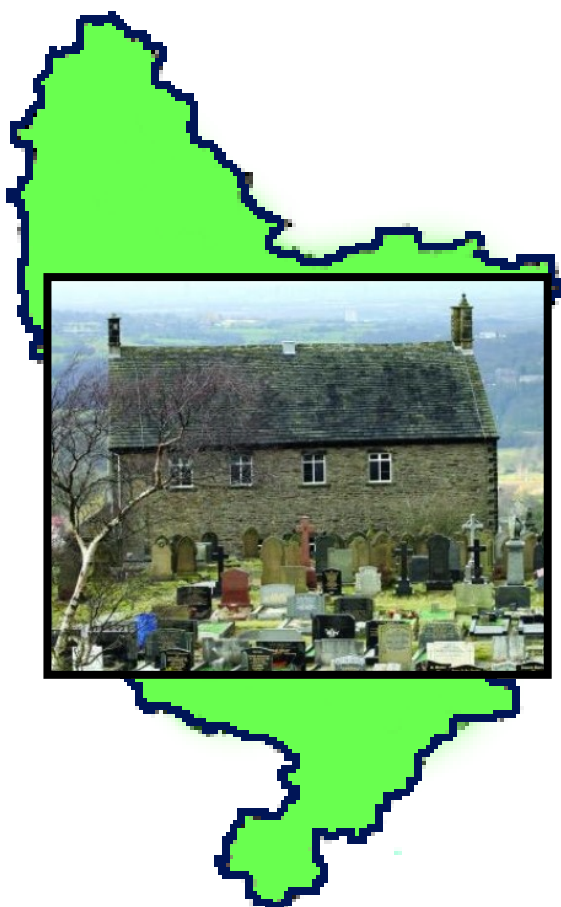


# *Derbyshire Family History Society*



Charlesworth  
Independent  
Chapel  
also known as  
Top Chapel

See Page 2

*Dec 2018*

*Issue 167*

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

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

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

### **MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS**

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

## **ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS**

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

BRITISH ISLES per family [at one address] £15

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

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

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Please Note! Our website now offers the facility to renew your membership online, using PayPal [an account or debit/credit card needed]. If you are unsure of your membership number please look at the address label on the bag in which your magazine arrived and you will find it the top corner. It would be helpful to quote this in any correspondence with the Society.

**Please renew your subscriptions promptly.** Due to the steep rising rates of postage no magazines will be sent out unless your payment is with us by the 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.

## **MEETINGS 2019**

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

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| 8 Jan  | Talking Butts—Anthony Poulton-Smith  |
| 12 Feb | A Walk Round Darley Abbey—Peter Nelson   |
| 12 Mar | Derbyshire Associations for the Prosecution of Felons—<br>Robert Mee                 |
| 9 Apr  | AGM followed by Tissington Its Past, Present and Future -<br>Sir Richard FitzHerbert |
| 14 May | James Brindley, Canal Pioneer—Cliff Lea  |

#### **Front Cover Picture—CHARLESWORTH INDEPENDENT CHAPEL**

A simple building once stood here, preceding the Chapel of St Mary Magdalen, and now the site of Charlesworth Independent Chapel, formerly the Congregational Chapel, and known locally as Top Chapel. During the Civil War the Chapel was recorded as Presbyterian and at the Restoration Anglicanism was re-established in all of Derbyshire, with the exception of Charlesworth, where the Howard family allowed it to remain Presbyterian, making it the only Anglican Church not reclaimed. William Bagshaw preached in secret at various places and in response to his influence the members of St Mary Magdalen's at Charlesworth began to worship as a Congregational Chapel in 1652.

In 1703 a new Chapel building was erected on the site and 6 years later a certificate was issued for "a meeting house of protestant dissenters in Glosop Dale called Charlesworth Chapel". 20 years later the Independents took over the Chapel and rebuilt it in its current form in 1797. A later extension to the rear was built by the Victorians.

In 1815 John Bradbury ran a public house in Town Lane called the Cradle and Coffin. An underground passage ran from these premises to the Independent Chapel graveyard on Monks Road. This passage has now collapsed.

## **FROM THE EDITOR**

Welcome to the last issue of 2018 and I hope you can find something you enjoy amongst its pages. Many thanks for all the articles and snippets you have sent in, they will all be used eventually, but for once [and this is not a complaint] I have quite a backlog of things to use. Please keep them coming, it makes my job much easier.

By the time you get this, the commemorations for the 100th Anniversary of World War I will be over and we will be setting our eyes on Christmas. I have to say, it is not my most favourite time of the year and I celebrate under protest. Nevertheless I was totally taken aback when going into a card shop to purchase a birthday card for my grandson. The shelves were totally packed with Christmas cards and I couldn't find anything suitable. Asking the assistant brought forward the response "nobody has birthdays this time of the year, we only stock Christmas cards". Having pointed out that it was hardly my grandson's fault that he was born in November I left the shop in a state of shock. What, I should have asked in hindsight, does she think Christmas represents. Is it just me or is the world going mad?

Now a question for you all. Is there anyone out there who can remember St Aidan's Church in Derby? We came across it totally by accident and I was surprised to learn that nobody can remember it, yet it wasn't demolished until the 1970s. It was the Mission Church to St Alkmund, seemed to have a very thriving community and was quite an imposing building for a Mission Church. Some of our members are in their 80s and yet they can't even remember seeing it. I am now trying to do an article for the magazine next time, so if anyone can give me a few pointers I would be most grateful.

Well that is it for this time, please enjoy reading the magazine which has quite a mix of articles this time. Especially take note of the fact that we now have a Facebook page and anything relevant would be most gratefully received by the Administrator. The more we can reach out to people the better. If you live within distance of Derby please consider coming to the monthly meetings, not only an interesting talk but the chance to talk to fellow enthusiasts who can be of great help in knocking down brick walls.

Finally have a wonderful Christmas and we hope to see you in 2019.

*Helen*

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## **DERBY MEETINGS**

**Jul 2018**

### **Old Non-Conformist Families—Stephen Orchard**

After the Reformation, some in the Church of England wanted little change, whereas others known as Puritans wanted to see more piety. They wanted less ceremonies and imagery and less power for the bishops. Tensions led to the Civil War and the Puritans took power in Parliament. They abolished the bishops and set up a church government based on a system known as “hundreds” All this came to an end in 1660 with the restoration of the monarchy and the bishops. The Act of Uniformity was passed. Clergymen had to be ordained by a bishop and those that took an Oath to uphold the Solemn League and Covenant were required to renounce it or run the risk of prosecution. Ministers, University teachers and schoolmasters who refused to conform were forced out of their posts. In all 39 ministers were ejected from their livings in Derbyshire. Acts were passed preventing ejected ministers from preaching outside the parish church. In 1688 William of Orange arrived and the Act of Toleration was passed. A declaration that there was a broad agreement with the doctrines of the Church of England and they were not Roman Catholic led to Nonconformists being known as Protestant Dissenters.

Stephen then gave us a brief history of several Nonconformist families in Derbyshire. John Hieron born 1608 was the son of the vicar of Stapenhill. The family moved to Chellaston and he was sent to Repton School taking the ferry across the Trent. One day he fell in and as he did not drown he took it as a sign that God had a purpose in his life. He was ordained in 1630 and employed by the Leigh family of Egginton. He met George Lees, a church warden of Ashbourne and was drawn into Puritan schemes to dominate Ashbourne. He was nominated Master of Ashbourne School but the Fitzherberts blocked his appointment. He was eventually elected to the position of Sunday afternoon lecturer at St Oswalds. From this position he tried to suppress Sunday sports, including football, not a good idea in Ashbourne. He continued there until 1643 without much local support until the outbreak of the Civil War. Arrested by Royalists he escaped and fled to Derby. He was granted a living by Sir John Gell at Breadsall. In 1662 he was required to leave Breadsall but because of the Five Mile Act he was unable to preach anywhere locally. He ended his days in Losco, dying in 1682.

John Oldfield was Sir John Gell's vicar at Carsington from 1649. He was born near Chesterfield and became a leading figure in the Wirksworth Classis and subsequent Nonconformist resistance. In 1661 he was taken to court for not reading the Common Prayer and, inevitably left Carsington to take refuge with the Gells. He preached at several houses in the area and prosecuted af-

ter preaching at a conventicle in Wirksworth in 1673. He was fined but could not pay and the fine was transferred to others involved. Many of these people later formed the Wirksworth meeting house after Toleration. He was a contributor to a rare book of sermons called "England's Remembrance" published in 1663. Oldfield had four sons, three of whom continued in the ministry outside the C of E and one inside.

William Bagshawe, known as the Apostle of the Peak, was educated at Cambridge and ordained by presbyters in Chesterfield in 1651. He travelled around the Peak District preaching in small villages and remote places. Through him Dissenters Meetings were set up at Ashford, Bradwell, Hucklow and Chelmorton. His chapel at Chinley still survives. He died in 1701.

Samuel Charles was appointed to Kniveton in 1655 and often lived at Hopton with the Gells. He became vicar of Mickleover until 1662 and became a truculent nonconformist. He went first to Belper then Hull where the Duke of Monmouth was governor. Nonconformists rested hopes on Monmouth becoming King and granting toleration to them. This ended disastrously with many lives lost. In 1682 Charles was prosecuted under the Five Mile Act and afterwards sent sermons to the Hull congregation in writing. He died in 1693.

John Bingham born circa 1613 lost a leg in an accident soon after he graduated but survived. He became master of Derby School in 1640 and went on to become rector of Marston on Dove but because of his views he was ejected in 1662. He was friends with other ejected ministers and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sheldon. He moved around other villages until he died in Thurstaston in 1688. His son John became a prominent merchant in Derby.

Samuel Ogden began his ordination in Fairfield and then moved to Mackworth. After 1663 he taught in Mackworth, later moving his school to Derby. After problems in Derby he retreated to Wirksworth, where Sir John Gell gave him the mastership of his school.

Stephen's family connections to the Brentnalls via his great great grandmother lead him to investigate this final Nonconformist. John Brentnall who died in 1725 was a Derby merchant and member of the Friar Gate Chapel and Mercer's Guild. He had no surviving children but a brother Samuel married Abigail Barrett, daughter of John Barrett ejected minister from Nottingham. Another daughter Elizabeth Barrett married ejected minister Samuel Coates and his son married the daughter of an ejected minister. Nothing like keeping it in the family. Samuel Brentnall set up home and meeting at Osliston Hall, Sutton on the Hill. In 1739 a Sutton man George Ashmore turned King's Evidence when arrested for clipping guineas, claiming Samuel was his accom-



plice. The court's prejudice against nonconformists led to him being imprisoned for life. His goods were confiscated and later sold along with Osliston Hall. George Ashmore was executed on another charge and Samuel was given a Royal Pardon. Samuel's son succeeded him as a minister at Duffield but died childless.

Another branch of the Brentnall family, William, born 1725 Kirk Langley came to Derby as part of the volunteer force raised to oppose Bonnie Prince Charlie in 1745. He prospered and became landlord of the Talbot Inn on Irongate. He let a barn near Macklin St to the Independent congregation which subsequently became Victoria St Congregational Chapel. The building of a new church in 1861 was largely funded by William's great grandson Charles. This was subsequently demolished in 1961 to make way for a new development and a new church was built on top of a row of shops. This area is again part of a regeneration scheme and "progress" continues.

**Sep 2018**

**Women in the English Civil War—Helen Chambers**

Charles I came to the throne in 1625 and married Henrietta Maria of France. She was Roman Catholic and over the years Charles favoured a High Anglican form of worship. There were ongoing tensions with parliament over money and wars abroad. Charles believed in the Divine Right of Kings and opposition to his wants led him to dissolve parliament three times and resolve to rule alone. He sold titles to people and if they refused them would fine them an equal amount. He tried to force the New Common Prayer book on to Scotland causing unrest. He recalled parliament in order to raise money to fight the Scots, putting an end to his personal rule. Civil War began in August 1642. Oliver Cromwell rose through the military and political ranks until he was promoted to second in command of the New Model Army in 1645. Cromwell set up a Rump Parliament. Eventually Charles I was arrested and charged with treason. He was executed in 1649.

During this time some women had grown up with a basic education in reading and writing, followed by training in motherhood and household duties. They had no influence in political or legal issues. They could not own property or run a business. Those women who married in to nobility or higher classes were expected to run the household in the absence of her husband. During skirmishes she protected his property, organising the men, loading guns and tending to the injured. In 1643 hundreds of women demonstrated for peace outside parliament. Soldiers were sent in and chaos ensued, two men died and many men and women injured. At the end of the War the women were expected to return to wifely duties (sound familiar). There were distinguished women on both sides.

***D.F.H.S. Dec Qtr 2018***

Lady Blanche Arundell was the daughter of Edward Somerset and a Plantaganet. She married Thomas Arundell and during the absence of her husband defended Wardour Castle for nine days with the help of her children, a few maid servants and twenty five men against parliamentary forces of thirteen hundred soldiers and artillery. She was finally forced to surrender and the Castle was sacked.

