

# *Derbyshire Family History Society*



## *In This Issue*

Medieval Medical Theories

Origins of the Johnson  
in Tibshelf

Bonsall Enclosure Award

Hair Powder Tax

The poppies adorn Derby's  
Silk Mill  
See page 4

*Sep 2017*

*Issue 162*

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

### **MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS**

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

## **ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS**

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

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**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**

Welcome to the third issue of the year and I hope the weather has improved for us as I am writing this with rain beating on the window. A typical glorious British summer!!

A quick reminder for the Kew trip on 30th September. As yet the coach is not full and it is on a knife edge whether we cancel it or not. If you are intending to book, then please contact Helena and get your name down as soon as possible. Like I have often said, it is a good day out and we usually have a laugh as well as getting some useful research in.

Have you all been glued to the latest Who Do You Think You Are? I was quite encouraged by the first one, Charles Dance, thinking that they had finally got back to basics and had decided against jumping five or six generations back before they started doing anything. But no, they have reverted to type and the last one I saw featuring Adil Ray had me reaching for the off button. I think I shall give it a miss in future, I end up sitting there muttering under my breath at all the inconsistencies and assumptions so it is no fun at all. Apparently Adil traced back to Ugandan royalty [didn't know there was such a thing] and his tree was drawn up using hearsay which was taken for gospel. Enough said, hopefully our readers will at least try and prove their facts before drawing up their tree. Incidentally it would be nice if they could pick a few celebrities with a British line and go and visit places in Britain, instead of giving the BBC a freebie to all these exotic places abroad. Gripe over!!

For those researchers looking to pay a visit to the Derbyshire Record Office, just a reminder that they are now closed on a Monday and have also stopped opening on a Saturday apart from the last one in the month. Yet another example of cuts in Local Government.

I am hoping before the next magazine is due, that our new website will be up and running. I am sorry for those of you struggling with it, but it is being modernised and it isn't a quick job. Hopefully when it is done, we shall have records that members can access and also plenty of information that we hope will be useful. It should also be a lot easier to pay for membership, trips, research and anything else, as well as contact other members. We have plenty of ideas to put on line in the future.

See you next time

*Helena*

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### **MEETINGS 2017**

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

12th Sep	An Ordinary Copper—Ernie Drabble, M.B.E.
10th Oct	To be announced
14th Nov	A Tudor Christmas—Helen Chambers
12th Dec	Christmas Party

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

15th Sep	To be announced
20th Oct	Mrs Thorne
17th Nov	To be announced
8th Dec	Christmas Party



The Silk Mill played host to Poppies: Weeping Window during June and July this year. The cascade comprised several thousand handmade ceramic poppies seen pouring from a high window to the ground and was created by Derby based artist Paul Cummins and designer Tom Piper, originally for the Tower of London's Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red. During the First World War the Silk Mill was divided into two businesses—one grinding corn, the other making medical supplies, both of which were integral to the British war effort.

## **DERBY MEETINGS**

**Apr 2017**

The Plague Doctor—David Bell

This talk, that followed on from our AGM, should have carried a health warning akin to television's preparing people of a nervous disposition to look away now.

After a lifetime as a civil servant, David retired and moved to the Peak District. Eyam was not initially the first choice for a new home but it somehow came about and his daughter followed soon after. They had thought that their houses would not be unduly affected by the tourism in the village until the day the coach arrived!!! Dozens of people disembarked wanting to look at the waterfall and stream in the garden. It turned out that a villager had hidden there during the time of the Plague and they wanted to experience the complete effect.

David decided that if they were going to continually have coach loads of visitors, he would embrace the whole plague history. He investigated what kind of treatments were available for doctors to prescribe and what implements would have been used. He arrived with an array of bottles and various “medical instruments” that he proceeded to display their uses. A blow up doll, adult sized and dressed partially in the costume of the day, was used in his demonstrations of surgeries performed. No anaesthetics or antibiotics were available. David gave us a graphic display and dialogue about surgery that Samuel Pepys had to remove a bladder stone, where it took four men to hold him down and a sniff of Mandrake (LSD) to complete the operation.

There were no pills available and various ailments were treated with look alike remedies. Ginger or sweet potato, because they look like the intestine, would treat stomach upsets, celery to strengthen bones and garlic and peanuts for under performance are a few of the remedies mentioned. Other remedies were dandelion and burdock as a diuretic and gin and turpentine for constipation. Another cure for constipation was a bamboo cane and beef dripping – I will go no further and leave it to the reader's imagination.

Living conditions in London at the time of the Plague were horrendous. Waste of all kinds was thrown on to the streets creating bacteria, leading to rats and fleas. As the rats died the fleas moved to Humans passing on the infection and creating the Plague. Symptoms initially were flu like, leading to fever and buboes (boils). The buboes would burst and organs would fail, followed by death in 5 or 6 days. Whole families were wiped out and there was no cure.

*D.F.H.S. Sep Qtr 2017*

In September 1665, 350 people lived in Eyam and life was pretty good until a parcel arrived. It contained clothing from London and it was flea ridden. As soon as the people realised what was happening they quarantined themselves in the village, no one was allowed in or out. Rev William Mompesson banned church services and burials in the churchyard until the Plague had run its course. 260 of the 350 inhabitants had died but it had not passed to any other village.

Tourists today go to the village to see where it all happened, to look at the Riley graves and the cottages where whole families died and hope it never happens again.

Just to lighten the moment, one of our members asked David what he would do if he was stopped by the Police on his way home with samples of urine, bottles of Gin and a partly dressed blow up doll in his car.

### **May 2017**

#### **The Victorian Fair—Ann Featherstone**

Years ago in the time of Henry III charters were granted to the Lord of the Manor or parish to hold annual fairs. They were usually Trade Fairs enabling people to sell animals, produce and other wares. These fairs are still held today, although in a different form. They will continue until an Act of Parliament is passed to abolish them.

Ilkeston Charter Fair runs for three days in October and Nottingham Goose Fair also runs in October and are both well known in the area. Boston Sheep Fair and Birmingham Onion Fair are two other Charter fairs.

There were hiring fairs or mops, known as Statute fairs in the Midlands where there was a chance for people to find work. The existence of Mop Fairs in Studley, Stratford, Warwick, Burton, and Loughborough owe their origins to the early hiring fairs. Hiring was usually for six months but after one week an employer could terminate the contract, known as runaway mop.

Gradually over the years, more amusements were added and fairs got bigger and eventually the trade part disappeared. There were freak shows and peep shows, prize fighters and dancing girls, rope walkers and dancing dogs. There was the introduction of the Big Wheel and Rocking Boat. Along with all this pleasure came the darker side, the robberies, pickpockets and promiscuous behaviour.

By 1890 Family empires were beginning to emerge, along with new technology. There were Gavioli organs, steam roundabouts and sideshows. The



Goose Fair had a travelling Zoo and there was Vicker's Royal Alhambra portable theatre and animal trainers with performing lions.

People made a name for themselves for being different, The Ilkeston Giant, Mary Ann Bevan the ugliest woman and Madam Rosina for her disfigurement. Extra big or really small provided entertainment for the general public and probably a living for those who would have found it difficult to find work elsewhere.

Fairs have changed drastically in recent years and have little in comparison with the past but the Gavioli organ and the Galloping Horses are still out there entertaining young and old.

### **Jun 2017**

#### **The Life and Travels of Robert Bruce Napoleon Walker – Stephen Flinders**

What do the Battle of Trafalgar, Princess Agnorogoule Ikoutou of the Gabon, Amadeus Mozart and my wife have in common. This was Stephen's introduction to his talk. The stories passed down through the family had RBN Walker, 2x great-grandfather of his wife, fighting at the Battle of Trafalgar and meeting David Livingstone. There was a collection of correspondence between RBNW and Sir Richard Francis Burton. Intrigued Stephen decided to sort out the letters and investigate the Life and Travels of Robert Bruce Napoleon Walker .

RBN Walker was born in 1832 in Sussex, the youngest child of Henry and Charlotte. Henry was a lieutenant in the Royal Navy and it was he who fought at the Battle of Trafalgar. Robert worked for the trading company Hatton and Cookson of Liverpool and in 1851 travelled to the Gabon to join his older brother trading with the natives. He returned to England in 1854 and married Margaret Clara Ann Molesworth. He returned to the Gabon setting up Trading Stations along the River Ogowe. He joined the Royal Geological Society and they sponsored an expedition. Many ethnic artefacts were sent to Oxford Museums. It was thought that he probably met Stanley during his travels rather than Livingstone.

He and Margaret had two sons, Harry Bruce and Arthur Duncan born during visits home. Other children were born to Robert by native women, two in particular, a son Andre Raponda 1871 and a daughter 1873 by Princess Agnorogoule Ikoutou. Andre came to England with his father in 1875 but at the request of his mother he returned in 1876 and probably never saw his father again.

Margaret died in 1873 and in 1876 Robert married again. They had no chil-

dren and due to frequent separations the marriage broke down. Around this time Robert became dissatisfied with his life and decided a change was needed. He set out on a new venture to Marseilles via Paris to invest in an Ice-skating Rink Business. This failed and he returned to England. His next project was with the Guinea Gold Coast Mining Company as a negotiator for those prospecting for gold in Sierra Leone. The Company collapsed and at an enquiry RBN Walker was blamed. Again he found himself in financial difficulties and was reduced to begging off family and friends. He moved in to a house where Mozart reportedly wrote one of his symphonies. His reputation was now in ruins and he could not get work. He died in 1901 aged 68 and was buried in Broughton cemetery alongside Margaret. There was no obituary in the newspapers to show that anyone remembered him.

Albert Schweitzer was to build his hospital in Gabon in 1913 at one of the Trading Posts set up by Robert.

Andre Raponda Walker became the first Gabonese Roman Catholic priest and he lived to see his country independent.

RUTH BARBER

## **SOUTH NORMANTON MEETINGS**

**Apr 2017**

The Street Names of Sutton in Ashfield—Averil Higginson

Many of the names were obvious choices, such as Church Street near St Mary's Church or St Michael's Street, on which stands the church of that name. Sherwood Street and Forest Street are also obvious. With the arrival of the railways, three stations were built and that section of Forest Street became Station Road. Mr Arthur Howard Bonser built his house on Station Road, but the house was called Forest Lodge.

Carsic apparently is derived from the Anglo Saxon words for rough ground and a water course and Priestsic is the water course running beside land belonging to a Priest. I very much prefer the legend that involves Cardinal Wolsey. Henry VIII had demanded the Cardinal's presence in London and he began his journey to the south. Sadly he was taken ill en route and eventually died at Leicester. A sick cardinal is more interesting than a stream and rough ground.

John Owtram came from Brampton, Chesterfield, in the 18th century and his name lives on, though now spelled with a 'u' as Outram Street. Brandreth Avenue is a reminder of a family who were first mentioned in a record of 1543. One of the most noted members was Jeremiah Brandreth. Calling

himself Ned Ludd or the Nottingham Captain, he organised gangs of men to destroy the new hosiery machines, which had made the framework knitters redundant. It is two hundred years since the men met secretly at Pentrich. Eventually the bands were dispersed, Jeremiah Brandreth was arrested and tried at Derby, and he was finally executed for high treason on 7th November 1817.

Bonser Crescent was almost certainly called after Mr George Gershom Bonser. He was a councillor involved in education and wrote the definitive “A History of Sutton in Ashfield”. Sadly it was not published in his lifetime, but every shop in town seemed to have copies for sale, not just newsagents. My mother was the secretary in the Local Education Office on Station Road, and was busy with correspondence one day when Mr Bonser called on business with her boss. Glancing at an envelope that had just been addressed to a J.W. Turner Avenue he lost his temper and lectured her severely. “There are possibly many J.W. Tuners who have streets named after them, but in Sutton there is only one, James William Turner, and his name should always be written out in full. Mother duly destroyed the other envelope and always wrote the full name in future.

James William Turner came from a musical family and as a young man he joined the Carl Rosa Opera Company. With them he toured in the USA, Australia and the Far East. He formed his own company and toured with them, but he also found time to give concerts in Sutton in Ashfield. So I admit that is my favourite street name and I did have a scary feeling when I only wrote the initials seventy years after Mr Bonser died.

## **May 2017**

### **Nursery Rhymes—Paul Newsham**

Paul is a forensic scientist, but gives talks on a wide variety of topics. Two days before coming to our meeting, he had given a talk to my W.I. on famous comedians. My fellow members were so delighted with his talk, several immediately decided to come to listen to his nursery rhymes, thereby doubling our usual numbers.

Whenever we were asked, we recited the thymes with him. Some were intended for lullabies—Rock-a-bye Baby on the Tree Top—whilst others were to help children learn to count. ‘Goosey, Goosey, Gander’, found in a very early children’s book entitled ‘Gammer Gurton’s Garland’ was anti-Catholic propaganda as was ‘Remember Remember the 5th of November’ or the Gunpowder Plot, as the plotters were Catholics.

‘Sing a Song of Sixpence’ remembers the practice of enclosing live birds in a

pie to entertain guests when the pie was opened as the birds began to sing. Little Bo Peep appears to refer to an unfortunate shepherdess in 1805. But in 1300 Bo-Poop referred to the punishment of being put in the pillory. 'Girls and Boys came out to play' is a simple invitation on a moonlit night. Then Paul reminded us that even five year old children were expected to work through the daylight hours as they would miss both food and rest if they went out to play.

There are some regional variations in words, as we noticed when Paul recited 'Inky Winky Spider' and we all joined in with 'Incy Wincy Spider'. Anne Poyser, one of our visitors demonstrated the hand and arm movements to show Mr Spider climbing up, being washed down by rain and finally climbing up again.

We learnt our numbers with 'One, Two, Buckle my Shoe' and the days in each month with 'Thirty Days hath September'. When learning Latin at school we learnt 'In March, July, October, May the Ides are on the 15th Day'. In the other months they are on the 13th. The Nones are 9 days earlier so are either the 5th or 7th. The Kalends are always the 1st of each month and the other days are counted as before or after those three specific dates. As another variation of an English 'Three Blind Mice' I gave him 'Tres Mures' and 'Ardet Roma' instead of London's Burning.

I think the highlight for all of us was singing 'Oranges and Lemons'. Paul asked one side to sing the first line in a high squeaky voice and the others to sing the answering verse in deep growling tones. It made the question and answer format very clear. We all learnt the names of the bells and their churches and thoroughly enjoyed being back in the nursery world.

## **Jun 2017**

### Purseglove of the Panama—Roger Purseglove

Instead of a tale of spies and secret agents that the title of the talk suggested, we had the story of the building of the Panama Canal and the cruise through the Caribbean and the Canal. To celebrate an important wedding anniversary Roger and his wife flew from Manchester to Barbados, joined their cruise ship and sailed to Grenada, then on to Curacao.

When they arrived at Panama City, they were given a tour and a talk on the history of the canal by a Professor from Panama University.

After the completion of the Suez Canal, Ferdinand de Lesseps went on many lecture tours, describing all the procedure, fund raising, surveying and building. Someone met him on one tour and told him that the Panama area had

never been properly surveyed. In 1879 the Jesseps visited Panama and on his return began fund raising. He founded a newspaper and wrote articles on how a canal at Panama could improve trade routes.

Work began with thousands of men, but the physical effort of digging was overshadowed by the rampant diseases, yellow fever, malaria, small pox and dysentery, and there were also poisonous snakes, millipedes, mosquitos and tarantula spiders. A priest in Peru discovered how to extract quinine from the cinchona plant to combat the malaria, but at times 200 bodies per month were shipped home.

Work on the canal continued, but the French stock market collapsed and the Jessops went into recession. The United States of America took over the canal project. Teddy Roosevelt had fought against malaria and yellow fever in Cuba, so he introduced methods to destroy the mosquitos, spraying standing water with oil and using masses of disinfectant.

During the April-November rain season, the placid river became a torrent, so the Americans decided to turn it into a lake and then built a flight of locks to take the water down to sea level. Now workers died from rockfalls and volatile dynamite.

The Canal was eventually completed and was officially declared open in 1914 by President Woodrow Wilson. The Panamanians eventually took over ownership in 1987.

After sailing through the canal, Roger and Kathleen went up to Mexico and Acapulco Bay before leaving 95° F and flying home to Manchester—and snow!

AVERIL HIGGINSON

## FOOTBALL STORIES

My father Harold Lambert played in goal for St James Old Boys. He had saved two newspaper articles which feature the team. There was no date or information about the Newspaper in which they featured.

I thought they may be of interest as someone may recognise an ancestor's name in the accounts!



*I have this photo of the St James Team—but with the white trousers I wonder if it is a cricket team. My father, Harold Lambert, is on the far right of the front row. The Rev V Jagg is standing on the right*

### CORINTHIANS KEEP WINNING

In DIV 111 the Corinthians gained a fine win over St James Church Old Boys. The game was very fast considering the heavy ground. Playing better than their hosts the Corinthians had the bulk of the play in the first 80 minutes, but after the Old Boys exerted pressure and Foster missed an open goal. Following this Gale broke away and opened the Corinthian's account, to be followed in quick time by a second, after a clever dribble by Mosby. Brownhall reduced this lead following good play by Robson.

