He was educated at Hayfield Grammar School, the Rev Samuel Wass then being the incumbent and headmaster. Mr Gee's father became the landlord of the Bull's Head Inn, when his son was in his teens and he remained there until the death of his parents.

At an early age Mr Gee began to carve out a career for himself, starting at the bottom of the ladder, he successively filled with distinction most of the public offices of his native Parish, commencing with the collection of the highway rates and ultimately succeeding Mr James Wild as assistant overseer, other positions which he filled were--- sanitary inspector, Clerk to the first School Board, school attendance officer, collector of income taxes and Clerk to Hayfield Parish Council.

There was no more faithful and efficient public servant than Mr Gee, and practically the whole of his life was given to the discharge of those duties. It was when he was between 20 and 30 years of age that he became the assistant overseer, at that time the highways were under the old parish surveyor and later when he succeeded as surveyor he collected both the highway and poor rates and nearly all the taxes of the Parish

When the School Board was formed he was appointed its first clerk and he retained that important office right through the whole history of that authority to its dissolution, the consequence of passing the recent Education Act, when he became the secretary to the local Education Committee. It was largely through complete physical incapacity, owing to his failing health, that he was obliged to retire. For a great many years he held the dual offices of Clerk to the Education Authority and school attendance officer.

He efficiently discharged his duties as Parish Clerk until increasing infirmities compelled him to relinquish them. In all his public offices he attended strictly to his own work, never interfering with the business of other mem-

bers, and it is worthy of record that such was the efficiency with which he kept the numerous accounts of the Parish, that never in the 30 or 40 years in which he submitted those accounts to the public auditor was he once surcharged. Indeed the accounts were never found to be farthing out [*a quarter of one old pre-decimal penny*].

During the long and acrimonious discussions at the School Board, when excitement ran almost wild, and party feeling got to such a pitch as to cause fisticuffs, Mr Gee always maintained his coolness and dignity without the moving of a muscle. Mr Gee also held various other offices, for some years he was the agent for the Shudehill Estate, doing business with Mr Alfred Slack, of whom he considered to be a personal friend. There were an important group of men in Hayfield who really constituted the public and social life of the place ---Mr A. B. Wimpenny---Mr Christopher Slack--- Mr Albert Slack---Mr W. P. Gibb and Dr Masters---the deceased may be classed as the last of this set who will be remembered for some considerable time in Hayfield.

He was well known as a most enthusiastic cricketer, a skilful welder of the 'willow.' being one of the founder members of the Hayfield Cricket Club. "Fox" as he was familiarly known, was well regarded in cricket circles, he was often called to play in County teams. He was the model secretary of Hayfield Cricket Club for something like 30 years. He was looked upon as the backbone of that institution. He was a crack shot and was frequently seen in season on the grouse moors around and above Kinder Scout.

The deceased never married and for many years he lived with a niece. At the Parish Council meeting on Wednesday night it was announced that he wished his remains to be cremated at Manchester Crematorium. [*At this date Manchester was only the second crematorium in the country*]. Mr Luke Garside proposed that condolences be sent to the family.