Lady Mary Bankes defended Corfe Castle during her husband's absence. John Bankes served with the King. Lady Mary stayed on with her children, servants and just five men. She defended the castle for three years until she was betrayed. She was forced to surrender but because of her bravery she was allowed to keep the keys of the castle. The castle itself was slighted on the orders of the House of Commons.

Brilliana Harley was wife of Sir Robert Harley and resided at Brampton Bryan Herefordshire. A Puritan family surrounded by Royalists. Brilliana was left to protect the Castle and her neighbours, friends and relatives were ordered to reduce Brampton Bryan. Hostilities commenced and the village was raised. After seven weeks the siege was lifted and Brilliana set about replenishing the castle. Unfortunately Brilliana developed pneumonia and died. The castle was besieged a second time and fell to the Royalists and was destroyed. Ann Fairfax, cousin of Brilliana Harley, was on the front line with her husband Sir Thomas through several battles. They escaped from Bradford but became separated and Ann was captured. She was eventually reunited with her family.

Lucy Hay, daughter of Henry Percy and married to James Hay, Earl of Carlisle was a conspicuous figure at Court. She was privy to many plans and secrets and happy to share them with the opposition. She informed the Earl of Essex of the King's intention to arrest five members of Parliament, giving them chance to escape. She was arrested and incarcerated in the Tower of London, where she continued to communicate with Charles II. She was eventually released but never regained her former influence.

Henrietta Maria also took part in The Civil War. She left England for Netherlands and set about raising loans, buying weapons and recruiting troops. She returned to England and was reunited with the King at Edgehill.

There were ballads written during this period and Helen sang some of these for us and played some of the instruments of the day and as usual was dressed in period costume.

RUTH BARBER

## **THE SORRY TALE OF ANTHONY WESTON AND JOHN ALLEN, NAILERS FROM BELPER**

I first came across Anthony Weston when I began to unravel my family history, he being my GGGG Grandfather born C1785 in Belper, Derbyshire, on my maternal side (Ride). Anthony, a nailer was married to Ellen Swaine at Duffield in 1806. By 1841 they were living in Cow Hill, Belper where there was a large community of nailers working in a domestic setting, although by this period the industry was in sharp decline due to the import of nails mainly from America. An everyday story of working folk or so I thought .....

Recently revisiting the Census information, I noted that Anthony was present on the 1841 and 1861 returns but missing in 1851. I have been revisiting these gaps in my research and came across Anthony in the HO series of records for Prisons and Institutions. He was convicted at Derby Assizes on 24/7/1843 for housebreaking/burglary, but then my amazement turned to sadness when I read that he had been sentenced to Transportation for Life. Prisoner number 8483, aged 58. He had been found guilty along with accomplice John Allen, aged 22 of burglary, stealing £19 from a house in Windley, Duffield and they had both been dealt the same sentence.

**Derbyshire Courier (29/7/1843)** Register of Assizes and Sessions  
Derby Summer Assizes, Crown Court, 24 July 1843

A précis from the report of the trial:

*Anthony Weston, 58 and John Allen, 22 charged with breaking into the dwelling house of William Smith, at Windley, in the parish of Duffield, on the 22nd of May, and stealing a £5 note, 9 sovereigns, some silver coin and 3 guns, the property of the said William Smith.*

*Mr Hildyard prosecuted, the prisoners were undefended.*

*It transpired that Mr Smith recognised John Allen as being part of a group of 4 men, including Anthony, who had been to his door the previous day attempting to sell nails. It was alleged that Anthony struck Mr Smith with an iron instrument, and rifled his pockets of the money. He then forced open a chest and stole 3 guns, later found abandoned in the orchard. Mary Lynam, Servant to Mr Smith, was threatened by both men but on seeing that she was a poor woman and had little money, did her no harm. Several witnesses were called who identified that both men had been in the neighbourhood the previous day.*

*Anthony and John called several witnesses to support their plea of innocence and provide an alibi including, Thomas Weston (son), Benjamin Taylor of Cow Hill, William Riley (son-in-law), Anthony Frost of Cow Hill, Mary*

*Oaksley of Cow Hill and Hannah Weston (daughter-in-law). Several witnesses said that both men had been "out of employ" for some time, Anthony for 6 months. But to no avail, Mr Hildyard declared discrepancies in the testimonies of defence witnesses, found both prisoners guilty and sentenced them both to transportation for life.*

### **Warrant**

Derby 9 August 1843

To remove Anthony Weston amongst a group of 19 prisoners to Millbank Prison, London.

Signed: to be received by the Governor Of Millbank Prison. Included two women and Jno Allen, convicted with Anthony Weston.

### **Derbyshire Courier (26/8/1843)**

Transports

The under mentioned transports left the prison on the morning of the 21st instance, under proper care, for Millbank Prison, London viz: Thomas Clifford, Samuel Poxon, Anthony Weston, William Bennett, Thomas Oldham, all for life. John Eccleshall, William Thompson for 15 years each. Edward Oakden, John Chadwick, Joseph Anfield, Joseph Bowden, Percival Bosworth, Elizabeth Woods, Zillah Proctor, Olive Bloor, all for 10 years.

Anthony it seemed had also been caught red handed on a previous occasion:

### **Derby Mercury (14/7/1841)**

Committed to Derby County Gaol.

Anthony Weston of Belper, committed to hard labour for 3 months for stealing 23 cabbages, the property of Samuel Hall.

John Allen was moved from Derby Gaol to Millbank on 21st August (omitted from the Derbyshire Courier report of 26/8/1843 but reported in the 2/9/1843 edition), before he was shipped abroad in March 1844.

### **Millbank Prison, London**

Holding site for prisoners awaiting transportation 1821-1892 (1500 prisoners).

Now the site of Tate Britain.

### **ANTHONY'S DIARY**

#### **Warrant**

To the Governor of Millbank Prison 26 October 1843.

To remove Anthony Weston amongst a group of 18 prisoners to "Justitia".

Signed: as received by JH Capper Esq Supt of Hulks

Anthony was sent to the hulks:

HMS "Justitia" (Woolwich) 50 gun ship, 1843 - 1849.

HMS "Defence" (Woolwich and Portsmouth) 74 gun ship of the line built in 1815, 1849 - 1851.

### **The Hulks**

The hulks were obsolete war ships, stripped of rigging and equipment that were utilised as prison ships, often for prisoners of war but in later years as holding sites for convicts awaiting transportation. The outbreak of war in America in 1775 meant that it was no longer possible to ship prisoners to America and the Colonies of the West Indies. The regime of hard labour entailed loading/unloading vessels, moving timber and cleaning out ships at the dockyards. At the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich this also included cleaning guns and shot.

Prisoners were remunerated for their efforts by a system of gratuities:

Industry Gratuities: paid for how hard he works per week

Conduct Gratuities: paid for good behaviour per week

Badges: These were worn by prisoners on their left arm and were black leather with an edge of red cloth on which lettering was stamped with: sentence, conduct and number of months on the hulk.

The badges were collected monthly and conduct from the "character" books was scrutinised and badges altered accordingly. Very Good behaviour was rewarded by advancement toward the 2nd stage of penal servitude. Bad by confinement or removal to a penal establishment under more severe discipline.

Rings were worn by prisoners on the right arm: Blue - 2nd stage of penal servitude, Red - 1st class convict.

Quarterly returns from Prisons, Asylums and Hulks indicate that Anthony was a model prisoner both on the "Justitia" and "Defence" with conduct being consistently "very good". At the expiration of the convict's term, the character books were summed up and he had a bill for the total sum due to him. Some money was given in cash, some by Postal Order and a balance retained by the Governor. This could be reclaimed on receipt of a letter, signed by a clergyman as proof he was leading an honest life. See below the reply to the letter from the Parish priest.

At this stage I can only assume that Anthony was regarded as too old or too sick to be transported to Tasmania/Australia. Anthony unsuccessfully ap-

pealed against his sentence on two occasions and from his petition we can see that he had already served seven years on the hulks and suffered ill health as a result of the harsh regime.

**Register of Appeals**

“Defence”

11 March 1850

Anthony Weston Derby May 1843 Burglary Life

Result: Nil

**Register of Appeals**

“Defence”

25 May 1850

Anthony Weston Derby May 1843 Burglary Life

Result: Nil

**The Petition**

“Defence” Gosport

May 25 1850

Anthony Weston

To the Right Honourable

Sir George Grey BART

Secretary of State for the Home Department

Humbly Sheweth

*That your Petitioner was tried and convicted for burglary at Derby on the 24 day of July 1843 and received a sentence of Transportation for Life. Your Petitioner acknowledged a former conviction for having stolen 2 cabbages, the particulars of the case being stated before in a humble petition and forwarded to HP Voules Esq for the purpose of presentation to your Honble Sir. fearful the same may have been mislaid, your Petitioner most humbly implores that you will pardon the liberty of again calling your notice to the particulars of the Petition before forwarded. Your Petitioner having suffered seven years incarceration and being injured upon the public works at Woolwich also one hand injured by the falling of a 96 lbs shell upon it, in addition to which from the severe confinement has found great deficiency in the eyesight. Your Petitioner is 68 years of age and has lost his wife leaving six children three of which being unprovided for he has friends that will receive and kindly provide for him, should it please Her Most gracious Majesty to extend to him her Royal Pardon, in the hope that you will Honble Sir take your Petitioners deplorable position into consideration and the long confinement he has suffered and again restore him to society and to the bosom of his family and friends. And Your Petitioner will as in duty bound ever pray.*

Anthony Weston

### **Reply to letter from Parish Priest**

*To: The Revd Robert Hey, Belper 9 Octbr 1851*

*Sir, I am dir by Secy Sir Geo Grey to acknowledge the receipt of .....of the 22..... Respecting the amount of gratuity paid to Anthony Weston on his discharge from the "Defence" hulk and I am to request ? you that it appears after enquiry that the person received the full amount to which he was entitled by the prison regulations. EP Bouverie*

The "Defence" Register which contains his details on arrival at the vessel in 1849, also states that Anthony was discharged per a free pardon on 9 August 1851 (after the Census had been taken on 30th March). Most of the prisoner records indicate that they were transferred to the "Defence" due to ill health or disability including, loss of legs and hands, epilepsy, paralysis of limbs and in Anthony's case palpitations of the heart. He is present in Belper on the 1861 Census living in the home of his daughter Ann and son-in-law German Ride in Cow Hill, Belper along with his five grandchildren. Anthony died and was buried at St Peter's Church, Belper on 28 July 1861 aged 76. Sadly wife Ellen's death had been registered in the September-December quarter 1846, just 3 years after his conviction.

### **JOHN'S DIARY**

In March 1844 a large number of convicts under sentence of transportation were removed from the Millbank prison and placed on board the "Blundell" and "London", recently commissioned as transport ships, lying off the Royal Arsenal, at Woolwich. The Millbank Prison Register states that John was discharged on 9 March 1844 per "Blundell" to Norfolk Island.

See more information re the "Blundell" on website "Free Settler or Felon?"

### **Blundell**

Built: Moulmein 1839 (First British capital of Burma)    Bark sailing out of Calcutta    Tons: 573

Embarked: 210 convicts    Voyage: 102 days    Deaths: 0

Master: Robert L. Hunter    Surgeon Superintendent: Benjamin Bynoe

*"The prisoners were conveyed down the river in steam-boats belonging to the Waterman's Company, under guard of a detachment of the 58th Regiment appointed to proceed with them to their destination. The "London" (a fine vessel of 700 tons burden) with 250 of the lighter class of offenders, is bound to Hobart Town. The "Blundell" carries 210 of the worst class, her destination being the penal settlement of Norfolk Island."*

The "Blundell" " departed the Downs, off Deal in Kent, on 20th March 1844 and was reported to be the first convict ship to sail from England directly to

Norfolk Island. On the 6th May the “Blundell” spoke to the “British Empire”, from London, bound to Madras, out 50 days.

Passengers included Lieutenant Cooper and 31 rank and file of the 58th regiment, Ensign Coleman and 15 rank and file of the 80th regiment, 4 women, and 6 children. Lieut. Hays, wife, three children and female servant and Mr. and Mrs. Stewart were landed at Norfolk Island.

Benjamin Bynoe was employed as Surgeon Superintendent. He kept a medical journal from 29 February 1844 to 1st August 1844.....

*“We left England in March with three hundred and twenty four souls on board including forty of the Ship's Company and arrived safe at Norfolk Island on the sixth day of July with the loss of one man. The number of patients entered on the sick book during that period was forty-one and out of that number thirty-five have been entered in the Journal, although many of the prisoners required an occasional cathartic from the want of proper exercise, they were of so slight a nature as not to admit of their being placed on the List.....The Pistol shot wound requiring amputation was one of the Sergeants of the Guard who was at the usual hour in the morning loading it when it accidentally exploded and shattered the forefinger close to the metacarpal bone. It healed rapidly without any degree of inflammation.”*

A new system recently introduced on prison ships was used on the “Blundell” - this entailed each prisoner occupying his own berth, which was about twenty inches wide, and sufficiently long. This allowed the prisoners to leave their bed without disturbing other men. The prisoners remained healthy with no deaths occurring amongst them. The “Blundell” had a favourable passage of 102 days to Norfolk Island, arriving there on the 5th July 1844. The weather being fine, the prisoners, 210 in number were landed in about four hours on the following day and the ship departed that same evening bound for Port Jackson (now called Sydney Harbour). It was a long passage of 24 days to Port Jackson in consequence of strong winds; no vessels were encountered after leaving Norfolk Island.