In the second half Winfield went forward in the hope of saving the game, and he equalised. Perkins and Lambert both made many good saves before Perkins put the Corinthians in front five minutes from time.

A draw would have been a better result on the run of the play. Wildbore played a fine game at the back for the winners.

### **L.M.S.'s GOOD VICTORY**

Despite bad weather and a very greasy ball, some good football was witnessed on the Osmaston Hall Grounds between L.M.S. T.U. and St James Old Boys. Both teams were 'at home' as they share the ground so there was no advantage for either team.

The L.M.S. was easily the better team, all playing and combining well. Their forwards soon got moving. Whitehouse narrowly missing with a low shot. Soon after this Boardman, the inside right just headed over from a centre from the outside left, Spencer.

The St James goalkeeper played splendidly.

Whitehouse opened the scoring, and the Old Boys equalised, but L.M.S. added another.

*Susan Boud [Mem 3018]  
3 Ingle Drive  
Ratby  
Leicestershire LE6 0NN*

Samuel Dawes, of Nottingham, collier, was summoned by authority of the Guardians of the Belper Union for neglecting to maintain his wife, whereby she became chargeable to the Union. The defendant admitted the offence, and said he had promised to make his wife a home in future. Mr Pym stated that if the defendant would repay the cost of maintaining his wife in the Workhouse, as also the expenses, and properly provide for his wife in the future, the Guardians would not press for his commitment to gaol. Defendant stated that he had no money and asked for time. Mr Pym stated that he could not say whether the defendant would pay if he had time allowed, and further that he had reason to believe that since he deserted his wife he had been cohabiting with another woman. The Bench informed the defendant that in the event of his not paying the money, 14s 6d, he would have to go to gaol for 14 days. Before the rising of the Court Mr Pym stated that he was willing to consent to 14 days being allowed the defendant. He left the Court with his wife, evidently well pleased with the leniency shown towards him.

*Derbyshire Advertiser 22 Jul 1870*

## *The 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Chinley Station*

To mark the anniversary of the opening of Chinley Station in February 1867 there are plans afoot by the Chinley and Buxworth Transport Group mark the occasion by the publication of a book on the station's history. Together with a display of old railway photographs at the Chinley and Buxworth village fête in July. The station's history can be followed through old newspaper reports and a wealth of photographic evidence.

Chinley Station was a late starter due to a landslip at Bugsworth on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 1866, this was barely a month after new Midland railway line to London through Chinley had been opened to goods traffic. The line was reopened to goods traffic on 24<sup>th</sup> January 1867 and to passengers on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 1867. Henry Gregory, the former postmaster, is recorded as having bought the first railway ticket issued at Chinley Station. With the construction of the Chinley to Dore and Sheffield line 1888-1893, the world appeared to be Chinley's oyster. Local newspapers sang the prospects and changes that were either under foot or planned. Chinley now had direct railway access to Sheffield, Liverpool, Manchester Central, Nottingham, Birmingham, Loughborough and London St Pancras .



*January 1908* Transferring the engine cleaning facilities from Buxton to Chinley. There has been considerable talk in railway circles of transferring the engine cleaning facilities at Buxton to Chinley. This means that engine cleaners, stokers, drivers and guards and their families will have to come to



live in Chinley. This would considerably increase the population and give an impetus to the building trade. Buxton's loss was to be Chinley's gain.

*July 1909* News headings in local papers publicised the progress of the new Chinley. The railway lines had been upgraded from 2 sets to 4 sets. There was new Shopping Arcade and the prospect of a new Co-operative Store. *October 1909.* It is stated that over 50 people, many of them railway staff from Chinley Station have petitioned New Mills Co-operative Society to open a new store in Chinley.



*Naze House, the original Station House*

*July 1910* Chinley gets a new gas supply. There has been much building of residential property of the villa type in the village, the dominant houses in Lyme Park and the north side of Buxton Road particularly full-filling the future promise of grandeur. The railway is now one of the most im-

portant railway junctions on the Midland Railway. *October 1911.* New Shops in Chinley are being erected on Lower Lane and the foundations of four more are on the corner of Green Lane and Princess Street (later changed to Princes Road). Chinley began to be talked about as the ideal residential place for commercial travellers and Manchester business men who had to make frequent journeys to London and other large towns on the Midland Railway network. *March 1912* New houses are being built in Princes Road, 9 houses are being built by Mr Alf Kirkham and 5 pairs of semis by Mr W. Gilman.

*March 1911* The Railwayman's Annual Social took place at Belle Vue Cafe, when about 20 railwaymen and their wives sat down to an excellent knife and fork tea served by Mrs Shepley. After tea a very pleasant social evening was spent, Mr William Boswell being elected to the chair and an excellent programme was gone through gramophone selections by Mr Shorthouse and music selected by Mrs Ada Braddock.

*March 1911* Chinley has not suffered very much during the Coal Strike, the Midland Railway supplying a full service of trains. Messrs Hadfield's bleach-works have several weeks supply of coal. Where as the Whitehall Works are not so well favourably situated.

*1916* A formal application was made to Chapel Police Court on Thursday to transfer the licence for the refreshment room at Chinley Station to the new Secretary of the Midland Railway, Mr Walter Newman Bancroft.

By 1920 Chinley Station had 33 trains to Manchester and 35 to Derby. By 1922 over 67,000 passengers per year were using the station; by 1925 the figures rose 110,106.

*January 1927* The Chinley and Buxworth Parish Council's request that reduced fares should be granted to Chinley passengers in line with those given to passengers at New Mills, Whaley Bridge and Hayfield was been turned down by the Midland Railway Company.

*March 1928* Mr J. Harford, Chinley Stationmaster sent a list of the men on the station to be considered for the local fire brigade. *September 1928* Complaints were made concerning the timing of the last train from Buxton which leaves before the opera is over.

During WW2 the train service was reduced to 24 per day to Manchester and 22 to the south and east.

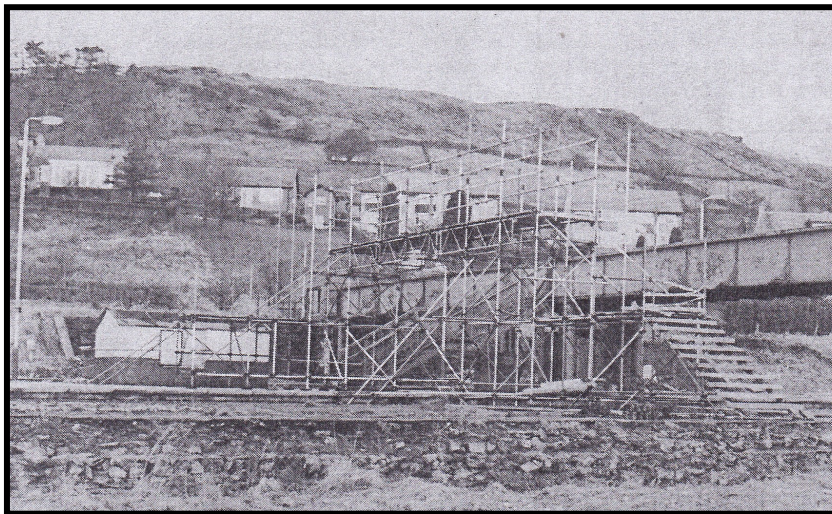
*1948* Saw the introduction of diesels No 10000 and 10001. Chinley paid a small part in the introduction of diesel electric locomotives into the British Rail system. 10000 and 10001 were the first mainline diesel electric railway engines to be built in Great Britain. Built in association with English Electric at the Derby works of the LMSR, they had a 1600 hp diesel engine. 10000 was officially presented to the press at the Derby works in December 1947 and out shipped just 3 weeks before the nationalisation of the railway network. 10001 appeared in July 1948. In January 1948, 10000 undertook tests on the line between London St Pancras and Manchester via Chinley. It hauled a 12 carriage train which also included a dynamometer carriage. The length of the train enabled Buxworth school children to claim that these trial runs were "Bridgers " that is the total length of train encompassed or exceeded the distance between the two railway bridges at Brierley Green, Buxworth. From February 1948 10000 was placed on the twice daily Derby to London return passenger route. 10001 also began service on the London to Derby Route, when completed, with a Derby to Manchester service. In late 1948 both 10000 and 10001 were withdrawn for modifications based on ser-

vice experience. 10000 was withdrawn from service in 1963 and scrapped in May 1968. 10001 was withdrawn in 1966 and scrapped in February 1968. A move by railwaymen to preserve both engines failed.

*April 1950* "They planned for a capital when they constructed Chinley Station with its five platforms and a bay." was yet another newspaper headline that reflected on the lost dream. Chinley had been courted as the Capital of the High Peak with its railway facilities, a much more convenient meeting place than Chapel-en-le-Frith. The High Peak Parliamentary Election results were planned to be declared at Chinley. A new secondary school was needed, also that must be at Chinley because of the travel facilities for children over a large part of the Peak.

*February 1951* British Railways says that they are changing their drinks licence for the refreshment room on Chinley Station to their Holdings Executive.

*January 1954* Land near Portland Grove, Chinley, owned by British Railways is being considered by the Chinley and Buxworth Parish Council for public toilets. *December 1955* British Railways say that the takings at Chinley Station over the last 54 Sundays is only £17.



*The sorry state of Chinley Station*

The closing of Buxworth Station on the 15 September 1958, concentrated the minds of Chinley and Buxworth Parish Council wonderfully. The proposal

in the early 1960's by British Railways to withdraw passenger facilities at Chinley Station was argued against within a seven page document. The Parish Council countered the claim by British Railways that Chinley only served a rural population. The fact that the annual passenger numbers in 1965 had fallen to 25,468. had no doubt influenced the endeavour of the Parish Council to keep Chinley Station open for railway passengers.

On 13<sup>th</sup> February 1973 the Flying Scotsman returned to Liverpool by sea from America. On the 19<sup>th</sup> February 1973, the first journey of the Flying Scotsman, under her own steam, was to the Derby workshops through Manchester, Chinley and the Hope Valley. The High Peak Reporter, with a picture of the Scotsman reports--The Flying Scotsman, looking slightly out of condition after its sojourn in America and trans-Atlantic crossing, steamed through Chinley Station on Monday morning on its way to the Derby workshops for repairs. Crowds of people were waiting on Chinley station, three quarters of an hour before it was due. Emerging slowly out of the fog, it was January 14<sup>th</sup> 1963 when the engine had last been used on public service. It was still bearing the No 4472, of the London and North Eastern Railway, it had been renumbered No 60103 by British Railways.

*29 September 1979* The Flying Scotsman hauling the Merseyside Express to York via Sheffield stopped at platform 4 at Chinley. The passengers were railway enthusiasts travelling from Guide Bridge via Sheffield to York.

*1986 July* The Manchester Evening News headline concerned a fatal railway accident at Chinley in which 41 year old Edward Everett lost his life. He was at the controls of a Sheffield to Manchester Inter City express which collided with two stationary "light" coupled engines awaiting permission to cross over to the main line heading to Buxton. Due to a power cut the automatic signals failed when Signaller Ian Holland pushed the switch to give precedence to the two light engines as the Inter City train approached. The lights remained red but the points changed, despite the driver Edward Plant swinging the controls of his two "light" engines into reverse, there was a collision. Edward Everett lost his life from the multiple injuries received in the collision. Clive Rushton, the High Peak Coroner, said but for Mr Plant's prompt action the casualty figures in the crash would have soared. Mr. Plant, later suffered two heart attacks and never worked again.

With the passage of time through a "slow war of attrition." the rail service at Chinley gradually deteriorated. Then out of the blue, after numerous complaints had been raised the 3 March 1989 Buxton Advertiser headline read "Chinley in line for a station to be proud of." It was the countering comment made by M. E. Anderson, Provincial Manager, North West Services, British

Railways Board. He quoted “That from May 1989 the Sheffield- Chinley - Manchester service will be increased to an hourly service and the journey times reduced by 5 minutes. The redundant platforms will be removed and a new footbridge and car park will be provided, with associated landscaping. Plans are afoot to apply for residential planning consent for the non-operational part of the former complex.”

The original station footbridge was demolished, the old local grit-stone station buildings were demolished, to be replaced with draughty bus stop type shelters. Hell on earth in a High Peak winter. The old footbridge was replaced, with a disabled unfriendly version. The surplus railway land was sold off to developers, houses were built and passenger numbers increased The small station car park became too small to cater for the number of cars, the adjoining roads became clogged . The Station survives.



*Chinley Station in 2017*

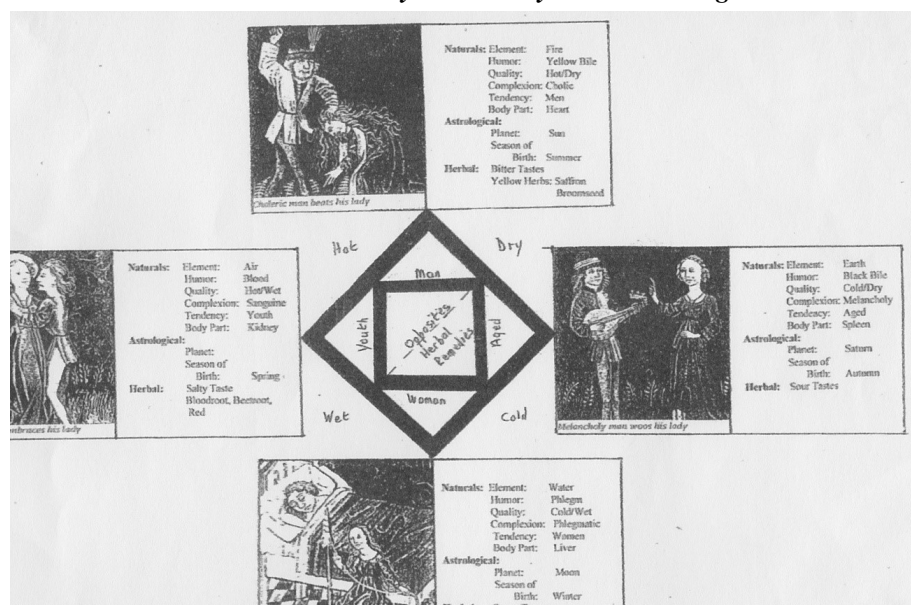
*Keith Holford*

## MEDIEVAL MEDICAL THEORIES

Modern illnesses such as influenza, small pox, dysentery and typhus sporadically visited medieval society, but unlike today, these diseases were often terminal. Although medieval physicians appear to have understood the concepts of infection, their knowledge was very restricted due to the constraints made upon them by centuries of religious doctrine.

As a result of this doctrine, medieval physicians were left stagnated with the archaic medical theories of the likes of Hippocrates (460–370 BC) and Galen (129-199AD). Disease diagnosis and cure, therefore, was based on understanding cosmology and how the balance of the ‘naturals and humours’ could be maintained within a patient’s body (see fig. 1). From the available medieval sources it is apparent that their only grasp of contagion was limited to leprosy.

**Fig.1. Showing the relationship between the Naturals, Astrological and Herbal ideas used in Anatomy in the Early/Mid. Middle Ages**



Avoidance of a leprosy sufferer was the recommended practice to prevent contact with the disease. The idea that bacteria were the cause of the illness would have been inconceivable, as would the idea that bacteria carried by rodent fleas would transmit plague to humans. This lack of knowledge not

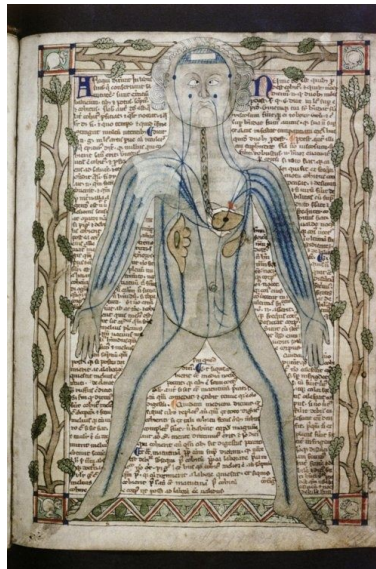
only restricted appropriate curative action, it also led to the inability to prevent the spread of the latter over the majority of the English countryside. Medieval medical roots lay in the rational Hellenistic teachings of the likes of Galen, who believed that the anatomy and physiology were theistic in character. The dissections they carried out provided a firm understanding of the structure and nomenclature of the human body, but their assumptions of how the components worked were not wholly understood. Consequently the organs and cells were conceived as a “mass of seething fluids” in which the humours flowed. The basic medieval theories were acceptable to Christian theology, since they were based upon the concept that “every individual being a microcosm of the universe would function in the same way as the universe”. Dissection, therefore, was considered to go against the teachings of Christ, and as a result the practice was forbidden in the Western world by the second century A.D. Consequently, the term ‘anatomization’ was used that involved the observation, partition or reduction....of the natural world in order to balance the natural humours of the body.

