

# Derbyshire Family History Society



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Medieval Medical Theories

Origins of the Johnson  
in Tibshelf

Bonsall Enclosure Award

Hair Powder Tax

Well Dressing at  
Wingerworth  
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*Dec 2017*

*Issue 163*

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### **SOCIETY REFERENCE LIBRARY**

Bridge Chapel House, St Mary's Bridge, Sowter Rd, Derby DE1 3AT

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**

The last issue for this year—AGAIN!! It goes faster every year. First a plea from our Membership Secretary. She would be grateful to receive renewals ASAP. It is a big job and with Christmas in the middle of it, the more who can renew by Christmas the better. Better for you too of course as there will be no break in delivery of your magazine.

Derby City Council are enjoying themselves spending loads of money on putting flood defences in place. In reality this means destroying all the lovely walks by the side of the river, turning Darley Park into a no go area, and destroying every tree they can lay their hands on. For your Society it has meant several weeks of watching huge great holes appear in the road near us, at which point the workmen disappeared and left us with a mess and a closed road. For that reason, you may have to think if you want to come and visit us and maybe you would do better to ring us first. We never know which bit of the road system is a no go at any given time. I am now waiting for the huge floods that they are preparing for, what's the betting they never arrive?

Please make a note in your diary for the AGM next year—10th April. We have persuaded Maxwell Craven to give us a talk, not sure on what as yet, but I am sure it will be a good one as always. Please come along and provide him with a sizeable audience.

Finally I am sure you have all seen that Ancestry have put the Parish Registers on line. Speaking from our own experience, don't rely on transcribers and assume the entry you want isn't there. Try browsing the pages before you dismiss the possibility of your ancestor not being where you thought they should be. Recently we picked up the following addresses—Hoegftel and Eleanor Alger!!! What should they have been? Hospital and Marlborough. Good for a laugh, not good for ancestor hunting.

Have a great Christmas and enjoy your break. May you get all you wish for!!

See you next time

*Helen*

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**MEETINGS 2017/18**

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

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 12th Dec | Christmas Party  |
| 9th Jan  | Long Lost Families—John Croft  |
| 13th Feb | A Derbyshire Railway Outing—Robert Mee   |
| 13th Mar | Pictures in Glass—The History & Construction of Stained<br>Glass Windows [including Demo] - Tony Waldron |
| 10th Apr | Society AGM followed by a talk [subject yet to be decided]<br>By Maxwell Craven                          |
| 8th May  | Dissolution of the Monasteries—Superstition, Scandal and<br>Dodgy Dealings - Julia Hickey                |
| 12th Jun | The Life & Adventures of Henry Walker, R.N<br>- Stephen Flinders   |

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

- |         |                 |
|---------|-----------------|
| 8th Dec | Christmas Party |
|---------|-----------------|

Sorry we have not received any information regarding the speakers for 1918 for this group. Please check our new website which will have the latest information should they get back to me with the relevant speakers.

## DERBY MEETINGS

**Jul 2017**

35 Years On—Stephen Orchard

Stephen's earliest recollections of an interest in family history began with a fascination of various things within the household. There was a clock presented to PC Chas Orchard on his retirement, a 'three-cornered chair' and an old chest or coffer. The clock obviously belonged to family, but were the others family heirlooms passed down through generations or recent acquisitions from an antique or second-hand shop? With no provenance for these items, nothing could be proved as from whence they came but research into the life and family of Chas Orchard could be undertaken.

Charles Orchard married Mabel Violet Croxall in 1908. He appeared in the census records as a Police Constable. He was the son of Charles and Ada [Wilson] born in 1857. Charles Snr was the son of George and Fanny Brentnall. Fanny was the daughter of William and Ann Duke. Stephen has an original letter of proposal from William to Ann in 1808. The letter begins:

*"On my return from a journey this evening to my very great and unpleasant surprise I received a parcel containing books &c which I lent for your perusal and amusement, and one, tho' small, a present—as a token of the very sincere regard I had for you. The present was small—the manner in which they have been thus returned, created you may expect ve[ry great] uneasiness to one who has always shewn [the] greatest and strongest attachment to you."*

The letter continues in a similar vein, his disappointment in her coolness towards him, but ends with his proposal which she obviously accepts as they were married in 1809.

The Orchard family has been traced back to 1541 with the will of John Orchard of Egginton. On the Croxall side, Mabel Violet was born in 1887, the daughter of Charles and Catherine [Renton]

On the maternal side of Stephen's family, the maiden name was Stevens or Hidestevens, making research interesting. Paul Hidestevens married Annie Elizabeth Tatham in 1896 and they had fifteen children. Two daughters, Winifred and Evelyn, married two Orchards, Charles and Ronald, and two of the fifteen children were still alive in 2000. This Charles Orchard was the one previously mentioned. His wife Mabel died in 1940 and he went on to marry his daughter in law's sister in 1943.

Annie Elizabeth Tatham was the daughter of William and Martha [Atkin]. She was the oldest of thirteen children. Nine of these children had survived by 1911 and one died in action in WW1, another later probably from injuries

received. Another went to Canada, but returned when his mother got the Salvation Army to trace him. He then married and had children as did the rest of the family. Stephen has accumulated a variety of documents to prove this family history. There were PC Orchard's notes, John Orchard's will, Repton parish registers, Harper Crewe papers, Nonconformist records, War records, medals, letters on film and a certificate of pilgrimage.



Stephen showed us a chart that he has created with concentric circles for four generations. If you were to create your own and continue with these circles, you realise just how many branches to your tree are missing.

### Sep 2017

#### An Ordinary Copper—Ernie Drabble MBE

Ernie started his presentation by giving a visual display of how police uniform and equipment has changed since his joining the Derbyshire Constabulary in 1961.

He went on to describe how a charismatic conman took over a local football club and used its bank account and cash receipts as if his own. He appeared at the club unknown and purporting to be a millionaire businessman, promising to be its saviour at a time when it was struggling both financially and on the playing field. Subsequent police enquiries showed this to be incorrect; his sole intention being to strip the club of its assets, and sell the ground for development. He even illegally used the club's account to buy shares in his effort to oust the other directors, to give him ultimate control. Matters were drawn to the attention of the police when the FA banned the club from playing in any competition following complaint of non-payment of the transfer fee of a player bought from a club in the football league. Once identified, it was discovered that he was already barred from being a company boss following a VAT fraud in the Midlands, and that there was an outstanding unexecuted warrant in existence for his arrest over the non-payment of compensation and costs ordered by the Crown Court. Before he could be arrested on the warrant he left the club taking with him the club cheque book, which he continued to use fraudulently on vehicles, furniture, sports equipment and entertaining at expensive hotels and restaurants. The cheques all bounced due to lack of funds. Although made bankrupt during this time, he then set up a business information firm without capital and using a false VAT number. It was here that the arrest warrant for not paying compensation on the VAT

evasion was executed. Not having the funds to pay off the court debt he was committed to prison in default. This company folded after 5 months trading with debts of £80,000. The police enquiry into his activities continued while he was serving this sentence, but on his release his whereabouts were unknown. Efforts to locate him resulted in him being circulated on the BBC *Crimewatch* program. Although this resulted in one positive identification, he was not detained until he ran from a jewellers shop in the Manchester area with a £14,000 tray of jewellery. This was after he had unlawfully sold the slates from the roof of a property while the householder was recovering in hospital. He eventually appeared before Manchester Crown Court where he was sentenced to four and a half years imprisonment after pleading guilty to various charges of fraud, fraudulent trading, deceiving hotels, stealing a hire car and snatching diamonds. The police enquiry had lasted 18 months, involving 4 officers, 170 witnesses, 48 lever arch files of evidence and 1,700 pages of documentary exhibits.

Ernie then went on to explain how Michael Benjamin Sams, convicted of the murder of Leeds Prostitute Julie Dart and the kidnapping of Estate Agent Stephanie Slater, visited the county when collecting £175,000 ransom money for Stephanie's release. Also why the police operation to disrupt his plans went horribly wrong, enabling him to collect the money and make his way back to Worksop uninterrupted. After having held her hostage for a number of days, often locked inside a wheelie bin in his workshop, he did keep his promise - and he drove Stephanie back to her home that very evening. Efforts to identify him continued and a recording of his voice, taken from a telephone conversation to the Estate Agency, were played on *Crimewatch UK* three weeks later. It was heard by his ex-wife and their son, who telephoned giving his details. He was traced to his workshop in Newark, where both Julie Dart and Stephanie Slater had been held captive - and arrested. He was jailed for life in 1993.

This was followed by an explanation of how, in its infancy, DNA Profiling had resulted in the identification and conviction of a local man for a very nasty rape on an elderly female in her own home.

Next was the 4 day siege in a remote hamlet after the occupants of a rented house were identified as prisoners who had escaped from The Mount Prison, while serving long sentences for armed robberies. When requested, they refused to leave the property and showed their defiance by holding firearms to the windows. The safety of neighbours meant that they were denied access to their homes for the 4 days, staying with friends/family or local boarding establishments for the duration. The men did eventually surrender themselves and the police incident concluded without further incident or injury.

Further cases included that of a local solicitor sentenced to 11 years imprisonment after admitting and being convicted of dealing drugs; a farmer who it was alleged was supplementing his income by adding spring water to his milk; and the unsuccessful efforts made to identify the body of a white male discovered by two rangers in a remote High Peak moorland location.

RUTH BARBER

## **SOUTH NORMANTON MEETINGS**

### **Jul 2017**

No report received

### **Sep 2017**

#### **A Grand Tour of Yellowstone National Park—Ann Pocklington**

Having visited the Navaho lands on previous holidays, Ann this time had flown to Wyoming, hired a car and first explored the Badlands near Little Big Horn, site of Custer's Last Stand. She then continued to her main destination, Yellowstone National Park.

Her first picture showed her car on a mountain road, whose upper levels were covered in snow while the lower plains were basking in August sunshine. Arriving at Yellowstone she discovered that the shops only sold camping goods. She had booked a room at the Yellowstone Hotel which originally was the Army Officers' Quarters, then up to 1918 was known as the Mammoth Terraces Hotel.

In 1856 Mr Colton, exploring the area, found it full of geysers. When he wrote a book about it, the New York publisher refused to publish it and Tim Bridger didn't believe Colton's description of the area either. Ulysses S. Grant was the first to name it a National Park. Ann showed us several large geysers and an open area filled with many small ones. In some places boardwalks had been laid between them so people could safely walk nearer to the vents.

Ann moved from her original hotel to take a room in the Old Faithful Inn. The all wooden building was erected in 1904. Navvies building the railroads couldn't build them during the winter so built the Inn instead. Ann inspected the room she was first offered and asked for a different one. The first room was on the ground floor, with a public footpath immediately outside her window. The room had a bed and wash basin but no wardrobe or chair and no window curtains. The room that she accepted had similar furnishing but no public footpath outside. There was a good view of Old Faithful.

Ann ended with photos of the varied wildlife. The moose are six feet 5 inches tall and the same length from nose to tail. Their stomachs process grass audibly and having spent the winter in the warmer climate near the geysers they move higher up the mountains in the spring. Longhorn deer are faster than cheetahs and can jump over wire fences.

Three rules for safety if you meet a bear are:-

1. Make a noise [hopefully it will retreat]
2. Have a bear spray
3. If attacked don't run

Thankfully there were no bears in South Normanton, but we were shown a herd of elk crossing over Madison River, cranes, herons and a Coyote hunting for grass.

Finally we drove back down through Wyoming, pausing only to look at the Platte River crossing on the old Overland Trail. Ann then returned the hired car and flew back to England.

AVERIL HIGGINSON

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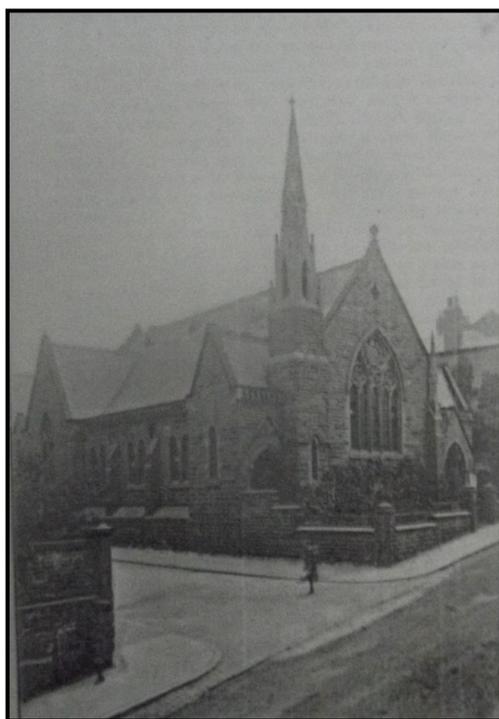
## GREEN HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Presbyterians were the first Nonconformist body to enter Derby. Simpson's History of Derby says "*they were originally the only Protestant Dissenters in the town. Under the name of Puritans they had private places of assembly in the days of Queen Elizabeth, James and Charles, but these places were small and are now unknown*". It is recorded that in 1657 Samuel Berisford came from Tamworth to be Presbyterian minister at St Werburgh's Church, where he was pastor during the Commonwealth period. He was ordained at Wirksworth, and was ejected from St Werburgh's in 1662 and driven into Nonconformity latterly. In the reign of Charles II, a license was obtained by the Protestant dissenters of the Presbyterian persuasion for celebrating divine service in the old chapel situated on St Mary's Bridge. In the reign of James II, they assembled in the wide yard on the east side of Iron Gate which communicated with the Market Place, where they continued till the erection of the Chapel in Friar Gate, which took place during the reign of King William III. Over the front gallery, facing the organ in the Chapel which now belongs to the Unitarians, there is placed the arms of that monarch out of gratitude to him for granting the liberty to worship there. Mr Wil-

liam Cross, who had been ejected from Beeston in Nottinghamshire, and Mr Robert More, who had also been ejected from Brampton in Derbyshire, became joint ministers of the congregation. Shortly after the erection of the Chapel Mr Cross died, and Mr Ferdinando Shaw was appointed co-pastor with Mr More.

While Mr Shaw resided at Derby, the Vicar of St Alkmund's refused to bury a child because it had not been baptised by a clergyman. The corpse was therefore buried in the Presbyterian Chapel, which is believed to have been the first instance of the kind in Derby. In 1755 Mr White became pastor and in the year 1766 Mr Abraham Crompton left £200 towards increasing the minister's salary. Mr White appears to have been the last minister of the Presbyterians for sometime in Derby. After his death the congregation gradually became Unitarian, and has continued so to the present day.

Meetings in connection with the establishment of the present Church on Green Hill were first held in a room lent for the purpose by Mr Boyd in St Peter's Street, in the year 1865, consequent upon the visit of three Presbyterian ministers who were sent as a deputation from Manchester to make enquiry



as to the needs of Derby and do what they could towards the establishment of a Presbyterian Church in the town. Mr Boyd's kindly action further resulted in regular services being held in the room in his house. The meetings were continued in this way for about three months, after which the services were transferred to the Athenaeum Rooms, where they were held for about three years. Eventually three or four members succeeded in purchasing a plot of land on Green Hill, on which the foundation stones of the present Church were laid, on September 30th 1868, under the wing of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

The first minister was the Rev A.L. Simpson, D.D., an eminent scholar and a man of artistic

tastes. For 22 years he was minister of this Church. He commenced with 36 members in May 1865, doubled his membership in the first year and kept on increasing it year by year. During his ministry, in 1876 a complete union was effected of all the Presbyterian Churches in England, numbering 258 congregations, which combined to form the Presbyterian Church of England. Dr Simpson retired in 1888.

The present minister, Rev D. Macdonald, was then appointed to the Green Hill Church. For some time after Dr Simpson's retirement there was a serious talk of closing the Church owing to the scarcity of members, but thanks to a few earnest young men the cause was kept alive, and when Mr Macdonald appeared on the scene there were about 60 members all time. The Church has grown and it is pleasing to record that at the present time there are about 200 members attached to the place.

After a while attention was turned to the needs of the district and some years ago there appeared a need for work in the neighbourhood of Britannia Street, at the time one of the worst parts of the town. An old store in Britannia Street was to let and a gentleman who was visiting the town and staying in Derby at the time, saw this store, purchased it and the adjoining property, pulled some of it down and built 15 six roomed cottages which were let at a low rental, enabling fifteen families to live under healthy and comfortable conditions. Part of the store he gave to Mr Macdonald's care for Sunday School work to which a gymnasium and various juvenile clubs have been added. So successful has the work been that the character of the neighbourhood has been largely changed.

The Presbyterians have attracted to their ministry some of the most scholarly men of the time, and the Green Hill Church has been privileged on not a few occasions of late years in having visits from such men as the Rev Dr Alexander Whyte, Dr Marcus Dods, Dr Davidson, Professor Bruce and others.

It was the first Church in the town to have the electric light installed, which has proved beneficial in many ways.

Although the congregation cannot be described as wealthy yet the members are exceedingly liberal, supporting besides their own particular calls, the Bible Society, the Royal Infirmary, and other public funds.

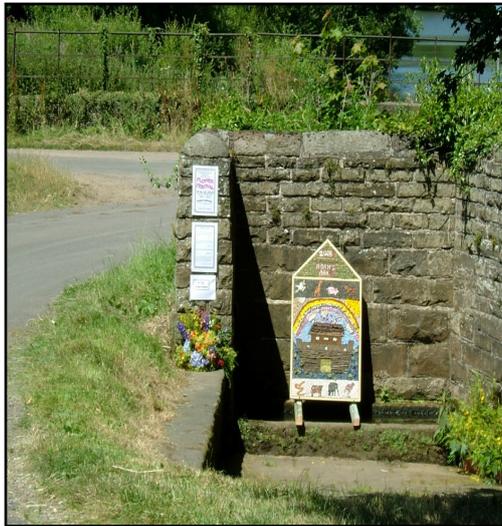
*From the History of Derby & District Affiliated Free Churches, published in 1901*

## Salem Methodist Independent Chapel Malthouse Lane, Wingerworth



### **Well Dressing**

Well Dressings at Salem Chapel started in 2006 when our Sunday School leader decided as part of our Flower Festival to involve the Sunday School children in the art of well dressing and decorate a water trough near the Chapel. The subject was Noah's Ark. The following year the village of Wingerworth held its first Well Dressing week.