### **Benjamin Bynoe - Ship Surgeon**

Benjamin Bynoe was born in Barbados, West Indies c.1803. He was on the list of new Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1825 and joined Charles Darwin's expedition as assistant-surgeon on the “Beagle” in 1831 and was appointed acting surgeon in 1832. Benjamin Bynoe joined the next expedition which departed England in July 1837 and returned to England in October 1843. The Bynoe mouth, one of the outlets of the Flinders River, was named by Captain Stokes R.N. of the “Beagle” in 1841 in honour of Bynoe.



## **Norfolk Island**

### **The First Settlement 1788-1814**

On March 6, 1788, the British colours were raised over Norfolk Island, Capital Kingston.

Six weeks earlier, Britain's First Fleet had arrived at Botany Bay (later Sydney) to establish the penal colony of New South Wales. Hand picked from the ranks of the First Fleeters were 23 settlers: 7 freemen, 15 convicts and the commandant, Lieutenant Phillip Gidley King. The occupation of the island was to make masts and sails from pine and grow flax for the refurbishment of British ships and to prevent the island falling into the hands of His Majesty's rivals, the French.

In March 1790, Norfolk Island received the ships "Sirius" and "Supply" which had brought two companies of Marines plus new convicts from Sydney, totalling 300 people. The 540-ton "Sirius" and most of its provisions were lost on the coral reef.

The continuing influx of convicts from Sydney during the following few years saw Norfolk Island become nothing more than a labour camp, the island's main purpose being to provide food for Sydney - maize, wheat, potatoes, cabbage, timber, flax and fruit. But by 1814 the island was empty, Sydney and the colony of New South Wales had no further need to import food from Norfolk Island and the structures of the settlement were razed. The farm and domestic animals were shot and the wild dogs were left to scavenge.

### **The Second Settlement 1825-1855 (John Allen arrived in 1844)**

During Norfolk Island's second settlement it was referred to as the "Hell of the Pacific", a place dominated by death and despair. In 1824 the Governor of New South Wales, Sir Thomas Brisbane, was directed to make Norfolk Island into a penitentiary again due to the island's inaccessibility. Brisbane decided that it was the best place to send the worst felons "forever to be excluded from all hope of return". Norfolk Island would be "a place of the extremest punishment short of Death."

Conditions in the gaol were appalling, a large percentage of the convicts were sentenced to remain in heavy chains until the end of their natural lives and most convicts were chained during the day. Agricultural labour was the most hated kind, the chain gangs were forced to hoe from sunrise until sunset. Punishments for petty crimes during this period included: lashings, sometimes up to 500 strokes; dumb-cells, constructed to exclude light and sound where many men lost their sanity; solitary confinement; increased workloads and decreased rations.

Convicts also endured hard labour, building much of the Georgian architecture of the island. These include the Military Barracks, the Commissariat Store, the Crankmill (man-powered for grinding maize), the Gaol, the Officers Baths and the Bloody Bridge. Stone was quarried locally, coral rubble was rendered with lime and sand, while Norfolk Pine was used for joinery and roofs.

On 14 September 1844 the administrative control of Norfolk Island passed from New South Wales to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania). Originally, Tasmania was discovered by Abel Tasman for the Dutch in 1642. He named the island after Anthony Van Diemen, the Governor General of the Dutch East Indies who had commissioned his voyages and after the island was granted self government, it was renamed Tasmania on 1st January 1856.

By 1855 the Norfolk Island stood empty again. The cost of maintaining the penal settlement was growing and Port Arthur in Tasmania was viewed as a less costly alternative. Dr Robert Wilson, Catholic Bishop of Hobart, wrote a damning report about the inhuman practices he witnessed on a visit to Norfolk Island, and called for its abandonment. Also, Earl Grey and the British Parliament saw Norfolk as a possible home for the inhabitants of Pitcairn Island - the descendants of the mutiny on the "Bounty" and their Tahitian-Polynesian wives.

### **The Third Settlement 1856**

On June 8, 1856, 194 people arrived on Norfolk Island aboard the "Morayshire". These were the Pitcairners transported 4250 miles to a new homeland. The modern capital is Burnt Pine, Kingston largely having been abandoned to its cruel past.

### **John Allen's Convict Records**

John arrived on Norfolk Island on 6 July 1844 almost one year after his trial at Derby Assizes. His convict record shows that he was married to Mary, his father was Samuel and his siblings William, Samuel, Charlotte and Eliza were all present in their "native place", Belper, Derbyshire. The 1841 England Census had recorded the family, including John, living at Cow Hill, Belper, all the four men working as Nailors.

John had married Mary Bennet on 4 October 1841 at St Alkmund's Church, Duffield. Interestingly Mary remarried in March 1845 again at St Alkmund's to John Bancroft of West Hallam. How this came about is a mystery, as abandonment for 7 years was normally the measure by which spouses could re-marry! I can find no trace of any children resulting from this marriage.

John's convict record shows he was assessed on arrival at Norfolk Island by a Surgeon re his physical condition and was categorised as class PPH 03rd, a Probation Pass Holder primarily employed by the Government on Public Works. Between 1846/1847 his offences and sentences for misdemeanours were numerous and included 24 lashes for possession of 2 knives, 3 months hard labour in chains for disobedience, 35 lashes for taking nails out of the blacksmiths shop.

On 8 April 1847 all the "Blundell" men from Norfolk Island were transferred to Tasmania aboard the ship "Pestonjee Bomanjee" arriving at Impression Bay, Tasman peninsula. The ship had departed London on 24 October 1846, bound originally for Norfolk Island but whilst at Plymouth the destination had been changed to Hobart and then Maria Island. She was then chartered to transfer prisoners to Tasmania from NI.

Based in Hobart, John's record shows he was a PPH, which allowed him a little more leeway and further offences included being AWOL, being drunk, misconduct, disturbing the peace and assaulting a constable! The despair and deprivation during the years of incarceration coupled with his character as a nailer (they had a reputation for fighting and drunkenness!) likely drove John to these acts of rebellion for which he paid dearly.

Between 1849 and 1855 John applied for a conditional pardon on numerous occasions, which was finally granted on 16 October 1855 having served 12 years from the date of conviction.

John also decided to remarry and applied for permission on two occasions, finally marrying Mary Butler at St Joseph's RC Church, Hobart by Banns on 13 June 1853, he described as Batchelor and Blacksmith, Mary as Spinster and Servant. Witnesses John & Ann Harman.

Mary Butler had been transported from Dublin on 11 October 1848, aboard the "Lord Auckland" and arrived in 20 January 1849. She had been a country servant in Limerick and had previously been convicted of stealing a shirt for which she was jailed for 2 weeks. She was described as having been "2 weeks on the town", usually indicating prostitution and was sentenced to seven years for stealing a coat. Her convict record states that her father in Limerick was Michael and her sister Johanna was living in America.

The records show that Mary Allen (Butler) gave birth to four children: William (1852), John (1854), Daniel (1856) and Mary Ann (1857), all the births being registered in Hobart.

Sadly there was no happy ending to this antipodean part of the tale. On 16th November 1859, Mary made an application to the Queen's Orphan School, Hobart for admission for her four children on account of desertion by her husband John Allen. John had deserted the family five weeks previously and she was unable to provide for her children as she had already pledged all her possessions in order to buy bread for them and they were now starving.

One year later in June 1860 John made a similar application to the Queen's Orphan School for the admission of John and Daniel on account of his wife being under a sentence of three months! The last entry I can find for the family is a copy of an Electric Telegraph message requesting the Inspector of Police to arrange the return of John Allen 16, an orphan apprentice, to the Queen's Asylum.

Daniel Allen (1856) married in Launceston, Tasmania and fathered seven children by wives Johanna Rush and Amy Isabel Hillier, dying in Invermay, Launceston in 1929. His will indicated that he, a Carrier, left the amount of £465, a cottage and a piece of land at Invermay. From virtual destitution, Daniel had worked his way up to be an honourable member of the community who left adequate provision in his will for his children. As yet, I can find no definite trace of William, John and Mary Ann in the Tasmanian Archives, other than birth entries.

Final entries on John's convict record show that he was convicted of perjury on 5 June 1873 at Launceston and sentenced to 3 years in prison.

The last we hear of John is the record of his death on 1 July 1878, aged 58 of paralysis. John was described as a pauper and was resident in the Cascades Pauper Establishment. The Cascades had originally been an establishment to house and reform female convicts but latterly had been a hospital for the chronically sick elderly and paupers, akin to a Workhouse in England. Now mostly in ruins, but what remains is being preserved as a heritage site.

John was buried at Cornelian Bay Cemetery, Hobart on 2 July 1878.

### **Final thoughts**

In retrospect and considering the standards of justice that we experience in modern times, what an appalling story this was. Anthony's life marred by gruelling toil and ill health, an elderly man by any standards. His wife dead and six children effectively abandoned to their fate, no State intervention or support then! Anthony was fortunate to be spared the inhumanity of transportation but his health was severely impaired by his incarceration and hard labour. He was lucky in the respect that he was able to return home to his

family, as on the 1861 Census he is back in Belper living with his married daughter Ann Ryde and he died that same year aged 76 and is buried in St Peter's churchyard.

In the case of John Allen his experiences and treatment over the years coupled with the grinding poverty of his situation seems to have had a devastating effect on him and his family. John wrenched from one young wife, sent to a life of cruelty and deprivation and then neglecting his new wife and children and subjecting them to a pitiful existence. And let us not forget the victim of the original crime, Mr William Smith, he also suffered the terror of being burgled, beaten and robbed.

Saying sorry for historical tragedies seems to be de rigueur at present. This is certainly one of them, for Anthony, John and thousands of others who suffered the same fate, the harshness of the punishment seems inexplicable to us in the 21st Century. But hindsight is all we have, the treatment meted out to them was the norm for the era in which they lived and they must have known what the consequences of criminal behaviour would be, however difficult that may be for us to accept and understand.

RIP Anthony and John.

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#### **NOTES**

Although John Allen was not a direct descendant of mine, I am curious to know if there are any Tasmanian Allen's related to John's children, William, John, Daniel and Mary Anne. The jigsaw is not complete yet! Do get in touch if you have information to add to the picture.

All information from Tasmania has been accessed from the Tasmanian Archives through <http://search.archives.tas.gov.au>.  
Other sources National Archive, Census, Find my past, Family Search.

*For a version of this piece with a full list of references and some illustrated plates, please contact me.*

## **CORRECTION**

I would like to correct a couple of errors in my second article on Joseph Wright, the elusive cowkeeper ( Issue 164 March 2018), which I have identified thanks to the help of fellow DFHS member Rosemary Jefferson. Both relate to Joseph's elder brother, John Wright, senior surgeon of the Derby General Infirmary.

### **Cause of death (page 32)**

John Wright, surgeon of Derby, died in 1850. Misreading a handwriting flourish on his death certificate I gave the cause of death as "Flens Meloena". In fact he died of Ileus Melaena, due to bleeding in the intestine.

### **A plethora of surgeons (page 32)**

The second error was John Wright's family. Having been outfoxed by multiple cowkeepers named Joseph Wright, I found I had been bamboozled by multiple surgeons named John Wright.

### **The Twyford marriage**

In 1838 John Wright surgeon, son of John Wright surgeon, married at Twyford Mary Ann West Briggs, daughter of Robert Briggs, farmer of Twyford. I assumed, surely not unreasonably, that he was the son of John Wright surgeon of Derby, brother of cowkeeper Joseph, both sons of Samuel Wright, farmer of Twyford. It was, however, puzzling that there were no bequests to Mary Ann's husband or to any other children in the Derby surgeon's will. Further investigation (see below) indicates that the father-in-law of Mary Ann Briggs was a different John Wright, surgeon of Nottingham not Derby.

A list of Wright Twyford baptisms included Thomas Wright, son of Mary Ann and John Wright, surgeon of Willington, who was baptised there on 5<sup>th</sup> June 1842. The 1841 Census shows a John Wright aged 30 i.e. born c. 1811 and Mary Wright living at Willington in the Twyford area with their 16 month old son John and a female servant. Willington John Wright gave his occupation as "Independent" rather than surgeon. The Willington Vicarage was listed next on the return. All the Wrights were shown as having been born in-County, which as will be shown was not correct in John's case.