- **The Humours** were part of a group of 7 ‘naturals’; a combination of these explained the workings of the human body. According to Hippocratic medicine, the outer square (fig. 1) represented the four ‘classic elements’ – fire, earth, water and air. By the Galenic era the elements became known as humours –yellow bile, black bile, phlegm and blood.
- **A Quality/Tendency** was associated with each humour – hot, cold, wet and dry.
- The inner square connected the **Tendencies**; these in turn were associated with age and sex and operated in opposition to each other.
- **Principle Members** (parts of the body) had specific responsibilities:
  - Liver – nutrition, growth and reproduction (natural virtues)
  - Heart – chest and arteries (spiritual members)
  - Brain – spinal cord and nerves (animal virtues)
- **Spiritus** – air pneuma; produced in the heart and carried via the arteries. Fig. 2 [overleaf] shows a highly stylised Arabic/Greek based 13<sup>th</sup> century medical manuscript describing the pneuma and other systems.



- **Virtues** – activities of the system.
- **Operations** – functions of individual organs.

*Fig 2*



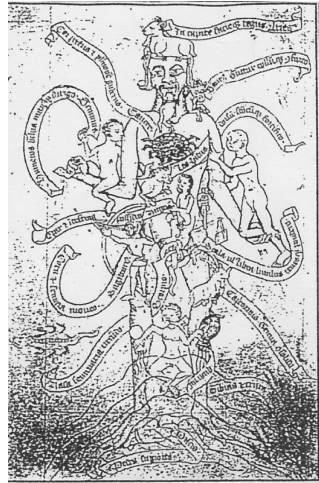
Each human being then, was made up of an uneven mix of the four elements, with one complexion predominating. The latter was perceived to derive from the configuration of the heavens at the time of a person's birth. The astrological significance of a patient, therefore, became an important factor in medical diagnosis. It was thought that the 7 planets and 12 houses of the zodiac influenced specific parts of the body. In order to interpret these influences many elaborate drawings were produced to assist the physicians (figs. 3 and 5).

Humoural medicine believed that prophylaxis (prevention) was as important as therapeutics (treatment). To remain healthy one should practice the use of the six 'non-naturals' – earth and air; sleep and waking; food and drink; rest and exercise; excretion and retention; passions or emotions. If qualities were perceived to cause disease and opposite cure was recommended. Should the colour of urine sample indicate humoural imbalance, a sympathetic herbal 'like-for-like' cure may be prescribed or phlebotomy, e.g. yellow broom seed cured jaundice, whereas red plants (blood root) relieved blood disorders. Geoffrey de Meaux (a 14<sup>th</sup> century astrologer) advised the use of "the natural power of adamant (magnet or loadstone) to attract iron or sammony (a powerful purgative) to purge yellow bile" and that "compound medicine, such as turbith, naturally expels phlegm from the stomach". By the 15<sup>th</sup> century phy-



sicians had developed diagnostics a stage further through the introduction of the Sphere of Pythagoras (fig. 4) that would give a prognosis for the patient's survival of his ailments.

**Fig 3. Late 14th Century English Astrological Treatise**



**Fig 4. 15th Century Sphere of Pythagoras used to assess if a patient would survive treatment**



**Fig.5. Book of Physiognomy showing the twelve signs of the Zodiac, the seven Planets influencing Human Lives**

Diagnosis and prognosis, then, was very much based upon the uniqueness of each individual and how their humours were balanced. Galen, in his 2<sup>nd</sup> century book on fevers states, “that the body suffers no corruption unless the material of the body has a tendency towards it”. C Morris, in his *Plague in Britain; Some Medical Aspects of Plague*, declares that John F. Shrewsbury “assumes that our ancestors

could not distinguish one disease from another". This is not the case, although he does comment "typhus fever was not differentiated from bubonic plague until the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. Our modern technical nomenclature for diseases such as typhus, plague, small pox and influenza may not have been used by medieval physicians, but they were aware of the different types of fevers presented by such diseases (pestilances).

There are numerous *Concilia* (plague tracts) written between 1348-1500, mostly based on contemporary Florentine literary sources, many of which are compiled by Karl Sudhoff editor of *Archiv für Geschichte der Medizin* (1911 and 1925). These tracts contain instruction on the causes, prevention and remedies of diseases. These treatise not only contain information outlined above; many refer to feverish illnesses that were the result of a patient's body coming into contact with poisonous air, either internally or externally. Mariano de Ser Jacopo, for instance, said, "the pestilence derives from corrupt and poisonous air". Another 15<sup>th</sup> century treatise explained, "sin was the cause of plague, although the physical cause was the corruption of the air by poisonous matter from the sea". To what extent 'corrupt air' affected people was determined by the notion of opposites; since air was considered to be hot and wet, people of cold, dry complexion would be less likely to contract a pestilence. Doctor Montpellier (in 1349) pinpointed the cause of fever to the three principle members in the human body (see above):

"Under-ripe food ferments in the stomach to create dangerous viscid And windy moisture, and draws the blood into the liver, which inevitably causes sickness and poisoning. This corrupt matter often forms a windy ulcer."

"When windy moisture has filled one place, it ascends via the jugular to the brain, and when it reaches the lungs it fills the pulmonary canal, stopping the movement of the lungs so that it cannot ventilate the heart to cool it...causing pestilent fever."

Each principle member was believed to have its emunctory (excretory duct) where it could expel waste matter: the armpits for the heart, groin for the liver and under the ear and tongue, the brain. Once the bloodstream has been exposed to poisonous air, physicians believed that a specific sequence of events occurred and that the position of erupting buboes indicated whereabouts in the body the poison had reached. Although these buboes were viewed as an omen of death, it was recommended that they should be allowed to 'ripen' and then, by the process of phlebotomy, be lanced to allow the corrupt matter to escape.

The concept of poisoned blood, buboes and corrupt air was, on the whole, deemed an adequate explanation for the causes of plague for medieval doc-

tors. In some respects, this notion was not too far from the truth, especially since bacteria were unknown until some centuries later. Many contemporary writers commented on the fact that rats were more numerous during plague periods and Jacme d'Argdmont of Lerida (1348) commented that feverish disease "may be connected to dirt". We now know that dirty conditions and rats exist side-by-side, a common phenomena in the medieval town and countryside. Periodically, especially in times of famine, rats become infested with innumerable bacilli in their bloodstream (bacteraemia). The fleas that feed from the infected rats ingest the bacilli, which attack their oesophagus, resulting in the inability to swallow food efficiently. The infected rats die, and in desperation their fleas attack a new host, the human, and regurgitate infected bacilli into a new bloodstream, poisoning it creating a new pathway for the spread of the plague.

The appearance of subcutaneous haemorrhaging (gangrenous pustules) is the first symptom of plague for modern day physicians. Once infected poisonous blood is carried to the lymphatic system, eventually creating enlarged lymph nodes at the armpit, groin and neck. Accompanying symptoms of modern plague are high fever, heart failure along with inflation of the spleen and kidneys. These symptoms bear a strong relationship to those given above by doctor Montpellier.

Corrupt air was ascribed as the reason why plague spread so widely and rapidly since it "could be drawn deep into the body" and when exhaled by a stricken human, would intensify the corruption of the air around them. Without the recommended protection of the nose and mouth and additional sweet smelling potions, further spread of plague was deemed inevitable. Once again, medieval medics were on the right lines, since primary plague (bubonic) can, in times of sharp temperature drop, move to the lungs developing into pneumonic plague that can be transmitted from human-human. Guy de Chauliac (1348) aptly describes the pneumonic stage as "continuous fever and expectoration of blood". The modern description being a "severe cough and consolidation in the lungs, rapid cyanosis and the discharge of bloody sputum that contain" the lethal *Y. pestis*, making transmission airborne ".

Medieval descriptions of disease do present us with clues about endemic disease, but it is impossible to make an analysis of how many people died of any particular ailment. Contemporary writers, as described above, tended to refer to all fevers as pestilence and few gave adequate symptoms to differentiate between one illness and another. Manorial and religious records noted deaths of tenants, serfs and priests, but not necessarily the cause of their death. Even

as late as 1632 the recording of deaths within towns left a lot to the imagination.

To the medieval doctor an individual mirrored the universe and any illness was the result of the negative influence of the natural phenomenon surrounding them. Knowledge of the internal structure of the body had been known for centuries, but medieval theologians had banned the practice of dissection, thus stagnating medical practices. Fortunately many anatomical diagrams were preserved to assist physicians in their art. Diagnosis and treatment, though, remained based upon these diagrams and upon the configuration of the planets that enabled them to maintain the balance of the naturals and humours within the body. Knowledge of herbs and their abilities to balance opposing influences were the main weapons to counteract most illnesses.

Fevers posed a problem because it was believed that such afflictions were difficult to contain, since exhaled air from a victim would intensify the poisoning effect of an already corrupt air. Numerous contemporary writers described a variety of feverish conditions, but they were ascribed the general term 'pestilence', thus making it difficult for modern physicians to decipher exactly which disease was, in fact, being described. Some writers did recognise symptoms that could only be describing plague and a few noted that the disease was mostly prevalent in areas with high density of rat populations and dirty conditions. Some differentiated between primary and secondary plague, but did not directly connect the rat and plague disease since they were unaware of the presence or spread of *Y.pestis* bacilli by the bites of infected rat fleas. What is most significant about 14<sup>th</sup> century medical theories and practices was the inability to prevent disastrous spread of plague throughout the country.

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## **HELP WANTED !!**

I am researching my LYNAM family and many of my ancestors lived in Nether Heage, so any knowledge of this name in the area would be welcome.

I have a large parchment document which covenants a well described house and piece of land from Ann Lynam to Matthew Doubleday in 1867. I think this may be on what is now known as Brook Street, Nether Heage and may be number 24 or nearby. In more detail, the property previously belonged to William Lynam, who was Ann's brother. Ann lived there after William died, then she covenanted the property to Matthew who was married to Ann's niece Elizabeth Lynam, whose father was a Joseph Lynam. Ann died intestate, her brother William had died before her as had her natural son Samuel, and it seems that the covenanted property somehow escheated to the Crown and didn't seem to end up belonging to Matthew Doubleday. Some years later in 1879/1880 my great grandfather James Lynam [who was Ann's great nephew] left a solicitors' invoice indicating that he was attempting to buy the property back from the Crown, but we have no knowledge of him having done so. Any history of Orchard House, Brook Street, or any house adjacent would be welcome, or anything else that could help to unravel the mystery.

Matthew Doubleday was listed as a school teacher in the 1871 census, any information on where to find any school records or anything about his brief time in Heage would be very useful. He was married to Elizabeth Lynam, she died as Elizabeth Doubleday, and was buried in Heage on 3 March 1969. Matthew was better known as a slater in Nottingham and also as an artist.

Did Matthew live in the house mentioned above or did he live elsewhere? Why did he take up school teaching in Heage for a year or two and why did he go back to Nottingham?

Where was/is Tithe Farm South Wingfield Park. Another branch of the Lynam family resided there. Is it the same as Park Farm South Wingfield?

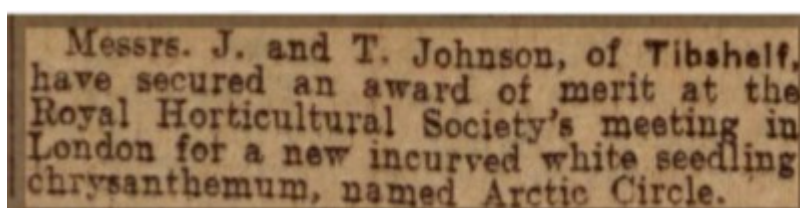
I have a good deal more detail about all this if anyone would like to know more.

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## *The Origins of the Johnsons in Tibshelf*

From the 1930s to quite recently, J & T Johnson were well-known chrysanthemum growers in Tibshelf. The business was started by Thomas Johnson, born 16 July 1884 in Tibshelf, and his brother Joseph Johnson, born 20 September 1878 in Newton. They won many national awards and were renowned members of the Royal Horticultural Society.

*Derby Daily Telegraph, 27 August 1932*

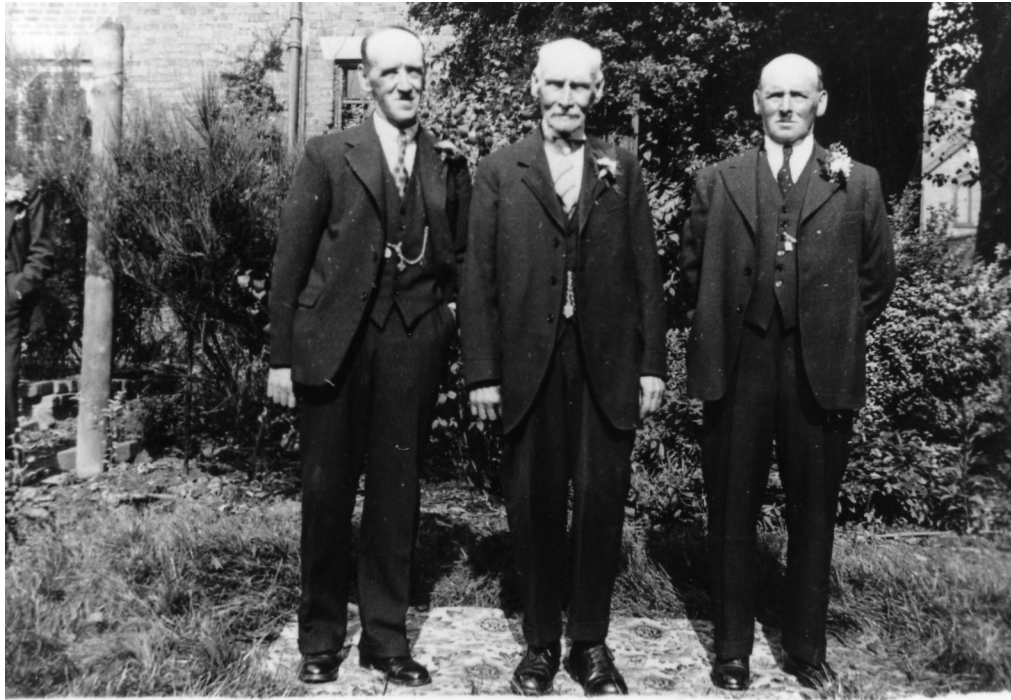


*Derby Daily Telegraph, 18 September 1936*



My grandmother Edith Johnson was their younger sister, and was born 24 Oct 1896 in Tibshelf.

Their father Thomas Johnson was born in Lount, Leicestershire in 1852, and was to father 12 children, including Thomas, Joseph and Edith.



*Thomas Johnson (centre), with sons Thomas and Joseph*

This article is planned to one of a series presenting the origins of the Johnson family of Tibshelf, and this one in particular concentrates on **Frances Johnson**, the grandmother of Thomas, Joseph and Edith.

**Frances Johnson born 1829 in Staunton Harold, Leicestershire**

Frances Johnson (b1829) was my second great-grandmother and until recently had been a completely unknown quantity to us. My parents started doing Family History research in the early 1980s, but little was known about Frances, even though her granddaughter (and my grandmother) Edith Johnson (b1896), was still alive at the time.

**Birth of son Thomas Johnson 1852 by William Astle**

All we have known for the past 30 years has been based on the information from various certificates. First, from the birth certificate of her illegitimate son Thomas (b 19 April 1852, Lount, Leicestershire), which gave his mother's name as Frances Johnson, with no father specified.

On Thomas's baptism record (15 August 1852, Worthington, Leics) his mother is given as Frances Johnson, while the father is given as Joseph Johnson

(in reality Frances's father), probably for propriety's sake. Thomas's marriage certificate (9 June 1873, Breedon) then gives the extra piece of information that Thomas's father was a certain William Astle. More on him later.

### **Birth of son John Bott 1856 by James Bott**

Coming back to Frances, we did know that in 1855 she got pregnant again, this time by James Bott, whom she married 21 January 1856 at Breedon, before giving birth on 6 July 1856 to a son, John Bott. After that Frances and James seemed to disappear completely. Census returns for the area in 1861 gave no further trace at all neither of Frances nor of William Astle nor of James Bott. Her son Thomas was living with his grandparents Joseph Johnson and Sarah Watson in both the 1861 and 1871 census returns, while her son John Bott was also living with Joseph and Sarah in the 1871 census.

### **What happened to Frances Johnson and William Astle?**

So what happened to Frances, and what happened to William Astle, the supposed father of Thomas Johnson? All will be explained below!

### **New research**

In 2014, I started unravelling the story of Frances of William. It seems like a soap opera. Frances was born around 1829 in Staunton Harold, near Lount, Leicestershire. No trace of her birth or baptism has yet been found, the only information on her birth is from the various census returns.

She was the eldest of 9 children of Joseph Johnson and Sarah Watson, who married 28 July 1828 in Breedon-on-the-Hill. The census returns all give her place of birth as Staunton Harold except the 1851 which specifies Lount. Her sister Elizabeth Johnson was born in Newbold and christened 24 July 1831 in Breedon. Her other brothers and sisters were all born in Lount.