We now produce two boards one is placed at the Sheepwash along with other boards produced by various village organisations and the other we continue to place at the trough near the Chapel on Malthouse Lane.

None of our team had undertaken this craft before and over the years we have obtained information from books, the internet and of course visiting other Derbyshire well dressings for ideas and inspiration.

Preparations commence months ahead with meetings to decide on a theme and start the drawings. Several weeks before everyone is busy collecting materials and viewing gardens in the village for suitable flowers and plant materials to beg nearer the time. The weekend before the well dressing the boards are soaked in water and clay is puddled (water is worked into the clay - a messy process) and then put onto the boards ready for the work to commence. The drawing is traced onto the clay and outlined, we use wool, but wood or other natural materials can be used. Then the drawing can be filled in with petals, leaves or other natural materials to create the colourful picture.

The board depicting the nativity scene was produced in 2017 by Salem Chapel and was part of the main display at the village Sheepwash. An unusual subject for August but the board aimed to convey to onlookers that the birth of Jesus was to bring Hope, Peace & Joy to the world and that is certainly what our world needs at the present time.



#### **Front Page Illustration**

The board produced in 2014 by the Chapel members to commemorate 100 years since the start of the First World War depicted a soldier clutching a Bible. The memorial and grave stones remind us of the needless lives that were lost in the search for peace.

Wingerworth Well Dressings are the first week in August. The Chapel opens for refreshments and this year raised £358 for The East Midlands Air Ambulance Service in addition a cake and preserve stall raised £630 for the Ashgate Hospice Chesterfield.

So book the date in your diary for 2018 and come and see the Wingerworth Well Dressings and enjoy refreshments at Salem Chapel built in 1849.

*Diana Wain [Mem 7771]  
Church Secretary Salem Chapel and DFHS member*

## Derby Gaol in 1812

In 1812 James Neild published a survey of British Prisons called *State of the prisons in England, Scotland and Wales*. His primary interest was in the conditions for debtors, and he was Treasurer of the *Society for the Discharge and Relief of Person imprisoned for Small Debts*. He was also a JP for Buckingham, Kent, Middlesex, and the City and Liberty of Westminster. Travelling all across the country he surveyed prison conditions, systematically documenting the state of the buildings, the conditions under which people were held, and whether any work was provided which might aid in the eventual rehabilitation of the prisoners. You can find his book on-line at <https://archive.org/details/stateofprisonsin00neil>. Here is what he wrote about Derby, which he had visited in 1805.

DERBY. *Town or Borough Gaol.*

Gaoler, *Charles Smith.*

Salary, 50l. for Gaol and Bridewell

Number of Prisoners	Debtors	Felons etc.	Deserters
1800, Nov. 16 <sup>th</sup> ,	1	7	0
1802, Jan. 29 <sup>th</sup> ,	3	6	0
1803, Aug. 24 <sup>th</sup> ,	2	8	1
1805, Oct. 9 <sup>th</sup> ,	1	2	1
1809, Aug. 24 <sup>th</sup> ,	1	1	Vagrants, 4

Fees, Debtors, and Felons, 12s 8d. No Table. For Transports, the expence of conveyance.

Garnish, (not abolished,) 1s.

Chaplain, none, nor any religious attentions whatever.

Surgeon, Mr *Haden*; who makes a Bill.

Allowance, for all descriptions, three twelve-penny loaves per week, sent from the Baker's: weight, October 9, 1805, four pounds each. Two tons of coals are given yearly, for the use of the whole Gaol.

### REMARKS

This prison, which is also the *Town-Bridewell*, is situated in Willow Row.

The Gaoler's house fronts the Street, and his back room has full command of the court-yard, which is 33 feet by 24; and has a pump and two sewers in it, with a leaden cistern for a cold bath: Hard and soft water are accessible at all times. The above court is the only one for Prisoners of every description.

Debtors have a day-room on the ground floor, 12 feet by 11, which has a fire-place, and an iron-grated window, looking towards the Court. Above-stairs, they have four sleeping rooms, of about the same size, with glazed windows and fire-places; and to each room the Corporation allows wooden bedsteads, loose straw, two blankets, and a rug.

Debtors from the Court of Requests are sent here, and have the same allowance as paupers, from their respective parishes.

The Felons' day-room is about 10 feet square, with a fire-place, and iron-grated window. Their sleeping-cell, called The Dungeon, is 12 feet by 8, lighted and ventilated by a small iron-grated window, of 11 inches only by 10; with a barrack bedstead, straw, three blankets and a rug.

The Women's day-room, 10 feet square, has a fire-place, and an iron-grated window towards the court. Their room to sleep in is above-stairs, and of the same size as that below, but the window is glazed. Closely adjoining are two rooms for petty offenders.

All are allowed to work who can procure employment, and they receive the whole of their earnings. When I was last there, in 1805, the single Debtor was cutting Butchers' skewers, at *three pence* a thousand.

No room set apart for an Infirmary. The Act for the Preservation of Health is hung up, but not the Clauses against Spiritous Liquors. The Prison is white-washed and visited once a year.

The lack of regular attendance by a Chaplain, and the absence of a salaried doctor, suggest an absence of care by comparison, for example, with Dorchester where the Chaplain attended twice a week, there was a regular doctor, water closets and a warm bath. Dorchester also provided prison clothing (and fumigated the prisoner's own!) and iron bedsteads which gave much better protection against vermin than wooden ones. White-washing the walls helped reduce infestation, but was only done once a year in Derby. Dorchester was a much bigger prison, however, with seven debtors and sixty-five felons in 1800. That conditions for prisoners in Derby were not good is indicated by a petition made on behalf of the debtors to parliament on 22 December 1801 'praying relief'. Whether anything came of that I do not know. Prison was

never intended to be a pleasant place, but Derby Gaol in the early 1800s was pretty dreadful!

Neild, James. (1812) *State of the prisons in England, Scotland and Wales*. London: John Nichols and Son. <https://archive.org/details/stateofprisonsin00neil>: accessed 25 July 2017

London Courier and Evening Gazette. (1801). *London Courier and Evening Gazette* - Tuesday 22 December 1801. p.2a. <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>: accessed 25 July 2017

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## **BONSALL RESEARCH**

I was fascinated to read the article on the village of Bonsall in the latest edition of your journal. I have been researching the family tree of my wife and one of her ancestors was a Nellie Bonsall born in 1892 at Lea Brooks, and her father was Alfred Bonsall born 1866 in Belper who as far as I can ascertain married a Mary Barnett, Alfred's father was a Thomas Bonsall born around 1818 according to the 1871 census. Is it safe to assume this Bonsall line originated from the village and can any member point me in the right direction to satisfy my and my wife's curiosities. Being from Bristol and now residing in Northamptonshire my knowledge of Derbyshire is rather poor I must admit.

*Roy Smart [Mem 7577]  
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## *Buxworth Station and Gowhole Sidings*

Calling all hands and diligent readers of the DHFS magazine have you anything in your memory bank or knowledge on Bugsworth/Buxworth Station or Gowhole Sidings that can shed light on their impact on the village communities of Buxworth and Furness Vale? I have been researching the local papers for more years than I care to remember on other subjects, but always made notes on items that I thought may crop up in the future. Noting the name of the newspaper, year, issue date, brief note on the contents, a sort of one man's ready reckoner. A home-made time capsule with no time limit which is proving a godsend.

### Bugsworth/Buxworth

My intention is to write a combined history on both Bugsworth/Buxworth Station and Gowhole Sidings. I am retaining the name Bugsworth until 1935, then changing it to Buxworth. My reasoning follows --- Although the station name and the post office adopted the name Buxworth in 1930, after a Parish vote in 1929, Derbyshire County Council claimed they had no mandate to change the original village name, but with the passing of a Local Government Act in 1933 their reluctance to bite the bullet could not be maintained. Buxworth was officially recognised on the 9 February 1935 by D.C.C.



*Bugsworth  
Station with  
name boards  
showing the  
change*

In 1927, George White the Bugsworth Stationmaster, 1921-1931 came face to face with George Hayward who proffered his business card to Mr White. Hayward subsequently murdered the landlady of the New Inn, Little Hayfield (subsequently renamed the Lantern Pike ). Hayward was the last man to be executed at Nottingham Gaol on 10 April 1928. The following year the

calling card given by Hayward to Stationmaster White produced an eerie result when the family visited a Blackpool music-hall.

#### Odessa mentions

Bugsworth men who served in the Crimean War, rechristened Bugsworth to "Odessa, Seaport of the Peak". This, so it was claimed, was due to the similarity of the stone steps leading down into the Bugsworth Basin to those in the harbour at Odessa. I have personal memories of the name still occasionally being used whilst travelling home by train from New Mills School to Buxworth in the late 1940's. The name "Odessa" became a popular alternative name for Bugsworth, in 1953 local newspapers were still using that connotation within their pages.

15 January 1927. High Peak Reporter. Sunk in Bugsworth harbour. Some men came to move the tramlines from the former Peak Forest Tramway. Their abode was a boat moored in Odessa harbour. The boat sprang a leak, so repairs were decided upon. All went well until a crane was put into action, then something broke and a huge piece of stone smashed into the boat and sank her. The Odessa lifeboat was was put ready in case of need. The wreck caused great excitement in the great Seaport City of Odessa. Oh ! Odessa thy glory has departed.

19 February 1927. High Peak Reporter. Two Bugsworth ladies went to town and arrived at Stockport where the train splits in two, one to Crewe and one to Whaley Bridge. Our heroines boarded the Crewe train and it was at Wilmslow before they discovered their mistake. Alas all the trains had left for foreign parts. With the aid of a kindly porter they obtained digs for the night. Next morning tracks were made for Odessa. Trains, Trams and Steam Packet enabled them to get to Odessa for dinner time. They believe that if it hadn't been for the steam packet to Odessa they might not have reached home in time for work on the Monday morning.

28 May 1927. High Peak Reporter. Two young Bugsworth bloods decided to go to Belle Vue (Manchester) greyhound racing, and then to proceed to the ballroom to pick up a few steps to astonish the Bugsworth natives at the next dance. In their pleasant occupation the time passed rapidly and it was a mad dash to the station. Alas, all the trains had left for foreign parts so there was nothing to do but doss down in the waiting room. One fell asleep thinking it was Bugsworth, whilst the other thought it was not so bad if his mate had not snored so much. Considerable time next morning was spent in looking up trains, buses and aeroplanes for the Seaport City of Odessa, but it was Bugsworth by tea and our heroes were heartily home.

7 April 1950. High Peak Reporter. An article on the misplaced forecast that Chinley, due to the Midland Railway development in the early 1900's, would become "The Capital of the Peak" fell by the wayside. At Buxworth the canal has been derelict for many years and is no longer referred to as "Odessa, the Seaport City in the High Peak".

17 July 1953. High Peak Reporter. Echoes of the Peak. Fred Leech a rookie journalist recalls his first article made in July 1903, when he reported the wedding of W. T. Prescott the then headmaster of Bugsworth School. He recalls that I went to Bugsworth unknown and not knowing one person in Bugsworth. I had been there only once, when my youthful curiosity was aroused by stories about Odessa, the Seaport City in the Peak and the lively doings of Midland Railway lines between New Mills and Chinley. The boatmen who came to Bugsworth with their barges and painted the village red occasionally, especially when they had pals in the navvies who were then widening the railway in 1902-1903.

*Station staff at  
Bugsworth  
Station*



#### Alf Harrop's Gowhole

I was privileged to place before the public Alf Harrop's written memory of "Working at Gowhole" in the A4 booklet marking the first "Bygone Bugsworth" in June 1992. Since that first publication there have been several editorial tweaks to the original copy but none mention the local railwaymen and their railway roles by name. This will be included.

#### Gowhole Sidings

In April 1957, Ethel Bowden, of Round Meadow Farm, Dolly Lane, Buxworth, opposite Gowhole Sidings died having been pecked in an artery by a

cockerel whilst her husband was at work and her children at school. Help was at hand from railwaymen working at Gowhole Sidings who heard her cries, but unfortunately she subsequently died from loss of blood in Stockport Infirmary. The Inquest Coroner claimed that basic first aid could have saved her life. A Hayfield resident, who started railway life as a 14 year old at Chinley Station, who was one of those who attended the accident is still living. I hope to archive his story.

#### WW2

During WW2, Mr and Mrs. Booth, both having railway roles, were then living in the original station house at Buxworth, they homed Maurice Cummings a WW2 evacuee from Didsbury Manchester. He stayed with the Booths for two years. He attended Burnage High School.

Buxworth Station closed September 1958

In 1969 Burnage High School, Manchester, purchased the station by a tender for a little over £1,000. 15 July 1973, the station conversion was opened by the Duke of Devonshire.

My intention. To produce a book that tells the human story rather than concentrate on the machinations of railwayana

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Checking some records to be placed in the library, we were struggling to read details of a marriage, where a Harry Hovell was the groom. No matter how we tried it seemed his profession was that of 'Athletic Wood Worker'. Having decided it was correct many were the guesses as to what he was doing while operating his saw—doing handstands, leaping over hurdles? The mind boggled.

A check on the 1939 revealed he was a greengrocer. Had his athletic feats tired him out? He was born about 1896 so we checked the 1911 census, even though he would only have been about 15. Eureka! He was a cricket bat maker. So the athletic wood worker was actually a maker of sports equipment in wood. Don't you just love family history?

## *The Origins of the Johnsons in Tibshelf (part 2)*

In the September 2017 edition, we started looking at the origins of the Johnson family in Tibshelf. Specifically, we looked at the life of **Frances Johnson**, born 1829, who was the grandmother of Joseph and Thomas Johnson, the founders of J & T Johnson, well-known chrysanthemum growers in Tibshelf. They won many national awards and were renowned members of the Royal Horticultural Society.

My grandmother Edith Johnson was their younger sister, and was born 24 October 1896 in Tibshelf. This article looks at the lives of two of her grandmother Frances's sisters, namely **Elizabeth Johnson** and **Sarah Johnson**.

### *Elizabeth Johnson born 1831 in Newbold, Leicestershire*

Elizabeth Johnson, born in 1831, was my second great-grandmother Frances's younger sister. Like Frances, she too had an illegitimate child, Laban, born in 1858, but in this case did not marry the father, one Isaac Harvey, whose own story is quite complex, involving 2 wives plus fathering a child with Elizabeth Johnson.

### Children and Marriages of Elizabeth Johnson

At the age of 27, Elizabeth Johnson had an illegitimate child, Laban, born in 1858. According to my father W J Lomas, writing in 1982, the father was a certain **Isaac Harvey**, who was foreman at the pottery works where Elizabeth worked in Lount. The question is, why didn't Elizabeth marry Isaac, who was a widower at the time? Perhaps she didn't want to have to manage Isaac's three children by his previous marriage? Three years later, in 1861, Elizabeth is in fact still living with her parents and with her child Laban. She did eventually marry, at the age of 36 in 1867, to James Richards, and they had two children, Agnes born in 1868 and Harriett, born in 1871. In the 1881 census, she, James and children Laban, Agnes and Harriett, have moved to Tibshelf, where her nephew Thomas Johnson, born in 1852, was also living. By 1891, now a widow, she has returned to Worthington, and is living with her unmarried brother John Johnson (born 1835). In 1901 she has moved back to Tibshelf and is living with daughter Agnes and husband John Ragan. I am not sure what happened to her afterwards, there are no "obvious" deaths before the 1911 census, where she is not to be found. She could have married again, but finding a trace of this could be quite complicated.

### Isaac Harvey, the father of Elizabeth's son Laban

Isaac Harvey was born in 1823 at Rugeley, Staffs. In 1844 he got Mary Marshall pregnant, their child was born illegitimate in 1844 and named James

Harvey Marshall. Soon afterwards Isaac married Mary, the marriage was registered at Ashby, not sure exactly where it was held, most likely around Blackfordby, Leicestershire. Mary was from Swadlincote, just a couple of miles away, and their child James was born in Blackfordby. By 1849 they had moved closer to Lount, where Isaac was foreman at the pottery works, and were living in Worthington, where two additional children were born, Charles in 1849 and Sarah in 1852. Then, in 1856, Mary died.

In 1858 Isaac then got a girl working at the pottery where he was foreman pregnant, this was Elizabeth Johnson and their son Laban Johnson was born 29 Aug 1858 at Lount. Isaac and Elizabeth did not marry, however, and Isaac subsequently married Sophia Johnson née Glover 9 Dec 1861 in Birmingham. Sophia had previously been married to Reuben Johnson (no relation to ours) in 23 Oct 1854 in Heather, Leicestershire. They had 2 children, Ellen (b1855) and Lizzie (b1857).

Between 1858 and 1861, Reuben and Sophia apparently separated, as in 1861 Sophia was living alone in Hinckley, Reuben seems to have been living in Gloucestershire, their younger child Lizzie was also in Hinckley, but not living with Sophia, while elder child Ellen was living with Sophia's parents in Newton Regis, Warwickshire. Although Sophia was classified as "married" in the 1861 census, a few months later, she married Isaac Harvey. So Reuben had either died (no trace found), or they divorced (no trace found) or this was a bigamous marriage!

In her marriage certificate to Isaac Harvey it says she is a "spinster", which is somewhat misleading, although there are various dictionary definitions (e.g. Websters) that define a spinster as "a woman who is not married, divorced or widowed". My suspicion is that she and Reuben simply separated and started new lives. There is also another error in the marriage certificate between Isaac and Sophia, concerning Sophia's father, who is named as "George Johnson, Shoemaker". Her father was in fact "George Glover, Shoemaker", and it looks as if the official mistakenly took her father's last name from her own last name (Johnson). The fact that his first name was George and that he was a shoemaker confirms this I believe. Also the fact the Sophia's youngest daughter Ellen Johnson was living with George and wife Elizabeth at the time of the 1861 census, and that one of the witnesses at Sophia and Isaac's marriage was Sophia's brother Francis Glover.