The 1851 Census shows Thomas Wright (born Willington aged 8) and John Wright junior (born ?Eckington, Derbyshire aged 11) living in Nottingham with their aunt Sarah Wright, "Proprietor of Land and Houses" (born Nottingham, aged 56). Their younger brother, Edward Wright (born Repton aged 6), was living in Ashbourne Road, Derby, with another aunt, Elizabeth

Symons (born Nottingham, aged 52), wife of Thomas Symons, manufacturing chemist. Elizabeth Wright OFA of Grove Cottages, Derby, daughter of John Wright surgeon, had married Thomas Symons, bankers clerk of Irongate, Derby at St Alkmunds 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1837. I could not find Willington John Wright in the 1851 Census. His three sons may have been boarding with their aunts because their parents were elsewhere or perhaps because their mother had died.

In the 1861 Census John Wright was indeed a widower. He was described as "surgeon not in practice" (born Nottingham, age indecipherable). He was living in Lenton, Nottingham with his sons Thomas Wright, bankers clerk (born Willington aged 18) and Edward, unemployed, (born Repton aged 16), a housekeeper and housemaid. John's sister Sarah (born Nottingham aged 66) was living in Regent Street, Nottingham.

Sarah Wright and Elizabeth Symons, the sisters of Willington John Wright were born c.1795 (Sarah) and c. 1799 (Elizabeth). John Wright, surgeon of Derby, brother of cowkeeper Joseph, was born 30<sup>th</sup> March 1781. To have fathered Sarah he would have had to marry in his mid-teens which seems improbable. Willington John Wright was born in Nottingham around 1811. In 1806 when his father Samuel's will was probated, John Wright the cowkeeper's brother was already working as a surgeon and apothecary in Derby.

There was, however, a Nottingham surgeon of this period named John Wright. Page 73 of "Medical Care and the General Practitioner 1750-1850" by Irvine Loudon (Clarendon 1986) states that "At Nottingham General Hospital the surgeon John Wright admitted 152 cases to the wards between 1795 and 1797". This gentleman would be the right age to be the father of Sarah and Elizabeth. A magazine report dated 1 August 1813 refers to the death of "24 Thomas eldest son of John Wright, surgeon" "at Nottingham", presumably 24<sup>th</sup> July. This could explain why Willington John Wright named his second son Thomas. Unfortunately I was unable to trace Nottingham baptisms for the three siblings and thus identify their parents. There was also a John Wright (1802 to 1853), surgeon and poet of Nottingham born in Bingham, Nottinghamshire to grocer Joseph Wright and his wife Philadelphia.

### **Derby links**

Willington John Wright may have married in Twyford simply because it was his wife, Mary Ann Briggs' parish. He did, however, have further recorded connections with Derby. In the 1841 Census his sister Sarah (looking after two of his sons in 1851) was living at 4 North Parade, Bath Street, St Alkmund, Derby. She was Independent and born out-County. The 1843 Directory lists her under "Gentry". John and Sarah's sister Elizabeth Wright

(looking after his third son in 1851) had married from a Derby address, Grove Cottages in 1837. In the 1851 Census her husband Thomas Symons had switched from banking to become a manufacturing chemist. Given the affluence and independent means of Sarah and Willington John and the fact that both Thomas Symons junior and (initially) senior were bankers clerks, it is possible that these Nottingham Wrights were related to the Nottingham banking Wright family who lived at Lenton Hall, Nottingham.

#### **First wife Eliza**

Cowkeeper's brother John Wright, surgeon of Friargate, Derby, married twice. As mentioned in the article, shortly before he died in 1850 he married Ann Frost, widow, at St Alkmund. The marriage certificate described him as a widower and upgraded his father Samuel Wright from farmer to "yeoman". Twenty-five years earlier 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1825 John Wright had married Eliza/Elizabeth Borrow/Borough at All Saints, Derby. She was the daughter of Isaac Borrow/Borough of Hulland, gentleman, by his housekeeper Hannah Goodwin. The will of one of her sisters described Eliza as the wife of John Wright surgeon of Derby. Eliza/Elizabeth Wright died only a few years later at the age of 28. She was buried at Twyford on 8<sup>th</sup> January 1828.

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#### **London Gazette 26 June 1750**

*"Whitehall*

*Whereas Littleton Pointz Meynell of Bradley in the County of Derby received by post from Derby a letter signed A.Samaritan. Threatening to shoot him dead or burn his house with him in it.*

*R Nev. Aldworth*

*And for the better discovering and bring to justice the person concerned in writing the said threatening letter I do promise a reward of five hundred pounds to any person who shall discover the person so that he or she be apprehended and convicted thereof.*

*LP Meynell, Bradley, Derbys*

*June 25 1950"*

**From David Clay**, who explains that Littleton Meynell was born at Bradley in 1699, the son of Godfrey and Elizabeth Meynell; he was raised as a banker but instead became a massive gambler, his wins were massive and his losses likewise. Possibly it was one of his gambling associates that threatened to kill him. His son Hugo Meynell was a politician and member of Parliament.

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## THE TRUMPETER OF THE BLUES

### George Fritche & his musical family

When George Fritche married at All Saints', Derby on St. Patrick's Day, 1765 he was described as a 'former trumpeter of The Blues', and the landlord of one of a group of market taverns clustering around the grains market area of Corn Market in Derby: the *George & Dragon*, a pub that was not previously recorded, but which soldiered on until demolished to create Albert Street



*Green Man in 1882*

in 1846-47. Two years later he migrated to run the *Green Man* in St. Peter's Church Yard, a pub that, unlike the *George & Dragon*, has survived the vicissitudes of centuries, albeit now masquerading under an Irish-themed re-branding. Its Dutch gabled façade – all that survives following road widening in 1886 and a fire on 26<sup>th</sup> May 1936, was originally dated 1671. He seems to have run it until his death in 1799.

What makes this man so fascinating is that he spawned a dynasty of musicians which, in Derby terms at any rate, seem fit to rival the talent and ubiquity of the earlier Bassanos. George's bride was Elizabeth Mills, who was not, it would seem, local, for the banns were also read in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, but between them they had a surviving son, George Christopher Fritche (1769-1846) who not only married into one of Derby's most enduring municipal dynasties, the Hopes, but who also served as organist and choirmaster of All Saints' (now our Cathedral) from 1793 - when Joseph Wright's friend Charles Denby died - until his retirement in 1835 at the age of sixty six. His tenure was probably reinforced by the appointment of his wife's first cousin, the Tory radical priest Revd. Charles Stead Hope as perpetual curate of All Saints'; a man who, in addition to the care of souls there and at St. Werburgh's, where he was vicar, was also an Alderman of the town, serving as mayor no less than five times between 1797 and 1830.

Of course, Charles Denby had succeeded his father, Wakefield-born William Denby as organist, so it will, I am sure, occasion no surprise that on George Christopher's retirement, who should succeed him but his homonymous eldest son, George Christopher Fritche, junior (1800-1890). He, though, later moved to Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, thus creating an opening for his brother, Froude Fritche, who lived then at North Parade, but who moved to 16, Full Street, closer to the church where he was to remain organist for many

years, retiring in the mid-1860s. Thus for over 120 years, the organists of Derby's principal parish church were supplied from only two families.

Froude Fritche (whose first given name was Christopher, which he chose not to use) married Phyllis Taylor of St. Alkmund's parish in 1833, but not before having sired a child, coyly referred to in the registers as 'George Richardson or Fritche', by a woman called Ruth Richardson in 1829. Indeed, even after 35 years of marriage producing six more sons and four daughters, he seems to have become estranged from Phyllis (who died in 1880) too, for not long before his death, we find him living in digs in the Litchurch area in 1871.

Meanwhile, the younger George Christopher Fritche, before moving to Leamington had in 1828 married Sarah, the daughter of a family of Leicestershire minor gentry called Cheslyn, of whom the uncle, Richard Cheslyn of Langley Hall, had been painted by Joseph Wright. They had a family of three sons, of whom the youngest, Francis, died young and the eldest, George Cheslyn Fritche (1829-1903) a Durham graduate, was ordained and, after a time as curate of Littleover and chaplain to the County Asylum at Mickleover, became the long-serving rector of Newton Regis, in Warwickshire.

The second son, John Francis Fritche (1810-1873) continued the musical tradition started by our trumpeter of The Blues, being appointed organist at All Saints, Bakewell, later moving to take over at St. Mary & all Saints at Chesterfield. He married the daughter of John Soustoff of Edensor, who I suspect was a senior member of the 'Bachelor' Duke of Devonshire's staff, possibly the chef (as we would now style him), traditionally drawn from the continent of Europe. Soustoff had married in London, at a church close to Devonshire House, in 1812. John Francis fathered no less than seven daughters, and indeed the entire Fritche family proved unremittingly prolific, with many present-day descendants.

But where did trumpeter George Fritche actually come from? The surname is uncompromisingly rare, and is not regarded as a mutation of either English Frith/Firth or Fitch, but of Friedrich, a Germanic name introduced into the European *élite* by the Hohenstaufen Emperors. In Germany, Fried(e)rich mutated to Frische (and other attenuated forms) during the middle ages, leaving us with a welter of rather similar names, the fluidity of which was by no means over in George's lifetime.

A colleague of mine at Derby Museum suggested that he may have been of West Indian origin, as Royal Horse Guards trumpeters often were, but a letter from Maj. Roger Swift of Kneller Hall school of music, whilst acknowledg-

ing that this was to some extent true, pointed out that it was by no means universal; our Mr. Fritche might have come from anywhere. Nor, he pointed out were trumpeters necessarily member of the band or musicians, but ordinary troopers.

The task remaining therefore was to try and pin down the trumpeter's origins and attempt to derive therefrom the reason for his appearance in Derby. Fortunately, when Fritche died in May 1799 his age was given in the All Saints' register. Although his pub was in St. Peter's parish, his place of interment suggests that he died, retired from his trade, whilst living with his son at his house in Full Street. Thus he was (presumably of his organist son's attestation) seventy three, making his birth 172<sup>5</sup>/<sub>6</sub>.

Interestingly, there is only one baptism in the entire corpus of available rites of passage that in any way matches name and date. This is the birth on the 13<sup>th</sup> and baptism at St. Martin-in-the-Fields on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 1725 of George Anthony Frische [*sic*] son of Anthony and Lucretia Frische of that parish. Lucretia is a pretty rare English given name at that period, but common on the continent and, if George Anthony is our trumpeter, and Anthony and Lucretia his parents, then we are without doubt looking at German migrants.

As it happens, the early 18<sup>th</sup> century was a time of considerable German migration to England, mainly as a result of the succession of the Hanoverian dynasty in the person of George I, who succeeded Queen Anne after a Whig *coup* in 1715. Numerous courtiers, their staff, musicians (Handel assembled a band of fifty mainly German musicians to accompany the new monarch's progress down the Thames on 17<sup>th</sup> July 1717 in order to regale him with *The Water Music*) and soldiers came then, and in the decade or so following, not all of them from Hanover either.

Of course, if this hypothesis is correct, then what we have is a family of London-based newly-settled Germans, Anton and Lucretia and their son Georg Anton, the names of whom were (as usual) Anglicised by the parish clerk. For me, the temptation to try my luck with continental archives (as far as one can in Derby with only a computer to hand) was also overwhelming, but yielded numerous Frisch and Frische families. They were concentrated in Westphalia, the SW corner of the old Kingdom of Prussia. At Kruft, just east of Coblenz, was recorded the baptism on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1701 of Anton Frische, born there the previous day, son of Peter and Margaret Frische. Whilst the resources to track young Anton across the Channel in the early 1720s are beyond my reach, the youngster from Kruft fits remarkably well with the father of Georg Anton in London when he would have been 25. His marriage to

Lucretia is nowhere apparent, and probably took place somewhere on the continent, suggesting that they were relatively new arrivals in 1726.

In the view of the son's career as a soldier and musician one might suppose that Anton might have been one or the other, but in view of Major Swift's comment that trumpeters were not usually band musicians but ordinary troopers, I am much inclined to postulate military service in George I's German detachments for Anton. This is to some extent reinforced by a record in the PRO of a discharge in or some time after 1760 of one Johann Frisch, born in Hanover, and who saw service 'in an independent company' in the Seven Years' War (1756-1763) before ending his days in the Royal Hospital Chelsea. He would have been a close contemporary of Anton and his birth in Hanover, just 170 miles North East of Kruft, might be accounted for, if he was a younger brother of Anton, and their father had crossed into the Electorate of Hanover (the border a mere 40 miles from Kruft) to improve his prospects. Further, one might suggest that whilst Anton settled in London - perhaps having found a patron at court - Johann continued in military service. That he belonged to an 'independent company' strongly suggests that he was part of one of the Hanoverian levies subsequently incorporated into the British Army after 1715.



*A Royal Horse Guards Trooper  
In the 1750s*

Whether George Fritche (the Anglicization of the name accords well with etymological precedents) is identifiable with Georg Anton Frische or not, his service with The Blues does shed some light. This Regiment, better known as the Royal Horse Guards (RHG, now an element in the Blues and Royals) were active from 1740 until the end of the Seven Years' War. The War of the Austrian Succession had broken out in 1740, and The Blues moved to Brussels to await C-in-C King George II, prior to taking on the French under Marshal the Duc de Noailles, who inflicted a defeat in May. However, in 1743 the Blues were at the Battle of Dettingen, when a serious defeat was inflicted on de Noailles.