So we know where the family settled, and we also know that her father Joseph Johnson was born 11 June 1809 in Coleorton.

In November 2015, I discovered that her mother Sarah Watson and grandfather John Watson had been born in Heathend, part of the then parish of Heathend and Staunton Harold, 3m SW of Breedon and 3m N of Lount. She was baptised in Calke on 26 November 1809, over the border in Derbyshire, but only 1m from Heathend. Her father John Watson was also baptised in Calke, on 8 March 1789. Unfortunately, Frances does not appear to have been christened at Calke, nor in nearby Ticknall or Melbourne in Derbyshire, nor in Breedon, Worthington, Coleorton, Whitwick or Griffydam.

Through the census return in 1841 for grandfather John Watson, we now



know where the name "Frances" comes from. John had a daughter named Frances, b1818, who was a younger sister to Sarah, her mother. That is, Frances Johnson was most likely named after her aunt Frances Watson, her mother's sister.

#### **William Astle born 1825**

On 19 April 1852, Frances gave birth to an illegitimate son, Thomas Johnson. From Thomas's marriage certificate from 1873, we know that Frances's father was William Astle. During 2014, I discovered that William Astle was born 15 May 1825 in Aston on Trent, Derbyshire, some 8 miles from Lount. In the 1851 census, taken 31 March 1851, his name is reported as William Astall, and he was actually living in Lount, the same village where Frances Johnson was also living. So this puts them together at the crucial time, being as Thomas Johnson was born in April 1852.

The question is, why didn't they get married? Well, William was not only in a relationship with Frances Johnson, he had also had an illegitimate child called Sarah (b1849) by a girl named Hannah Higgins, who not only was from the same village of Lount, but lived next door to Frances! He then got Hannah pregnant again in early 1852! We can imagine young William being asked to account for his actions by the two girls, as by early 1852, both of his girlfriends were pregnant!

#### **William Astle marries Hannah Higgins 1852**

In the end, William decided to marry Hannah, which he did 31 May 1852, just one month after Frances had her child! In the 1861 census, William and Hannah are still living together, and now they have 5 children: Sarah b1849, William b1852, Benjamin b1855, Elizabeth b1857 and Mary b1860.

#### **Frances Johnson marries James Bott 1856**

In 1855 Frances is pregnant again, this time by James Bott, whom she married in January 1856, before giving birth in July 1856 to John Bott. James Bott, however, is hardly the ideal husband for Frances. He continually either abandons her and his child or assaults Frances. He is convicted a number of times for assault and spend some time in jail. Frances goes into and out of the poor house many times between September 1856 and 1861, sometimes with both children (Thomas b1852, John b1856), other times just with John. Towards the end of the 1850s, Thomas moves permanently in with his grandparents Joseph and Sarah.

The reason why Frances is not immediately visible in the 1861 census is because she and son John Bott were at the time living in the Ashby de la Zouch Union Workhouse. James appears to have continued his life of crime and as-

sault, but following his spell in jail in February 1859, in March 1859 he was committed to Leicester and Rutland Lunatic Asylum, where he died in July 1864, aged just 29.

A further complication is that on 30 July 1861, (so after the census was compiled in April 1861), Frances had another child while in the poor house. No name is given, in fact when Frances is discharged from the poor house in September 1861, the child is still specified as "infant". As far as I can gather, Frances did not return to the poor house afterwards. The child was subsequently called George, on his birth certificate the father is specified as James Bott, who was though in the Lunatic Asylum at the crucial time, while William Astle was still married to Hannah Higgins. So there may be some doubt over his real father, and we will never know.

#### **Frances finally marries William Astle 1864**

The next important date is 1863, when Hannah Higgins dies. With James Bott also dying in July 1864, the way is open for Frances and William Astle to finally get together. They married 26 Dec 1864, and then lived together until William's death on 19 Sep 1899. Frances died 22 Jan 1903. They had two further children, Joseph in 1867 and Hannah in 1874.

In the 1871 census, Frances and William were living together with William's children by Hannah, and with George, who was born in the poor house. Thomas Johnson, also a child of William and Frances, was not living with them. Neither was John Bott, Frances's child by James Bott. Both of these children of Frances went to live with their grandparents, Joseph Johnson and Sarah Watson.

Presumably, when Frances and William got married in 1864, son Thomas, then aged 12, was not completely happy, and could have argued that being as William didn't want Thomas before, why should Thomas, now a teenager, go and live with someone who had previously refused him? Thomas was though in contact with other members of the Astle family, he and his half-brother William Astle (b1852) both moved to Tibshelf at the same time and lived within 100 yards of each other for a while. Furthermore, Thomas did name his second child "Fanny", so perhaps he wasn't completely estranged from his mother, even though they do not seem to have been in contact after Thomas moved to Tibshelf in 1875.

In all the census returns from 1871 onwards, the Astle family is registered as Hassall, and when Frances died in 1903, her death was registered as Hassell. Interestingly, her son John Bott was present at the death.

On a final note about William, it is interesting that he managed to get two young girls pregnant and didn't seem inclined at the time to "do the right thing", but eventually ended up marrying both of them!

#### **Thomas Johnson moves to Tibshelf 1874**

My grandmother Edith Johnson always said that her parents Thomas Johnson and Sarah Rushton Reed had eloped to get married in 1873. Perhaps, but why elope locally to get married in Breedon? Possibly the reality was slightly different, Sarah was pregnant at the time, so perhaps rather than an elopement, it was a rushed wedding! Soon afterwards, in 1874, he and his new bride moved away from Lount, Leicestershire to Tibshelf, Derbyshire, and the rest is history. Frances did not follow them.

Perhaps this is why there was no knowledge of Frances when my parents started researching her back in 1980, and our grandmother Edith Johnson, granddaughter of Frances, was still alive. Frances was an enigma, and the only mention of William Astle was as Thomas Johnson's father in the 1873 marriage certificate. Neither could be found.

Now we have unravelled the story and it is quite clear what happened. We are though still missing the exact date of birth of Frances. I suspect that she was born either just before or just after Joseph Johnson and Sarah Watson got married in 1828, most likely a standard 6-month Johnson pregnancy!

#### **Summary of Frances's life story**

1829 born: Staunton Harold.

1841 census: living in Lount, near Staunton Harold, parish of Breedon.

1851 census: living in Lount, near Staunton Harold, birth specified as Lount.

1852: gives birth to Thomas Johnson, father was William Astle.

1856: marries James Bott (January), gives birth to John Bott (July), enters the poor house at Ashby for the first time (September), after husband James deserted her.

1857-1861: in and out of the poor house in Ashby more or less continually.

1857: James Bott convicted for assaulting Frances.

1858: James Bott convicted for assaulting Frances.

1859: James Bott committed to Leicester Lunatic Asylum.

1861 census: living in Ashby poor house, birth specified as Staunton; gives birth to son George (unknown father).

1864: James Bott dies, Frances marries William Hastle.

1867: gives birth to son Joseph Hassall.

1871 census: living in Newbold, Worthington, with husband William Hassall, birth specified as Staunton.

1874: gives birth to Hannah Hassall.

1881 census: living in Newbold, Worthington, Parish of St Mathews, birth specified as Staunton. William is not present, I think he was in Leicester hospital.

1891 census, living in Newbold, Worthington, address Newbold Toll House, birth Staunton. William is back home again.

1899: William Hassall dies in Beeston, Notts, at home of daughter Elizabeth.

1901 census, living in Newbold, Worthington, St Mathews, address Newbold Gate House, birth Staunton.

1903: death of Frances Johnson Hassell, 22 Jan 1903, aged 74, in Newbold, Worthington. Her son John Bott was in attendance.

*John Lomas, 23 May 2017*

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*<http://www.lomascuderi.com/index.php/johnson-family>*

## SOUTH SITCH

Upon reading the March 2017 issue of the Derbyshire Family History Society journal, I was startled by seeing the photo of South Sitch, Idridgehay, in the brief article by Peter Cresswell. It so happens that I have a similar photo because of my connection with the Mellor family. George Mellor built South Sitch in 1621 according to an account by Maxwell Craven.

George was the great grandfather of Samuel Mellor who died in 1801 leaving the house to Mary, his youngest daughter. She in turn married Nicholas Cresswell as mentioned in Keith Holford's article concerning Nicholas' journal in the November 2016 issue.

The Mellor family, resident in Idridgehay by the 1450s, was ancestral to many of the branches of the Mellor family in Derbyshire. My ancestor Thomas Mellor, a freeholder at Town End, Chapel en le Frith, by 1620, could very well be one of these descendants.

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## **Philip Murray and the Tugboat Worcester**

In the mid 1960's British Waterways wanted to close canals that were deemed to be abandoned or closed to navigation. One such canal was the Peak Forest Canal that snaked into the High Peak ending in the Bugsworth Basin, High Peak. Bessie Bunker founded the Inland Waterways Protection Society (I.W.P.S). She had learned, from an unknown source, that British Waterways had issued a canoe licence during the critical period of abandonment. Using this information she persuaded all the local authorities along the canal to fight against the closure order. A meeting was held at the Bredbury and Romiley U.D.C Offices and the fight began. Eventually the closed to navigation argument failed and full restoration began, with pick and shovel movements. It was April 1992 before the canal was finally declared fully navigable again.

Philip Murray was a local baker in Chinley, he was both a boat enthusiast and a model railway buff. He invited the Chinley and Buxworth Parish Council to a cruise along the Bridgewater Canal in his tugboat "Worcester" Philip's prime motive was to persuade the Chinley & Buxworth Parish Council to support the full restoration of the Bugsworth Basin. The day cometh and the Parish Party boarded his boat on the Bridgewater canal. It was a cultural shock for Parish Party, the Worcester gave the appearance, that rust was a main component whereas the Swedish Bolinder engine shone brand spanking new, we could have had the picnic on the copper and brasswork. It being a Sunday, fishermen lining the opposite bank waved gratuitously, but this was about to change. Some bright spark asked whether the tug had a turn of speed, Philip in Toad of Toad Hall mood, fully opened up the injector muttering "turn of speed, turn of speed!" The tug surged forward causing a bank of thick oily smoke to drift across to fisher folk, whose shaking king fists, shouts and gesticulations didn't leave much to the imagination. The picnic took some time and it was a more leisurely cruise back to the start of the day.

I embarked on a whim, after all it is a boat story, to find out more about the tug "Worcester." The Worcester, built by Abdela & Mitchell Co, Queensferry, on the River Dee in 1912, was an iron tunnel tug, she worked the Worcester and Birmingham Canal through the Tardebigge and Shortwood Tunnels, which were 568 and 608 yards in length, towing a train of up to 12-20 coal boats, with a total displacement that could be 400 tons, at two miles an hour. Her length was 45 feet with a width of 6ft 6ins. It was built for the Worcester and Birmingham Canal at a cost of £766. The engine was originally a 36 hp twin cylinder British Kromhout built for Perman & Co by Plenty & Sons, Newbury, Berkshire. The original engine gave out pungent fumes, following legal action the Sharpness New Dock Co had it re-engined in 1930 with a 30

hp semi-diesel Swedish Bolinder engine. The original superstructure was painted cream, the hull black, with a red oxide roof. On the nationalisation of the canal network in 1948, British Waterways changed the paintwork to the in-house blue and yellow livery. After a full restoration in 1978 "Worcester" reverted to its original colour scheme, superstructure cream, hull black, red oxide roof.



*Tugboat Worcester before restoration*

She operated with a crew of two, the engineer was paid 30 shillings a week and the steerer 25 shillings. The crew didn't live on board, but lived in rented lodgings in Tardebigge, a row of houses still known as "Tug Row." 7 years after nationalisation, horse drawn boats were withdrawn from service, Worcester continued to be used, mainly as an ice breaker until 1959 when it was recommended that she be "cut up and scrapped." She was eventually sold to "Precision Dies and Tools" of Tardebigge, she was barely used, and in 1963/64 she was sold into private ownership and moored on the Bridgewater Canal.

That time scale and the mention of private ownership points to that ownership being Philip Murray, it was in the autumn of 1968 when Philip staged the "Parish Council Picnic" on the Bridgewater Canal with free Pyrotechnics and optional thick black smoke. "Philip's Picnic Magic" worked for on the 14 September 1968, the High Peak Reporter heads a report with headline "*Canal work started on the Bugsworth Basin.*" Councillors Atkins and Holford are depicted holding spades, but not aggressively digging on site. On the 8 August 1969, in the same paper the headline now reads "*Buxworth's Big Day*" by-line "*Canal Volunteers Complete the First Hundred Yards of the Bugsworth Basin.*" The name "Bugsworth Basin" was retained by the "Inland

Waterways Protection Society” a new conservation group that took over the lease and the restoration work on site. So highlighting the still current dual usage of the village name, Bugsworth and Buxworth.

In 1968 Worcester attended the National Boat Rally held at Marple on the Macclesfield Canal. Due to there being an insufficient water supply, Worcester was unable to return to the Bridgwater Canal. There was no call to “Abandon Ship!” but Worcester was left to deteriorate and sank at High Lane where she remained waiting for a Good Samaritan with ample financial resources. In 1972 the executors of Philip Murray rubbed their hands and presented what remained of the tugboat Worcester to the North Western Museum of Inland Navigation, now renamed “The National Waterways Museum.” at Ellesmere Port. Restoration work started at once, during her marooned days at High Lane the main diesel injector pump had been stolen. An engineering volunteer made a replica and two and half tons of new engine was reinstalled.



*After restoration*

The rejuvenated “ Worcester” is now owned, maintained and operated by the Boat Museum Society. I am confident that Philip, though he may be somewhere surrounded by black smoke, is still cheering that outcome.

*Keith Holford. April 2017*

## GRANDFATHER'S PHOTOGRAPHS

My grandfather, Charles Henstock, was born in 1901 in Tibshelf, Derbyshire, as were his two sisters, Hannah in 1899 and Emily in 1907.

He appears to have been a coal miner, enlisted in the Grenadier Guards, and eventually moved to London, married. He died in 1982 in Wandsworth, London.

Passed down to me was a collection of photographs, probably taken by my grandfather, which I am hoping that those detectives of you might throw some light on. For two of them (below) I would like to see if I can gain some more information.

The first is the wedding of his younger sister Emily to Sam Davison in 1933. Sam died from a mine roof fall at the Bolsover pit in 1936 (A source of details who died from mining accidents is Alan Beales database, which can be found under [Healeyhero.co.uk](http://Healeyhero.co.uk)). Sam and Emily at the front with Emily's mother next to Sam, Mary Hannah (nee Oridge, but her maiden name was Babbs) Mary's husband, Abel is not there because he died from a mine accident in 1926. Is anybody recognised in this group photograph?





The next photograph appears to be my grandfather digging the garden with a cemetery in the background. I believe that it is in Bolsover and from another photograph (not with this article) is probably where Sam Davison was buried. Is the cemetery in Bolsover and what is it called? A clue might be, what looks like the spire of a church, behind some trees in the background.



It is interesting that my father was told that he was not going down the coal mines. In consideration that my father's grandfather died from a pit accident in 1926, my grandfather's brother-in-law died from a coal roof fall in 1936 and I have seen documents for my grandfather making a claim in relation to coal mining, I'm not surprised that he was told that.

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## **A Strange Coincidence**

My mother's ancestry is nestled comfortably in the hillsides of rural North Devon and the task of tracing her forebears turned out to be relatively straightforward. Her parental family name is Reed and, after 1756, a middle name "Richards" was given to the first male born of each new generation. This was because young Thomas Reed (1723), my 4x great-grandfather from Ilfracombe, fell in love with a rector's daughter, Mary Richards, who came from the wilds of Trentishoe and Kentisbury, tiny coastal hamlets just a few rugged miles from the Reed home. Apparently her father only consented to the marriage provided that the family surname, Richards, was perpetuated through the female line (as well as through those of his numerous sons!) Thomas agreed and, for the next couple of hundred years, his descendants obediently carried out the rector's wishes: the firstborn son was always John or Thomas *Richards* Reed.

One day, while sifting through online indices relating to my Reed line, I came across a marriage entry for a John Richards Reed registered in Barnstaple in 1909. As the registrations for all our Reed births, deaths and marriages of that time are recorded under the Barnstaple umbrella, I immediately wondered if he could be "one of ours", another ancestor so far undiscovered?

Intrigued I ordered the marriage certificate. The details therein told me that this John had married on 31<sup>st</sup> August 1909 in the Church of Peter and Paul, Barnstaple. He was 50 years of age, a broker (of what?) and lived in Commercial Road, Barnstaple. His father, also John Richards Reed, was deceased. The bride was 32 year old Edith Mary Best, spinster, from Newport and the witnesses were Larger Walter Reed (his brother so I later discovered) and Alice Martha Best.

If this John Richards Reed was aged 50 in 1909, it would make him of the same generation as my great-grandfather, also John Richards Reed, who would have been 56 or so at that time. I rechecked all my entries, attempted some further research and finally decided that, despite the similarities, this man, whose family, it emerged, came from Ireland, could not be related to us.