To further complicate matters, living with Reuben Johnson in Gloucestershire in 1861 were a Mary A Johnson, from Guildford, Surrey and a child also called Mary A Johnson, born in Worcester in 1858. The surname Johnson was most likely attributed by the census collectors, as no trace of a marriage

by Reuben in this timeframe has been found. So I suspect that Reuben got Mary Ann pregnant in 1857, he then abandoned his wife Sophia and set up home with Mary Ann! Subsequent to the 1861 census, no further trace has been found neither of Reuben nor of the two Marys, so I suspect that they emigrated.

Isaac and Sophia had three children, Isaac (b1864), Mary (b1866) and William (b1871). In the 1871 census, Sophia's child Lizzie by Reuben Johnson, was also living with them. Isaac died in 1900 at Coleorton, while Sophia died in 1908 at Ashby.

### ***Sarah Johnson born 1848 in Lount, Leicestershire***

Sarah Johnson, born in 1848, was my second great-grandmother Frances's youngest sister. She had quite a complex life, being involved with 18 children (12 of her own and 6 of her first husband). She also married the brother of Frances's son Thomas Johnson's wife (so the brother of her nephew's wife: from the point of view of her husband, she was his brother-in-law's aunt!).

### **William Laban, Sarah's first husband**

In 1868 Sarah Johnson continued the family tradition of having illegitimate children, and had her first child, who was called Fred Johnson. The father was unknown, possibly William Laban, whom she married in 1869. He was a widower with 6 children, 1 of whom had died by the time of their marriage. William's first wife Mary Cooper had died in 1868 aged 29, so only a year had passed before he re-married. Probably the necessity of someone looking after all these orphaned children. In the 1871 census Sarah's son Fred is registered as Frederick Laban, but by the 1881 census he had reverted to Frederick Johnson, and was living with his grandparents, Joseph Johnson and Sarah Watson. With William Laban, Sarah had two children, Alice and John, before William died in 1872 aged 35.

### **Joseph Reed, Sarah's second husband**

In 1873, Sarah (as Sarah Laban) was a witness at the wedding of her nephew Thomas Johnson, born 1852 and illegitimate child of Frances Johnson, and Sarah Rushton Reed, born in 1854. The other witness was a certain Joseph Reed, born in 1852, the brother of the bride. In 1876, Sarah Johnson and Joseph Reed would marry in Tibshelf. After marrying, they moved back to Worthingon.

With Joseph, Sarah had 9 more children, bringing her total to 12. The two children she had had with her first husband were both born as Laban, but registered in the 1881 and 1891 census returns as Reed, but both reverted to the name Laban when they married, respectively in 1898 and 1899. As men-

tioned previously, Sarah's firstborn Fred reverted to Johnson.

Sarah Johnson, after having 12 children of her own, and being involved with 6 other children from her first husband's previous marriage, died in 1914, while her husband Joseph Reed died in 1919.

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### **Closure of Lichfield Record Office - Message from Staffordshire County Council**

Lichfield Record Office will close to the public on 1 January 2018. In January and February the archive collections will be prepared for transfer to Stafford, and the move will take place in March. Work will continue in Stafford in April to locate the collections and to update our online catalogue. Some collections will be held at the Service's outstore in Stafford. Where this is the case the catalogue will show that 48 hours' notice is required. This is also currently the case for some collections held by Staffordshire Record Office. Staff will also receive training about the collections, so that they can provide appropriate advice to enquirers. The collections will be fully available for consultation in May 2018. For further detail contact: [staffordshire.archives@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:staffordshire.archives@staffordshire.gov.uk).

As a place of deposit for Public Records we have been working with the National Archives on regulatory issues concerning the closure. We are working with the Library Service concerning the Archives and Heritage Service's history access point in the new Lichfield Library, and concerning the future of the local studies collection at Lichfield Library. We have also kept the Office's depositors informed through depositor events.

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## *Sixteen in a Bed*

Perhaps the reader is thinking what a big bed that must be. Well, it was a Victorian bed but not in the usual way.

My paternal great grandfather, Robert Cordon, died in December 1895 aged only thirty six years. I researched his life and found out quite a bit about 'life after death' in Victorian times. In that era, status in society seemed to be uppermost in people's minds and ruled their lives to a large extent. In fact, it continued even after death to the grave into which they were interred.

The lucky ones of some social standing or having financial means would get the best grave sites, usually because they could pay for them. They purchased a plot which was in a prime position beside a surfaced thoroughfare in the cemetery and large enough to take a suitable monument. Robert Cordon possessed neither of these attributes. He was a master house painter which was a good trade but a prime plot was beyond his means and, apparently, beyond his family's means.

He died on 28<sup>th</sup> December 1895 and was buried on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1896. He didn't end up in a first class plot beside the road, neither did he get a second class plot just back a bit from the more privileged. First and second class graves would more than likely have been marked by a monument or gravestone. At 14:20 on that Wednesday he was placed in a class 3 grave number 279 in St Pancras cemetery London. His grave was further back than classes 1 and 2 and was not marked. That would have been a common or unpurchased grave and likely a public or communal grave.

The unexpected twist was that Robert was the fifteenth person interred in that grave. The sixteenth and final arrival was John Thomas Marks on 2<sup>nd</sup> January. The grave was then closed. Such burials were not uncommon and I believe a public grave in Manchester General Cemetery contains one hundred and twenty.

I visited the cemetery and found the site where I believe the grave was. It was a sunny day, the site of the grave was well back from the cemetery road under large spreading trees, a thick carpet of ivy lined the ground and deadened footsteps, the sun filtered through the leaves and danced on the area. I thought not an unpleasant place to rest. I hope Robert and his bedfellows thought the same. Let's hope all sixteen were comfortable bedfellows!

*Mike Cordon [Mem 8065]*

*6 Carlton Avenue, Shelton Lock, Derby DE24 9EH.*

## Finding Mr Wright or Hunt the Cowkeeper : Part I Parentage

As a new member and novice family historian I am delighted to report that help from the Society (Ruth Barber and Mike Bagworth) has not only enabled me to resolve a three year impasse but also opened up a remarkable vista of unsuspected Derby connections. In the process I learned valuable lessons for the future about various pitfalls and how to avoid them - at least in theory.

My problem was Joseph Wright, father of my 3 times great-grandmother Emma Wright (c.1827 – 1888). Despite sustained efforts I had failed to discover :

- (1) Who were his parents?
- (2) When and where did he die/was he buried?

After much data thrashing (and a mortifying red herring) I despaired of getting beyond the proverbial brick wall, now happily demolished (hooray and thank you DFHS!)

Joseph's daughter Emma Wright, my ancestress, was baptised at Chellaston church on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1827. After her marriage in 1848, during the

1848. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Chellaston in the County of Derby							
No.	Wife's Name	Husband's Name	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession	Residence at Time of Marriage	Wife's Name and Residence
18	Oct 25 Emma Wright	Solomon Wright	34	Single	Labourer	Spalding	Joseph - farrence Chellston
		Emma Wright	27	Single	Labourer	Chellston	Joseph Wright - Farmer
Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church by <u>Reverend</u> <u>Ed. Deane</u>							
This Marriage was solemnized before us				In the Presence of us			
<u>Solomon Wright</u>				<u>Emma Wright</u>			
<u>Ed. Deane</u>				<u>Edith Wright</u>			

1850s she and her husband (perhaps inspired by Queen Victoria's settling at Osborne House) made a remarkable long distance move to East Cowes in the Isle of Wight where they ran a greengrocers business. Part of our family came full circle in the 1960s when one of my uncles from the Island applied for a job at Rolls Royce. It was only after he had accepted the post that he learnt about our family connection to Derby from my grandmother. He and

his family including grandchildren live in and around Derby.

### **Emma Wright : Legend and (early) Facts**

According to family tradition Emma Wright was a young lady from a well-to-do family. She ran off with the gardener or groom and was disowned by her parents as a result. Later they would make an annual visit to West Cowes, staying in one of the town's best hotels. Emma – unaccompanied by husband or even children – would cross the river Medina from East to West Cowes to meet them.



*Emma Wright*

My earlier researches uncovered enough about Emma, her father Joseph and her brothers and sisters to cast serious doubt on this romantic tale. Emma's Rank or Profession on her marriage certificate at her local parish church in Chellaston in 1848 was recorded as "servant" like her husband's. In the 1851 Census her 24 year old sister Eliza, 18 year old sister Mary and 10 year old brother Samuel were all listed as servants. Mary on her 1852 marriage certificate was described as a "dress maker". In 1856 sister Judith Wright was recorded as a "servant" on hers. Young ladies and gentlemen did not work for a living and certainly not as servants. By the 1851 Census the Wrights were living in Green Street. Their neighbours – an earthenware dealer, silk-weaver and publican - were solid citizens but hardly denizens of Derby's beau monde. Joseph Wright himself was described as a "cowkeeper", usually someone who owned cows but rented pasture for them. His children's marriage certificates describe him as a farmer rather than a more humble cowkeeper.

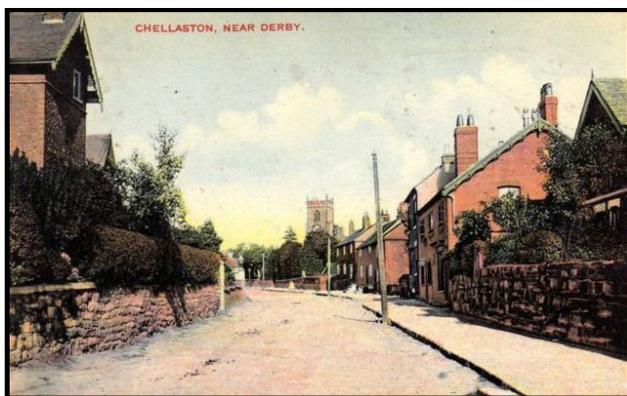
### **Baptismal fog (both sides)**

Joseph Wright was born in Stenson, Derbyshire about 1796 according to the Censuses (1851, 1861 and 1871) in which he appeared. I found baptismal records for 5 Joseph Wrights born Derbyshire 1795-6 : Derby St Alkmund, Breaston, Tideswell, Heanor and Pentrich but no clue as to which if any of them could be mine (spoiler alert : none of the foregoing).

Joseph married Mary Wibberley on 20 October 1823 at Alvaston. The Cen-

suses show her as born in Osmaston about 1794. A hopeful sounding Mary Wibberly (sic) daughter of Joseph and Hannah Wibberly was baptised at Osmaston in 14 September 1794. Unfortunately not only did a Mary Wibberley (sic) daughter of Joseph Wibberley marry John Yeomans at Osmaston on 26 August 1807 but there also proved to be a surprising abundance of other Derbyshire-baptised Mary Wibberleys. She remains a Mystery For Another Day. Still, I had to count myself lucky to have at least discovered where and when she died (Derby 1868) - unlike her elusive husband.

### **The Chellaston trail**



The 1841 Census showed Joseph Wright as a 45 year old farmer living at “Shelton” – possibly Shelton Farm. His was the first household listed in the Enumeration District for the Parish of Chellaston, south east of Derby. Joseph was living with his wife Mary nee Wibberley 47 and seven children : Eliza 15, Judith 12, Samuel 10, Mary 8, Joseph 4, Frederick 2 and Stephen 6 months.

Emma, my ancestress, who would have been about 14, wasn’t listed. She might have been overlooked or living away from home with other family members. Given the description on her marriage certificate as a servant, however, she would have been old enough to be living in service somewhere. I couldn’t pick her out from the swarm of in-county Emma Wrights living in Derbyshire in the 1841 Census. Her future husband may well have been a fellow servant.

The Wright household was followed by households of several Agricultural Labourers. They might have worked for Joseph or the next listed farmer William Manfull of Chellaston Hill. In the 1851 Census the Shelton households shifted from the beginning to the end of the Enumeration District. William Manfull now 78 was still there, describing himself as “Miller and Farmer of 20 acres employing 1 in and 1 out door servant.” The only other farmer listed in the Shelton section was Thomas Clews “Farmer of 33 acres”. Clews did not feature in the 1841 Census for this section of Chellaston. It is possible that his 33 acres might have been Joseph Wright’s farm.

### **Baptismal blunders**

I traced baptism records for all 7 children of Joseph and Mary Wright listed in the 1841 Census plus Emma (11 September 1827). Pitfall no. 1 : assuming that the eldest child shown in the 1841 Census, (Eliza, baptised 20 November 1825) was Joseph and Mary Wright's firstborn. Well, it seemed reasonable. After all, they married in October 1823. Unfortunately as a result I overlooked the actual firstborn, John Wright, baptised 18 April 1824 and probably on his way at the wedding. He would play a crucial part in unravelling the family's history. Pitfall no. 2 : failing to check ALL baptisms for the children of Joseph and Mary. Had I done so I would have uncovered a total of 11 baptisms : the 1841 seven, Emma, John the missing eldest but also two more Joseph Tempest Wrights who died in infancy : (1) baptised 8<sup>th</sup> and buried 12<sup>th</sup> April 1832 (2) baptised 31 December 1834 and buried 11 September 1836. The surviving Joseph Tempest Wright (3) was baptised 8<sup>th</sup> January 1837.

That Joseph senior had given the name to no less than three of his sons would have flagged Tempest as an important family name. It might have speeded up the process of identifying his own parents. Following up Joseph (3) I did find a Wright-Tempest marriage in 25 May 1780 at Duffield : Samuel Wright and Judith Tempest. FamilySearch showed a number of baptisms to this couple : Mary (1786), Sarah (1787), Judith (1790), Samuel (1792) and Millicent (1794) but no Joseph. The recorded place of baptism was "THE OLD MEETING – PRESBYTERIAN FINDERN". Pitfall no. 3 : not checking the map. Had I done so I would have seen that Findern is not far from Stenson, Joseph's birthplace. Mary, Judith and Samuel were all names given to children of Joseph and Mary Wright. In the 1871 and 1881 Censuses the son of Joseph's son Stephen Wibberley Wright was named as Tempest (actually Samuel Tempest) which also suggested a connection. But Duffield where Judith Tempest married Samuel Wright was some distance from Stenson. So I filed this line of enquiry away as a tantalising theory. Close - but no cigar.

### **Death and burial embarrassment and impasse**

I traced Joseph Wright in the 1841, 1851, 1861 and 1871 Censuses but not in 1881 inferring that he probably died between 1871 and 1881. As he was born in 1794 this was not unreasonable. As for where he died, from 1851 onwards Joseph and most of his family were living in Derby. In the Census for that year he was as mentioned a cowkeeper at no. 4 Green Street, St Alkmunds. In the 1841 Census a 65 year old Derbyshire born George Wright was listed as a cowkeeper at no. 17 Green Street, with Rachel 25, Ruben 21 silkweaver, George 14, Elenor 12 and Hannah 10. The most likely candidate seems to be George Wright aged 74 who was buried in All Saints, Derby in December 1849. Joseph Wright could have taken over his business after

his death. George and Joseph do not seem to be related. A Reuben Wright was baptised at Doveridge in May 1820, son of George and Hannah Wright. They may be the George Wright widower and Hannah Swindell who married at Doveridge in 1816. The family may have moved to Ashover where a George Wright son of George and Hannah Wright was baptised in 1827. By 1851 there were two other cowkeepers in Green Street : Jemima Willatt 57 at no. 3 and Charles Jenkinson 57 victualler and cowkeeper at no. 14.

Living with Joseph in 1851 were his wife Mary and children Samuel 20 (servant), Mary 18 (servant), Joseph Tempest 14 (bookbinder - presumably an apprentice), Frederick William 12 (errand boy) and Stephen "Kibbing" [=Wibberley] 10 (scholar). Ten years later Joseph and Mary Wright were still living in Green Street but now at no. 5. Joseph still described himself as a cowkeeper. The only child now living with them was Stephen 20 (bookbinder). At some stage during the 1860s Joseph and Mary moved to 10 Lodge Lane, St Alkmunds. Mary died there on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1868 of "old age 3 months certificate". Present at the death was her married daughter Mary Broadhurst of 48 Parker Street, Derby. A few years later in the 1871 Census Mary Broadhurst was living at 16 Edward Street, Derby with her husband George Broadhurst 52 born Derby master painter. Joseph Wright 74 was living alone at 10 Lodge Lane described as a "retired tradesman". His neighbours included silkweavers, a millhand and a laundress suggesting a neighbourhood poorer than Green Street.

Joseph seemed to be permanently settled in Derby. If he had had any consideration for future family historians he should have died obligingly at Lodge Lane or in the household of one of his children there. The 1871 Census showed that there were plenty of them around locally to support him. True, eldest daughter Eliza aged 42 (! baptised 20 November 1825) was in Lyme Regis working as a nurse in an affluent (governess, cook, housemaid) household. But daughter Judith, now calling herself "Agnes Judith", aged 41 wife of John Booth Oates engine fitter was living 21 Canal Street, St Peter's, Derby. As mentioned, Mary Broadhurst 37 was living at 16 Edward Street, Derby. Son Frederick William Wright 30 Surgeon/General Practitioner with a Dispensing Assistant was living at 4 Full Street, All Saints, Derby - an address which assumed significance later. The youngest, Stephen Wibberley Wright 30 master bookbinder was living at 41 Agard Street, St Werburgh's. ( I could not trace Samuel or Joseph Tempest Wright post 1851).

#### **Six certificates and a near miss**

Unfortunately there was no sign of a Joseph Wright of the right age dying in Derby after 1871. I cast my net a bit wider and ended up acquiring death certificates for six Joseph Wrights. Five of them did not match my Joseph

Wright retired cowkeeper of Lodge Lane : -

No. 1 Joseph Wright 79 General Labourer of Salford, Lancaster 26 February 1874. My Joseph was retired in the 1871 Census, presumably living on an annuity or supported by his children. If he had had to work as a general labourer in order to support himself it seemed unlikely he would have moved all the way to Lancaster when he could have found work locally in Derby.

No. 2 Joseph Wright 80 Cottage Farmer of Holbeach, Lincoln 6 July 1876. Living in Holbeach district in 1871 Census.