The High Peak Reporter February 16th 1906

**We welcome new members who have
joined the Society by 20th April 2016**



- 7981 Mrs J.A.Smith, 1 Oakham Close, Derby, DE21 4DE, UK
E-mail: ejoan.53@btinternet.com
- 7982 Mr T. Hanstock, 44 Haywood Road, Mapperley, Nottinghamshire,
NG3 6AB, UK, E-mail: terry@millie55.plus.com
- 7983 Ms S. Crawford, 3 Towner Place, Gowrie, Australian Capital Territory
2904, Australia, E-mail: shelley_french@hotmail.com
- 7984 Mr M. Hammond, 36 Glenister Road, Chesham, Buckinghamshire,
HP5 2AZ, UK, E-mail: m.hammond@cadogantate.com
- 7985 Mr R. Stannard, 166 Chaddesden Park Road, Chaddesden, Derby,
DE21 6HN, UK, E-mail: ryanstannard612@gmail.com
- 7986 Mr D. Booth, 85 Poolbrook Road, Malvern, Worcestershire,
WR14 3JW, UK, E-mail: ionasunset@gmail.com
- 7987 Ms L.Acraman, 33 Elm Grove, Moira, Swadlincote, Derbyshire,
DE12 6HH, UK, E-mail: louise.acraman@gmail.com
- 7988 Mr J. Lomas, Via Andrate 63, 10013 Borgofranco [TO], Italy
E-mail: jonixima@gmail.com
- 7989 Ms A. Powers, 100 Church Road, Quarndon, Derbyshire DE22 5JA,
UK, E-mail: anne@aparclofribbons.co.uk
- 7990 Ms S. Curd, 7 Cromwell Road, Caversham, Reading, Berkshire
RG4 5EA, UK, E-mail: curd@one-name.org
- 7991 Ms A. Tyler, 658 Forest Circle, South Charleston, United States WV
25303, E-mail: agtyler@frontier.com
- 7992 Mr D. Hancock, 287 Waterloo Road, Blackpool, Lancashire, FY4
3AE, UK, E-mail: davidcroft1963@hotmail.com
- 7993 Ms R. Meredith, Bakery Cottage, The Cross, Holt, Wrexham,
LL13 9YG, UK, E-mail: ruth_meredith@btinternet.com
- 7994 N. Barnes, 4902 S Oxbow Avenue, #205, Sioux Falls, United States,
SD 57106 E-mail: nkwbarnes@yahoo.com
- 7995 Mr D. Harrison, Cartref, Mill Lane, Caunton, Newark, Nottingham-
shire, NG23 6AJ, UK, E-mail: david@harrisononline.me.uk
- 7996 Mr R. Evans, 15 Hammond Road, Woking, Surrey, GU21 4TQ, UK
E-mail: ric80231@gmail.com

- 7997 Mr F. Wheatcroft, 42 Limekiln Row, Castlefields, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 2LS, UK, E-mail: fwheatcroft@virginmedia.com
- 7998 Ms P. Pidgeon, 199 Dayan Drive, Council Bluffs, Iowa, 51503, USA
E-mail: ppidgeon57@gmail.com
- 7999 Mr G. Sheldon, 104 Beardall Street, Hucknall, Nottinghamshire, NG15 7RP, UK, E-mail: Geoff.sheldon@yahoo.co.uk
- 8000 Ms R. Umney, 13 Lime Grove, Darley Dale, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 2GS, UK, E-mail: ritaumney@yahoo.co.uk
- 8001 Mr K. Taylor, 7 Belgrave Close, Belper, Derbyshire, DE56 1TX, UK,
E-mail: khtaylor@hotmail.co.uk
- 8002 Mr A. Barton, Flat 2, Vine House, Hampton Court Road, East Molesey, Surrey, KT8 9DA, UK, E-mail: andrewbarton22@yahoo.com
- 8003 Mr J. Henshaw, 16 Woodlands Way, North Baddesley, Southampton, Hampshire, SO52 9HE, UK, E-mail: jack1646sfa@talktalk.net

**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 web-
site and going to the Members Interests
section.**

**New/Updated interests may be sent by
email to membersinterests@dfhs.org.uk**

DERBY FAMILY HISTORY FESTIVAL

**Derby Central Library
Wednesday 8th June 2016, 10am—4pm**

Celebrating 40 years of the Derbyshire Family History Festival

Come and help celebrate our birthday—40 years of helping people to trace their family history.

Bring your problems and see if we can help you knock down those brick walls [and our volunteers have plenty of experience of doing so].

Try out the computers with help from Derby Local Studies or talk to the Derbyshire Record Office to see what they have that could be helpful.

Speakers all day including Nick Barratt [Who do You Think You Are] and Maxwell Craven.

Historic Maps, Postcards, Books and Charts for Sale including Archive Storage, now available from the Derbyshire FHS.

Bring an old photograph to Maxwell Craven and see if he can help you to date it and place it in your family history. Have it scanned by Picture the Past and learn how to save it properly without deterioration.

Browse round various societies such as Magic Attic, Archaeological Society, Civic Society, Derwent Valley Mills, Royal Crown Derby and several Local History Societies.

Enjoy activities from Sudbury Hall and watch a bookbinding demonstration

Watch old Derbyshire films running all day courtesy of MACE

Light refreshments available. Plenty of shops and eating places nearby if you want a break

**FREE ENTRY.
PLEASE COME AND JOIN US AND MAKE IT A
DAY TO REMEMBER**

Derbyshire Family History Society

March Quarter 2016



A photograph taken from the top of St Alkmund's, looking down towards St Mary's bridge with the Co-op yard on the right and G. Fox, engineers, in the foreground. Duke Street is on the left with British Oxygen just in the picture.