They lost only eight men killed, despite initially facing insurmountable odds. In May 1745, though, the Blues were gallant in the defeat at Fontenoy near the village of Vezon, suffering the worst of allied casualties. Lord Craufurd said of them that:

'The behaviour of The Blue Guards is highly to be commended  
which must in great measure be attributed to the conduct of their

Major Charles Jenkinson and his care of them’  
By then, though, the regiment was withdrawn to England to bolster defences against the ‘Forty Five Jacobite uprising.

A decade on, during the Seven Years' War, The Blues fought alongside Field Marshal Prince Ferdinand v. Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel, under the command of Lt. Gen. John Manners, Marquess of Granby, the Duke of Rutland's eldest son, a gifted commander who raised morale, establishing a brave and efficient force. He was in charge at Battle of Minden Heath in August 1759 at which Britain and her allies saved Hanover, and drove the French and Austrians back towards the Rhine.

Granby commanded The Blues and The Royals on their march south from Paderborn in summer 1760. At Warburg on 31<sup>st</sup> July, with The Blues in the centre, the 8,000 British stole a march on the French positions and, charging headlong into the enemy, dispersed a force of 24,000. The famous 'charge' on trumpet and bugle (no doubt blown by George Fritche, amongst others) sent Granby's men into history:

‘For we rout'd all before us – down precipices, over hollow ways  
we went like a torrent as the French general term'd it, which  
struck such a panick so that they [fled] without firing a shot. The  
Marquess of Granby pursued the enemy above 10 miles.’

These successes on the Continent continued until peace was signed at the Treaty of Paris, after which they returned home in March 1763. On demobilization, the troopers were reduced from 52 to 29 men per troop. These crippling reductions to The Blues, according to William Pitt the Elder doomed

‘...the bravest men the world ever saw to be sent to starve in  
country villages and forget their prowess.’

This influx of unemployed men into town and countryside caused Granby much grief, the situation being exacerbated by a run of failed harvests, then a common consequence of the so-called ‘Little Ice Age’. Granby, who died in 1770, never living to succeed to his father's dukedom, slaved mightily to mitigate the effects of the demobilization, especially within the vast acreage of the Manners estates. He set a number of trusted men up in pubs - hence the prevalence of inns called *The Marquess of Granby* – and others were set to work labouring, making improvements at Belvoir, Haddon and elsewhere.

There can be no doubt that it was at this point that both George Fritche and Johann Frisch, here postulated as brothers, would have been demobilised, the latter as a Chelsea Pensioner, the former by now aged thirty seven, to seek a new life for himself perhaps with the aid of his former commander. Where he

met his Georgie wife and why he chose Derby in which to settle are both uncertain. Yet his old commander, Granby has strong Derbyshire ties, and bearing in mind Pitt's dismay, George may well have benefitted from his active philanthropy. Thus George may well have come to Derby, with Elizabeth in tow, secured the tenancy of the inn and got married in short order. The dates fit perfectly to support this supposition and until some one reading this can supply further information allowing us to modify it, that it is where we have to leave our former trumpeter and his young bride.

**Principal sources:** Censuses; Cox J C & Hope, Sir W H St J, *The Chronicles of the Collegiate Church of All Saints, Derby* (Derby 1883) 46-47, 196; *Derby Mercury* 28/8/1767, 18/9/1817 & 19/4/1882; *Dictionary of National Biography* sub Manners, John, Marquess of Granby; Glover, S., *History and Gazetteer of the County of Derby*, 2 vols. 2<sup>nd</sup> edn. (Derby 1831/33) II. 586; Hanks, P & Hodges, F., *A Dictionary of Surnames* (Oxford 1996) 193, 195; Hills, R. J. T. *The Royal Horse Guards (The Blues)*. London (1970) *passim* (in *précis*); Hogwood, C. *Handel: Water Music and Music for the Royal Fireworks* (Cambridge 2005) 10; *Illustrated Carpenter & Builder* 5/11/1887 p. 36; Parish registers; PRO WO97/1184B/277 (J Fritsch); Tachella, B, *Derby School Registers* (Derby 1904) *passim*.

\*

### FRITCHE OF DERBY

PETER FRISCHE of Kruf, Rheinland, Prussia, marr. Margaret and had issue:

1. Anton Frische see below
2. Johann Frisch

ANTON(IUS) FRISCH(E) b. Kruf 21/5 and bp. 22/5/1701,  
*who is in all probability to be identified with:*

ANTHONY FRISCHE of St. Martin-in-the-Fields parish, London, quite probably came to London in the wake of the Hanoverian Succession of 1715, either as a soldier, servant or a musician. He marr. Lucretia (the event not traced) and had issue:

1. George Anthony Frische see below

*And possibly:*

2. Johann Fritch(e), born Hanover, served in an independent company in Seven Years' War, discharged in or after 1763 to Royal Hospital Chelsea [PRO WO97/1184B/277]

*The elder son:*

GEORGE ANTHONY FRISCHE b 13/11 & bp. St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London, 18/11/1725. *Probably to be identified with:*

GEORGE FRITCHE of Derby b. 172<sup>5</sup>/<sub>6</sub>, said to be *aetatis sui* 73 when bur. All Saints, Derby 25/5/1799, at marriage in 1765 he was 'trumpeter of the Blues' (ie. Royal Horse Guards), and landlord of the *George & Dragon*, Cornmarket to 1767, then of *Green Man*, St. Peter's Church Yard [*Derby Mercury (DM)* 28/8/1767]. He died in 1799 being bur. All Saints', 25<sup>th</sup> May, having mar. All Saints, Derby, 17/3/1765 Elizabeth Mills (bur. All Saints 17/2/1785) and had issue:

1. George Fritche, b. 1766 & bur. All Saints 16/7/1768.
2. George Christopher Fritche see below
1. Elizabeth, bp. All Saints 1/1/1771, marr. there 15/1/1801 William Holbrook, junior and had issue:
  - (1) Isabella Fritche, of Beaumont, S Australia, b. 1808, d. 10/1/1893
2. Sarah, bp. All Saints 15/10/1772.
3. Sophia, bp. All Saints 26/1/1775, marr. St. Oswald, Ashbourne 30/10/1796 William Ellam of Ashbourne
4. Charlotte, bp. All Saints 26/1/1778, d. Hertford 1868 having marr. Derby 1/11/1827 James Ward RA (1769-1859) artist, of London, later of St. Peter's Parish, Derby, pupil of John Raphael Smith.
5. Mary, bp. All Saints 12/3/1780

*The surviving son:*

GEORGE CHRISTOPHER FRITCHE of Derby bp. 21/2/1769, d. 1846, organist of All Saints, 1793-1835 (i) marr. Jane (bur. All Saints, 20/6/1803) dau. and coheiress of Thomas Hope of London (1734-1771) and first cousin of Ald. the Revd. Charles Stead Hope, perpetual vicar of All Saints (1762) who was Mayor of Derby in 1797, 1806, 1816, 1825 & 1830. By her he had issue:

1. George Christopher Fritche see below
  1. Sarah b. 1803, d. unmarr. Ventnor IoW 23/11/1854.
- George Christopher Fritche, senior (ii) marr. St. Anne, Soho, 20/12/1806 Isabella Froude (b. Exeter 1770, living Duffield Road, Derby 1851) and had further issue:
2. (Christopher) Froude Fritche of 16, Full Street, previously (1841) of 8, North Parade, bp. All Saints 16/2/1808, d. after 1871, organist of All Saints, Derby. He would appear to have been the 'Mr. Fritche' who, by Ruth Richardson had issue a natural son:

- (1) George Richardson, 'otherwise Fritche' bp. St. Peter, Derby 27/9/1829

Subsequently he (i) marr. St. Peter, Derby, 29/7/1833 Phyllis Taylor of St. Alkmund's Derby and had issue:

- (2) Froude William Fritche MIME b. 6/10/1835, educ. Derby Sch., of Ashby & Barton-under-Needwood, engineering & mining surveyor, sometime surveyor to Repton RDC, d. Walsall 1907 having marr. St James, Osmaston-by-Derby 27/11/1860 Henrietta Thacker (b. Derby 1835, d. Walsall 1913), and had issue:

1a Frederick Augustus Fritche, of Leicester, b. 1863, d. there 1938 having marr. Louisa Elizabeth and had issue:

1b Eric Vincent Fritche, b. 1905, living 1911

2b Stanley Froude of Leicester, b. Leicester 20/8/1907, d. there 1984.

2a Charles Henry Fritche, b. 1864, d. 1867.

3a George Edward Fritche, b. 6/9/1866, bp. Barton-under-Needwood, Staffs., 29/3/1881, later in 1911 of Aston, Birmingham, 'inspector of boy messengers' [*sic*], d. 1938 having marr. Sarah (b. Birmingham 1879) and had issue:

1b Florence, b. 1904, living 1911

4a Henry Fritche, bp. Horninglow, Staffs. 13/6/1872

5a Horace Froude Fritche, bp. Horninglow, Staffs., 28/11/1873

6a Percy Fritche of Wolverhampton, Staffs., b. Burton-on-Trent 187<sup>4</sup>/<sub>5</sub>, bp. Barton-under-Needwood, Staffs., 29/3/1881 brewery manager, marr. Edith M. (b. 187<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>) and had issue:

1b Lesleigh Thacker Fritche b. 1892, living 1901  
 1b Howard Hazel, b. 1900 .living 1901  
 7a Frank Fritche, of Shirebrook, bp. Barton-under-Needwood, Staffs., 29/3/1881 later a Midland Railway linesman in 1911 d. there 1936  
 1a Adelaide Constance, b. 1870, bp. Barton-under-Needwood, Staffs., 29/3/1881, elementary teacher, at Wheatley, Yorks, WR 1901  
 2a Florence Helen b. 1877, bp. Barton-under-Needwood, Staffs., 20/10/1880  
 (3) Henry Fritche bp. St. Alkmund Derby 24/10/1839, d/ 23/11/1854  
 (4) Charles Fritche bp. St. Alkmund, Derby 25/8/1842, d. 1843  
 (5) Arthur Legassick Fritche of Gladstone Road, Deritend, Aston, Birmingham, b.29/8/1844, educ. Derby School, timber merchant, previously railway clerk, MR, bankrupt 9/1896, d. 1901 having marr. Leek, Staffs., 1873, Harriet M. Peckmore (b.Liverpool 1847; her mother, by then Catherine Oxford was living Gladstone Rd., Deritend, Aston, Birmingham 1901) and had issue:  
 1a Henry (Harry) Legassick Fritche, of Wokingham, Berks., b. 1881, commercial traveller in 1911 then of Henley, d. 1962 having marr. Ethel Anthony of Caversham, Oxon. (div. 1933) and had issue:  
 1b Stewart Legassick Fritche b. 1908, marr. Phyllis Mary Vaughan (div. 1932)  
 1b Phyllis E., b. 1906, living 1911  
 2b Ethel A b. 1907  
 2a Arthur Legassick Fritche, of Guildford b. 1879, d. 1906  
 1a Alice Marion b. 1871 marr. Sparkbrook, Birmingham 27/6/1902 Arthur James, son of James Kent  
 2a Lillian Froude, b. 1876 marr. Putney, Surrey 12/9/1898 Ernest Frank Allden and had issue:  
 1b John Froude Allden b. 1902, living 1911  
 3a May E b. 1879, living yn marr. 1901  
 (6) George Fritche LDS of Heston, Middlesex, bp. St Alkmund, Derby 28/12/1847, marr. Mary (both living there 1901) and had issue:  
 1a George Edwardes Fritche, of Marholms Leys, Isleworth, Middlesex (new house designed by H. Chatterley. plans 1927) later of Poole, Dorset; b. 1881, BDS, dentist d. 1963 having marr. Laura Maude d. 1970.  
 2a Froude Christopher Fritche of Colchester, b. 1883 d. 1904  
 (7) Louis Fritche b & d. 1849  
 (1) Frances Froude b. 1835, d unmarr. Birmingham 1909  
 (2) Isabel Phyllis, bp. St. alkm. Derby 15/12/1837, d. 17/3/1839.  
 (3) Alice Marion bp. St. Alkmund, Derby, 25/1/1846 marr. All Saints, Derby 13/5/1867  
 William Dimsdale Young, Gent., commission agent  
 Ellen H. bp. All Saints 30/11/1851, d. unmarr. Aston, Birmingham, 1913  
 (Christopher) Froude Fritche, who was living alone in Litchurch 1871, presumably having left Phyllis, who d. 1880. He died between 1871 & 1881.  
 1. Isabella Rosalind, b. 1807, d. 21/11/1833 having marr. St. Peter, Derby, 17/5/1820 Samuel  
 Blyth of Friar Gate, later of Bengal Presidency, India, and had (with other two



daughters):

Samuel Fritche Blyth, b. Bengal 15/2/1829, living 1842 (i) mar. Frances McVitty (d.), and by her had a son, and (ii) marr. Caroline Emma Dartnell and had issue.