No. 3 Joseph Wright 81 Labourer of Stoke upon Trent 6 December 1877. Similar objection to no. 1.

No. 4 Joseph Wright 82 Farmer of Wormhill, Chapel en le Frith 12 September 1878. Living in Wormhill in the 1871 Census.

No. 5 Joseph Wright 82 Gentleman of Bonsall 9 January 1879. A gentleman? Bonsall? Ridiculous.

No. 6, however, was “Joseph Wright 84 Cowkeeper” of Market Rasen Lincolnshire 30 December 1878. When this death certificate arrived, I thought I was home and dry. Not only a Joseph Wright of the right age but a cowkeeper to boot! This had to be him.

### **Market Rasen runaround**

Joseph Wright no. 6 died of disease of the heart. Promisingly the certificate referred to an inquest. There was the slight problem of what long-term Derby resident Joseph Wright might have been doing in Market Rasen. But maybe one of his untraced sons Samuel or Joseph Tempest had settled in Lincolnshire and their father had a heart attack on his way to visit them. Unfortunately the eagerly awaited report of the inquest in the local Market Rasen newspaper dashed my hopes to smithereens. According to the article, the late cowkeeper Joseph Wright was “going from the town to his home on the Walesby Road”. It mentioned his son “John Wright innkeeper of the Clayton Arms, Caistor Road”. I checked the 1871 Census. Oh dear. There was Joseph Wright aged 76 cottager born in Normanby by Stour “ditto” ( i.e Lincolnshire) living in the Walesby Road, Middle Rasen, with his wife Elizabeth aged 78 born Cockington, Lincs and grand-daughter Elizabeth aged 13 also born Lincs. And there was John Wright “farmer and beerhouse keeper” aged 49 born Linwood, Lincolnshire living at the Clayton Arms, Caistor Road. Lincolnshire Joseph and Elizabeth Wright also appeared in the 1861 Census living in Middle Rasen. The conclusion was unavoidable : Market/Middle Rasen Joseph Wright cowkeeper could not be the same chap as my Joseph Wright cowkeeper of Lodge Lane and Green Street Derby who was solidly married to Mary nee Wibberley Wright until her death in 1868. So many Joseph Wrights and so many cowkeepers... At this point I gave up the quest

with a few choice expressions of frustration at so much wasted effort and expense.

**Frederick William : slippery customer?**

I carried on researching Joseph's children in the hope that something, anything, might turn up to shed light on their father's demise. As mentioned one of his sons, Frederick William Wright, was working as a surgeon/GP at 4 Full Street, Derby in 1871. His age then was shown as 30 implying that he was born about 1841. (In fact he was baptised at Chellaston in January 1839). This was a dramatic twenty year transition from the 1851 Census when Frederick was a mere 12 year old errand boy. In 1881 Frederick was still at 4 Full Street as a GP (no mention of surgery), now claiming to be 39 i.e. born about 1842. By the 1891 Census, however, he had moved to London and was living with his wife and son in Flat 3, 15 Kensington Crescent, age indecipherable but probably as dodgy as in the last two Censuses, occupation "retired surgeon". Living with them was his sister Eliza the former nurse now described as "living on her own means". In 1901 Frederick and his wife had moved to Godstone, Surrey. There he gave his age as 57 (born c. 1844) and described himself as a "Dr of Medical Surgery". In 1911 the couple were back in Kensington living at 164 Oakwood Court in an 8 roomed property including kitchen with their son Frederick Cecil Wright a 24 year old medical student. Frederick William gave his age as 71 (born c. 1840) and occupation as "medical." He died in 1916 in Aylesbury, described on his death certificate as "a medical practitioner" aged 77.

Frederick William's cavalier attitude to his age in the Censuses roused my suspicions. The descriptions of his occupation seemed similarly vague and indecisive. This was hardly an approach to accuracy and precision likely to inspire confidence in a patient facing some delicate medical procedure. I couldn't trace Frederick in the 1861 Census when he would have been 22. What could he have been up to?

In the course of my investigation I discovered another surgeon also named Frederick William Wright. This one was a decorated Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel with a distinguished career in the Indian Army. The Indian Army Frederick William Wright was born in Thorpe, Norfolk in 1850, retired from the Army in 1905 and died in Bournemouth in 1927. If Frederick William Wright of Chellaston the Green Street errand boy had been playing fast and loose with his birth date, could he, I wondered, have been doing the same with his occupation? Was he aware of Surgeon Lt-Col Frederick William Wright? Could he have been taking advantage of his namesake's reputation? Given the generic description on his death certificate, did he actually have any medical qualifications? It all seemed distinctly fishy. I began to wonder

if Frederick like his sister Emma was given to aggrandising his background. Perhaps he was a charlatan...

### **Or missing link?**

A family tree on Ancestry featuring Frederick William Wright could be viewed on application. I emailed the contact describing what I knew of him and asking if they could shed light on his whereabouts in 1861 and medical qualifications.

The lady who replied kindly provided a link to an article in the British Medical Journal. There it was in black and white, reassuring but embarrassing: Frederick William Wright of Chellaston and Derby was NOT a charlatan. He had studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh and gained diplomas as a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons. What I had also not realised was that at this time the term “surgeon” wasn’t confined to medics who cut people open but included what today would be describes as general practitioners. For example, in George Eliot’s Middlemarch set in the 1830s, Lydgate the “new surgeon” is effectively a community GP.

It got better. “In 1862 he joined his cousin Mr S W Fearn, surgeon to the Derby General Infirmary.” So Mr Fearn’s mother must have been the sister of one of Frederick William Wright’s parents, either Joseph Wright or Mary Wibberley. Huge excitement when Mr S W Fearn turned out to be Samuel Wright Fearn! In the Censuses Samuel claimed to have been born in Findern around 1810. I couldn’t find a record of Samuel’s baptism but his 1842 marriage certificate named his father as John Fearn, farmer. A Fanny Wright had married a John Fearn on 30<sup>th</sup> October 1809 in the Barrow-upon-Trent parish. Fanny was therefore Joseph’s sister.

### **Family doctors**

Samuel Wright Fearn’s obituary in the British Medical Journal archives was even more productive. He was described as the “nephew and pupil of the late Mr John Wright, an eminent operating surgeon in the town.” A Gazette notice of 24 February 1840 recording that “the partnership between John Wright and Samuel Wright Fearn is dissolved” confirmed the connection. If this John Wright was Samuel’s uncle then he had to be brother to my Joseph Wright the cowkeeper. In the 1841 Census John Wright 59 born in-County c 1782 was living in Friar Gate between a grocer and a haberdasher (later identified as no.9). In the same household were Judith Wright (Independent) aged 40 born in-County c. 1801, two surgeon’s assistants (Frederick Wright aged 25 born out- County c. 1826 and [indecipherable] Middleton, aged 20), Henry ?Cotswold aged 15 surgeon’s apprentice, 2 female and 1 male servants and Charles Child aged 10. Surgeon’s assistant Frederick Wright turned out

to be the son of Richard and Rosanna Wright of Ashby de la Zouche baptised 17 December 1815. A Richard Wright, surgeon, was one of the witnesses to a Non-conformist birth record dated 27 July 1780 for Samuel Stenson Wright son of William Wright and his wife Sarah daughter of Samuel Stenson born St Mary Gate, All Saints, Derby.

### **Friar Gate Chapel treasure trove**

I looked for Ancestry baptism records for John Wright and for his (and Joseph's) sisters Judith and Fanny (mother of Samuel Wright Fearn). I found records for the Friar Gate Derby Presbyterian Chapel (Records Office piece RG4/499) which seemed to correspond to the FamilySearch "The Old Meeting Presbyterian Findern" including the following :

1781 JOHN WRIGHT son of Samuel & Judith Wright, STENSON +( indecipherable) born 30 March baptised blank April by S Davies, DUFFIELD Another son listed named JAMES WRIGHT baptised by S Pilkington, 30 April.

1784 FANNY WRIGHT daughter of Samuel & Judith Wright, STENSON born 28 August baptised 3 October by N Philips

1790 JUDITH WRIGHT daughter of Samuel & Judith Wright born 2 May baptised 16 May baptised by [T or J] Owen.

The reference to Duffield in John's 1781 baptism tied in with the marriage there of Samuel Wright and Judith Tempest on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1780. References to Stenson in the baptisms of John and Fanny (and also Elizabeth baptised 20 October 1782) was further confirmation that Samuel and Judith were also the parents of Joseph Wright of Chellaston and Green Street. There was no sign of a baptism of Joseph Wright to this couple. However, as Ruth explained, records of Free Church baptisms etc were kept by individual ministers rather than in the triple-locked parish chests of Anglican churches. Their survival was accordingly a matter of good or bad luck. Joseph was one of the losers in the Free Church baptism record lottery. It made me guiltily grateful to Lord Hardwicke whose 1753 Marriage Act forced all except Quakers and Jews to marry in Anglican churches, otherwise the traces of my Nonconformist ancestors would have been even scantier.

The Friar Gate chapel records also revealed a further brother plus three sisters of Joseph :

1786 MARY Wright daughter of Samuel & Judith Wright born 23 April baptised 14 May Friar Gate chapel (Presbyterian) baptised by N Philips

1787 SARAH Wright daughter of Samuel & Judith Wright born 30 December baptised 20 January 1788 baptised by N Philips

1792 SAMUEL Wright son of Samuel & Judith Wright born 19 February

baptised 25 March by N Philips

1794 MILLICENT Wright daughter of Samuel & Judith Wright born 23 April baptised 18 May by N Philips.

Joseph (born c. 1796) would appear to have been one of, if not the youngest of Samuel and Judith Wright's children.

### **Disentangled Tempests**

Mike Bagworth contacted me around this time because I had listed Tempest as a name of interest in my membership application. After the Friar Gate Chapel Eureka moment I checked FS and found a Judith Tempest daughter of William and Anne (Hawkins) baptised at Duffield 1762. This was about the right age to marry in 1780 so I assumed (Pitfall no. 4) that this was the Judith who married Samuel Wright of Twyford/Stenson. Mike was able to correct this misapprehension. 1762 Judith married Ralph Baggaley on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1781 and died in 1848 aged 86.

My Judith Tempest mother of John and Joseph Wright et al was the daughter of John and Sarah Tempest. Sarah was John's third wife, born Sarah Salt. The source was a reference to Judith in John Tempest's will of 1759. John was the eldest son of Michael Tempest and Mary Wood who married in 1699 at Radford, Nottinghamshire. In 1708 Michael Tempest was living in Duffield at Burley House. He was named as executor for John Tempest late of Little Eaton. As Michael named his eldest son (Judith's father) John, Mike surmised that perhaps John Tempest of Little Eaton may have been his father. Virtually none of this information would have been accessible to me. I was immensely grateful to track Judith back and of course, to get the right Judith in the first place!

I was unable to trace any record of the burials of Samuel and Judith Wright but Problem no. 1 – Who were Joseph Wright's parents? - was now solved.

Corrections to errors in this article will be gratefully received and any further light which can be shed on this particular Wright family, especially those who remained closer to their Derby roots, will be greatly appreciated.

*JACQUELINE PEARCE [Mem No 8069]  
Cowes, Isle of Wight*

## *Hampshire Rambles*

I suppose that part of the reason for undertaking family history research is to find out “*where do I come from?*”. However, as we all have eight great-grandparents that is not an easy question to answer.

On my paternal side, John Baker was born in Derby but his father George Baker was born in Uttoxeter and his ancestors may have come from Dilhorne, also in Staffordshire. George’s wife Mary Barber was born in Melbourne in Derbyshire, as was her father, but her grandparents were married at Worthington in Leicestershire. John Baker’s wife Eliza Ann Allen was born in Nottingham and her mother was from Belper.

Joseph Ashby was born in Maxstoke in Warwickshire – his father and grandfather having been born in Fillongley, also in Warwickshire. Joseph’s wife Elizabeth Duffield (nee Hallam) was born in Derby but her father was from East Leake in Nottinghamshire.

On my maternal side, Joseph Warner was born in Mickleover but the Warners were from Roston and Joseph’s grandfather was born in Waterhouses in Staffordshire, where his mother was from. Joseph’s wife Sarah Jane Storer was born in Mickleover, as was her father, although her mother was from Minsterley in Salop. Herbert Day was from Luton as was his wife Zillah Kilby.

Just to add to the mix from my children’s point of view; if we look at my wife’s great-grandparents they came from Wrexham, Newcastle in Shropshire, Ireland, Worcestershire, Chepstow, Newport in South Wales and Basaleg (near Newport).

It’s funny the things that stick in your memory – while I still struggle to remember passwords and even our bank account number, I can still recall my father’s telephone number at work (he retired in 1982!) as well as both my mother’s and my uncle’s Co-op dividend numbers! In terms of actual memories, I do have some recollections of our 1963 summer holiday to California (no; not in the States – the one near Great Yarmouth!). I was not then 3 years old, but I can remember that me, my brother and Mum travelled by train while Dad and Grandad travelled by car. We had a bungalow right by the beach and the roof in Grandad’s bedroom leaked. Funny the things that stick in your mind! I think that all our holidays before 1967 were by train (Dad worked for BR so we got cheap travel) and up until 1974 we holidayed in either Norfolk or North Wales.

My wife and I were married in 1983 and apart from our honeymoon on the Isle of Wight (just one week!) we only had one holiday before 1989, after the birth of our eldest son. And youngsters today wonder why they can't afford to get on the housing ladder – go without and save up, rather than spend, borrow, spend and put yet more on your credit cards!

And on that subject – while we were at University my future wife spent a year abroad as part of her Languages course. No mobile phones or suchlike in those days, so apart from frequent letter writing our only contact was a once a week phone call which, to begin with, involved me going into Manchester to use an “International Telephone Box” – i.e. one which could take 50p coins! How would people today cope with such remote communication as that? (Yes; I am sounding like a grumpy old man!)

In the summer of 1981, following my graduation, I went out to Madrid to visit her, travelling all the way by train. I recall that it involved a middle of the night departure from Derby and a trip that lasted about 36 hours with changes of train in London, to get on to the ferry, getting off the ferry, somewhere in northern France, across Paris and at the French/Spanish border. Not a journey, on my own, that I would have contemplated in the years since – but on the plus side, because Dad worked for BR I was able to go first class all the way there and back for £5!

I think that I may be going a bit off topic, so before the Editor decides to leave chunks out (or even the whole article!) I had better get back to family history related stuff. (Mind you, the title of this article does suggest that I may (as per the Thesaurus) “stray”, “drift”, “lose the thread”, etc.!)

Talking of the younger generation (in my case aged between 27 and 32!) I was interested to read in Helen's last editorial of the “Famicity” legacy centre for the social network. To date none of my children or nephew or niece have shown any real interest in the results of my family history research. (My tongue in cheek suggestion of a Christmas family history quiz was not greeted with any enthusiasm!) It has left me wondering what will happen to all my work when I am but a name in the family tree. I have had a quick look at the “Famicity” web site but I am not yet convinced that it will spark any interest from the youngsters.

I also have a large number of Derby and Mickleover related books (many from the much-missed local publishers Breedon Books) – 46 (I've just counted them!) – something else for the boys to have to clear out when we are both gone.

Clearing out Uncle Peter's house and Mum's bungalow brought to light many items of interest – most which hadn't seen the light of day for many years and which I didn't know we had. It's probably my OCD rearing its head again, but I have created a "family archive" inventory – most of the contents of which will probably remain stored away until the boys come across them when they have to clear the house (I am being quite morbid this time, aren't I?!).

I suppose that the stand out item in the archive are the signatures of The Queen and Prince Philip – and the pen which they used. I had better explain: I remember going in to my father's workplace on several occasions; he supervised the drawing office at the London Midland Region's CM & EE Department headquarters in Nelson Street in Derby.

On [www.traintesting.com](http://www.traintesting.com) Dave Coxon states that following the electrification of part of the West Coast Main Line in the mid-1960's it was found necessary to monitor both pantograph performance and the state of the overhead line equipment. In order to accomplish this, an ex LMS coach was converted with the addition of a flat roof section and an observation window, etc. The coach carried the departmental number DM395580. The use of video recording was pioneered on this coach. I think we went on this vehicle on a works outing to Crewe in the early 1970's.

In 1973 a new coach was introduced which bore the name MENTOR (Mobile Electrical Network Testing, Observation and Recording). The vehicle, numbered ADB975091, was operated by the LMR CM & EE department and based at St Andrew's Wharf, next to platform 1 at the south end of Derby station and near to the offices in Nelson Street. The vehicle was converted at Swindon from a BSK 34616, built in 1955. I am not sure what exactly my father's role was, but MENTOR came under his jurisdiction in some way.

There were some press articles about "MENTOR"'s introduction into service, including one dated 12<sup>th</sup> January 1973:

*"British Rail, London Midland Region, has designed a new mobile laboratory which is being used to inspect, under operating conditions, the overhead equipment on the region's electrified routes, and to monitor the performance of electrical circuits in locomotives and rolling stock.*

*The vehicle is known as MENTOR – Mobile Electrical Network Testing Observation and Recording – and by definition "a wise and trusted adviser." It is a converted passenger coach. Air and vacuum brakes have been fitted together with B4 modern bogies to enable MENTOR to travel at speeds up to 100 m.p.h.*

*The vehicle has been given a flat roof, with a domed observation section in the centre and carries two pantographs, one of each type at present in use by British Rail. The pantograph is used by electric locomotives to collect current from the overhead wires, and the tests carried out by MENTOR include observation and recording of pantograph performance.*

*Inside the vehicle, the accommodation includes a compartment with a table and seating for six which is used as a conference room, a large instrument room, and the observation room under the domed section of the roof. This has bench-type seats fitted on a raised dais to enable observers to inspect overhead equipment.*

*Other facilities provided to make MENTOR completely self-contained include a small fitted galley for preparing meals, a toilet, and a generator room housing a 12-kilowatt diesel alternator which provided power for all services within the vehicle, and for the compressor used to raise and lower the pantographs. MENTOR can be marshalled as part of a normal service train to carry out tests on locomotives and rolling stock. A typical test would be to monitor the current and voltage of the electrical circuits of a passenger coach to enable any faults to be pinpointed from the recorder print out.*

*The London Midland Region's Chief Mechanical and Electrical Engineer's staff at Derby have been responsible for the development of MENTOR. It has replaced a vehicle in use since 1959 which lacked the facilities necessary to carry out complex testing routines on a modern high speed railway. MENTOR is the only vehicle of its kind on British Rail and will be used on other regions together with its crew to monitor overhead line performance under dynamic conditions."*

We also have a certificate acknowledging the presence of my father on the occasion of the first electrically hauled train ever to enter Preston station on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1973 (*"This was a C.M. & E.E. Test Train, run between Crewe and Preston, on completion of the 25 kV Overhead Line Equipment between Weaver Junction and Preston, being the first commercial stage of electrification Northwards to Glasgow."*)

After the electrification between Weaver Junction and Glasgow was completed in early 1974, The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh had a ride on the vehicle, which was marshalled into a smaller version of the Royal Train, from Preston to Lancaster.