End of story.

But no! A couple of weeks later, by some extraordinary coincidence, I received an email from Peggy Reed, a 90 year old lady from Cape Cod who was trying to fill in some gaps in her late husband's family tree. She had accounted for all her husband's uncles and aunts except John Richards Reed,

born 1859. She came across my JRR on an online Ancestry site and, although her family came from Ireland, she hoped that I was a relative who could throw some light on the matter. I replied saying that I didn't think there was a connection and forwarded her a copy of the marriage certificate.

We both did some further research and, although I sent her various documents proving otherwise, Peggy was certain that her John and mine must be the same person! Eventually, discovering a gravestone for John Richards Reed in the Combe Martin Baptist churchyard, she became convinced that this commemorated her John, and that we shared an ancestor. It was only after I sent her my photograph of the headstone along with the details of my John's family whose names were also engraved on the stone, that she reluctantly agreed that the two John Richards Reeds were from totally separate families. Poor Peggy!

But it was a strange coincidence indeed: and even stranger that this lady far away across the "pond," should have discovered *her* John Richards Reed at the exact same time as I was researching *mine*. A great shame that there was no connection but such are the ups and downs and intrigues of family history research!.....We win some and lose some! Keep digging!

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### **Man of Mystery—Ralph Cleworth**

Further to my article in the March issue of this journal, may I offer thanks to two Derbyshire Family History members who took the time and trouble to respond. Valerie Jackson and Allen R Peterson have provided me with information with which to progress my research. For this I am indebted to them both and hope in due course to provide an update for a future edition of the journal.

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# CHURCHES OF DERBYSHIRE

## 47. Calow St Peter



Calow is a small village situated on the edge of Cucksall Moor, an area which includes Staveley, Brimington and Whittington. The origins of the village date back to 1086, when it was known as Calehale, meaning a bare corner of land or spur of a hill. In 1430 it was known as Calell,

then Calo in 1561, before acquiring its present name. It is recorded that there was a manor house, which belonged to the King around the same time that the Domesday Book was compiled. This manor was in the possession of the successive families of Breton, Loudham and Foljambe, which were notable families at the time.

Although a predominantly agricultural area, coal and iron were worked in the village and for some time blast furnaces were in operation. Coal mined in Calow supplied furnaces in the nearby village of Duckmanton. Pre WWII times saw the village consisting merely of Top Road and part of Church Lane. There was a thriving garden nursery called Proctors, who moved to Holymoorside. Subsequently a substantial development of houses was built in the village reflecting the names of the flowers and trees which were produced by the company around where the doctor's surgery is today.

The Independents erected a chapel in 1837, in connection with which was a day school taught on the British System. The Primitive Methodists chapel was erected in 1854 and was a small neat brick building which held about 100. A new day school was erected in 1855, capable of holding about 80.

The original church for the parish was Chesterfield All Saints, but a chapel of ease was constructed at Calow at a cost of £1600 on a site of land given by Lord Manvers. The church of St Peter's is now Grade II listed and was built in 1869 by S. Rollinson. It consisted of a nave, chancel and a tower on the

south side serving the purpose of a porch. There was also a vestry which answered the purpose of an organ chamber and separated from the chancel by a wooden screen. It had a square south-west tower, funds not being available to construct the spire which was later added in 1887. There are 6 bells, played by pressing wooden levers. The clock was added in commemoration of the Silver Jubilee of King George V in 1935.

The stained glass windows have pictures of Saints, such as St Nicholas, St Anne, St Cecilia and St Helena. One window has a picture of a choir boy and a boy scout. On the north wall is a statue of St George and at the back is a statue of St Peter, the patron saint of the church. The font at the back has a carved, wooden cover made in 1944. Nearby is a small miners lamp to show that this is a mining area.

The organ in the Chancel was first used on Easter Day in 1901. The ceiling in the Sanctuary is painted with pictures of God and his Lamb, meaning Wisdom and Peace. This faces East and is the highest part of the church, nearest to God.



*The beautiful ceiling in the Sanctuary*

These days Calow has a population of about 2500 and is well served by being in close proximity to Chesterfield as well as having a variety of businesses in the village itself.

#### REGISTERS

St Mary was licensed for baptisms and burials from 1861. The baptisms are complete to 1933 and the burials to 1931, later registers are held at the church. Weddings weren't allowed here until 1900 and they are available until 1936, again later registers are presumably at the church.

The Society has a full transcript until 1910.

## **The Warners of Mickleover (and beyond) - Part 2**

(Having previously credited Roz Bailey for providing me with additional information on the Warners, Part 2 includes some information taken from Peter Brown's excellent three volume series "*Mickleover Born and Bred*".)

In the 1851 census, the only Warners in Mickleover were in the household of my 3x great-grandfather John Warner and his wife Mary. By the time of the next census, some of their children had married and started families, so the number of Warner households was increasing.

Living with John and Mary in Town Street in 1861 were their children Caroline, Emma and Job. John was now an agricultural labourer (previously he had been a silk weaver) while Caroline and Emma were both "servant out of place". By 1871 only Job was at home with John and Mary.

Their oldest child William had married Hannah Pegg in All Saints, Mickleover on March 31st 1856 and in 1861 they were also living on Town Street with three children. By 1901, William and Hannah had moved to North Avenue, off Poke Lane. Hannah died in 1902 and William died in 1910. I think they had nine children in all:

William (born c1856) married the widowed Lucy Seal (nee Harlow) in 1906 and in 1911 they were living on Little Eaton Bank in Duffield.

Miriam (born c1857) was a servant for a heraldic artist in Derby in the 1871 census and ten years later was a servant in the household of a Wesleyan minister in Lewer, New Windsor in Berkshire.

Mary Ann (born c1859) married Thomas Limbert in 1879 and in the 1881 census they were living in Willow Row in Derby.

Hannah (born c1863) had a son, Thomas Henry Warner, who was born in 1883. Hannah married William Hartshorn in 1884 and their family grew up in West Hallam. Thomas (aka "Harry") was with his grandparents in both 1891 and 1901 and he married Annie Allsopp in All Saints, Mickleover in 1904. One of their children was Horace James Warner who, with his father, founded the building firm HJ Warner Ltd in 1932. The company built many of the new houses in Mickleover, including Hope Avenue.

John (born c1867) married Sophia Turner in St Lukes, Derby in 1891 and they lived in North Avenue in Mickleover.

Helena (born c1870) was described as a simple woman when her son William Vickers Warner, who was born in 1905, was baptized in 1907.

Sarah (born c1872) married Charles Ayre in All Saints, Mickleover in 1891. By 1901 they were living in the St Lukes area of Derby.

James (born c1874) married Elizabeth Curzon from Manchester and in 1901 and 1911 they were also living in North Avenue – in the latter census they had an adopted son, Walter Curzon. Walter Curzon Warner was organist and choirmaster at All Saints, Mickleover, from 1945 until his death, aged 45, at the end of 1948.

Charles (born c1875) was a Private in the Infantry in Aldershot in 1901, but by 1911 he was back in Mickleover living with his older sister Helena in North Avenue.

John and Mary's daughter Miriam was a servant in Linacre in Lancashire in 1861 and in Marylebone in London in 1871, but by 1881 she was a milliner in Sadlergate in Derby. By 1891 she had retired and was living with her widowed father back in Mickleover, but in 1901 and 1911 she was the keeper of a tobacco and sweet shop in Sebastopol Terrace in Mickleover. Miriam died at the grand old age of 91 in 1927.

John and Mary's daughter Caroline married Benjamin Percival in All Saints, Mickleover in May 1861 and in 1871 they were living in Worthington in Leicestershire (with a John Warner shown as a visitor; if this was her father – and the ages tally – the he was also recorded in the census at home in Mickleover!). Benjamin died in 1900 and by 1911 Caroline was back in Mickleover. She died in 1914 and was buried in Mickleover Churchyard; the memorial cross bears the inscription:

*"In/Loving Memory of/CAROLINE PERCIVAL/who died January 27th 1914/Aged 76 years"*

According to the 1911 census return Caroline had nine children, of which four had died. I have identified:

George (born c1864).

Miriam (born c1865) who married John Deacon and in 1891 they were living at 2, Crosby Place in Derby with their children Thomas and Miriam. Miriam died in 1900 and in 1901 the widowed John, together with daughters Edith and May, was living in Bradford. Thomas was in Barracks in Gosport and Miriam was living with her aunt Harriett and her family.

Harriet (c1866) married Amis Hodgson and in 1901 they were living in Bradford with their children Lilian, Daisy and Stanley. By 1911 they were all living in Baildon, near Shipley.

Sarah Ann (born c1868).

William (born c1871) who married Julia Lear and in 1901 they were living at 124, Monk Street in Derby with their children Dorothy, Hilda and William Benjamin. In 1911, they were all living at 32, Farm Street in Derby.

Mary (born c1874). In 1891, she was a servant in Lingfield, East Grinstead in Surrey; she was living with her mother in 1901; and in 1911 she was a nurse at the Derby County Lunatic Asylum and isolation Hospital in Mickleover.

Benjamin (born c1875) who married Ethel Burch and in 1911 they were living in Rotherham with their children Ethel, Evelyn and Molly. They also had Olive and Stanley.

John and Mary's son John was a carter to the Hind family at Bone Hill Farm in 1861. He married Emma Leader from Oxford in All Saints, Mickleover in 1864 and in 1871 they were living on Common Road in Mickleover with their children George, Thomas and Emma. John was a railway labourer. They had another child, Mary, before John died in 1876. Emma remarried to Thomas Cowley and in 1881 three of the children from her marriage to John were living with them in Poke Lane while the fourth, Thomas, was a farm servant at Bone Hill Farm.

The young Thomas married Sarah Jane Goldsmith in All Saints, Mickleover, around 1893. Sarah died in 1906 and in 1911 Thomas was an *"electrician and caretaker of mansion"* living at Mickleover Manor.

John and Mary's daughter Emma married Arthur Bown (not Brown – a mistake that I initially made!) in All Saints, Mickleover on March 6<sup>th</sup> 1867. Emma died in 1869 and Arthur remarried, to Louisa Peach.

I think that Emma and Arthur had a daughter, Mary (born c1868) who in 1871 was living with Arthur's parents in Ashbourne Greene. Mary married Henry Walker on September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1888 and in 1891 they were living in Castle Place in Derby. In 1901 and 1911 they were living in Heage and the 1911 census return states that they had eleven children of which four had died.

I have been unable to find any information about John and Mary's daughter Mary Ann.

John and Mary's son Charles was a servant to farmer John Chadwick in 1861. He married Harriet Page from Littleover in 1869 and in 1871 he was a carpenter and joiner and they were living on Common Road with their one month old daughter. Harriet died in 1881 and in the census two months afterwards Charles and his son John were living with Charles' parents. In 1891 Charles was living in Wild Street in Derby with his daughter Emily while John was serving as a driver with the Royal Artillery at Woolwich Dockyard. In 1901 Charles was lodging in Eccleshall in Sheffield but by 1911 he was back in Mickleover, living with his sister Caroline.



Charles and Harriet are both buried in Mickleover Churchyard and their headstones read:

*"In Memory of/CHARLES WARNER/who died October 14th 1914/Aged 66 years"*

*"In Memory of/HARRIETT/wife of CHARLES WARNER/Died February 24th 1881/Aged 33 years"*

In 1901 John William Warner was a sergeant in the Royal Artillery and was living with his wife Ada in the families' barracks in Farnborough. In 1911 he was living with his new wife of two years Agnes (nee Holden) in Wade Street in Littleover with his son from his first marriage, William, and their daughter Vivien May. They also had a son, Alan.

Emily Warner married James Williams in 1894 and in 1901 they were living at 27, Howe Street in Derby with their children Eric and Albert. They also had William.

John and Mary's daughter Harriet died on July 3<sup>rd</sup> 1855, aged just eighteen months having been "accidentally scalded". She was baptized the same day.

John and his wife Mary are buried in the same grave in All Saints Churchyard in Mickleover. There is a memorial cross with the inscription –

*"In/Memory of/JOHN WARNER/who died April 7th 1899/Aged 89 years/Also of MARY WARNER/his wife who died/April 25th 1884/Aged 73 Years"*

Their other son, Job – my 2xgreat-grandfather - married Elizabeth Bamford in St. Peters in Derby on September 14<sup>th</sup> 1872. Their marriage certificate states that they were both living in Traffic Street – Job at No. 21 and Elizabeth at No. 22. Elizabeth was born in Stenson in 1854 and was the oldest of at least nine children of Joseph (born in Foremark) and Ann (nee Adams) who had married in 1853. In 1871 John, Ann, their seven children and two nurse children, were living at 7, The Bank in Burnaston while Elizabeth was a servant with the Webb family of Rowditch Farm in Markeaton. They were still in Burnaston in 1881, by when they had another child. Joseph Bamford died in 1890 and in 1891 the widowed Ann was still in Burnaston with one of the nurse children from earlier – John Burton who had now taken the surname of Bamford.

In Part 3 I will look at Job and Elizabeth's thirteen children.

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## *A Gaggle of Realisations (or Write It Up!)*

Sometimes moments of realisation come to me which cause a change of course. The most fertile time for such moments is when I'm sitting in my study enjoying, for example, my collection of souvenirs from places I have visited. A collection generally referred to by my family as 'that load of junk'.

One such moment was after my genealogy hobby had been going strong for several years and a magic milestone of one thousand people on my family tree had been passed. A disturbing realisation was '*so what*', what am I going to do with all this information after so much toil? 'Do you fancy sitting in front of my computer screen looking at my large family tree?' is not going to make me many friends.

I know, I'll write a book. Serif desk top publishing software was purchased at a very reasonable price, it is an excellent product and still serves me well. Writing started without a clear plan and soon another realisation became apparent – it was going to be easy to write an incredibly boring book. A book about writing one's family history was purchased and I started again but this time after selecting the subject as the lives and times of my parents in order to restrict the scope to something manageable.

The next realisation brought home to me that my vocabulary, developed over years at work writing reports and specifications about IT systems, was just not suited to producing easy reading. That had to be addressed and more thought was needed about what was being written. The factual points of my parents' lives were woven into a social history background by including contemporaneous happenings in the wide world. Eventually the book was finished at eighty pages, it was printed A5 size and the pages glued together down the spine using PVA adhesive then a book cover attached. For a first effort it turned out well and I'm still pleased with it today.

Having gained confidence I chose the next subject as my paternal grand parents. They were born in the 1880s, lived for almost seventy years and almost ninety years and had eleven children so there was plenty of research to be done. My grand father became a Freeman of the City of London for volunteering to fight in the Boer War. Once again their story was written against a social history backdrop and photographs added for interest and to avoid large tracts of text. My cousins each wrote a piece about their parents (ie the grand parents' children) which were included in the book to add first hand accounts

and different writing styles. The book came to two hundred and twenty pages and each cousin had a copy following which they gave me a decanter and two bottles of port in appreciation.

I've really been bitten by the bug and have reached first draft stage of the third book based on my three times great grandfather who emigrated to Kansas in 1854. The family over there became successful farmers and I've traced the family line down to living relatives with whom I am in contact.

After my various realisations I now have a fascinating aspect to my hobby through which I get great enjoyment and share it with others too. So if you'd like to show off how much information you've amassed about your family, give it a go and Write It Up!

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### **THE NORTH MIDLAND RAILWAY OPENING**

In 1840 the opening of the North Midland Railway line was completed; it had taken some time to finish, owing to its numerous tunnels and bridges. Trains brought guests from Leeds to Derby, and on the stone platform travellers ate their lunch whilst listening to a band playing. A description of the Derby railway station reported *"It is a wonderfully extensive place, which astonishes every person arriving there for the first time. So stupendous and magnificent does everything appear that imagination almost leads passengers to suppose they are arrived at a market-place for steam engines"*.

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

***Derby: Its Rise and Progress [A.W. Davison]***

## *Memories*

I always look forward to receiving my copy of the magazine, and usually finish reading it the same day.

In the June issue some articles brought back memories for me. Alan Hiley wrote about the Co-op in Derby. I remember well queuing with my mother and sister to collect the Divi at Albion Street. She always spent the money at the Co-op on clothes for us. The last time I think was when I was a teenager and had a brand new duffle coat in the sixties.

The Co-op Creamery and Farm were part of my childhood too. My father's sister lived just along the Nottingham Road from the Creamery and her garden backed onto the pasture. We used to go through a gate at the end of her garden and pick cowslips. There were so many back then in the fifties that you had trouble avoiding stepping on them. Sadly changes in farming and the use of fertilisers killed them all.

There's a family story about when I was just a four year old. I was suddenly missing from the garden. My mother was horrified when she found me sitting on top of a recumbent cow, which was contentedly chewing cud and seemed oblivious to the child on her back.