*The eldest son:*

GEORGE CHRISTOPHER FRITCHE of Rose Hill, bp. St. Peter, derby, 18/7/1800, d. (aet. 90) 15/3/1890 organist of All Saints, Derby from 1835, later of Leamington Spa, marr. Eastwood (Notts.) 21/6/1828 Sarah (b. 1804) dau. of Charles Cheslyn of Leicestershire and had issue:

1. George Cheslyn Fritche see below

2. John Francis Fritch of Fennell St., Bakewell b. 1810, professor of music, marr. Edensor 23/6/1840 Catherine Sarah, dau. of John Soustoff of Edenson [he was probably a senior member of staff (?cook) at Chatsworth as he had married Harriet Easticke 1<sup>st</sup> June 1812 at St. Mary, Marylebone Road, London, not far from Devonshire House]. He was later of Chesterfield and died 1873 leaving issue:

Catharina Isabella bp. Bakewell 15/5/1841 d. unmarr. Derby 1921. She had, by an unidentified Mr. Pritchard a child:

1a Eveline Pritchard Fritche b. Great Longstone 20/3/1880.

(2) Ellen Hope, b. Sheffield 1846

(3) Teresa Sarah bp. Bakewell 6/2/1849, d. unmarr. 1864

(4) Emily Harriet bp. Bakewell 1850 marr. St. Peter, Derby 5/1/1876 Edward Merry of Harbourne, Staffs.

(5) Emalla bp. Ashford 1850 [*sic*], living 1851

(6) Adelaide Froude bp. Ashford 1855, marr. Chellaston 2/10/1879 Theodore Max Levy

(7) Clara P. b. Ashford 1858, living 1871

3. Francis William Fritche bp. St. Peter Derby 7/7/1830

*The eldest son:*

REVD. GEORGE CHESLYN FRITCHE of Newton Regis, Warw., b. 1829, educ. Derby School, MA (Dunelm) 1852, of Mickleover, when curate of Littleover and chaplain to the County Asylum there 1852-1864, rector of Newton Regis, Warw. 1864-1903, d. Tamworth 7/11/1903 having marr. St. Peter 18/7/1854 Eliza (b. 1824, d. 17/3/1911), dau. of William Whiston, attorney, of Hartington Street, Derby and had issue:

1. Albert Edward Fritche of 35, Russell Terrace, Leamington Spa, Warw., (1906) b.30/13/1863, schoolmaster, Eastbourne College, 1911; amateur photographer of note.

2. Cheslyn Whiston Allen Fritche-Cheslyn of East Preston, Sussex b. 1867, d. East Preston 1920, having (i) marr. St. George, Hanover Square 1912 Eleanor Louisa Sunderland (div. 1917). He (ii) marr. Brighton 1919 Mary L. Pattinson (b. 1871 d. Worthing 1954)

1. Mary L., later assumed the surname Fritche-Cheslyn, b. 1871, d. unmarr. Worthing 1954

2. Sarah Constance marr. Newton Regis 7/10/1880 Michael Glover Atkins

3. Ethel Anthony [*sic*], b. 122/8/1881, d. unmarr. Worthing 1977

**Maxwell Craven**

## A DAY IN DERBY

I am a Peakrill. All eight of my great grandparents are buried in Buxton. Six of them moved there in the 1860s, when Buxton was a boom town, seeking work, from nearby villages. Granny's kitchen often had people having a cup of tea while they waited for a 'bus, but we no longer visited them because 'there was a war on' and posters asked "Is your journey really necessary". We stayed in Buxton.

A bit of family history relevant to this story is that Granny was the eldest of four girls whose mother died in childbirth. A few years later their father died. They all went into service. Granny Mary Ellen [Polly] eventually married, Annie and Alice remained maiden ladies, and Edith married an Austrian waiter who was charming, feckless and a gambler. They had three children and then Edith died. The children couldn't go into the Workhouse so they came to live with Granny. Some people told Grand-dad he was a fool to bring up another man's children. He was reputed to have replied "Aye".

Years passed. Annie and Alice remained 'in service' for a couple who lived in one of the big houses in The Park in Buxton. When in the late 1930's the old chap died, his wife's family came up from the south and asked what they planned to do. Annie was around 76 and Alice 72. Well they had an unmarried nephew, Edith's younger son, who was very successful. He was an engineer at Rolls Royce in Derby. He had a car, a dashing Morris 8 Tourer. They were going to rent one of the new houses that were being built near Rolls Royce and keep house for him. Would they like some of the furniture from the house? They took some of the kitchen equipment, their beds and rocking chairs. They emigrated all the way to Alvaston, Derby. Every Friday Granny sent them a copy of the Buxton Advertiser with a letter inside. *[I wonder how many readers will remember that it was illegal to put letters in with printed matter?]*

Once Mum and Dad went shopping in Manchester but they left me in Buxton with Granny because of the air raids. So why did my mother take me to Derby mid-week one autumn day in the early 1940's. I was 6 or 7. It was becoming light when we left home. We walked up the station yard to catch the 7.55 am train out of the Midland Station. That is the station that is now a car park. It was getting lighter. The train was steaming away. It was specially designed to "push or Pull". It was an exciting ride with occasional tunnels all the way to Miller's Dale. At Miller's Dale the train had its own bay. We crossed the platform to wait for the express from Manchester. On the opposite side of the valley now that 'Blackout' was over, a really big quarry was burning a lot of something very bright. Miller's Dale station was different. It

appeared to be a town station with many platforms and subways, but apart from the quarry it seemed to be in the middle of nowhere.

The express arrived, it was big. People got off and went to the push and pull and we got on the express. Some of the stations we flew through were remotest from any other buildings and would have had platforms lit by oil lamps, if there had not been a blackout! Then station names were no longer familiar, the valley got wider and many fields were flooded. That was because it was the “flood plain of the River Derwent” mother said. We scared cattle and horses, we did not stop, even at Matlock. When the train did stop, the porters shouted “Derby, Derby”. We got out of the train and mother said “Oh”.

We looked around us. There was bomb damage everywhere. Piles of rubble were being cleared away and there was no glass in the station roof. She said nothing else. We walked down Midland Road to catch a bus. The first one that came was not suitable. It was a double decker with horns coming out of its roof; a trolley bus, I had never seen one before. Mother remained strangely silent. The next bus arrived and we got on and set off along London Road towards Shardlow. I ought to have realised what a long road it would be. I found it hard to believe the house numbers on the doors. They went above tens and units even to thousands. Can you believe that? There were other surprises. Every so often along the edge of the pavement were two black containers, a bit like sawn off telegraph poles. We did not have those in Buxton. What were they? A gentleman explained that they provided the smoke-screen during air-raids to protect Rolls Royce and the railway works. Did I see those very big lovely silver balloons? They were called barrage balloons and they stopped German planes dive bombing and machine gunning.

The bus conductor shouted “Peter Boundary” and a most unusual building came in sight. It was very modern [a style I later learnt to call Art Décor] and looked a bit like a ship. The woodwork was painted blue. Mother came to life and explained that the Blue Peter was the flag that ships flew when they were about to ‘pay off’ their crew. We went round a large roundabout and soon the conductor said “your stop” and we got off and started to walk down Field Lane. We knew that that too was a long lane, but about halfway down was a hut that sold green-grocer and hard as it was to believe there were baskets of plums and no queue. Mother was in there like a shot! May she buy some? [We weren’t regular customers you see]. Have you got your own bag? Mother produced a string bag from within her handbag and we lined it with newspaper and filled it with plums.

Arriving at Aunties we were stunned. We knew to expect a modern house furnished like an 1895 kitchen BUT there was a blast wall in front of their

living-room window. It was not very light. There were things we were not being told in the weekly newsletter. Auntie Alice, always the robust mischievous one, explained that they did not think they could get in and out of an Anderson shelter very easily and they might as well die in comfort. So they opted for the wall. Some people had a wall in front of the pantry window but that meant they had to stand up to die. They preferred to sit and had neighbours who came to be comfortable with them so had we brought the extra tea Polly had promised.

Albert came home glinting with bits of metal and smelling most peculiar. In later years I learnt that the smell was cooling oil. After tea he walked us back to the bus-stop. The bus was blacked out of course. People getting on the bus said the smokescreen was starting. Fortunately we were at Midland Road and the smoke screen was oozing. We heard the siren. We rushed to the station where we were asked north or south? "We are going to Buxton" my mother said and we were put in a blacked-out waiting room with a lovely fire. You will get on the next train going north she was told. A porter came and said we were being allowed to get on a troop train to get us north out of Derby.

We got on the train, my mother still protesting that we wanted to go to Buxton. The door was slammed and the train was already moving when we opened the inner compartment door. My mother was stunned into silence. They were all RAF men, but they were all black. I don't think I had ever seen a real live black man before and I was fascinated, my mother horrified. "Have my seat ma'am" said one, "Where are you going?" asked another. My mother explained our dilemma. Where were they going? Their next posting which was likely to be somewhere flat. "What is in that bag little girl?" I did not tell them or there would not have been any left for Granny. I started to write down what it said on their shoulder flash 'JAM' but the train was now moving too quickly for me to write. One of them finished it for me 'AICA'. The train started to slow and the guard appeared and said when we got to the next station we civilians were to get out and go into the blacked out waiting room without flashing any lights. Where were we? Don't ask and do what you are told. The whole carriage reassured her she would get home safely and we got out onto a windy platform, which we found out was Ambergate. A very busy junction. There were a lot of people about gathered round the waiting room fire.

After a while trains started moving again and after a long wait a porter came and said that next train that came through was bound for Manchester and would stop at Miller's Dale. Passengers on the train explained that they had been parked up in open country a bit south of Derby. Dad was waiting for us

at the station. We were very late but he was not unduly worried because people he knew at the station told him that it had been difficult but the air raid had passed over.

Today it seems a short distance from Derby to Ambergate but it was a distance that changed my mother. From that day forward my mother ceased to feel threatened by black people. They were decent people if you were decent.

And I am still not sure why we went to Derby that Autumn day.

*V. Hall, Moorhill, Granby  
Bradwell, Hope Valley S33 9HU*

### **ERNIE DRABBLE, M.B.E.**

The Society is sad to announce that one of our members, Mr Ernie Drabble, has died very suddenly, aged 73.

A former policeman, Ernie was a stalwart of the Glossop Meeting Group from the beginning, and later joined the Executive Committee, making the journey down from Glossop every couple of months. He also did an enormous amount of work on transcribing the indexes of the High Peak Registrar as well as helping those working in other parts of the county.

Ernie was always willing to help members and obliging enough to give several talks at our various meetings, being an interesting and witty speaker. He also took pity on the editor and submitted many articles for the magazine.

Some members of the Committee travelled north to Dove Holes to attend the funeral and see him laid to rest in the churchyard. His death came as a great shock to us all and the Society's condolences go to his wife, Brenda, and all of his family.

## CHARLEY'S TALE

### Part Two: Moving On

At the age of sixteen and a half I learned through the grapevine that there was a vacancy for an odd.man-cum-third-footman at the castle. I spoke to my father about it and he told me to "Have a go for it son. I know you have not taken to the building trade," So I did, and succeeded in getting the job at ten shillings a week all found. The man who was leaving, Jack Coxon, stayed on for a week to teach me the varied work.

I lived in a room above the stables, sharing with the second footman. I was called up about 6 am by the night watchman, Mr Canty for my first task of wheeling scuttles of coal from a forty ton heap into the castle. Coal for the ground floor rooms was deposited into a bunker, and I had to take coal for the upstairs rooms up on a hydraulic lift, the control being a pull down rope. Sticks I also had to chop and deliver. When this chore ended there was the stone floor to mop where my barrow wheels had been. Then I had to rush to have a wash and brush up ready to lay breakfast for the footmen and the Earl's valet, and at 7.55 dash to the clock tower where I rang the clock bell at 8 by means of a ground floor rope. This called all the workers on the estate to their daily tasks. The boom, bang and clatter were also heard in the village. I had to ring it again at 1pm and 2pm, and at times it was a mad rush to be on the spot. I only missed once and that was when the rope broke.

On Tuesday mornings I had an earlier call: 5.30 am. For one hour I had to help the laundry maid turn a linen press by handle. This press was in the shape of a six foot long box, three feet by two feet. It was filled with stone and weighed a ton it seemed to me. Backwards and forwards we trundled, pressing sheets, towels etc. I had so many chores I cannot mention them all. I didn't get a break until his Lordship and Ladyship dined at 8pm.

I had to go to the kitchen dressed in my glad rags, collect the courses and take them to the dining room hatch, eventually returning with the 'leavings'. It used to take me much longer going back to the kitchen, for as you may imagine I had to sample what the family were eating, especially if the whisky trifles were on the menu. On many occasions the cook, a dear old soul appropriately named Mrs Cook would say, "Charles you have been at it again." I ask you, would you not have done the same?