My father kept the detailed programme for “*The Royal Tour of Inspection of Electrification Works between Preston and Glasgow*” which included the names of those presented to the Royal couple on board MENTOR:

*“Mr. Douglas Howes Chief Operating Manager, L.M. Region  
Mr. Frederick Clements Chief Mechanical & Electrical Engineer,  
L.M. Region*

*Mr. Donald Baker Officer in Charge, Mentor  
Mr. Derek Ashton Technical Assistant, Mentor*

Both The Queen and The Duke signed MENTOR’s visitors’ book, which my father kept.

My father’s last trip on Mentor was on July 7<sup>th</sup> 1978; after which the coach was no longer under LMR “ownership”.

Uncle Peter also worked for BR – between 1948 and 1967 he was employed in the Locomotive Testing Section of the CM&EE Department at Derby, and was involved in the testing of steam and diesel electrical locomotives on both passenger and freight trains. In 1959, he became responsible for the supply of point to point timings and loadings for all types of trains to the Movements Department of the London Midland Region. He kept an album of photographs that he took on some of the test runs – including some on board the Dynamometer Car that, according to Brian Radford in his “Brief History” booklet “*was uniquely technologically advanced in having an on-board mechanical integrator and also the capability to record the results of locomotive testing, whilst being operated in either direction of travel*”. Originally built in 1912, it’s final run was in 1967 and, eventually, it was conserved and restored for display at the Midland Railway – Butterley.

Enough of railways! What else do we have in the “family archive”? There is a Bible presented as a Sunday School prize to my grandmother from Luton Parish Church in 1906 and a Holy Communion book presented to her on her Confirmation on December 5<sup>th</sup> 1917. Also, my grandfather’s “*The Soldier’s Pocket Testament*” dated 17.5.1915 - I expect that could tell a few tales from the WWI battlefields! What is missing are any personal diaries – apart from one; my father’s 1944 diary. He filled it in daily for most of January giving interesting accounts of both his time home on leave and his activities with the army, but it then remains empty until Sunday 4 June when he wrote “*Left Gosport and went to the marshalling area*”. The entry for the following Tuesday simply states “*D Day. Loaded at Gosport early in the morning. The sea was rather choppy but not too bad*”. And the following day, “*Arrived off Normandy as it was getting light. Hung around all morning and were put*

*ashore about lunch time, on the Canadian beach. Tried to get through to the unit but Jerry was still in the way – spent the night next to a mine-field. Saw two Canadian trucks blown up. Jerry planes over all night”. The daily entries continue until Sunday 9 July when, “A letter arrived from mother posted on June 12<sup>th</sup>”. After that there are few entries – maybe keeping a diary was frowned upon in case of capture by the enemy and the revealing of anything useful to them – but Dad did record:*

*Sunday 6 August. “R. Orne”*

*Saturday 9 September. “Attacked Prince Albert Canal”*

*Thursday 21 September. “Holland”*

*Sunday 24 September. “Rhine”*

My father’s Unit eventually made it all the way to Hanover. One of the surprise finds was an album of army photographs that he took, including several actually in Hanover. There are a good many others and I must have a closer look at it to try and identify when and where they were taken.

Finally; amongst the various papers that we had to sort through after my uncle’s death were some typed notes headed “*History of No 18 Edale Avenue*” which was his home for over 50 years. I have no idea where he got the information from, but included in the timeline are:

*19 November 1899. Death of Albert Potter, farmer, at Micklover. By his Will he left an L shaped piece of land, known as the Golden Pingle, with frontages to Micklover Common Road (Station Road) and Poke Lane (Western Road) and the cottages erected on this land and fronting to Poke Lane, to his daughter Harriet Hannah Potter. Joseph Lowe of Radbourne, farmer, and John Watson of Micklover, wheelwright were appointed trustees.*

*27 August 1940. Death of Harriet Hannah Hartshorn (nee Potter) “without ever having had issue”*

*26 January 1947. The trustees (now Ernest Nadin and Joseph Potter) sold the Great Pingle to H.J. Warner Ltd for £2,200.*

*24 January 1957. Planning permission was given to erect 12 pairs of semi-detached houses and 1 detached house. In fact 3 detached houses were built.*

More next time (if the Editor is desperate!!)

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## **CHURCHES OF DERBYSHIRE**

### **48. Carsington St Margaret**

In the seventh century four monks set out from Lindisfarne to spread the Christian message to the Midlands. One of the brothers, St Betti, is believed to have stayed in this area and set up a preaching cross which is now on the village green at Carsington. The village is chronicled in Domesday as one of the berewicks of the Manor of Wirksworth and named Ghersintune, from the Old English meaning 'settlement by the cross beds'.



A small chapel was built on the hillside and dedicated to St Margaret and this was given to the Cathedral Church of Lincoln by Henry I. It remained in this patronage until the 19th century, when it was transferred to the Bishop of Lichfield and thence to the Bishop of Derby.

All this suggests that there must have been a building there as early as the beginning of the twelfth century, but no trace of Norman or Early English architecture survives, meaning that a complete programme of reconstruction was carried out, leaving the building much as it is now. Certain indications suggest that the work was done early in the 14th century. Battlements were added in 1648, probably along with the vestry. Whoever was responsible for this obviously had taste and skill as the building was left very much as the 14th century architect left it.

A good deal of repair and refurbishing was carried out in the nineteenth century. The building was re-roofed in 1854, at a cost of £300, and twenty years later it was re-pewed and a south porch added. At one time there must have been box-pews, for the panelling round the church is said to be formed from those that were taken out in 1874.

The building is a single rectangle some fifty feet long by twenty feet wide and fits beautifully into its surroundings. It has a very light interior, partly

due to some of the windows are filled with plain glass and partly due to the light colour of the plastered and tinted walls.

The east window behind the altar is of three lights and dates around 1320. The simple altar beneath is shielded on each side by curtains, while the whole of the east wall is veiled by curtaining. There is no provision made for a choir so that one proceeds straight into the nave, passing the pulpit on the north side. The nave itself is lighted by two three light windows on each side, some plain others filled by stained glass. The north east window is a memorial to Philip Lyttelton Gell [1852-1926] and his ancestors. The opposite window is a memorial to the matrons of the Gell Clan.

The dominating feature of the nave is the gallery at the west end. This now contains the small two manual organ. Just beneath is the font, which is almost certainly of 14th century work. It is octagonal, stands about three feet high and is two feet in diameter at the top.

The Parsonage House was built in 1637 and is a well built gabled house with stone mullion windows. This was replaced by a modern rectory in 1859, which stands on top of the hill opposite.

In 1638 the Yew Tree was planted, which still stands in the churchyard; a year later the sundial was erected on the south wall. The bell is dated 1704.

St Margaret's possesses some quite interesting registers, starting from October 1542, which record all sorts of parish activities. Nathaniel Boothouse, rector in 1696, engaged himself in a number of lawsuits, primarily with Robert Hayward, whom he described as rich, but stingy. In September 1688 the death is recorded of Sarah Tissington "*A poor young woman born into this world without any hands or arms, yet was very nimble and active in the use of her feet with which she could not only take up things from the ground and play at most childish games with her playfellows when she was a child, but also, when grown up she could knit, dig in the garden and do divers other services with her feet; she was 24 or 25 years and departed the day and year aforesaid; born and buried at Carsington*". Strangely there is no trace of her baptism.

The original registers are, as always, at the Derbyshire Record Office in Matlock. Copies are on the Derbyshire Family History website and have also been filmed by Ancestry. The Society also has copies of the Memorial Inscriptions as well as various books on the village.

## A SPY AND MORSE CODE

Around midnight on a clear dark night in 1940 a report came in to the newly appointed Home Guard sergeant that someone had been seen sending Morse Code messages to enemy aircraft. This required immediate attention and so the part time soldiers swung into action.

With guns at the ready the guard rushed to Stenson Road in Derby where the alleged traitor had been seen signalling. Within minutes they had their man and sent an urgent message to Derby Borough Police headquarters in Full Street, calling for assistance.

A young PC named Horace Smith drew the short straw and as air raid sirens sounded in the area, civilians scrambled into shelters and down cellars and members of the defence corps rushed to their positions, he dashed to investigate.

Arriving at the Home Guard shelter in Stenson Road, he came upon a scene of mayhem which at first astounded him and later sent him into peals of laughter. In a corner of the shelter stood an auxiliary fireman in full uniform with both arms stretched above his head while three Home Guard privates pointed their loaded rifles at him. The poor man was as white as a ghost and obviously terrified. From all accounts he had not been allowed to speak from the time he had been frog marched by the Home Guard sergeant off his cycle into the shelter. Obviously there had been a mistake of monumental proportions.

Apparently when the sirens had first sounded, the fireman, who lived near the Cavandish, had dashed to his bicycle and begun riding furiously along Stenson Road to report to his station. Meanwhile a report had come into the local Home Guard that someone had been spotted flashing Morse code signals to enemy aircraft as they flew overhead, searching for Rolls Royce.

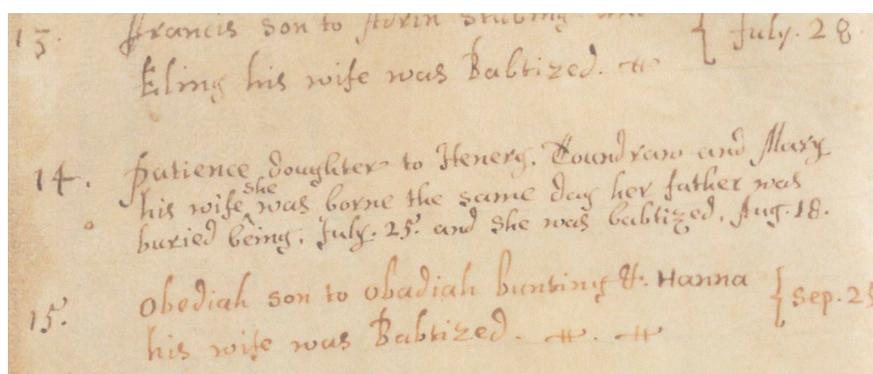
Sergeant Joe Greenberg, leading the Home Guard, believed he had his man when the fireman came charging down the road towards him and, stepping into his path, raised his rifle and ordered him to 'Halt or else'. Confused but not prepared to argue with a loaded gun, the fireman jumped off his bike and was frog marched to Stenson Road Home Guard shelter, where he was backed into a corner and put in the care of three young privates, all pointing guns at him. Hence the hilarious scene which greeted the policeman when he arrived to investigate.

PC Smith soon realised that the 'flashing Morse Code message' had been caused by the shaded front lamp of the fireman's bike flapping up and down as it bumped along an uneven road and someone believed messages were being sent to the enemy aircraft by Morse Code.

The poor fireman had no idea why he had been held at gunpoint for so long as he hadn't been allowed to speak. The Home Guard sergeant, Joe Greenburg, was a well known respected and down to earth hairdresser on Walbrook Road and soon saw the funny side of the incident. Indeed Captain Mainwaring and Sergeant Wilson from Dad's Army couldn't have made a better job of it.

Joe Greenberg is now deceased and so is PC Horace Smith, who became a detective with the CID and rose to the rank of sergeant, being a well known police boxer. He retired in 1960 having served for 30 years with the old Borough Police Force.

### ASHOVER PARISH REGISTER



Searching for primary evidence in the Ashover parish records I came across this entry for 1684. I'm not quite sure which way to look at this, as in that period of our history death was always there, but in this situation it is very sad.

*John Henstock [Mem No 2558]*

## Alehouses

The question of licensing and regulating of alehouses has always been controlled in various ways. The licensing justices seem to have been ever ready to receive and in a great measure to be guided by the expressed wish or petitions of the inhabitants of the districts affected.

In 1649 Nathaniel Ash, the clergyman of Scropton, together with the Churchwardens and nine other inhabitants, petitioned the court in favour of a license being granted to Thomas Rowbothome and Margery his wife *“very honest people of good carriage Credit and behaviour both in their own house and amongst their neighbours being both industrious and willing in any lawfull endeavours to get their maintenance and living but most desirous in regard that the house wherein they now dwell hath been an old accustomed Alehouse and victualling house and very fit and decent for lodging strangers and passengers being so necessary and standinge by the common hiewayside and of much respect and note of many who have made it their Inne”*. The prayer was granted.

In the same year a note endorsed *“For ye worpfull Coll Sanders at Derby”* is from the vicar of Wirksworth, a prominent Presbyterian:-

*“Much honoured Sir*

*May it please you to take into consideration the condition of Henry Hall of Wirksworth, who was formerly a shoemaker and lived of his trade is now through old age impaired in his eyesight and unable to work, and towards ye maintenance of himself his wife and children desires to brew ale to sell, and withal doth promise yt there shall be no disorder in his house. I humbly desire ye according to his good behaviour he may be permitted to brew and sell ale, and you shall thereby engage.*

*Yrs humbly devoted to you to his power*

*Martin Topham”*

Martin Topham was later to address the sessions on behalf of two other Wirksworth men who were desirous of obtaining licenses.

At the Michelmas Sessions of 1649 the churchwardens, constable and seven other residents of Horsley, state in petition that there have been two licenses houses for a long time in their town, one of which was suspended for disorder and beg that the license may be transferred to Richard Middleton *“Who hath kept an antient victualinge house and good order.”*

In 1650 a noteworthy case occurred, in which there is an irregular appeal from the sessions to a justice of assize.

*“To the right Honble Phillip Germin Justice of Assize and Goale Delivery for the County of Derby.*

*The humble petition of John Hodges of Belpar*

*Humbly sheweth that yr petitioner’s house in Belpar having beene an Inn these fourscore yeares and noe other Inn in the Towne there being greate want of an Inn and yr petitioner’s house very fit for that purpose and your petitioner always well affected to the Parliament.*

*That yr petitioner for one miscarriage out of his house was by Colonel Sanders and the Justices of peace for the County of Derby restrained for which he hath given satisfaction.*

*May it please your Lorpp if upon notice to Colonell Sanders and the justices of the peace at next Quarter Sessions the same bee not by them opposed to grant yr petitioner a license to brewe, to begin from and after the said Quarter Sessions.*

*And your petitioner shall dayly pray for yr Lorpps happiness”*

This is followed by a note in the writing of the Justice of Assize

*“Colonel Saunders and ye Justices of ye peace at ye next Quarter Sessions are desired to commiserate the petitioner’s case and to restore him to keep hi Inn as formerly if they see cause. Sale. Martii 22 1650—Philip Jermyn”*

Also in 1650 William Jackson, William Poyser, William Smedley, John Canton, Thomas Canton and Thomas Poyser petitioned the justices that Thomas Wood of Shottle *“may bee put downe from brewing”* the reasons alleged being that he was of loose behaviour and kept evil company in his house, not only upon ordinary days but upon the Lord’s day and was very *“unfit to bee authorised to keepe a victuallinge and Alehouse”*. The justices granted a warrant for Wood’s immediate apprehension, and he was deprived of his license.

On July 13th 1650 information was laid by an informer before Justice Manlove, that Thomas Hoode and Millicent his wife kept an alehouse without a license, and that they were *“much given to drinking and tiplinge”*.

An undated document, but from the Commonwealth period, affords an example of a petition against an expected penalty.

*“To the Right Honorable Bench of Justices of Peace for the County of Derby Whereas your poor petitioner Francis Woodhouse of Woodhouse in the Parish of Horsley in the County of Derby a coale minor having five small children and nothing but what I get by my hard Labor doth stand indicted through malice of a neighbour for filling of ale on the Sabath Day whereof*

*your Humble Pettitioner is wrongfully accused for the substance was but too pintes of alle that day which never was any use to break the Sabath day by filling ale nor no other unlawful matter in my house as all my neighbors can witness.*

*Therefore your poor and humble Petitioner Humbly Craves that your Honorable bench will consider my wrongful accusation upon such a small matter and consider my condition of my poor family which I hope your Honorable bench will be favourable to my distressed condition and I shall be bound to pray, etc."*

The petition is signed by William Hunter, John Lowe, Robert Fletcher, and nine others, who testify to their belief in the good credit of the petitioner. The result was that the court fined him a shilling.

A petition was presented on behalf of Sampson Blackeshaw in 1654. Signed by Christopher Sanderson and seven other inhabitants of Chaddesden it asked for a renewal of his license to keep a victualing house, as he was "*one of the ablest of that calling in our Towne for matter of outward estate and that there hath beene nothing objected against him, nor can be soe for we have knowledge of his carriage*".

In 1665 the humble petition of "*many of ye Inhabitants*" of Stanley was presented to the justices in session, stating that John Holland, an ale-house keeper of Stanley, "*doth keepe very great disorders in his house and three severall Lords day lately did suffer uncivill company to drincke and bee druncke in his house*", and praying that he might be suppressed. The petition is endorsed with brief emphasis "*To bee suppressed, John Holland.*"

An Order of Easter Sessions, 1688, gives a very imperious reason for withdrawing a license:- "*Ordered that John Holme and his wife of Kedleston bee suppressed from any longer brewinge or selling of beere or ale till further Order, it being obnoxious to Sir Nathaniel Curzon.*"

At the Trans. Sessions of the same year, William Robinson, of Hartshorn, produced a certificate from Justice Kendall that he was "*reformed in his manner and way of livinge, and again fit to be licensed to keepe a Common Alehouse.*" A temporary license was thereupon granted him until the next sessions.