In the summer holidays when we were a little older we used to meet up with my Mum's sisters and our cousins in Darley Park. We'd spend the time playing on the swings and see saw, and hide and seek games when we'd finished our picnic on the benches by the greenhouses. I remember my uncle coming one time and taking us out in one of the rowing boats you could hire. At the end of the day we would always catch the 'Ring Road' bus all the way to the Creamery, from where we walked home to Chaddesden.

Nancy Fitt's memories were fascinating too. I remember Ratcliffe's Toy Shop at The Spot. And I thought I had a family story about the picture house on Babington Lane in my Family History file. But I was wrong. My Maternal Grandmother had once told me that she was courting Charlie Ward from the Picture Place in Irongate. (Anyone know what and where that was?)

Her mother was by all accounts a difficult woman, and she deliberately spread newspaper on the table instead of a cloth when he was brought back for tea. My grandmother didn't marry him, so the plan must have been a success! Later on she evicted her husband. When he came home from work he

found all his worldly goods on the doorstep. I've certainly confirmed that from the Census.

Apparently he was a meek and mild chap, so goodness knows what he'd done wrong.

My mother and one of her sisters used to have to go and stay with her at weekends. Perhaps she was feeling lonely after sending him packing? They always dreaded it. The one consolation was peeping through their fingers when she removed layer after layer of petticoats before getting into bed. They had to share the bed with her.

*Susan Boud [Mem 3018]  
3 Ingle Drive  
Rathby  
Leicestershire LE6 0NN*

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## **MARY PATON [1809-1873]**

In his lifetime my father, Charles Worthington Hawksley [1886-1974] commented that our family branch of Hawksley was 70% English and 30% Scottish.

Our paternal great grandfather Charles Morton Hawksley [1807-1878] living in Sheffield of independent means, married in 1832 Mary Paton [third daughter of David and Mary Paton] at St Bride's Church, Liverpool. Charles and Mary later resided in Radford near Nottingham.

It is my belief that the father of Mary Paton [our paternal great grandmother] was David Paton, a Scot [1761-1843] who migrated with his parents from Scotland to Liverpool, but also could be regarded as the father, so to speak, of the Scottish branch. In the 1841 census of Liverpool David Paton, a brewer aged 80, independent, indicated he was born in Scotland.

David Paton became a well to do brewer of Rodney Street, Liverpool, marrying Mary Brelsford/Brailsford [of North Wingfield in Derbyshire] in 1798 at Holy Trinity Church, Liverpool. Their first child, Mary, died in 1802 aged nearly three and was interred on August 31 at Newington Chapel, Liverpool.

The names of the parents of this child were not included in the burial entry, not an unusual occurrence in registration.

David and Mary Paton went on to have four sons and five daughters, and it would appear that our great grandmother could have seen her first light of day in 1809, since at her death from bronchitis in 1873, her age was given as 64. On marriage to Charles Morton Hawksley she was recorded in the local press as the third daughter of David and Mary Paton, being named after her mother, a practice in Scotland that was often followed, naming children after relatives.

In 1838 Mary, wife of David Paton, died and 5 years later he followed her. His will of 1841 was very long, detailed and hand written, beginning with a "clear annuity" of £20 to be paid to his sister Mary Miller, widow, in January and July of each and every year during her life.

The brewery, warehouses and premises were in lease to his eldest son, John, but should the latter wish to leave the brewery the trustees in their discretion should not sell at a sum less than £5000, whether at auction or by private contract. John and his wife Elizabeth [nee Nott] had two sons and five daughters. However, in the same year as his father John also died, aged 42, of apoplexy.

Under these circumstances, his daughters were each substantially endowed, enabling them to live at 10 Princes Avenue, Liverpool, enjoying financial freedom and attaining long lives beyond three score years and ten. Their mother married again and although surviving her second husband, Elizabeth, at 87, lived to welcome in the new century of 1900.

**Sources:**

*Mary Mitchell—Census*

*Lauren Turner*

*I.G.I.*

*Index to Probate*

*Roots Family History Service, Manchester*

***Janet Hawksley [Mem 7284]  
14 Suffield Court, The Great Hospital,  
Bishopgate, Norwich NO1 4EJ***

## BREASTON CHOIR

Thanks to Sandra Stock and Paul Tomblin, the photograph on the back of the June magazine has been successfully identified as that of Breaston Methodist Church Choir. They won many prizes at Music Festivals and also did some successful recording.

The conductor [middle, Front Row] is Mr Fred Garnett who was a music teacher and also played the organ at the Albert Hall in Nottingham. In the late 1950s and early 1960s he was living in a house on the Derby side of the junction of Briar Gate and Derby Road in Long Eaton.

The only other person so far identified is Lucy Kent, the lady sitting on the left of the photo.

Thanks to both of you for your help.

Doncaster & District Family History Society are holding their Annual Fair on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at the Deaf College [Opposite Doncaster Race-course]. There will be a wide range of FHS stands, Genealogy suppliers, Heritage groups and Craft stalls. Entry is just £1 and there are two Free Talks. The main speaker will be Myko Clelland of FindMyPast, explaining "How to get the best from FMP". Full details including a list of exhibitors, and directions can be found on Doncaster FHS website, [www.doncasterfhs.co.uk](http://www.doncasterfhs.co.uk)

PRELIMINARY WARNING!! Membership renewal forms will be sent out with the December magazine. We are very grateful to those of you who give us your generous support and are helping the Society through difficult days, but please if you pay by standing order, ensure that the amount is correct. The Society cannot alter your payment with the bank, only you can do that. Thank you very very much!!!

## **OLD AND NEW**

### **News from the North**

So back in business with the theme of Births, Marriages and Deaths. Not to be confused with the more familiar usage of BDM's, arranged by someone no doubt with an alphabetical state of mind, rather than the "cradle to the grave" reality. At the end an American military veteran Allan Verno Evans (Trumps up) lays claim to the British Crown, will it be curtains for him. It has been an hectic time in the High Peak for me, Well dressing, not so much a visit to the tailors, but clay, flowers, seeds and a good helping of patience to work up a pictorial work of art. A concurrent exhibition was mounted in St James's Church, Bugsworth/Buxworth. Sticking to the opening batting line, parishioners were invited to display their family and friends wedding photos, very popular it proved. A sprinkling of ingenious wedding hats complemented the photographs. It was illuminating to overhear comments on the wedding tailoring of earlier generations and the numerical collections of children. A new book "Chinley 150. The birth of a station and the growth of a village" was published. Quickly followed by the Chinley Summer Fete, more photographic panels to produce for the July Fete Day with a more permanent display in the Parish Council window, formerly the New Mills and District Co-operative butchers shop, fittingly there was a lot to meet the eye and not a lot of tripe.

Those readers who read the Birth, Death and Marriage columns in the morning newspapers while having breakfast, just to confirm that they are still on this mortal coil will no doubt have seen the tongue in cheek comments made on the recent birth of William Rees-Mogg, MP, sixth child. Mogg described as "Admirably Fusty" having named the new birthlet, "Sixtus-Dominic-Boniface-Christopher. Previous editions or additions are Thomas-Wentworth-Somerset Dunstan; Peter-Theodore-Alphege; Anselm-Charles-Fitzwilliam; Alfred-Wulfric-Leyson-Pius; and bringing up the rear plain Mary, surely some "sexist over slight". It is further stated by his wife that he would like 12 children, enough for a cricket team and a scorer. Howzat ???

Opening the batting for births are campaigners who want the 90 year law that requires cohabiting partners to re-register the birth of their children if they later marry, to be scrapped. The process which thousands of parents go through every year, is carried out to "legitimise" the birth of a child born to unmarried parents. Neville Chamberlain, introduced the Legitimacy Act in 1927. Those of us with long memories know where his piece of paper got us in 1939. The Act made it the duty of parents who later married to re-register



their children's birth within 3 months or face a fine of up to £2. There is apparently inconsistency in the way that Registry Offices treat the law. Some tell parents that they "can" or "may do". A new birth certificate costs £4. One commentator claims that this is another example of the way in which the laws of the land all too often reflect a bygone age. The all wise Home Office declined to say how many couples re-registered a birth after marriage or whether any had been fined for doing so.

The latest statistic by the Office for National Statistics states that in 2015 there were 2,759 boys called Alexander, the 2<sup>nd</sup> most popular boys name in England and Wales, holding its place over the last 10 years. In America, Alexander has been in the top ten names since 2008. Ella is even more popular, with 3,028 girls called that name in 2015, the 6<sup>th</sup> most popular girls name. Alex Manson-Smith who has written a satirical guide to parenting with co-author Sarah Thompson under the title "You're So Mummy". She claims with those Christian names, you'd fit in either as a Hollywood star or a solicitor, condolences are in order for Society members with those names who have missed out in the occupation stakes. Despite that pronouncement, living in gentrified Hackney, London, which she calls "stupid baby names heartland"—Atticus, Fox, Hunter, Juno, Jupiter, Moon, Tennyson, Wolf, all planetary and animals. Methinks a clear cut case of Ms Manson-Smith calling the kettle black, her children's names being "Emilo and Xavier".

Acorn, a data company that splits the country into 18 socio-economic groups and 62 types on behalf of consumer companies and government agencies, can categorise you by your name. It has 51 billion individuals by name on its database. With heartfelt apologies to all the Grevilles, Crispians, Lysbeths or Penelopes who are not, as it claims, most likely be found in the "wealthy executive top class" rather than the "inner city".

Marriages don't you just love them? Evidence on elopements, once the preserve of underage teenagers hurrying over the Scottish border to Gretna Green to be married without the consent of their parents has had a changed of emphasis. Now the Scottish Highlands and Islands have become the elopement hot-spot as couples from all over the world marry in remote outdoor locations. Following a change in the law in 2014 celebrations can be held anywhere in Scotland if they are conducted by a celebrant or registrar. More couples are using this innovation to book services on clifftops or outlandish locations using complete strangers as witnesses. So high is the demand for secret weddings that some Scottish photographers are offering a dedicated package, guiding the couple through the legal process, the recommendation for flowers, accommodation and ministers. The departure away from the "traditional" wedding format of a church ceremony, hotel reception

and inter-familial disputes are the reasons advanced for the change.

“Marriages all at sea” was another headline that caught my eye, analysis of census figures claims that seaside areas have the biggest divorce rates in the country. Blackpool, where 13% of marriages fail, Hastings 12.8%, Torbay in Devon came third. Eastbourne, Gosport, Great Yarmouth, the Isle of Wight and Worthing all appear in the top 10. The lively summer seasons at the seaside, followed on by the sheer boredom of winter on the English coast, plus money problems are just some of the reasons cited. No mention of incompatibility or personal habits.

Then like buses, a report comes along swiftly followed by another. “Divorce Selfies”, the new way to announce a split. No prizes for guessing --- “America”--- Ashtags – guesswhosdivorced and divorce selfie with grinning selfies of newly divorced couples. The couples are not celebrating the ending of their marriages, but that they are ending their marriage with little or no animosity. Some couples are throwing “Divorce Parties” to mark the end of their relationship. In America a new trend is emerging, “recovery coaches” or “divorce concierges”, this new breed of advisor will hold a client's hand (not literally it is hoped) through the emotional and legal complexities of splitting up. Hang the expense, it's worth it !

However all is not well in matrimony in the US of A. State governments across the US are under growing pressure to overturn laws that allow thousands of children (no misprint), some as young as 12, to be married each year. Few of the 50 states have a minimum age for marriage. A study by “Unchained at Last ” a non-profit making campaign group, reports several instances of 12 year old girls being married in Alaska, Louisiana and South Carolina. More than 167,000 marriages are between an adult male and a girl. In some states marriage provides, in effect, a means to evade statutory rape. Sherry Johnson from Florida says she was 11 years old and pregnant when she was married to a 20 year old member of the Pentecostal Church. She claims that “it was forced on her.” Ms Johnson became a campaigner against child marriage, but attempts by her and others to have age limits for marriage have run into opposition. Chris Christie, the Republican New Jersey Governor who ran for President last year, blocked a bill that would have made the state the first in the US to ban marriages involving people under 18 years of age. In New York State there is currently under consideration a bill that would raise the age limit from 14 to 17 years. Cassandra Levesque, 17, a Girl Scout in New Hampshire, led a campaign to raise the age limit when she learned that New Hampshire allows, with the consent of a judge, girls of 13 years and boys of 14 years to marry. David Bates, a local Republican politician opposed the bill saying “We are asking the legislature to repeal a law

that's been on the books for over a century, that's been working without difficulty, on the basis of a request from a minor doing a Girl Guide project.”

Are you aware of two websites for men and women seeking polygamous marriages has attracted around 70,000 members? According to one founder, he believes that they are responsible for at least 100 weddings. Second-wife.com was launched in 2014 followed by Polygamy.com in 2017. The websites have been criticised by Dame Louise Casey's report on social integration. She claims that the practice of unregistered polygamy appears to be more commonplace than expected. Her report also claims that there are about 100,000 couples living in Sharia marriages many of which have no basis in UK law. While there is no reliable data on the number of polygamous marriages in the UK, experts believe that they are on the rise. The Marriage Act is out of date says Aina Khan, a leading family lawyer specialising in Islamic marriages, dating back to 1949, only Anglicans, Jews and Quakers must register their religious ceremony with a Registry Office. Polygamy gives an easy route out of an unhappy marriage, Islam does not encourage polygamy but permits it in special circumstances.

India grabbed the world news headlines when the Prime Minister Narendra Modi scrapped the two largest banknotes the night before a crackdown on corruption. The 500 and 1,000 rupee the two largest banknotes were left valueless unless exchanged for usable currency. The preparation for Rishma Nishal's wedding had been well under way in the village of Fareedpur Nitarra in Upper Pradesh. Her father had sold his last remaining farmland to finance her wedding. He had part paid his daughters dowry, the equivalent of £4,000 upfront, given a motorbike to his future son-in-law and the rest of the dowry, £2,000, was at home in bundles of now worthless notes. Millions of fathers were in the same position, November being the years wedding peak, aligned with the most auspicious dates in the Hindu calendar. Brides were the most vulnerable their dowries being paid in cash and scores of Indian weddings went to the wall. There was an almighty scene at the putative wedding day when the bridegroom was informed of the cash shortfall, the groom threatened to kill the brides father, ultimately storming out and marrying another woman the same day. “Not a Happy After Ending”.

Having worked as a Cartographic Surveyor for almost 39 years, the headline “Marriage map reveals the tie between wealth and wedded bliss” my interest immediately perked up. An immediate thought was “Is this something that has passed me by”? A life changing moment by way of a change from facing dangerous dogs, gaining entry to property owned or occupied by persons with something to hide, or OAP's who failed to ask for proof of my identity. Had the lights gone out and was no one was at home.? No it was research

carried out by the Marriage Foundation, rather less fancy underwear, more on the lines “Keeping up with the Middletons”. Researchers at the Marriage Foundation say they have demonstrated for the first time that the type of neighbourhood you live in affects your likelihood of being married.

In richer areas everyone across all social classes is more likely to be married, regardless of whether they are better off or worse. The Foundation has labelled the phenomenon “Keeping up with the Middletons because 86% of parents from the AB managerial and professional classes in West Berkshire with children are married. The figure is exceeded only by Harrow and Wokingham. Equally the Foundation says that the exact opposite happens in poor areas. Marriage rates of only 25% were found in Liverpool and Knowsley among DE manual workers and non workers. Marriage couples living in Barnet, Buckinghamshire, Harrow, Surrey, Wokingham, and West Berkshire varied between 88% to 85% . Whereas Blackpool, Lambeth, Liverpool, Knowsley, Salford and Wirral varied between 27% to 25%. A further disturbing finding was that a child born in 2017 has only a 50% chance of living with both parents by the time they reach 15 years old. By contrast 93% of parents who stay together until the child's 15<sup>th</sup> birthday are married.

Now I direct you to a more encouraging scenario “The seven year itch” has apparently been moving forward in the “Marriage Stakes” with a report that it ought to be recast as an 11 year scratch. Recent trends show that while the divorce rates continue to fall, the average length of a marriage is creeping up. Having dipped to an all time low in the 1980's, the median figure for the duration of marriages in England and Wales is now almost 12 years. This is the highest for more than 50 years. Commentators have welcomed the trend, although the following proviso is also mentioned, that while marriage rates have fallen more couples opt to co-habit.

There is some good news for the romantics among you, but tricky for philanderers. Engineers have created a high-tech rings that enable couples to feel each others heart-beats in real time when they are apart. So buyers be aware! The rings, which contain more than 100 components, are the result of two and a half years development by Czech, Swiss and German manufacturers. The main body is of stainless steel or rose gold and sapphire crystal with prices at £470 per pair. The first 1,050 sets are already sold out, with the demand strongest from American and British buyers. The makers say that the rings appeal to people whose spouses work in dangerous occupations. They can check with them without phoning too often. Critics point out that the rings could also prove useful for suspicious partners while would be cheats could be thought dead. Each ring is equipped with a sensor to detect the wearers pulse, a vibrating element to recreate their partner's and red encir-

cling light to illustrate the blood coursing through the *vena amoris*, the vein of the ring finger. So ring in the changes and miss out on a bit of hanky panky !