There was one rather upsetting episode during this period. As I mentioned I shared a room with the second footman. One night he put out the gas light, came across and tried to get into my bed, telling me how much he loved me

and started to try to kiss me. I jumped out of bed, bundled him out and thumped him. I dressed quickly and went downstairs, spending the rest of the light in the grooms' rest room. After the 8am bell I went to my Dad's workshop and told him of the incident, asking his advice. He replied, "Leave it to me son." Later on that morning I was called to the butler, Mr Brookfield's, pantry. He told me what Dad had reported and asked me if it was true. I said "Yes sir." He said "Right Charles, go back to your duties." This was the last time I saw that footman. He was sent packing that day and I did his work, except dining room duties until a replacement was engaged.

One of the highlights was Polo Week. This was the time when the Earl arranged for players taking part in the national and international games played on the Elvaston Polo Ground. Most of the guests were housed in the castle which was filled to capacity. One such guest was a gentleman called Count de Mar. He arrived without a valet, who had been taken ill. Mr Brookfield called me to his pantry and asked me if I thought I was capable of taking on the valeting for this count. I said "Yes Sir, I have looked after his Lordship when he was here for one night in summer without any complaint. He said "Very well you shall have the job and I will notify the Count." I was told to put on my best suit and I duly presented myself to the butler, who passed me with honours. My chest stuck out like a pouter pigeon when I reported to the Count, who looked me over and said something which I could not understand. It could not have been bad, for everything I did for him was 'Bon.' The work for him was quite hard because when he returned to the castle after playing polo he was plastered with mud. However he had brought a very good wardrobe and I did not have to slave until midnight getting his kit ready for the next day. I always had a day in hand, so consequently his clothes and jack boots were always ready for him. Thankfully the butler had arranged for a local man to take over my heavy duties.

In all I think the Count remained at the castle for ten days and on his departure he gave me a gold sovereign, a smile and a nod with words which I did not understand but learned afterwards from the butler that he had been pleased with my services. Perhaps it was because of this, to me, pleasant interlude that I was promoted to third footman, although this still did not take me into the dining room, and I still had to be responsible for the ringing of the bell clock.

I mentioned about looking after the Earl for one night. The Earl owned property in London, namely Craig's Court (Harrington House) which was somewhere near Chelsea and every summer The Earl and her Ladyship used to take up residence there for three months, leaving a skeleton staff to look after the castle. This staff consisted of the housekeeper, three maids and two laun-

dry maids and of course yours truly. My job was mostly cleaning windows, (no easy task as there were hundreds), to looking after things in general and to be on hand when required I slept in the butler's pantry on a put-you-up bed and looked after myself foodwise.

Each night I had to go round and make sure all the doors and windows were secure, and on one of those lovely summer evenings I was looking through the billiards room window when I saw a full grown rabbit sitting on the steps. My first thought was that would be nice in a pie, and my second; where can I get a gun? The gun room was always kept locked, and the keys held by the head gamekeeper Mr Herrod. What that gentleman didn't know was that Charley could do things with locks. I 'borrowed' a twelve bore from the rack and found a couple of cartridges. I opened the window, took careful aim, and bang, my prey keeled over. I took the rabbit back to my pantry and then took the gun back to the gun room, cleaned it and replaced it in the rack, finally locked the door behind me. With what, the reader may ask, but that's my secret. I just about had time to skin, clean and parcel up the rabbit to take home to Mum when the gamekeeper came by, saying "A bit ago I heard a bang like a gun going off, and it sounded like it was coming from around here. Did you happen to hear anything?" Keeping a poker face I replied, "No Mr Herrod, if I had I should have been out like a shot to find the culprit." I do not think he really believed me as he went away scratching his grizzled beard in puzzlement.

Around the year 1908 the aristocracy was beginning to take an interest in the new invention of the motor car, and of course his Lordship was no exception. I recall one day witnessing the arrival of a beautiful brand new car. It was an open car, a Wolseley, I understood. It was in the Earl's own colours, the body chocolate brown and the wheels light blue with the Harrington crest on each door. The driver was a Mr Amos Mould, who would become a permanent member of staff. The car was mostly used when his Lordship went to a hunt meeting, some days to hunt with his own pack or with the Quorn. It was an event to see the Earl setting off wearing a heavy moth-eaten fur coat over his hunting pink and blue hunter's hat. In 1911 or 1912 her Ladyship purchased a new covered-in Essex car. The stud groom was taught to drive this vehicle by Mr Amos. When the car drew up at the front door it was my task to be there, smartly dressed, and to open the door for her Ladyship.

Another yearly event held at the castle was known as Puppy Show Day. The Earl ran two packs of hounds and usually bred his own puppies. When the pups were old enough to be separated from their mothers they were sent out individually to local farmers or hunt followers for a year before returning to the kennels and custody of the huntsman Fred Earls, when training began.



Invitations to the Puppy Show were later sent out to the puppy rearers, hunt followers and other guests. Judges were brought in from other hunts. Afterwards the whole assembly adjourned to the racquet court where a meal had been prepared by Ramsdens, a Derby firm of caterers. The meal was followed by speeches, and after the guests had left the staff demolished the remainder of the food.

Not only did Lord Harrington breed his own hounds but he also bred his own horses. He owned two stallions, a thoroughbred called Mainstay and another whose name I cannot recall. These stallions were responsible for covering the Earl's mares, the resultant foals being very fine animals. I used to see them being trained and brought up to the very high standard required of a hunter.

There is another event which took place during my time in the Earl's service. This was a gymkhana. As far as I remember this took place after the hunting season was over and was staged in a very large field which could be described as an island as the river Derwent bounded it on one side and a tributary on the other. The only means of access was by the mill yard. The mill was the property of the estate and used for the manufacture of flock, and was generally known, appropriately enough, as Flock Mill. All the jumps and obstacles were built by farm staff under the supervision of an expert from the National Hunt Authority. A huge marquee was erected and this contained a licensed bar and catering facilities. On gymkhana day bookmakers arrived early to put up their boards and stands. Competitors came from all parts of the county and beyond. Jumping events continued all afternoon. In the main event the competitors taking part rode horses of a very high standard. One such horse, a light chestnut with four white socks flew over the jumps faultlessly and of course, won. I overheard one of the Earl's guests remark, "That horse will win next year's Grand National", and so it did at one hundred to eight.

I have tried to give the reader an idea of what life was like in the service of a country landowner before 1914, but all good things and bad come to an end and so did my service at Elvaston Castle when war broke out. The Earl called a meeting in Elvaston School of all the young men in the villages and there he put out a call for volunteers for his Majesty's forces. After a pause up went my hand and also those of Jack Billings and Frank Waldron. By such a simple gesture my life changed and things were never the same again. This was the end of an era.

*Taken from the autobiography of Charles Ambrose Garrett  
and submitted by Sue Boud [Mem 3018]*

## THE NEW 10p PIECES: A DERBY CONNECTION



In March 2018, the Royal Mint first issued the 'A-Z of Britain' 10p coins. '*... the 26 coins map out the A-Z of what makes Britain great .... The iconic everyday symbols will be immortalised on UK currency, so The Royal Mint asked the Great British public what is important to them ...*' (1). On their reverse sides the 'A' coin has a representation of the 'Angel of the North' and the 'Z' coin, a 'Zebra Crossing'.

The Derby connection is the 'P' coin that features an *A Handyside & Co Ltd Derby and London* VR pillar/post box, which were cast between 1887 and 1904 (2). Andrew Handyside had his Britannia Foundry and Engineering Works just North West across the road from our Bridge Chapel House (3), the London connection just being an office in the City.

In 1876 the Post Office decided to standardise on a cylindrical shape for their boxes: '*... an invitation to tender was sent out in September 1878. The most favourable was that received from Handysides of Derby. The Surveyor of the Derby District, assured the Secretary to the Post-Office that Handysides were well able to perform the contract satisfactorily, pointing out that they had for many years been engaged in extensive contracts for the supply of bridges, railroads, etc., in India, Russia and many other parts of the world. The surveyor also reminded the Secretary that some of the oldest pillar boxes still in service in the Derby District had been made by the firm ...*' (2). Incidentally, his first cylindrical boxes are referred to as 'anonymous' ones by the members of the Letter Box Study Group (4) for they are without a royal cypher only having his firm's name on them. There are still 462 in use and two in Derby Museums. By November 1887, this oversight had been corrected and they became as illustrated on the new 10p piece. Of these, there are 1,629 still in use with one in Derby and one in a museum. The Handyside firm were still making pillar boxes in the reign of Edward VII.

Andrew Handyside (1805-1887) and his wife are buried in Derby's Uttoxeter Road cemetery, which is just along the road from where they lived.

Running a Google search for the 'new 10p coins', not only produces a list of what each letter/design represents, but also raised questions, for the Royal Mint hopes the public will be inspired to start hunting for the coins in their change and try and collect them all. For example, how rare will the 'A-Z' collection be? Around 2.6 million coins have been released, approximately 100,000 per letter, though more could be produced in the coming months. At this time, it is not clear how much the coins could be worth or how in demand they are likely to be, but with such a small mintage per design, there is the possibility that the designs could come to rival some of the rarest coins in the market. As a point of comparison, the rarest coin currently in circulation, the Kew Gardens 50p, had a mintage of 210,000 (5)

The Royal Mint estimates that there are some 1.7 billion 10p coins in circulation. The expected annual demand for 10p coins is approximately 60 million. This means that, despite the coins' release in March, it may be next year when the coins begin to enter general circulation (6). Although by the end of June 2018, a friend had found two 'O' or 'Oak Tree' coins in their small change. However, you may still be able to purchase a mint 'P' coin for £2 from a Crown Post Office.

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## **CHURCHES OF DERBYSHIRE**

### **52. Charlesworth St John the Evangelist**

Charlesworth is as far to the North West as you can get in Derbyshire. It is reached by climbing 500 feet to the Monks Road—named after the monks of Basingwerk Abbey who owned and farmed the land around for nearly 400 years—and then climbing again to over a 1000 feet before descending to Coombes Edge and finally to the village itself. All accompanied by a view that makes you think you are truly on ‘Top of the World’.



At the time of Domesday Charlesworth was a thinly populated area described as ‘waste’, less than 400 acres being cultivated at that time. In 1157 Henry II granted land to the Cistercian Abbey of Basingwerk who cultivated the lower ground and turned the moorland into an enormous sheep ranch. In 1290 the Abbot was granted a charter for a market fair and in 1328 a similar grant for a Wednesday market. The market faded out before 1820 though an annual cattle fair continued until late in the 19th century.

Real prosperity came to the area with the Industrial Revolution in textiles. Mills were built and also, just outside, were collieries supplying both the mills and the village. By 1851 the population had almost reached 3000. This created social problems. In 1844 the first vicar of the newly created parish, the Reverend Purcell, found himself without a church or even a room to hold services. The roads were in bad order and the population filled the ale houses. They also had a tendency to throw stones at strangers.

Rev Purcell had only four people belonging to the Church of England, some others attended the Independent Chapel, but many were non-believers. After much searching a room in someone’s cottage acted as a meeting place and gradually numbers began to grow. He travelled many miles collecting donations and subscriptions and the final amount totalled £2300. He procured the

land for £300, on a site known as Ashen Bottom, the foundation stone was laid by John Chapman, and one year later, on the 9th October 1849 the church was consecrated and dedicated to St John the Evangelist by the Bishop of Lichfield. Strangely enough a look on Ordnance Survey maps finds the church dedicated to St John the Baptist. The building itself is rather unusual because it has a disproportionately large tower attached to one side of a rather stubby nave.

Generous gifts bought many furnishings. The Chapmans gave the communion table, reading desk and pulpit. Mrs Matley gave £20 towards a bell and Miss Sidebottom gave money for the font. By April 1851 he had also built the school and vicarage and the size of the congregation had increased considerably.

In 1901 the Reverend Martin took over. The church, school and vicarage had fallen into disrepair and this was put right at a cost of £500. His next task was raising funds for a new organ which was eventually installed for £400. Funds were then raised for a small chapel where Holy Communion took place. Electric lighting was installed in the church in 1935.

In 1949 St John's celebrated its centenary and many jobs needed to be done. The tower and flashings were releaded and the principal beam above the pulpit was replaced, as well as many minor repairs. These jobs were vital but the church had a large deficit to pay off.

During the sixties and seventies many changes took place in Charlesworth. Several housing estates were built, new families came to live in the area and many of the farms and mills disappeared. People were now able to travel further to work and use the village simply for living.

By 1964 the church was in a poor financial state and the fabric of the building again needed attention. Enough money was raised to carry out major repairs and keep the church in order. These including rebuilding part of the roof, fitting new windows and installing a new heating system. Different groups were formed and the church began to grow again.

Charlesworth has some lovely furnishings, including a beautiful brass cross which stands on the altar. The south window is dedicated to the first vicar, the Rev G. Purcell, and represents the Good Samaritan, while the west window is a memorial to those of the parish who sacrificed their lives in the Great War. Three of the vicars were laid to rest in the churchyard, next to the church they all served so well.