At the Mich. Sessions, 1689, an instance occurred of a license being altogether withdrawn because the inhabitants did not wish for it. The minister and several of the chief inhabitants of Marston on Dove complained by petition that Gilbert Potter, ale-house keeper, suffered disorder in his house, "*and*

*further that the said village is not a proper place for an Alehouse, being remote from any Roade and that the lycensinge of an Alehouse there would bee very prejudiciall to the Inhabitants as an occasion of drawing their servants into Idleness and other Inconveniencies.”* Gilbert Potter was accordingly suppressed from any longer keeping a “*tipplinge house*” and no new license was granted for Marston on Dove.

A year later the justices suppressed the licenses of Robert Needham and Joseph Baker, both of Dale Abbey, because they suffered disorder and “*entertained persons that speake in derogation of the Government*”.

In the same year, Michelmas 1690, Richard Gray, of Repton, was reported for disorder, and lost his license, because he “*hath behaved himself Insolently towards their Matys Justices of the Peace that rebuked him for the said disorder.*”

At the Trans Sessions 1694 William Forman and Scipio Roulston, both of Longford, were suppressed as “*Persons unfit to use common Sellinge of Ale and Beer both in respect of the Situation and meannesse of their Houses not capable of Entertainment of Travellers and Way faireinge men, and alsoe persons themselves that suffer evill Rule and disorder in their houses.*”

The licenses of two houses at Repton were suspended in 1705 for three years for suffering drunkenness and the constable was ordered to remove the signs. Again, in 1707, the constable, for a like reason, was ordered to remove the sign of an offending house at Mugginton.

There are various convictions recorded against publicans of the first half of last century, but none of any special moment, unless it be this one, wherein the first case that we have met with of gambling on licensed premises is recorded. The following are the information of two witnesses, taken on oath before Richard Bagshaw, on January 26th 1746.

*“The Examination of John Oliver taken Upon Oath this 26th January 1746. Who said that on Wednesday ye 21st day of this Instant January he was at Thomas Thorps at Heeley with John Gregory and whilst they was at that place there came Abraham Cooper and Samuel Selvester into there Company and after they had been there some time they all went together to Robert Wainwrights at ye four lane ends in the parish of Norton and from there they to William Marshes another house at ye said Four Lane Ends, and this Examinant further saith that about seven o’clock last evening, whilst they was at ye said William Marshes there came John Wright of Dronfield and Samuel Sparks of Unston. And then he this Examinant and the said John Gregory*

*John Wright Samuel Sparks Abraham Cooper and Samuel Selvester all begun of Drinking together and soon after Sarah ye wife of ye said William Marsh brought in a Pack of Cards and this Examinant did at one time Brag £3.12s at another £1.16s at another £1.1s and Samuel Sparks, John Wright and Abraham Cooper all joined together and took up this Examinans money without ever showing their cards and he further saith that in ye whole the said Samuel Sparks John Wright and Abraham Cooper Cheated and defrauded him that night of about £18 and then they all fell upon the Examinant and struck and abused him after a barbarous manner.”*

*“The Confession of Samuel Parks taken this 27th January 1746 Who said that on Wednesday ye 21st of this Instant January about 3 o’clock in the afternoon John Wright and this Examinant went from Hole Milln in the Liberty of Unston to William Marshes an Alehouse in the Parish of Norton with an intent to Spend a shilling and when they got there the said John Wright called for a Tankard of Punch and whilst there John Gregory came in and Challenged to play him a Game at Whist but the said John Gregory and this Examinant play’d two Games at Putt and then there came in John Oliver who challenged this Examt to play him at Putts for sixpence a Game and after they played at Putt for 5s a Game and for half a Guinea and a Guinea a game and then this Examinant and John Wright Samuel Selvester and John Oliver who was all in Company and begun at a Game called bragg and at which said Games this Examinant got £9.8s 6d of which said money this Examinant gave John Wright 3 Guinease that night they having agreed before this Examinant and John Wright to goe shoares at what they won.”*

The license of a publican of Dronfield was taken away in 1778 “because a pair of Cocks were fought in the said house between twelve and one o’clock of the night and sundry other irregularities.”

***Taken from Derbyshire Annals, published in 1890***

## *Notes from the Peak*

### **Derby Daily Telegraph, 8 Aug 1884**

During the past week a large gang of poachers made a raid on the Duke of Devonshire's rabbit warren near Taddington. On this occasion a few gamekeepers and constables spoiled their sport. As usual, when such parties meet, a terrible struggle ensued. The poachers beat back their assailants with stones and injured one of the gamekeepers. The battle took place about day-break, and the yells and shouts of the contending parties alarmed the inmates at Mr Broom's farmhouse, which is close by the rabbit warren. An inspection of the ground immediately afterwards showed that large boulders had been freely used. The gamekeeper, Mr Lupton, although disabled for a time, was afterwards able to walk home.

The danger to the public arising through the insufficient care taken of persons of unsound mind by their friends was seldom, if ever, better exemplified than at the Bakewell Police Court, on Tuesday last. A gentleman named Goodwin, who it was very generally known has not been in such a state of mind lately as to warrant his being permitted to ramble about the country unaccompanied by a friend, was saluted by a person on the highway near Stoney Middleton on the day previous, and according to the testimony of this person and a police sergeant who was close at hand, Mr Goodwin deliberately fired a pistol at the head of the man who simply saluted him with the words "good evening". The policeman found as many ball cartridges on his prisoner, as might kill a dozen persons.

Judge Woodforde was entitled to a pair of white gloves at the Bakewell County Court on Saturday, but it has not transpired whether his honour got them or not. At any rate there were no cases to go before him.

### **Derby Daily Telegraph, 24 Apr 1885**

A new lead mine has lately been opened at the bottom of Shaley Lane, Ashford in the Water, by Messrs Garlick, Son, and Rowland, of Sheffield. Mr Simmonds, late manager of the now defunct Magpie Mine, Sheldon, has the management of the new mine. Lead was found for the first time on Saturday last. A good vein has been discovered, and the workmen are now actively following it up. This mine was in full working order about 35 years ago, and was then in the hands of Messrs Doxey and Spencer, of Ashford, who succeeded in getting out great quantities of lead. Another fresh mine has been opened at Green Cowden, about half way between Bakewell and Monyash. It is generally expected in the district that lead mining will become more remunerative in the near future. The business has been exceptionally dull for a

long time past.

Joshua Henry Von Tunks, of Bakewell, to use a common phrase, "put his foot in it", when he wrote to the general manager of the Midland Railway asking how it was that the side gate at the Bakewell Railway Station was closed on Sunday evenings. Joshua came by train from Rowsley to Bakewell on Sunday evening, 29th March, and because he found the side gate shut he would not go out through the booking hall, and gave much trouble to the officials. As Mr Tunks is looked upon in Bakewell as being a trifle eccentric, the stationmaster was inclined to overlook his little escapade on the platform, but Joshua thought that his rights had been interfered with and therefore penned an epistle to Mr Noble of Derby. He received no answer for many days, and complained bitterly of Mr Noble's discourtesy. To his surprise, when the answer came, it was in the nature of two summonses to appear at the Bakewell Petty Sessions on the 17th April to answer for his eccentric conduct. He was mulcted in a penalty of £1 and costs.

The fund which was started shortly after the death of Police-sergeant Radford of Stoney Middleton in January last, on behalf of his widow and four children, has now been closed. The total amounted to a really handsome sum. The amount received in Bakewell and the surrounding district was slightly over £50, Chesterfield and neighbourhood contributed about £20, and the Rev Mr Smith, of Stoney Middleton, received on Mrs Radford's behalf £40, £10 of which was contributed by the Duke of Rutland, making, in all, the handsome sum of about £110.

A foolish gentleman who came to the last Bakewell cattle market remained in town all night and next morning repaired to a public house, where he stood drinks all round to a mixed company. Some of the parties admired his beautiful gold chain, and foolishly enough, the gentleman took it from the watch, and gratified the desire of the curious ones by letting them one by one examine it minutely. They considered it a splendid article and were evidently much in love with it. Whilst the gentleman was ordering more refreshment the beautiful chain mysteriously disappeared. The police were called in, but none of the company could throw any light on the question. The chain was eventually found secreted in an ashpit.

**Derby Daily Telegraph, 29 May 1885**

The fire at Mr Shaw's farm premises, Monsal Dale, on Friday morning last, gave the Bakewell Fire Brigade the first opportunity for testing the capabilities of their new engine and apparatus. The brigade and their machinery behaved well. The alarm was given in Bakewell at 3.15 am and the brigade were pouring water on the fire at Monsal Dale, which is fully four miles from

Bakewell at a few minutes past four o'clock. Considering all which had to be done when the alarm was given in Bakewell as to rousing the men, getting the horses ready, etc., the short time that elapsed until the brigade reached the fire and got to work is highly creditable to them and their captain Mr F. Taylor. Through the exertions of the brigade the fire was confined to the building in which it originated and all the surrounding buildings were saved.

A very shocking accident occurred in Bakewell on Whit Wednesday morning, through which it is feared a young man, a native of Bakewell named Joseph Mellor, will lose his life. Mellor was a painter in the employ of Mr W. Sporle, the Avenue, Bakewell. On Wednesday morning he was engaged at his work at the rear of Mr Benjamin Gratton's residence in Matlock-street. He was at the top of the scaffolding, which through some unexplained cause gave way, and brought him to the ground. He fell on the hard pavement and when Mr Gratton, who heard the scaffolding coming down, picked Mellor up, he appeared to be dead. It was found that one of his legs and one of his arms were broken, and his head and other parts of his body were badly injured. He was quite unconscious for a few hours afterwards. Doctor Fentem was soon on the spot and did all he could for the unfortunate man who was removed to his lodgings, as it was feared he would not live during the journey to Derby Infirmary.

The Bakewell cab drivers say they never had so poor a Whit week. Visitors are not turning up by any means freely. However the agreeable turn which the weather has taken in the Peak during the past few days will in all likelihood be the means of removing those grounds of complaint.

The Wesleyan Methodist School children, teachers and friends had a very happy day on Calton Pastures, Chatsworth, on Whit Wednesday. Mr Martin, the Duke of Devonshire's agent, is never happier than when granting applications for the use of those delightfully situated grounds for such purposes. The Ashford Drum and Fife Band played the school to and from the ground.

A very sad event occurred at Baslow during the past week. A few months since Mr Simon Stevenson, landlord of the Green Man, Baslow, died leaving a wife and large family of young children to mourn his loss. About a month after his death, Mrs Stevenson gave birth to a child. A few days ago, after coming to Bakewell to transact business, she fell ill and died on Saturday last. Mr and Mrs Stevenson were well known throughout the Peak, and the comparative suddenness of death in both cases, more especially that of Mrs Stevenson, has produced a feeling of great sympathy for the unfortunate children.

## **OLD AND NEW**

### **News from the North**

Funerals are again popular in this issue, like buses one relevant news article comes along and before you know where you are, there is a proliferation of available information, but will you be willing and still able to take advantage of what is on offer. The choice may not be yours. The census, what you didn't know you didn't know. Tombstone, US A is still walking on the wild side after 136 years. Marriage are also rings a few bells. Polygamy "It's a man's nature" says the founder of polygamy websites. No, no, no: India's Supreme Court rules and ends triple "Talaq" Muslim divorces after an estimated 1,400 years. Whereas a Scottish Bronze Age burial site has had fans flocking to it for all the wrong reasons and the "smart urn" that helps ashes sprout new life. China bans religion for communists and offers up Karl Marx for free. In what free time is available I have started on a labour of love. The publication of a book on the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of Chinley Station, prompted me to start on a more down to earth version for Bugsworth / Buxworth Station and Gowhole Sidings. Buxworth Station did not achieve a similar life expectancy, closing in September 1958. Both stations opened on the same day in 1867. The emphasis will be on the interdependency of the station with the social life of Bugsworth / Buxworth village rather the facts and figures of railwayana. Trains maybe arriving late and will be ancillary rather than necessary.

Two dating sites for men and women seeking polygamous marriages claim to have attracted 70,000 members according to their founder, who says that he believes that they are responsible for at least a 100 weddings. There is no commission fee from where I sit but the sites Secondwife.com started in 2014 and Polgamy.com 2017 match married men seeking more wives, heaven forbid and probably does. With more women prepared to be in a multiple relationship, the practice of unregistered polygamy appears to be more commonplace than expected claims Dame Louise Casey. There are, she claims, about 100,000 couples living in Sharia marriages, many which have no basis in UK law. "The 1949 Marriage Act is out of date" so says Aina Khan, a leading family lawyer specialising in Islamic weddings. Only Anglicans, Jews and Quakers must register their religious service with the Register Office. Furthermore, skip the underlined words if you are of a sensitive disposition, polygamy offers men the opportunity to have sex with more than one woman and an easy route out of an unhappy marriage. Islam does not encourage polygamy but permits it in special circumstances.

However India's Supreme Court has struck out a law that allowed Muslim-

men to divorce their wives instantly by saying the word “Talaq” the Arabic word for divorce, three times. The Court deliberated for 3 months and decided by 3 votes to 2, that instant divorce, practised for over 1,400 years, was “unconstitutional, un-Islamic and manifestly arbitrary” to allow a man to leave a marriage “whimsically and capriciously”. Muslim women claimed that the practice was increasingly being carried out through email and apps. Muslim women had filed complaints in the Supreme Court, arguing that instant divorce violated their fundamental right to equality under the constitution.

Some men hide and others go out in a big way, a case in point happened at Bountiful, South West Canada. Two men have been convicted of polygamy for marrying 31 women. They were former bishops of a breakaway Mormon church and they often appeared in group photographs standing in front of smiling women in floral dresses with many children. Bountiful was founded by the Fundamentalist Church of the Latter Day Saints.

For the three decades the sect has been ruled by “prophet” Rulon Jeffs, whose death in 2002 was mourned by seventy five (75) widows. His son Warren is said to have married 81 women. The community has faced a challenge to find three wives for every man in town. Police in Canada and the US are now investigating Mr Jeffs Jnr and other elders of the sect for trafficking in child brides. Jeffs Jnr, serving 20 years in a Texas jail, is still able to rule the sect from his cell, no doubt with fewer demands on his attributes.

China's estimated 85 million members of the Communist Party have been warned that they are not allowed to have religious beliefs and those who do will be punished. Wang Zuoran, director of the state administration for religious affairs, claims that religion undermines communism. He also claims “Some foreign forces have used religion to infiltrate China, and extremism and illegal religious activities are spreading in some places, threatening national security and social stability”. On the other hand the Chinese government have offered a 21 feet giant statute to Trier in Germany to mark the bicentennial birth of Karl Marx, May 5, 1818. Astute and accurate observations by residents of Trier vary from “Communism is a shame and not an honour for Trier” to “China is not a free country, quite the opposite” and “We could draw up a longlist of human rights violations.” But change is coming, the forecast is that in the next 5 years China will morph from a class less to a cashless society. China was the first culture to use coinage and to invent paper money but how will the e-commerce cope with “The cheques in the post” --- destined to go the way of the dodo?

The publicity headline reads – “The funeral undertaking industry is under-

going changes that have made it an exciting prospect.” I leave you the reader to question the tact of that claim. But you may not be on hand to say “nay or yay”. Carrie Weekes is the co-founder of “A Natural Undertaking” The former librarian is one of a number of growing entrepreneurs shaking up the funeral business, from funeral comparison sites to eco-friendly coffin makers. “Dead Right” is a pioneering price comparison site. For handy reference “Compare the Coffin” and “Funeralzone” are the names that tick the boxes. Another headline reads “Fancy dress and kooky coffins help put the fun into funerals”. Sombre dress is being ditched in favour of themed funerals --- Star Wars --- Halloween --- Superman. A case of jettison the dark suit and tie funerals, now is the chance to wear gaudy clothes or fancy dress. There is a trend to reflect the passions and interests of the deceased rather than a serious and solemn ceremony. Huddersfield Town FC. endorses a pre-paid funeral plan. It offers a coffin in the club's colours bearing their crest, or with a home shirt and name on the back plus a blue and white floral bouquet (the club colours) , together with a condolence card and the ashes finally scattered around the pitch. The deceased can then enjoy a free perpetual season ticket with a worms eye of view of every home game. Bingo ! So far, I have not yet seen that offered up in any funeral programme

Your surviving relatives may welcome an extract from an aide memoir, which runs to 15 ways to keep down the costs of the last send-off, This choice is mine but you can opt for any of the other ten. 1. You do not need to hold a funeral. Direct burial or cremation is cheaper. 2. You do not need a hearse to transport a body. Any suitably sized vehicle is perfectly appropriate. 3. There is no legal requirement to use a coffin for a burial. A shroud, sheet or sack is legal although cemeteries may have regulations of their own 4. You can buy a coffin yourself and supply it to a funeral director. 5. Many crematoriums offer lower-priced slots if held before 10 am. It would be inappropriate for me to wish you the best of luck in your choice.

A Bronze Age stone circle in the Scottish Highlands has had fans flocking to it and conducting mock seances after it featured in the television series “Outlander ”. The setting for those not acquainted with the theme --- a nurse is transported from 1945 to 1743 and becomes involved with the Jacobite Rebellion. Fans believe that the stone circle acts as a time travel portal. The result has been a mixed blessing at Clava Cairns. Numerous complaints of graffiti and visitors cars blocking local roads have dramatically increased. There is no truth in the rumour that long lost relatives can be traced without surfing the internet, a disappointment no doubt for seasoned family researchers with a gordian knot in family history.

Tombstone, Arizona, 136 years after the Wild West's most famous gunfight,

abode of Wyatt Earp and Co. The former mining town in the Arizona desert remains trapped in a carefully maintained time warp, power lines are buried underground to preserve the 19<sup>th</sup> century illusion . Described thus “The wildest, wickedest nightspot between Basin Street and the Barbury Coast.” With Trump, the new C in C, and Tombstone bordering Mexico, Tombstone clings to the claim that it is “the only place in the country dedicated to the right to bear arms.” Arizona has the loosest guns laws in America. The Mayor, Dusty Escapule claims that most of the guys walking around are carrying six -shooters, although some of the gunslingers strutting about are performers in the daily shoot -out re-enactments. Lots of people come here just to dress in 1880's clothing and wear guns.