So now to the last round-up or not in the case of Ashutosh Maharaj when judges in the Punjab and Haryana high court dismissed a petition by Dalip Kuma Jha, who claims to be the gurus son, to have his body defrosted and cremated in accordance with Hindu ritual. The body of the spiritual guru can remain in a freezer because his disciples believe him to be in a state of deep meditation from which he will eventually return to life. Mr Maharaj, founder of the Divine Light Awakening Mission, died of heart attack in January 2014. Since then, his body has been stored in a commercial freezer in Punjab. Confusion and anger followed the court's declaration that it was unwilling to intervene in "the sacred territory of personal beliefs and faiths". Disciples maintain that their leader merely drifted into a more profound state of meditation, insisting that he regularly attained this deeper state in the sub zero Himalayan winters. The sect is alleged to have assets worth \$120 million, with a buildings portfolio worth tens of millions of pounds in five continents . His family allege that the sect has clung on to the body to keep control of the groups wealth. The disciples counter claim is that his family wants a stake in the financial assets.

In Japan it is alleged that there is a "Silver Menace" elderly drivers who are dangerous on the roads, but too proud or stubborn to get off them. They are being offered a new incentive to give up driving--- cheap funerals. An undertaker is giving 15% discount to those who prove they have handed over their licence. The offer can be redeemed at 89 funeral homes. After a change in the law, elderly drivers are required to be tested for dementia if they commit traffic violations such as crossing a red light. In Japan there are 4.8 million drivers over the age of 75, the number of red lights is not known.

No frills funerals it is claimed are being boosted by David Bowie's direct cremation, and the rising cost of dying is driving more people to such departures, even disillusioned clergymen are driving the trend away from a traditional services burial. At its most basic it involves the undertaker taking the body to the crematorium, mourners are not present, but receive the ashes later at their own ceremony. Nick Gandon of Simplicita Cremations in Lytham St Annes was the first British funeral director to offer a no-frills service in 1991. He now carries out over 400 a year. A by product of a Leicester crematorium is the thousands of pounds donated to charity by saving the bits of metal found among the ashes of cadavers to be re-cycled into road signs, hopefully not too many that read "This way to the re-cycling centre" or "Reincarnation this way. A scheme managed by The Institute of Cemetery

and Cremation Management has raised more than £3.3 million for charities since 2004.

The expense of funerals has accelerated the introduction of new methods for disposing of bodies. You are warned to keep alert for “Resomation” also known as bio-cremation, for the technically minded and not the squeamish. The process uses alkaline hydrolysis in a tank to reduce a body, leaving behind fluid, which can fertilise the garden, and the dust from the crushed bones to the relatives. There are several such units operating in America. Alternatively there is “Promession” low energy freezing the body with liquid nitrogen and vibrating it with ultrasonics to a fine powder. A Dublin company, ecoLegacy, is developing a similar project, it is hoped not with the intention of putting extra body in bottles of “Guinness”.

Those who are up for the latest “must have electronics” will be pleased to know that a digital tombstone has been developed in Slovenia. It allows mourners to view pictures and videos of their loved ones. The headstone with a 48 inch touchscreen, displays the dead person's name, dates of birth and death when inactive. However, when someone stands in front of it, sensors are activated and it turns into an interactive screen capable of playing digital content. Bioenergija, the company marketing the device is selling the musical tombstones for \$3,000 or £2,600, pre any agreement whatsoever on Brexit.

Always read the small print was just one of the essential mantras of advice the judge gave to new magistrates being sworn in at the old Derbyshire Quarter Sessions in 1971, and never ever take your cases home. Well reading the small print in the “Public Notices” of The Times edition of 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017 may have passed-by most members of the Society, but do not despair I saved an extract from the Public Notice for your delectation. Allan V. Evans, resident of Colorado U.S.A., claims to be “A direct descendant of an unbroken primogeniture line legally documented since the 3<sup>rd</sup> century in Great Britain and registered in the Royal College of Arms, a direct descendant of Cunedda Wledig, who was the founder of the Kingdom of Wales”. There follows 29 lines stating his case. His advice is to take heed and rejoice all Welshman (sic), Scots, Manx, all Britons, and all citizens of this nation called Great Britain, that the light of freedom and egalitarianism shall be promoted and promulgated etc --- (another 8 lines). So the “Brexit Believers” now have a Fudgeit gathering to gallop over the horizon to the rescue?

So this “Public Notice” called for peep into Allan V. Evans backyard. King Allan is a military veteran from Colorado, known to his neighbours as Allan Verno Evans, 55, he is recorded as being an affiliated member of the Repub-

lican Party in Denver, yes the same party as “You know Who”. So far he has made no plans to ride down The Mall with DT. Mr Evans, currently living in Maesteg, South Wales said that he will delay claiming the crown until after the death of the Queen out of respect for her “great service and deepest sacrifice”. “Verno” has form, in 2012 he took legal action, claiming his ancestry entitled him to over 400 acres in Twiggs County, Georgia, including 35 homes and a church. His claim worth £3.3 million was dismissed.

So ending with another sting in a tale, you may remember my story of the victims of the Red Spiders lurking in Australian dunnies (toilets) for unsuspecting prey, this tale also has an unhappy conclusion. An airline passenger Richard Bell was travelling between Houston, Texas and Calgary, Canada when from an overhead locker an inch long scorpion (presumably travelling economy) landed on his head. He was stung on the hand when a fellow traveller enlightened him on the high flyer. The scorpion was unceremoniously flushed down the loo. There was no evidence that Mr. Bell had purchased one of the high-tech wedding rings (mentioned earlier) that detect each others heart beats in real time, thus giving his partner pause for thought.

**Keith Holford**

### **SMALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**

Minutes from the Church Meetings dealt mainly with admissions and exclusions, but there are a few amusing notes.

On 5th May 1824 it was unanimously agreed to “*give up the preaching at Morley Moor, because of the lack of interest*”. Whether on the preacher’s side or the residents, it doesn’t make clear.

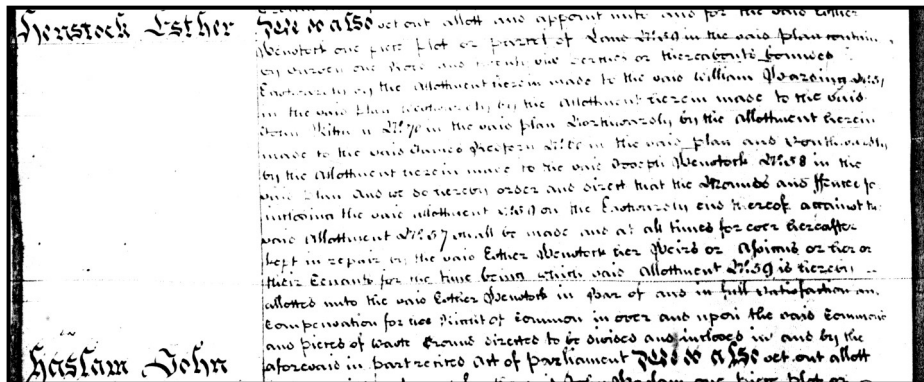
On April 26th 1840 “*Brethren Woolley, Fletcher and Beeston were appointed to sit at the bottom of the Chapel to keep order!*” Were the congregation really that unruly?

On January 1st 1843 “*It was resolved that a former resolution of the Church respecting Instrumental music should be adhered to, namely, that only one Fiddle be tolerated in the Chapel!*” I couldn’t agree more with that last one unless he was a very good player indeed.

## BONSALL ENCLOSURE AWARD

Abel Henstock was a lead miner in Bonsall who died in 1775. His wife, Esther (died 1785) was granted a parcel of land in Bonsall under the Bonsall Enclosure Award, dated 1776.

The following is a reproduction of that entry



Being aware that most of us do not wish to end up with a white walking stick, the following is a transcription of that entry.

### Esther Henstock

Bonsall Enclosure Award 1776 (DRO ref XM 21/3)

Esther Henstock Number 59 (containing 1 rood 26 perches)

We do also

Act out allot and appoint unto and for the said Esther Henstock one piece of plot or parcel of land No 59 in the said plan containing by surveying, one rood and twenty six perches or thereabouts, bounded :-

easterly by the allotment herein made to the said William Harding No 61 on the said plan,

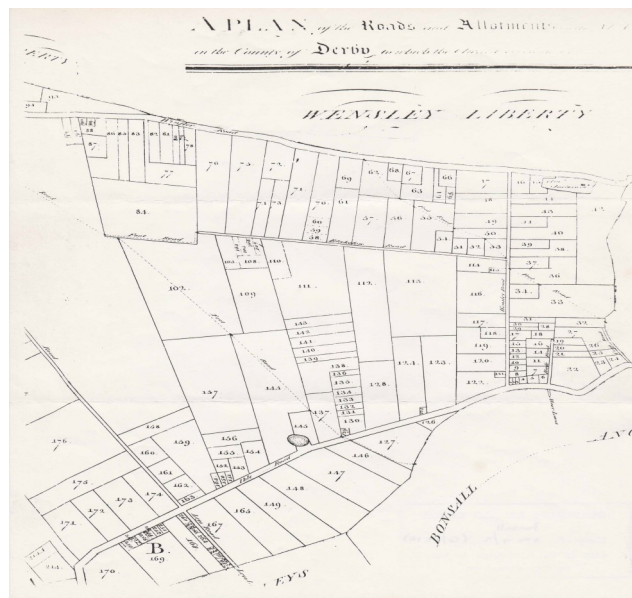
westwardly by the allotment herein made to the said John Kitin, No 71 in the said plan,

northwardly by the allotment herein made to the said James Hedtern No 60 in the said plan and,



southwardly by the allotment herein made to the said Joseph Henstock No 58 in the said plan,

and we do hereby order and direct that the bounds and fence for inclusion, the said allotment No 59, on the eastwardly end thereof against the said allotment No 61 shall be made and at all times for ever hereafter kept in repair by the said Esther Henstock, her heirs or assigns or her or their tenants for the time being which said allotment No 59 is hereby allotted unto the said Esther Henstock in bar of and in satisfaction and compensation for her right of common in ever and upon the said command and pieces of waste ground directed to be divided and enclosed in and by the aforesaid in part recited act of parliament.



*Ref: DROXM7/2 (Q/R1 19)*

The map and arrow indicates where the award was (and how small!!) The plan of the allotted area is on the north side of Bonsall

The question arises, who were allocated the other plots?

From the documents obtained I have identified the following, although in some cases not all the details were there and of course any errors in my transcribing, for which I apologise. At least it will give an indication of the families in Bonsall in 1776.

*D.F.H.S. Sep Qtr 2017*

Name	plot No	Adjacent plot Allocation	No	Nearby road
Samuel Abel	207	Joshua Elliot Adam Simpson	20 197	Whatterwell Road Stanwell Road
Thomas Ashton	10	Thomas Walker John Crooks Robert Sounde Esther Hull	11 12 9 9	Wensley Road " " "
Henry Allsop (the younger)	123	Thomas Woodiwiss Joshua Danah Joshua Merchant William Foxeley Edward Banks John Marple	119 120 122 124 125 113	Ible Road " " " " "
John Abel	25	Roger Wilmot Henry Woodiwiss Henry Clayton John Tarrant Joseph Simpson	21 22 26 23 24	Gross Road " " " "
Joseph Henstock	58	William Harding John Kitten Esther Henstock	57 70 59	Blakelow Road " "
Charles Johnson	88	Thomas Marple James Airtow Henry Elliot Joseph Foxely	86 89 91 87	Winster Road " " "
Thomas Jackson	83	Edward Banks Joseph Rains Davis Loxely	77 65 84	Winster Road " "
Anthony Greatorex				

Samuel Gratton	188	Elizabeth Holehouse	187	Leys Road
		Joseph Bradley Bradshaw	189	"
		Ann Thompson	180	"
Edward Henstock	157	Robert Harding	144	
		Robert Henry	103	
		James	108	
		William	139	
		Samuel	102	
		William Steeple	156	
Robert Harding	144	George Evans	137	
		Mary	156	
		William Woodiwiss	139	
		William Greatorex	140	
		Anthony		
		Williams Rollinge		
Joseph Haughton	180			Leys Road
Esther Henstock	59	William Harding	61	
		John Kitin	70	
		James Hedtern	60	
		Joseph Henstock	58	
Joseph Haslam	133	William		
		Duke of Devonshire	128	
		Henry	137	
		Anthony Holehouse	134	
		Joseph Woodiwiss	132	
Robert Hurst & Company	62	Daniel Sellars	63	Winster Road
		William Hall	67	"
		Joseph Lane	68	"
		William Kurt	61	"
		John Curnor	69	"

***John Henstock [Mem 2558]***  
E-mail: Henstock1925@outlook.com

## **Beware of Trains**

**(A Cautionary Tale)**

When reviewing my family history files it quickly became apparent that I had sadly neglected my mother's side of the family the Mawbey's.

I started to explore my grandfather, Harry Mawbey's parents and siblings and found that his mother Eliza Capewell had died when he was just seven years old in 1900. His father remarried in 1903 to Ellen Watts who was fourteen years younger than him. Although they didn't marry until 1903, on the 1901 census she was registered as Ellen Mawbey probably for propriety as they were lodging with another family.

Granddad Harry's parents had had six children of whom three survived Granddad Harry b1893, sister Isabella b1890 and his brother Harold b1895. The family lived in a court which was accessed from East St almost directly opposite the entrance to the long gone Midland Drapery. The court comprised of six houses set around a square courtyard with a water pump in the centre which was the sole supply of water for the surrounding houses. There was no electricity the only light coming from oil lamps or candles.

I began to look at granddad's siblings in more depth and it was then that I started to piece together an interesting story about granddads sister, Isabella. It wasn't long after starting a more in depth research that I began to see the pieces of her story starting to gradually fit together. Unfortunately, as we have all done at some time, I began to realise that I was heading down the wrong path.

I knew Isabella had been married in April 1911 to Thomas William Cooper and they had one daughter Helen Isabella born in November of the same year. I then learnt that in 1916 Isabella had remarried to Daniel Hanks and gone on to produce four more children.

I began to try and pinpoint information that would establish when Isabella's first husband Thomas William Cooper died which I knew was sometime between 1911 and 1916. I tried searching all the usual genealogy websites but couldn't readily find a death for Thomas but due to the dates and my suspicions that he could have been a soldier I decided to ask members of my History Group to help. They as usual came up trumps and helped me locate a Thomas William Cooper of Derby on the War Records website. The documents stated that he had died in France in 1915. I took copies of the documents and put them to one side in my study to file later.

In the meantime with a few minutes to fill I decided to look at the newspaper records to see if I could find anything interesting about the Mawbey's. There was indeed an article where the police had to be called to intervene in a family argument involving my Grandfather Harry, his sister Isabella, their step-mother Ellen and her sister a Mrs Pooler. In the article my Grandfather Harry is accused of attacking Mrs Pooler and Mrs Pooler is accused of attacking granddad's sister, Isabella. (I find granddad being accused of attacking anybody amazing as he was only 5ft 3ins tall and only weighed about 7st when wearing an overcoat.) The most enlightening piece in the article is that it describes Isabella as a widow. This immediately set me thinking that the Thomas Cooper who died in France is not Isabella's husband as the article is dated March 1913 and the Thomas Cooper I found died in France in 1915.

So once again back to the drawing board. The first thing I did was look in the newspapers in the hope of finding an account of Thomas Cooper's death in France. I did eventually find one which said that he was unmarried which confirmed he definitely wasn't Isabella's husband.

I could now narrow my search for Thomas's death. I now knew because of the date of the newspaper report on the family argument that Isabella's husband had died between 1911 and 1913. After a thorough search of the deaths I still could not pinpoint any obvious candidates for the Derby area. My next move was to go onto the index for deaths on the GRO website. The only person that remotely fitted the age and time frame was a Thomas Cooper who had died in Sheffield. I decided to search the newspapers again, this time for the Sheffield area and it was from here that I eventually solved the mystery and found the tragic tale of his death.

I discovered that Thomas worked as a slater's labourer for the Midland Railway Company in Derby. He and a colleague had travelled to Sheffield by train and then took another train to Attercliffe so that they could do some repair work to the signal Box at Mill Race Junction. The pair were walking down the track towards the box when they heard a noise and the colleague shouted a warning to Thomas before diving to the side of the track. When he stood up he looked for Thomas who had been carried fifty yards down the track. He could see that he had been hit by the train and was terribly injured so he ran to the signal box for help but unfortunately it was too late. Thomas had been killed at the age of 19 by the train which was travelling at about 50 miles per hour.

I knew this was the correct Thomas because the article named his widow, who told the inquest they had been married less than a year, and gives his address in Derby. The account of his death at such a young age was tragic

and unusual. To me it was truly amazing because this was the second death that I had discovered in the family as the result of an encounter with a train.