I have much more feeling for Ella Maton-Cole, 19, from Alton, Hampshire. Her full name is Ella Passchendaele Maton-Cole named after her great grandmother Florence Mary Passchendaele Fullick. Mrs Fullick was named in honour of her mothers cousin Gunner Frederick Fullick, who died aged 27 on September 30 1917 from war wounds received on the battlefield. Between 1914 and 1919 about 1,200 girls were named after First World War battles. There were girls called Sommeria, Arrasina, Dardanella and one given Passchendaele as a first name. Ella works in a nursery and her name is an extremely rare example of one of the names that has been passed on through the generations to today. Miss Maton-Cole was eight years old before she understood the meaning of her name, I always thought that it was “dressing down.”

A Census makes sense, but in 1800 nobody knew the population of Britain, one could be born, live and die unrecorded, so consider the question of your anonymity as you sit reading this – presently, several someone's somewhere know your name, age, address, location, finances, health, income and chest measurement and much more. “The Butcher, the Baker, the Candlestick Maker” a newly published book, lifts the lid on the manner in which our lives have become a goldfish bowl, even if a little murky at times. All this can be blamed on John Rickman at No ?? who promoted the idea of a National Census. “Account of the Population, 1801” was how the baby in the bathwater saw the first light of day. There were three successor Accounts conducted in 1812, 1821, and 1831.

The original census remits were brief and inaccurate, delegated to Parish Overseers in England, in Scotland to Schoolteachers. It gave a brief sketch of the number of inhabited and uninhabited houses and how many, women and children, excluding soldiers and seamen, lived in them. No names or ages were sought. In 1801 only 13 of the 51 counties in England made complete returns.

In Ireland, the Protestant majority was diligently counted, Catholics only estimated in bulk as they left the church. Mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century England's booming new industries led to both industrialisation and a surge in population. Hardly believable but a John and Mary Thomas of Chester had 33 children, including 15 pairs of twins, Mary outlived her husband, living to 85. No medals were awarded to either.

Ploughmen gave way to copperplate engravers, professional photographers flourished as executioners declined Snuffer makers went out as gaslights arrived. With the gradual introduction of compulsory education, amanuensis (writers of letters for the illiterate) and abecedarians (teachers of the alphabet) became obsolete. In 1881 one couple described themselves as "tramp and beggar". After 1931 "out of work" became a category. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century there were an estimated 400,000 "ladies of the night". Only 7 gutsy Cornish Falmouth girls had the courage of their many convictions to state that fact in ink. After the political fight for female emancipation "domestic slaves" was not an unusual stated census occupation. The next census is due in March 2021 and alternatives options are already being considered.

Consider this new option whilst scanning the birth, deaths and marriage columns in your morning newspaper. Read "Smart urns" not "Smart turns" will help your ashes sprout new life. With more and more household appliances going on line (keep reading) one day you could end up in a biodegradable urn designed to convert your mortal remains into a tree. It is claimed that in the past 4 years more than 100,000 thousand Bio Urns have been sold by the two Moline brothers. A cylindrical cardboard urn costs about £100 and has two sections. The top half is filled with local soil plus vermiculite granules, in which a tree seed is planted. The lower half is planted with the ashes of the deceased. Then out with prayer mats and hope your surviving relations turn on the rain. However the new £350 Incube, also known as the iUrn is an internet-connected planter designed for those who are more tech savvy than green-fingered. It offers a three gallon irrigation system that waters your fledgling tree for 20 days, plus a sensor to check on the growth.

I now read that one in five grandparents dislikes the name chosen for their grandchild. Names such as Charlotte and Jack have grandparents spluttering their indignation, along with the exotic Aurora, Elijah, Finn, Noah and Tabitha. The most common objection is that a name seems odd. This information comes from Gransnet the older version of Mumsnet.

I have mentioned before of the recommendation that never ask a question in court to which the questioner does not know the answer. Woolworth's were still in business and the female store detective, claiming almost 20 years ex-

perience, voiced the opinion that the defendant “gave all the signs of a shop-lifter.” The defendant's solicitor in cross examination imprudently asked her to define that description. The answer that came was “If you think that it is a hooped sweater, a cloth cap, wore a black mask and had a bag labelled swag you are completely mistaken.”

On the other hand jurisprudence can sometimes hard of hearing. A judge asked the prisoner whether he had anything to say before sentencing. “F\*\*\* all,” came the answer. The judge, evidently hard of hearing, asked the Clerk of the Court to repeat it. He said “F\*\*\* all, m' lord” said the Clerk. “That's odd,” said the judge. “I could have sworn that I saw his lips moving.” Everyone a little gem!

*Keith Holford*

### **ATTEMPTED SUICIDE AT DERBY**

On Wednesday an attempt at suicide was made by a woman named Mary Sharp, residing in Brook Street, Derby. The unhappy woman, who has for some time past given evidence of insanity, had been discharged from the Infirmary not long since in consequence of her extraordinary conduct. On Friday last she attempted self-destruction by taking opium, which was got from her stomach by the skill of Mr Greaves, her medical attendant. On the present occasion she had taken a large knife and drawn it across her throat, cutting the trachea but just missing the carotid artery and the jugular vein. Mr Greaves had just returned from another case when he was summoned to render her the necessary assistance and every prospect exists that she will do well. It appears that the guardians, having heard of her state, had determined to take her into the poor house, and an order arrived on Tuesday. The knowledge of this seemed to have prompted the rash attempt, for when she had used the knife, she came down stairs to her mother with her throat bleeding and exclaimed “You will send me to the Bastile now!”. No doubt every care will be taken of her by the authorities, so that she will not have another opportunity of attempting her life.

*Derbyshire Courier, 16th April 1842*

## **The Warners of Mickleover (and beyond) - Part 3**

In Part 1, I looked at where my 3x great-grandfather John Warner came from and at the families of his siblings. In Part 2, I looked at all the children of my 2x great-grandfather John and his wife Mary Harlow – with the exception of their youngest child, Job – my great-great grandfather.

Now, in Part 3, I will look in more detail at Job and his wife Elizabeth (nee Bamford) and their thirteen children. After their marriage in 1872, in 1881 Job, Elizabeth and five children were living on The Green in Mickleover, apparently next to The Cedars. In 1891, they were living in The Common End in Mickleover with nine children, while a tenth was living in the nearby village of Radbourne. By 1901 Job and Elizabeth had moved to Horninglow, near Burton, where they were living on Derby Road with eight of their children. However, by 1911 Job and three children were back in Mickleover, living in Sebastopol Terrace, while Elizabeth was visiting their daughter Caroline in Notting Hill in London (see below). As always, the ten-yearly census only tells part of the story, with various BMD certificates filling in some gaps. In 1897, the family were at The Royal Oak, Monk Street in Tutbury where Job was an “Innkeeper & Bricklayer”. In 1899 Job’s address was given as 172, Slack Lane in Derby.

Job died at the age of 76 in 1927; according to his death certificate from “Sweeps Cancer”. I have a copy of Job’s Will, which he had made just three months before he died and in which he appointed “*Joseph Warner & Arthur Warner my sons to the request of my business to make up your Mothers allowance to one pound per week & the use of the house & furniture for so long as she lives*”. He bequeathed various items to his nine surviving children and the two oldest children of his deceased daughter Caroline.

I will look at their oldest child Joseph (my great-grandfather) in the fourth (and final?) part of my article.

Samuel was born in Mickleover on November 4<sup>th</sup> 1874 and by 1891 he was living in Radbourne as a servant to Elizabeth Lee and her two children. Robert Lee was the blacksmith and Samuel was also a blacksmith’s apprentice. He married Mary Annie Elmes, from Radbourne, and was living at 75 Quarn Street in Derby, in St Alkmunds Church on November 10<sup>th</sup> 1897. In 1901 Samuel was a blacksmith of his “own account” living in Main Street in Hilton with Mary Annie and their daughter Rosa. By 1911 Samuel’s occupation was “blacksmith, shoeing and general” and their children were Rosa, Dorothy, Samuel and Kathleen. The census return stated that another child had

died.

Samuel suffered financial difficulties in 1920 – there were two “*Gazette Notices*” in “*The Derbyshire Advertiser*” on September 11<sup>th</sup> and September 18<sup>th</sup> with more detail given in a report in “*The Derby Daily Telegraph*” on Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>:

*“DERBYSHIRE BLACKSMITH’S FAILURE.*

*The first meeting of creditors with regard to the affairs of Samuel Warner, formerly of the Old Talbot Inn, Hilton, Derbyshire, but now of Mickleover, was held at the Official Receiver’s Office, Nottingham, on Tuesday.*

*Debtor, who is 47 years of age, was adjudicated bankrupt on his petition on Sept. 4. He commenced business at Hilton 24 years ago as a blacksmith with £5 of his savings. He admitted that he obtained the necessary stock on credit, and continued the business until September, 1917, when he became tenant of the Old Talbot Inn, the ingoing valuation of which amounted to about £70. Debtor removed the stock, etc., in connection with the blacksmith’s business to a shop which the brewery company also let to him, the total rent being £25 per annum. He has no money of his own to pay the valuation, but £20 was stated to have been paid on account, which amount was provided by a brother-in-law.*

*Debtor alleged that he had been handicapped for some years by having no capital, and his difficulties increased owing to the serious illness of his wife, who had been sent to a nursing home. He admitted knowledge of insolvency three years ago.*

*The deficiency account showed that the net profit on the two businesses during the last twelve months had only been £132 10s., whereas his household expenses during that period had been £208. The unsecured indebtedness included £12 7s. for medical attendance, £10 12s. 4d. for other goods, the balance being for trading debts, including a sum of £45 9s. 3d., stated to be owing to the brewery company.*

*The matter was left in the hands of the Official Receiver.”*

Finally; in “*The Derbyshire Advertiser*” of April 16<sup>th</sup> 1921:

*“Samuel Warner, formerly of the Old Talbot Inn, Hilton, Derbyshire, now care of Mr. Job Warner, the Square, Mickleover, near Derby, formerly innkeeper and blacksmith, now of no occupation. – First and final of 2s. 4d. in the £, payable April 22, at the Official Receiver’s, Nottingham.”*

Samuel died at the age of 62 in 1937, when he was living at 36, Station Road in Mickleover. The “*Derby Evening Telegraph*” reported:

*“Mourners were: Mrs. S. Warner (widow), Mr. Samuel G. Warner (son), Mrs. J. Colgan, Mrs. C. Wain and Mrs. E.M. Ackroyde (daughters), Mr. J. Warner, Mr. G. Warner, Mr. A. Warner and Mr. F. Warner (brothers), Mrs. Radford, Mrs. Snow and Mrs. Nicklin (sisters), Mr. Wain and Mr. E.M. Ackroyde (sons-in-law), Mrs. S.G. Warner (daughter-in-law), Mrs. A. Warner (sister-in-law), Mrs. W. Wain and Mr. P. Edwards.*”

Rosa was born in 1898 and married John Colgan in Marston-on-Dove on September 15<sup>th</sup> 1919. They had two sons; John, born a few months after their marriage, and Michael, born in Guisborough registration district. John died in 1968 and Rosa died in 1976 – they were buried in Mickleover churchyard. (In 1939, Rosa and John were living in Red-car).

Dorothy Violet had died from convulsions aged just 12 days on August 11<sup>th</sup> 1900.

Dorothy Violet Mary was born in 1901 and married Charles Wain in Burton Register Office on February 26<sup>th</sup> 1921. They lived in Grassy Lane in Burnaston and had ten children.

Samuel Gerald was born in 1904 and married Marjorie Gladys Warner on August 6<sup>th</sup> 1928 – they were both grocers’ assistants. In 1939 they were living at 1, Havenbault Lane with their nephew Michael Colgan.

Kathleen married Edward Ackroyd in Leicester in 1933.

Mary Ann was born on December 13<sup>th</sup> 1876 at Griffydham, Worthington in Leicestershire, but was baptized in Mickleover three years later. She married George Radford in Mickleover on October 23<sup>rd</sup> 1897. In 1901 they were living in Common End in Mickleover, as they were in 1911 when they had seven children. I think Mary Ann died in 1936; George having died in 1923.

Job was born in Mickleover on December 15<sup>th</sup> 1878 and died at the age of 20 in 1899 from pneumonia. He was buried in All Saints, Mickleover on June 27<sup>th</sup>.

Charlotte was born in Mickleover on January 18<sup>th</sup> 1881. She married Frederick Nicklin in Burton Register Office on March 28<sup>th</sup> 1900. In 1901, Charlotte and her son Frederick were living with her parents and in 1911, Charlotte, Frederick, with Frederick and William, along with Charlotte’s brother Arthur, were living at 20, Birkin Street in Bristol. In 1939 Charlotte and Frederick were living at 12 Bank Cottages in Mickleover with Charlotte’s niece and nephew Stanley and Margaret Walkerdine.

George was born in Mickleover on April 19<sup>th</sup> 1883. He married Nellie Poole in All Saints, Mickleover on July 29<sup>th</sup> 1905. They had an unnamed daughter who died 12 hours after her premature birth on July 16<sup>th</sup> 1909. In 1911 they were living on Cattle Hill in Mickleover with their two children who had been born in Hammersmith in London. They had at least two other children. In 1939 George and Nellie were living at 11A Warner Street in Mickleover.

George married Dorothy (Dolly) Warren in 1931 at St Lukes Church and in 1939 they were living at 158 Parliament Street in Derby.

Arthur married Ethel Stevens in 1927 and at one time were living in Havenbault Lane in Littleover.

Evelyn married Herbert Hall in 1935 and at one time they were living in Repton Lane in Littleover.

Doris married James Arthur Riggott in 1935 and at one time they were living at 53, Friargate in Derby.

Caroline was born in Mickleover on February 3<sup>rd</sup> 1885. In 1901 she was a washer at a ginger beer works, living with her parents in Horninglow. In 1911 “Cassie Wallendine” born in “MU Derbyshire” was living at 115a Walmer Road, Noting Hill in Kensington, London, with her husband of five years, “Ibany Wallendine”! (Pretty poor transcribing there!) Visiting them was Elizabeth Warner, born in Stenson in Derbyshire. Caroline Warner had married Harry Walkerdine in the Register Office in Fulham on December 9<sup>th</sup> 1907. Harry was a widower and aged 54. His father Jesse had been a property developer in Derby. Had Caroline moved to London with her older brother George and his family? Caroline and Harry had a son born on June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1911 – presumably this was why Caroline’s mother Elizabeth was visiting at the time of the census? Caroline died aged just 37 on June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1922 in Derby and Harry died on January 26<sup>th</sup> 1923, also in Derby. I think their children were:

Jesse William, born in 1911, married Elsie Young in Alferton on April 15<sup>th</sup> 1933. He died on October 23<sup>rd</sup> 1937.

Josephine, also recorded as Caroline Josephine, born in Kensington in 1913 who may have married Cyril Owen in 1935.

John born in Bristol in 1915.

Stanley born in Bristol in 1917. He may have married Rosemary Slack in 1944 and died in 1963.

(Does the family’s presence in Bristol from 1915-17 relate to Caroline’s siblings Charlotte and Arthur being there in 1911?)

Margaret born in Derby in 1922 who may have married Alan Litchfield in 1942.

Arthur was born in Mickleover on June 30<sup>th</sup> 1886. In 1901 he was a bricklayer’s apprentice and in 1911 he was lodging with his sister Charlotte Nicklin

in Bristol. Arthur married Beatrice Lily Payne in Bristol Register Office on February 15<sup>th</sup> 1913. In 1911 Beatrice has been a domestic servant at the Hope and Anchor in Avon Street – and Birkin Street where Arthur was lodging was just around the corner. Arthur died in 1949 and Beatrice in 1959. They had seven children:

Lily was born in Bristol in 1913 and married Horace Titterton in Derby on October 9<sup>th</sup> 1937.

Ethel was born in the Westbury registration district in 1914 and married Harold Millward in Ashbourne in 1935.

Evelyn was born in Bristol in 1916 and died aged 4 in 1921.

Elsie was born in Bristol in 1918 and married Herbert Craddock in Shardlow registration district in 1937.

Flossie was born in Burton registration district in 1919 and married Thomas Thornhill in 1939.

Arthur was born in 1921 but died the same year.

Violet was born in 1922 and married Alfred Archer.

When Arthur had returned to Mickleover with his family (c1918/19?) they moved into Sebastopol Terrace (where there had been many Warners in 1911) and Flossie and Ethel lived there for many years. In 1939 Arthur and Beatrice were living at 9, Etwall Road in Mickleover. Arthur died in 1949.

Walter was born in Mickleover on September 22<sup>nd</sup> 1888. In 1911 he was living at home and was a bricklayer's apprentice. He began military service c1914, 117051 gunner Royal Artillery enlisted Bristlington, Gloucestershire. He died on November 10<sup>th</sup> 1918 at the Second Southern General Hospital in Bristol from influenza and pneumonia. I had assumed that he had no family but, in one of those lucky finds that characterise family history research, I came across his military service record and found out much more. The Registers of Soldiers' Effects shows that Walter's War Gratuity of £12 10s was paid to his widow Rosaline. She was awarded a Pension of 25s 5d a week for herself and two children with effect from May 12<sup>th</sup> 1919. Walter and Rosaline had married in Bristol Register Office on August 11<sup>th</sup> 1915 and they actually had three children; Phyllis (1914), Hilda (1916, died aged 3 months) and Cyril (1917). Walter had enlisted with the Royal Garrison Artillery on May 6<sup>th</sup> 1916, being mobilised and posted on September 6<sup>th</sup>. It seems that he remained in England until February 7<sup>th</sup> 1917 and was then posted to the B.E.F until July 25<sup>th</sup> when he was invalided back to England and admitted to Horton War Hospital in Epsom with a foot injury. He rejoined the B.E.F. on November 20<sup>th</sup> but was again invalided back on August 26<sup>th</sup> 1918; spending two months in the Royal Herbert Hospital in Woolwich with shoulder and arm injuries. He was discharged from hospital on October 25<sup>th</sup> but was admitted to hospital in Bristol on October 30<sup>th</sup> where he died less than two

weeks later.

Elizabeth was born in Mickleover on October 7<sup>th</sup> 1890. Recorded on the marriage certificate as Emily Elizabeth, she married William Snow in the Register Office in Burton on January 15<sup>th</sup> 1912. Both their addresses were given as the Masons Arms in Mickleover; Emily was a domestic servant and William, a widower, was a barman with his father, John Snow, a licensed victualler. The 1901 census confirms that John Snow was the publican of the Masons Arms and that his son William was then married to Maria and they had a baby son, John William. In 1911 Annie (another transcription error?) Elizabeth Warner, aged 21, was a “general servant domestic” at the Masons Arms. Elizabeth/Emily and William had two daughters, Ellen (1912) and Dorothy (1915) and possibly a son, William (1918). In 1939 Emily and Dorothy were living at 2, Etwall Road in Mickleover.

Ada was born in Mickleover on September 1<sup>st</sup> 1892. She married James Baldwin in Derby Register Office on December 16<sup>th</sup> 1913 when her address was stated as 8 Lodge Lane in Derby. They had nine children, born between 1914 and 1937. Ada died on February 27<sup>th</sup> 1974 at 12 The Square in Mickleover; James having died at the same address on June 29<sup>th</sup> 1958.

Frederick was born on September 26<sup>th</sup> 1894 and married Lavinia Millward on June 5<sup>th</sup> 1922 in Duffield Parish Church. Their children were Rose and Geoffrey. My mother remembers them and recalls that the family lived in Warner Street in Mickleover. I recall seeing Geoff walking around Mickleover.

Percy was born in Tutbury on June 7<sup>th</sup> 1897 but died six months later from measles, broncho pneumonia and convulsions.

It is interesting that Job and Elizabeth’s youngest child was born after their oldest, my great-grandfather, was married!

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## CARNFIELD HALL ALFRETON DERBYSHIRE AND MY FAMILY TREE



The earliest documents relating specifically to Carnfield date from early 1300s and parts of the present Hall date from the mid 15<sup>th</sup> century when it was lived in by the Babington family. In 1502 it was sold to the Revell family. They were close relatives of the Harper family of Calke Abbey and when the Hall was remodelled it resembled a smaller Calke Abbey. The Hall was passed down through the generations to an illegitimate child Tristram Revell. When he died it passed to a cousin John Eardley-Wilmot and later to his son, also John. During this time William Wilson, a solicitor became land agent for the estate.

William Wilson was my 5xgreat grandfather and was baptised in 1745 at Alfreton, the son of John and Mary of Outseats farm.

He married Bridget Littlewood in 1772 at Bakewell. They had six children, Joseph, William, George, Sarah, Mary and Ann.

He was thought to have lived at the Hall with his wife and family.

He died at the Hall in 1816 and was buried at Alfreton with his wife Bridget, son George, and daughters Sarah and Ann.

He left a will mentioning all his family.



His son Joseph, baptised 1776 at Alfreton, married Elizabeth Bower in 1799 at Chesterfield. On his marriage bond, he was described as an attorney at law. He took over as solicitor and land agent to Carnfield Hall on his father's death.

He and Elizabeth had one child, a daughter Isabella born circa 1802.

Joseph clearly had a bit of a reputation. In 1813 there was a newspaper report of a duel between him and a Colonel Hall of Belper Regiment of Local Militia. It all seemed to have ended with no injuries to either party.

Outwardly Joseph appeared to be wealthy owning various properties and land and in 1834 bought Carnfield Hall. It was a rather dubious transaction and when no money exchanged hands, Sir John Eardley Wilmot took him to court and at this point other creditors came forward demanding what they were owed. A warrant was issued for Joseph's arrest for fraud and he was detained in Derby jail. Bail was granted and he returned home but he died in 1840 before coming to trial. He was buried in a vault at South Normanton along with wife Elizabeth.

William's daughter Mary, baptised 1772 at Staveley, married William Nuttall in 1796 at Alfreton.

Two children were born in Alfreton prior to the family moving to Nottingham where five more children were born. He appeared to have had a tithe farm at Bestwood Park and at some stage borrowed money off his father-in-law William Wilson. At the time of William Wilson making his will in 1812

this debt was still owing. William Nuttall died in 1818 and after his debts were paid there was very little left to support his family. William Nuttall and Joseph Wilson seemed to have the same disregard for money and I wonder if they were friends prior to his marriage to Mary.

William's sons William 1778 and George 1784 became drapers in Alfreton and possibly helped their sister, Mary Nuttall after the death of her husband as two of her sons went in to a similar trade.

Isabella, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth married Thomas Radford of Shirland (born at Smalley Hall in 1783) in 1829 at South Normanton. Thomas was the one who stood bail for his father-in-law Joseph enabling him to return to the Hall prior to his trial and presumably forfeited this due to Joseph's untimely death. Ownership of the Hall must have been settled as the family continued to live there until 1911. Thomas and Isabella had six children. On Isabella's death in 1853 the Hall passed to her oldest son Vaughan Hobbs Radford. She and Thomas were also buried at South Normanton.

Vaughan, born 1832 at Carnfield Hall, married Sabina Eliza Cursham in 1880 at St Georges Hanover Square Middlesex. There was no issue from this union and on Vaughan's death in 1911 the Hall was sold. Why did it not pass to another member of the family?

Vaughan had two brothers and a sister who predeceased him and his other two sisters were unmarried, so his heir would be a nephew. His brother Raymond Wilson Radford had five children, two daughters who did not marry and three sons. One son John is too difficult to trace with it being a common name. Raymond Edward married in Tynemouth and had four daughters. They remained in that area and none of his children married or had children. Raymond Edward born 1868 was the oldest of the nephews but the heir appeared to be Thomas Henry born 1870. He married Minnie Reams in 1896 at Lincoln and they had a son Thomas Raymond. By 1901 Thomas Henry had disappeared apparently to Canada to join the Gold Rush. Minnie remained in Lincoln with her son. She died in Lincoln Workhouse age 69 in 1941. She was "buried by friends" in Canwick Rd Cemetery. It is not known what happened to Thomas Henry, he no doubt hoped to find gold and perhaps return to England but maybe this didn't happen and he died still trying.

This part of the family obviously fell on hard times because of Thomas Henry's untimely departure but the unmarried ladies of the family all left wills leaving money to one another until eventually there was just one, Helen Elise who died in 1984 just a month after her sister Mary Louise. Probate for Mary Louise was granted three days after Helen's death, so if they intended leaving

money to one another it did not happen. Although it appeared that Minnie had no money, when her son Thomas Raymond died he left a considerable amount in his will. Perhaps "Heir Hunters" tracked him down and he inherited from his cousins.

It is difficult to imagine, the wealth that had come and gone and the stories that had been generated since the building of the original Hall in the 1300s. Some have been documented and others passed on through story telling. After falling into disrepair and ownership changing hands several times, James Cartland became the new owner in 1987 and spent 22 years restoring the building and filling it with an amazing collection of artifacts and today the interior resembles Calke Abbey. Restoration and maintenance will continue hopefully through many more years. The Hall continues to evolve as another family has taken on the protection and continuation of its history. I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to visit the Hall and meet this family a few months ago and because it is a listed building not much has changed for generations and it was like walking back in time.

My Nuttall family, because of William's ill fortune, ended up as miners in Newton, Alfreton until the General Strike, when my grandfather moved to Derby with his family.

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**Derbyshire Times and Chesterfield Herald, 10 March 1939**

The annual meeting of the Derbyshire Archaeological and Natural History Society was held at Derby on Friday, when shortage of funds to carry out important plans was deplored.

A welcome was accorded the new honorary secretary, the Rev M. Cross, who lives in the Society's property at St Mary's on the Bridge Chapel, Derby.

Brig Gen G. Meynell, who presided said that the chapel and its house were now in beautiful condition and ready to be handed over to the Cathedral authorities. It was hoped that it would be possible to hold services there.

## RESEARCH CENTRE AND LIBRARY



### BRIDGE CHAPEL HOUSE DERBY

#### Acquisitions at 1 Oct 2017

Ashby de la Zouche	Cemetery Register 1857-1880
Barlborough	Will of John Renshaw 1813
North Wingfield	Baptisms and Burials 1654-1687, 1713-1812 Marriages 1687-1812
Old Tupton	150 Years of the Methodist Church 1843-1993
Quarndon	The Quandary—A History Changes in the Village of Quarndon 1851-1901 <i>[Both the above kindly donated by Anne Powers]</i>
Spondon	Spondon's Power Station—A Century of Change and Innovation 1917-2017 –Peter Heath/Alan Hunt

## **Childrens' Homes by Peter Higginbotham**

What image does the word orphanage conjure up in your mind? A sunny scene of carefree children at play in the grounds of a large ivy-clad house? Or a forbidding grey edifice, whose cowering inmates were ruled over with a rod of iron by a stern, starched matron?

In Childrens' Homes, Peter Higginbotham explores the history of the institutions in Britain that were used as a substitute for childrens' natural homes. From the Tudor times to the present day this fascinating book answers questions such as 'Who founded and ran all these institutions? Who paid for them? Where have they all gone? And what was life like for their inmates? Illustrated throughout, Childrens' Homes provides an essential, previously overlooked, account of the history of these British Institutions.

Further information available from [www.pen-and-sword.co.uk](http://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk)

### **CHRISTMAS CLOSING**

Bridge Chapel House will be closed for the Christmas holidays from 4 pm on Thursday 14th December 2017 and will open again at 10 am on Tuesday 2nd January 2018. Please note also that Bridge Chapel House is also closed for the day on Tuesday 12th December 2017.

This is the only break throughout the year that our volunteers have, which is why we make it a fairly lengthy one. Hopefully we will come back in January refreshed and ready to solve all those problems that our members [and non-members] manage to find for us.

A reminder please to renew your membership as soon as possible to help out the membership secretary and also to avoid being blocked from our website. We are planning a great deal for 2018 to coincide with our brand new super duper website.

The Executive Committee of the Derbyshire FHS and all the volunteers at Bridge Chapel House would like to wish all of you a Very Happy Christmas and a prosperous successful ancestor hunting New Year

## *Ruthless Rhymes*

What follows is possibly breaking all today's politically correct rules—but I don't really care. The following three rhymes were provided by our chairman and come from 'Ruthless Rhymes' by Harry Graham. They were used as an example of what happens to children when they don't do as they are told. We found them hilarious, but no doubt today we would be told off for daring to frighten the little darlings so. Enjoy with no apologies whatsoever!

*Billy, in one of his nice new sashes,  
Fell in the fire and was burnt to ashes.  
Now, although the room grows chilly,  
We haven't the heart to poke poor Billy.*

AND

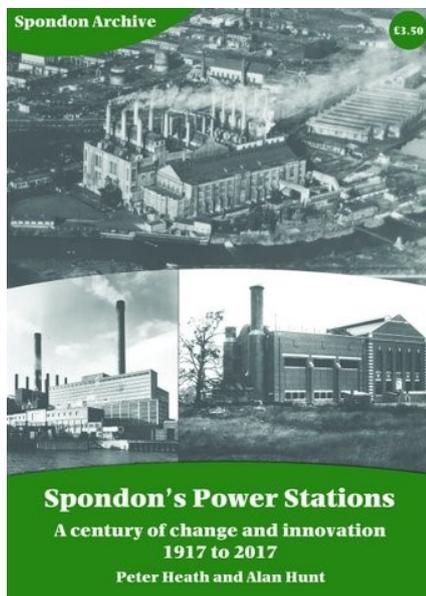
*Father heard his children scream,  
As he threw them in the stream,  
Saying, as he drowned the third,  
'Children should be seen, not heard'.*

AND

*O'er the rugged mountain's brow,  
Clara threw the twins she nursed,  
And remarked, 'I wonder now  
Which will reach the bottom first'.*

## **Spondon's Power Stations A century of change and innovation, 1917-2017**

For 100 years a series of four power stations sat on the plain below Spondon village. They provided the energy which allowed British Celanese to run its profitable industrial base here in Derby. The site was ideally situated next to the River Derwent with rail and road links to coal sources, which provided the essentials for power generation. This provided work for thousands of people over many years. The great buildings are gone; power sources are changing and employment moves on.



The history was written by Peter Heath, Site Services Electrical Engineer, who was responsible for all site mains power from 1970 until his retirement in 1997.

Alan Hunt worked for the CEBG until 1969 and then at the Celanese until his retirement in 1999.

This will be the twelfth book in our Spondon Archive series. It is different from our usual books, which are generally based on the social history of Spondon. It came to us as a densely-typed history of the power stations associated with the Celanese. The authors felt that it was important that the history of the site was not forgotten after it closed down in 2012 and work started on demolition. Our group felt that this was the

sort of industrial history we should also be preserving for the future. There is, of course, a social history side to the book for all the people who worked there who we hope will be interested in reading it.

Books will be on sale from November and available from shops in Spondon village centre: Spondon News, Housley's Chemists and Spondon Hardware, all in Sitwell Street. They can also be obtained by contacting me (Anita Hayes, 01332 662963 or email [secretary@spondonca.org](mailto:secretary@spondonca.org)). Books cost £3.50 plus postage. A list of other books in the series can be found online: [www.spondonhistory.org.uk](http://www.spondonhistory.org.uk)

**Anita Hayes**

**We welcome new members who have  
joined the Society by 1st Oct 2017**



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**MEMBERS INTERESTS**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Parish</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Mem</u>
LOMAS	Chapel le Frith	All	8090
LOMAS	Quarnford House	All	8090
LOMAS	Duncows Grove Farm	All	8090
LOMAS	Hollinsclough	All	8090

**Please note that if you would like your interests to appear in the Magazine please send them to the Editor using the above format—name, place, date range**

**Please note that you can now update your interests online by logging in to the website and going to the Members Interests section.**

**Changes of address to be sent to the Membership Secretary at Bridge Chapel House**

## **Do you have a Welsh branch on your tree? Searching for Derbyshire Blackwell's....**

One of the well-known difficulties in tracing Welsh ancestors is the small pool of surnames, most of which are patronymics. Unusual surnames are few and far between in Wales, so it made a pleasant change for me when, amongst all the Jones, Hughes and Evans in the parish records of Northop, in Flintshire, there was a sudden influx of English family names between 1640 and 1700 . Of particular interest to me were the Blackwell's and, later on, a Blackbond.

Northop and the nearby Halkyn Mountain were productive lead-mining areas. In the mid 1600's, "lead fever" took hold. Even the rector in the nearby parish of Halkyn was granted permission, by the church vestry, to sink a shaft, with the proviso that he would not endanger the fabric of the building, leave any rubbish nor disturb the graves. More labour was urgently needed to explore the newly-discovered veins of lead and the result was that, within a short period of time, more than 100 new surnames appeared in the parish. Miners came from as far afield as mid-Wales, Somerset, Cornwall, Devon and Derbyshire. These were areas where labourers, already skilled in other ore-extracting industries, such as silver, copper or tin, originated.

Word travelled surprisingly fast. Most miners from Derbyshire came on foot, many with all their worldly goods heaped upon the back of a donkey. Wives and children came too and little ones were often carried in panniers on either side of the donkey. They became known locally as "pannier children". Once arrived, the miners were on their own. They usually pitched tents on common ground, until they became established and were gradually able to use local stone to build more substantial housing, claiming squatters' rights. Halkyn grew from 79 households in 1681 to 192 households (about 797 people) by 1738. But lead mining, unlike coal mining, was an uncertain occupation. Shallow veins of lead quickly became exhausted and, to dig deeper, expensive machinery was required, to prevent flooding. Finding veins was a process of trial and error and the landscape was pockmarked by exploratory diggings – they are still to be found, to this day. Wives and children were usually employed too, in this dirty, unhealthy, hazardous work. It was hard graft for little money and miners died young, usually of lead poisoning. When the work dried up, many miners returned home. But our ancestors, Ann and Henry Blackwell, stayed in Northop and raised a family there. Henry was buried there in 1682/5, Ann followed him in April, 1699.

Their roots are a mystery. Henry Blackwell and his wife, Ann, made a sudden appearance when their son, Henry, was baptised in Northop in 1666. No baptisms or marriage have been found for either of them, but Henry is thought to have been born around 1635/1645, probably in a lead-mining area of Derbyshire - in particular, the parish of Youldgreave or nearby. Yet another "foreign" name, Blackbond, was introduced into the family when a younger Henry Blackwell (1742-1796) married a Margaret Blackbond (born about 1745) in Northop. Again, a Derbyshire link is strongly suspected – but not yet proven, despite years of searching. The hope now is that a baptism and a marriage can be traced, somewhere in Derbyshire, for Henry Blackwell and his wife, Ann, and perhaps also a baptism for Margaret Blackbond (around 1745). Since the Blackwell's son was baptised in 1666, their marriage may have taken place around 1664/6? We are very keen to find where our family came from and any help or research tips would be much appreciated. If you know of anyone researching Blackwell's, please pass the word on, or, if you suspect you may have a link, please get in touch. Maybe together, we can solve the puzzle!

*Email: Margaret Murray (murraymarg@hotmail.com)*

## **SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**To be held at the Quaker Meeting House, St Helen's Street,  
Derby on Tuesday, 10 April 2018 at 7 pm**

**Volunteers to stand for the Executive Committee  
would be appreciated**

**To be followed by a talk at 7.30 pm by Maxwell Craven**

**Refreshments available**

# Derbyshire Family History Society

Dec Quarter 2017



**On 11th January 1949, at 2.40 in the afternoon, a Window was unveiled in the Front Hall of the Rolls Royce Factory in Derby.**

**In the centre of the window stands the figure of a typical Fighter Pilot of the RAF, standing on the spinner of an airscrew. Behind it are the sheds and buildings of the Derby Factory. Above and behind him, ready to strike, is a golden eagle, representing heart and spirit.**