The second incident involves my 2x Gt Grandfather on my father's side of the family, Robert Hoe b1818. In March 1861 Robert was charged with being armed to kill game, and was subsequently found guilty and sentenced to 12 months in Southwell Prison. He worked as an agricultural labourer and presumably the family lived in a tied cottage because by the 1861 census his wife and children were in the workhouse and his blind son also called Robert was in the Asylum for the blind in Nottingham. I had great difficulty in trying to locate Robert after he was released from prison and finally found a burial entry for a burial that took place for him on 25<sup>th</sup> November 1864 at St Mary's Church Radcliffe on Trent.

Although I had the burial record I had great difficulty finding where his death was registered so that I could get a copy of his death certificate. Eventually, with little hope, I sent for a death certificate for a Robert Hoe who died had died in Peterborough in 1864.

The death certificate was very interesting as it said that this Robert Hoe had died as the result of a railway accident on 23 November 1864 which would tie in with the burial record dates. The only thing to do now was to prove that it actually was our 2 x Granddad Robert, which meant a visit to the Peterborough Archive.

At the Peterborough Archive I found a copy of the inquest plus a detailed newspaper article about the accident and the outcome of the inquest. It did also prove that this was indeed our relative by mentioning his widow's name and address.

It appears that Robert travelled everyday from Radcliffe on Trent to Peterborough by train where he was employed by a contractor working for the Great Northern Railway in the goods yard in Peterborough. While his boss went to take delivery of some bricks Robert was told, as he had got a lame arm, to take his place as lookout for the trains. Instead of doing as he was told he went to help his workmates excavate the ground from between the rails. They had not been working long when a shunting engine and two wagons came upon them. The workers had their backs to the engine which knocked one worker down. He had the presence of mind to lie perfectly still between the rails and escaped comparatively uninjured. The trucks then knocked down Robert who was about a yard in front of his co worker. The trucks passed over him without serious injury, but the cylinder of the engine caught and twisted his body leaving his stomach and right shoulder severely injured. He

was taken to the Infirmary and seemed to be improving but after a couple of days started to deteriorate and eventually died. An inquest held at Peterborough Infirmary took 3 hours to return a verdict of accidental death.

I think the moral of these two stories is that if you are a member of our family 'Beware of Trains'. They always say things always happen in three's so watch out.

*Mal Smith [Mem 7558]  
E-mail: Malsmith55@btinternet.com*

## HELLO NOTTS TOURS

Hello Notts Tours is a company that provides informal and personal guided walking tours of Nottingham and currently run two public walking tours each Saturday all year round catering for all ages and interests.

They are now about to launch a private tour package which might be of interest to our members. This allows a group of people to pre-book an exclusive tour of their own. There are four tours to choose from:

Nottingham Highlights Tour, a look at the history, culture, literature and architecture of Nottingham.

Nottingham Heroes Tour, a in-depth look at our men and women of sport, literature, religion, industry and military heroes.

Nottingham Women's Tour. Women have done so much to put Nottingham on the map and we look at their contribution.

Nottingham Rebels Tour, from the 1831 Reform Bill Riots to Ned Ludd to Robin Hood and our literary giants.

If you have any particular interests, we can also tailor a tour to suit your specific interests. The private tours can be booked for any evenings after 7pm, mutually convenient weekdays or Sundays. Tours start at the left lion in front of the Council House in Old Market Square and are 1½ hours long, with about a mile of leisurely walking. Costs for the regular Saturday tours are £10 per adult, £9 concession or £7 per child. Private tours offer a discount and are £8 adult, £7 concession, £5.50 child. Starting price is a minimum of £100 based on these prices.

For more information on us, head over to our Facebook page - [www.facebook.com/hellonotts](http://www.facebook.com/hellonotts). You can also find us on TripAdvisor, search Hello Notts Tours.

## RESEARCH CENTRE AND LIBRARY



**BRIDGE CHAPEL  
HOUSE  
DERBY**

### Acquisitions at 1 August 2017

Melbourne	New Jerusalem Church Baptisms 1831-1837 and 1862-1869
Melbourne	Penn Lane Independent Baptisms 1768-1837
Breaston	Cemetery Burial Register 1924-2001

The Society has recently been given a bundle of documents concerning properties in the Crich area and the families connected with them. The properties are around Bowmer Rough Farm, Morewood Moor and Crich itself. There is an auctioneer's map of the Isaac Bowmer Estate in 1895. The main family names are Harrison, Hydes, Radford and Rogers, with numerous associated people. The dates fall within the nineteenth and early twentieth century. If you have an interest in families with those names in Crich, or associated families, please feel free to ask us to search them for them and advise you whether it is worth a visit to our library or, if that is difficult, to commission photographs or a transcript.



## *Hair Powder Tax*

Hair powder, which was first introduced about 1590, was for a long time only occasionally used by fashionable ladies and their footmen; but about the middle of last century it began to come into general use and was accepted as tantamount to the wearing of a wig. In England, before 1775, the fashion became general among men of wearing the natural hair long, tied in a pig-tail and powdered.

In 1795 Pitt proposed to tax the use of hair-powder; though acknowledging that the proposal might at first thought seem ridiculous, he estimated that such a levy would produce £200,000 per annum and was, therefore, to be seriously regarded. On the part of the opposition, Fox replied that a fiscal arrangement dependent on a capricious fashion was an absurdity. However the proposal passed into law, and after May 5th 1795, every one in Great Britain using hair powder was required to take out an annual certificate costing a guinea. [35 *George III, c.49*]

Exemptions were allowed to the royal family, and their servants; to clergy with an income of under £100; to subalterns, non-commissioned officers, and privates in army and navy; and to all officers and privates of the yeomanry and volunteers enrolled during the past year. A father, having more than two unmarried daughters, might obtain, on payment for two, a license for the remainder. The master of a household, on making a return of all his servants and their duties who wore powder, might obtain a certificate for each servant, which would serve for any successor in the same capacity during the year.

The persons using powder were required to apply for and take out certificates at certain offices. Duplicate lists of the certificates granted had to be forwarded by the official distributor for the district to the Clerk of the Peace to be by him preserved. Hence the appearance of documents of this class among the county records. Full returns for Derbyshire of these certificates for the years 1795 and 1796 are still preserved. They are arranged in two forms—firstly a list of names and descriptions of those who had taken out certificates, arranged according to parishes, and wholly in manuscript; and secondly a list on folio printed forms, arranged alphabetically for the whole county, giving in parallel columns the number of the certificate, the date, the person's name and description. The first distributor for the Derbyshire district was Richard Leaper Head.

The following is a specimen of these returns:-

*A List of Persons describing themselves as residing in the parish of Darley in the County of Derby, who have taken out Certificates for using Hair Powder for the year 1795.*

<i>Names</i>	<i>Descriptions</i>
<i>Darley</i>	
<i>Cooper, Susannah</i>	
<i>Dakeyne, Joseph</i>	<i>Cotton Manufacturer</i>
<i>Dakeyne, Thomas</i>	<i>Ditto</i>
<i>Dakeyne, Daniel jun</i>	<i>Ditto</i>
<i>Dakeyne, Peter</i>	<i>Ditto</i>
<i>Dakeyne, Edward</i>	<i>Ditto</i>
<i>Dakeyne, James</i>	<i>Ditto</i>
<i>Dakeyne, John</i>	<i>Gent</i>
<i>Southern, Thomas</i>	<i>Housekeeper</i>
<i>[of Wensley]</i>	
<i>Wray, Lucy</i>	<i>One of 5 daughters of Rev Wm Wray</i>
<i>Wray, Mary</i>	<i>2nd of 5 daughters of Rev Wm Wray</i>
<i>Wray, Revd William</i>	
<i>Wray, Frances</i>	<i>Wife of Rev William Wray</i>
<i>Hampston, Joseph</i>	<i>Lodger with Joseph Hopkinson</i>
<i>Holden, Robert Esq</i>	<i>Housekeeper</i>
<i>Harpham, Robert</i>	<i>Butler to Robt Holden Esq</i>
<i>Holden, Capt Robert</i>	<i>Inmate with Robt Holden Esq</i>
<i>Peat, Sarah</i>	<i>Housekeeper to Robt Holden Esq</i>
<i>Spray, William</i>	<i>Under Butler to Robt Holden Esq</i>
<i>Whitworth, Mark</i>	<i>Footman to Robt Holden Esq</i>

Pitt proved right in his estimate. The yield of the hair powder tax amounted to £210,136 for the first year of its levy, and this notwithstanding that the leading members of the opposition and their followers ceased to use hair powder. The prominent Whig families of Derbyshire are conspicuous for their absence from the certificate lists of 1795 and 1796.

The amount of ridicule that the tax aroused, the wearers being termed “guinea pigs” and the absurdity of the opponents of the government giving up their accustomed mode of hair dressing, together with the still greater absurdity of Tory squires insiting on plastering the hair of all their servants with flour for the pleasure of paying another patriotic guinea, soon brought a general abandonment of the custom among sensible folk, though a minority clung to the custom with much persistency. For instance, as late as 1820 Major John Cox, of Derby, an excellent Tory, declined for some time to allow his son Edward to become the pupil of a well known clerical tutor, for the

sole reason that the clergyman did not use powder and wore his hair short, arguing that he must, therefore, be a dangerous revolutionist.

The hair tax was added to the group of assessed taxes in 1802. In 1812, 46,684 persons in Great Britain still paid hair powder duty. This was the year of the re-opening of Drury Lane Theatre, to which the "Rejected Addresses" refer. It is in the first of these addresses that the humorous lines occur:-

*"God bless the guards, though worsted Gallia scoff;  
God bless their pigtails, though they're now cut off."*

The tax soon became merely an additional levy on the man servant of fashionable life. In 1855 the number of these powdered flunkies had decreased to 951, so that the tax was repealed soon after as unproductive. It is said that of late the beplastering of the heads of coachmen and footmen is on the increase; if the admirers of this silly custom only knew the unpleasant origin of the use of powder for the heads of men servants, it would be at once abandoned.

*Taken from Derbyshire Annals, published in 1890*

## VICTORY AT WATERLOO

On June 18th 1815 the victory for the English over the French at the Battle of Waterloo signified the end of the Napoleonic Wars. News did not reach Derby until June 29th, when the Mercury printed Wellington's despatches. Nothing else was printed though—leaving the town uncertain as to whether it meant victory or not. In 1814, when the Coalition invaded France and forced Napoleon to be exiled at Elba, the town had previously celebrated peace by spending £10,000 on illuminations. The County Hall was decorated with hundreds of naked lights which kept blowing out in the wind, and at Joseph Strutt's house [at the foot of St Peter's Street] the rooms were lit with candles and lustres, the windows were filled with orange trees and other greenhouse plants, and the word 'Peace' was lit in large letters across the front of the house. So it was not surprising that this time round people were apprehensive about celebrating. However, confirmation finally arrived on July 8th via the Traveller Coach, which had the French flag trailing behind it. The coach, led by eight greys and decorated with blue flags, laurels and white lilies, drove around the market place to the New Inn, where the French flag was burned in front of a huge crowd.

*Derby; Its Rise and Progress—A.W. Davison*

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



- 8076 Mr J Davies, 7 Park Mews, 190 Duffield Road, Derby, DE22 1BJ, UK E-mail: jonardee@outlook.com
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- 8083 Mr W D Booth, Rhyd, Llangoedmor, Cardigan, Ceredigion, SA43 2LH, UK E-mail: wdjbooth@btinternet.com
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**MEMBERS WITH ADDITIONAL INTERESTS**

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### **MEMBERS INTERESTS**

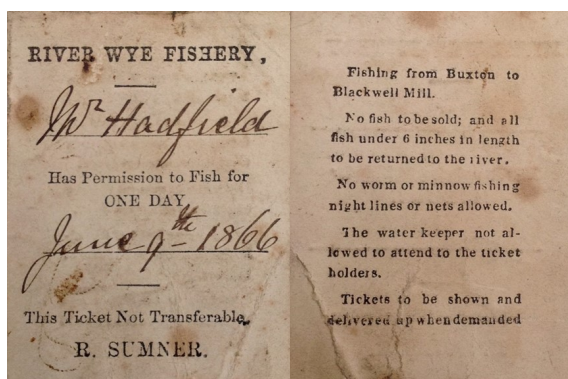
BOOTH	Duffield, DBYS	1800<	8083
LOWE	Denby, DBYS	1300+	8071
LOWE	Locko Park, DBYS	1750+	8071
LOWE	Macclesfield, CHS	1100-1450	8071
LOWE	Derbyshire	1100-1900	8071
MILLINGTON	Clay Cross, DBYS	1830-1901	8081
MUSGROVE	Hilton, DBYS	1800-1880	8070
MUSGROVE	Longford, DBYS	1800-1880	8070
SHAW	Chesterfield, DBYS	1820-1880	8070
SHAW	Longford, DBYS	1820-1880	8070

**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**

**ISSUED 9<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 1866**  
**IS THIS THE OLDEST SURVIVING “ONE DAY”**  
**FISHING TICKET?**



I am not so sure, but that is how it was being described prior to coming into my possession recently. Issued by my 2x great grandfather Robert Sumner, on 9<sup>th</sup> June 1866, it authorised Mr. Hadfield one days fishing along the River Wye, between Buxton and Blackwell Mill.

In 1860 the Duke of Devonshire purchased from the Duchy of Lancaster the right of fishing in the River Wye in the High Peak Hundred for under £450. The length of the Wye from the Grove Hotel, Buxton, to Blackwell Mill, was then sub-let to my 2x great grandfather Mr. Robert Sumner, and following his death in 1879 to his son-in-law, Mr. John Banks, of Buxton, both of whom again sub-let by weekly and other tickets the right of fishing in that portion of the river.

In 1881 a local farm hand was caught “groping” trout at Ashwood Dale, but he escaped prosecution when after 2 hours of argument, the Bench at Buxton Petty Sessions, decided on the advice of their Clerk that they were not satisfied that his employer, through whose land the river flowed, did not have some rights to the river.

Robert Sumner was born in Lancashire in 1809 and came to Buxton where he set up business as a Boot & Shoe Maker, with premises on the Market Place and later in Spring Gardens. He married local girl Sarah Ford at St Peters Church, Fairfield, on 14<sup>th</sup> November 1836, and together they raised seven children in the town. In 1860 he placed adverts in the local press, “*Wanted, a Strong Man's Man. Good wages and constant employment.*” Was he describing himself as a ‘strong man’?

He was obviously a very well know character, holding many positions about the town. Among them Vice President of the “Buxton, Fairfield & Burbage Literary Institute” ; Constable of the Township ; Assistant Overseer and Col-

lector of Rates and Taxes ; both Chairman and Master of Ceremonies of Buxton Wells Dressings Festival, together with Trainer of the Festival Morris Dancers.

He was also an active member of the Buxton Ratepayers Association and in June 1874, being disillusioned with the way money was being spent by the Buxton Local Board (predecessor to Borough Council), he put himself forward in the local election as one of 10 candidates contesting four seats. His success was reported in the local paper, *"Mr. SUMNER is so well known, and so thoroughly acquainted with the district, that he ought to give considerable weight to the deliberation of the Board"*. He was duly appointed by the Board to serve on both the "Street Nuisance and Hackney Carriage" and "General Street Improvement" Committees. Among the unsuccessful candidates was Robert Rippon Duke, the renowned architect who designed the Pavilion Gardens Octagon concert hall and remodelled the Devonshire Hospital.

Until researching our family history over recent years I had no knowledge of Robert Sumner, but from all accounts he appears to have been a colourful character. Following the 1875 Buxton Cricket Club Athletics Festival, the Buxton Advertiser described him thus, *"Mr. R. Sumner made as usual a most energetic and useful clerk of the course, his burly form seeming to carry all before it"*. The same 'burly form' that had been training the Morris Dancers!

He died of Paralysis in 1879 and is buried along with his wife at St Peters, Fairfield. His Obituary in the High Peak News bore testament to his standing within the town:

*"Our obituary today records the death of our most prominent townsman - Mr. Robert Sumner. As tax collector and assistant overseer, he will be long remembered for tempering firmness with kindness. Recently he was a member of the Local Board, where his shadow grew less, for his powers were declining. Had he been a member of that body when in full mental and physical vigour, it might have been better for the prosperity of Buxton. As it is, we take leave of him with great regret. He has done his best for the interest in the town's matters, it would be all the better for the general public. Had "the cobbler struck to his last," he probably, would have been more prosperous, but it may be questioned whether he would have stood higher in the estimation of his townsmen."*

**Ernie Drabble MBE**  
**ern26guard-dfhs@yahoo.co.uk**

## **Derbyshire Family History Society**

**Sept Quarter 2017**



**Shardlow Hall is a 17th century country house at Shardlow. Built in 1684 for Leonard Fosbrooke, it became home for a series of six Leonard Foxbrookes, two of whom served as High Sheriff of Derbyshire. The Fosbrookes moved to Ravenstone Hall and in 1826 sold the house to James Sutton, another High Sheriff of Derbyshire. The house then ceased to be used as a residence and was occupied by Shardlow Hall School from 1911 to 1933. It is now offices.**