## *SPONDON HOUSE SCHOOL:- a memory*

I was most interested to read Maxwell Craven's article on Spondon House. The postcard of the house dated 1904, when it was a prep school, was of particular interest and sent me scurrying to my study to rummage through my archive photographs. I seemed to remember that I had a similar photograph that had been taken from almost the same position.

Luckily, I did manage to find the photo and it was indeed almost the same view of the house.

Following the death of my husband's aunt, Mabel Elizabeth Ward (nee Porter) who died in June 2011 just five weeks short of her 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday, one of the most interesting things I had to do was go through the mountains of family photographs and certificates which went back to the early 1800s. One thing that I will be eternally grateful to Mabel for is that on the back of almost every photograph she had written who was in the photo, the place and the date.

Among the mountain of loose photographs and albums we found the photograph below from the 1920s when Mabel was a pupil at Spondon House School. Thankfully, she had carefully listed the names of all the pupils and teachers on the back.



Back Row left to right, Miss Bancroft, Lucy Nuttall, Mabel Shaw, Gertie Fell, Gladys Borrington, Mabel Porter (aunty), Mrs Lambert, Marian Leigh, Doris Cope, Marjorie Bennington, Miss Hulland.

Front Row, Elsie Cope, Sally Ashley, Nora Handley, Hilda Osbourne, Milly Piggin, Ethel Coxon, May Frances, Cissy Adams, Ida Hudson.

The other interesting thing I found, on a piece of paper that had been roughly ripped out of an exercise book, was an account written by Mabel of when the family moved to Spondon in the early 1920s. Her father Will Porter took over the license of the Station Inn which meant Mabel was enrolled as a pupil at the school in Spondon.

Transcript of Mabel's Account

*I was only 10 years old when we came to live in Spondon, and so I went to Spondon school in Chapel St, in the playground was a large hut which was called the Iron Rooms and it was to be my classroom, for some of the lessons and then we went in the big hall, which was divided into 3 classrooms by curtains drawn across for other lessons. The toilets were outside in the playground and if it rained you got wet through going to them. The headmaster was Mr Creighton and Mrs Lambert (nee Hallam) was headmistress also teachers were Miss Turton, Miss Watson, Mr Bancroft and Mr Hallam.*

*About 2 years later we were told we were going to Spondon House School, this building not far away was an hospital during the first world war it was a lovely place very clean and polished floors, we had to change our boots or shoes and put slippers on. I was the first class to go down to the new school, but when other classes came down it soon began to lose the polished look so we didn't have to change our shoes.*

*We had a very good hockey team and we could borrow the hockey sticks when I found a good one I used to hide it up the chimney in the classroom, until I had one of my own.*

*The gardens were kept in good order and you were not allowed in them.*

It appears, from her account, that Mabel was one of the first pupils to attend Spondon House School when a new County school was established in the house in 1922.

*Mal Smith [Mem 7558]  
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## **Welsh Ramblings – and finding the Jennisons**

I really must look back and read what I have written in my previous articles to make sure that I am not repeating myself. I may well have mentioned before that my (older) brother and I married sisters – but I am sure that I didn't mention that this seems to be less of a rarity than you might think. Over the years (35 of them as it happens – it was our anniversary in August) whenever I have had occasion to mention this in conversation, it has often elicited the response “oh; I know someone like that”. It has also cropped up more than once in my family history research – or at least I have found siblings marrying people with the same surname and assumed that the siblings are marrying siblings. Of course, after 1911, the last available census, this does make things somewhat difficult where it is two brothers marrying two sisters, as from the Birth Indexes it is impossible to tell which child belongs to which parents.

I wonder if everyone has one branch of their family that proves to be a real problem in researching it? In my case it is the Jennison side of the family (and not just because it seems to be one of those names that is to be prone to misspelling and transcription errors). In fact, when I first started my research we weren't even aware of the name Jennison, so perhaps I should explain how I came across it (it is one of those little mysteries that give such satisfaction when you think you have solved it, particularly when it all ties in with what little you did know).

At the outset, we did not know the maiden name of my 2x great-grandmother Eliza Allen. All I could initially find out was from the census – which said that she was from Belper and was born c1827. In the 1861 census she was living in Nottingham with her daughter Eliza Ann (my great-grandmother, born c1856). By the 1871 census they had moved to Derby and there was also Emma (born c1862). However, I was unable to find a birth certificate for either Eliza Ann or Emma – so still had no idea of Eliza's maiden name.

As it turned out, I had two clues which would put me on the way to resolving this omission. The first clue came in the form of two old family photographs which had been identified as being of “Ann Nanson; sister of Eliza Allen” and of “James Nanson”. The second clue was a reference to a “Jack Smith, cousin of Eliza-Ann Allen”. Therefore, my first course of action was to find the marriage of Ann and James Nanson. This proved to be straightforward – they were married in St. Mary's Parish Church in Nottingham in 1856 – and Ann's maiden name was Jennison; her father being Samuel, a nail maker. And just to confirm without any doubt that this was the correct marriage – the two witnesses were John Allen and Eliza Allen (although my subsequent re-



search suggests that John and Eliza were not actually married at this time – and, in fact, may never have married! But more on that later – or perhaps next time). And so, I now knew my 2x great-grandmother's maiden name and had another family to trace back.



*Ann Nanson and James Nanson.  
If you look back at the wedding photo in my article in Issue 157  
you will see why I thought that it might be the wedding of one of  
their children.*

Checking pre-1837 records on the Family Search website I found a Samuel Jennison married Francis Forrester in Duffield in 1823 and another Samuel Jennison married Jemima Turton in Duffield in 1825. Could one of these couples be my 3x great-grandparents – and if so, which one?

I eventually had another clue from a completely unexpected angle. While searching the Society's database of burials in Nottingham Road Cemetery I found the record for Eliza Allen – she was buried in 1895 – but the actual grave record showed that there had been a previous burial in the grave; a Fanny Jennison, aged 66 in 1869. As there was less than 30 years between burials (as I understand it, if a grave was not a "bought grave" then after a period of 30 years it could be re-used) then this must be a relative – and therefore the Frances (nee Forrester) of the 1823 marriage.

Now I was getting somewhere. I had even managed, eventually, to find the birth certificate for my great-grandmother Eliza-Ann which gave no father and confirmed that her mother was unmarried at the time and therefore that Eliza-Ann was born a Jennison. I have still not found a birth certificate for her sister Emma.

Armed with this new information I went back to the census records. In 1861 a Frances Jennison (a washerwoman) of roughly the right age and a widow was a boarder in Mid Brook Street in Derby. She was from Uttoxeter. Earlier, in 1851, a Fanny Jennison (from Uttoxeter) and her husband Samuel (born c1804 in Duffield, and a nail maker) were living in Devonshire Street with their children John (born c1833), Samuel (c1840) and Edwin (c1843) – all born in Derby. So, had I found three siblings of Eliza and Ann? But where were the sisters in this census? They were both of the age when they might have been out in service and their years of birth (1827 and 1837) do fit in with those of the three boys. I have been unable to find any of the family in the previous census – is it the curse of the transcription error striking again?

So, we know what happened to Eliza and Ann. What of the boys? A John Jennison married Mary Ann Coulson and in both 1861 and 1871 they were living in Boston in Lincolnshire. John was a nail maker (like his father). Mary Ann died in 1872, and in 1874 John remarried, to Emma Ranyard. In 1881 they were living in Silsden in Yorkshire. It looks like Emma already had four children – in 1871 they had all been “pauper inmates” in Spilsby Union Workhouse. By 1891 John and Emma had moved to Keighley. John died in 1900 and the following year Emma was back in Silsden.

In 1861 there was a Samuel Genson (sic) of the right age, from Derby and a nail maker (like his father) lodging in Stamford – with a John Allen and his family, who were from Belper. Is this too much of a coincidence – a mysterious John Allen being the father of Samuel’s sister Eliza’s three children? Samuel married Sarah Jane Shaw in 1869 and they, like John, moved to Silsden in Yorkshire. Samuel died in 1900 and Sarah Jane died in 1914.

An Edward Jennison married Maria Haw in 1861 and in subsequent censuses they were living in Boston in Lincolnshire, Barnoldswick in Yorkshire, back in Boston and then Keighley. Although initially shown as being a nail maker from Boston, he was subsequently shown as being from Derby, so I think this must be the right person. Edward died in 1918 and Maria died in 1920.

It seems too much of a coincidence that all three of these individuals were nail makers who ended up in Yorkshire - and the Boston connection is interesting, as that is where their sister Ann’s husband James Nanson was from. Also, that John Allen connection is really intriguing (but may be a red herring)!

Now, back to that second clue I mentioned earlier (a Jack Smith, cousin of Eliza Ann Allen – who we now know was a Jennison). So, I searched for a

Smith/Jennison marriage and found that Thomas Smith married Mary Jennison in 1862 in the Baptist Chapel in St. Mary's Gate in Derby. Mary's father was John Jennison, a rivett (sic) maker, so knowing that Thomas and Mary's son John (Jack) was a cousin of my great-grandmother Eliza Ann, then John and Samuel must be brothers. Another piece of the jigsaw.

(In the 1871 census Thomas and Mary Smith were living at 32 Old Uttoxeter Road. Mary was born c1838. By 1881 they had moved to 36 Shaw Street and by 1901 they had moved to 136 Ashbourne Road. Their children were Emma (c1864), Mary Ann (c1866), John (c1868) and Eliza (c1876). Emma married Abraham Atkins and Mary Ann married Alphonsus Heldreich. John married Mary Elizabeth Hunt in 1897; she was the oldest child of Herbert and Sarah Hunt (nee Baker – Sarah being the daughter of my 2x great-grandparents George and Mary). And so, the circle was complete!)

But back to the Jennisons. In 1851 there was a John Jennison (a nail maker, born c1816 in Belper) living in Stockbridge Street with his wife Sarah and their children, including Mary (c1838) - as above. A John Jennison had married Sarah Jefferey in St. Peter's, Derby in 1835. From the Family Search website, I found a John Jennison born in Belper in 1815 to Samuel and Ann Jennison. Also born to Samuel and Ann were Samuel (1804 in Turnditch) and William (1809 in Belper). Could this be the right family? The years of birth are correct for Samuel and John; Belper is correct as a place of birth for John – but is Turnditch close enough to Duffield to count for Samuel? A Samuel Jennison had married Anne Steeples in Duffield in 1803 – is Ann Anne? Also born in Belper to Samuel and Anne were Anne (c1816), Christopher (c1819) and Samuel (c1826). Are these the same family – another Samuel confuses things.

And that is as far back as I have got – for now. But let's not forget Eliza Ann's sister Emma. Assuming that she too was born a Jennison; in 1881 there was an Emma Jennison, born in Nottingham c1861, who was an 'Inmate Genl Serv Dom' in the Penitent Females Home in Lincoln. [www.childrenshomes.org.uk](http://www.childrenshomes.org.uk) states that in 1884 the Home could accommodate 25 girls and women, with the maximum age for admission being 25. Destitute cases were admitted free, other on payment of £3. Inmates were expected to remain for two years and were occupied in needlework and laundry work. Emma was not the only inmate from outside of Lincolnshire, and the fact that her mother's brothers all lived in Lincolnshire for a time is surely too much of a coincidence?

Emma Allen married Harry Smith in 1891 in St Luke's Church in Derby. In the 1901 census they were living in the Caretaker's Lodge (Poor Law Office-

es) in Bramble Street. This explains why Emma and Eliza Ann's mother Eliza Allen died at the Poor Law Offices in 1895 – she was either living with, or staying with, her daughter. In the 1911 census I could find Harry and their daughter May still living in Bramble Street, but Emma was not recorded – nor could I find her anywhere else. This made me wonder if Emma was one of the women who boycotted the census in protest at the government's refusal to grant women the vote. I have no grounds for suggesting this, but unless I can find her then I can't think of any other reason. Emma and Harry eventually moved to Chapel St. Leonards on the Lincolnshire coast and Emma died aged 75 in 1936 – Harry being still alive at that time.

Finally; going back to the mysterious John Allen; in the "*Nottingham Guardian*" of Thursday November 18<sup>th</sup> 1856 there was a report under the heading "*Remanded Case Of Stealing Joiners' Tools*" which stated that James Nanson had pleaded not guilty to a charge of stealing a quantity of tools, the property of his master, Geo. Swann. The case against James, who had married Ann Jennison earlier that year, was eventually dismissed by the magistrates because they did not think there was sufficient evidence to warrant them in sending the man to prison. However, what is interesting is that two witnesses who were called for the defence were William Allen, a sawyer who said that James Nanson lodged with him, and his brother – one John Allen! Could this be the mysterious man? In the 1861 census there was a John Allen living in Plumb Street in the same area of Nottingham as Eliza Jennison. He was a sawyer, so could be the man who testified for James Nanson – and I know from her marriage certificate that Eliza Ann Jennison's father was John Allen, a sawyer. This John was from Grantham and was living with his wife Elizabeth, their son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren. Ten years earlier John and Elizabeth had been living at 7, Trent Row with their children William (c1832) and Maria (c1835). I have so far failed to find birth/christening records for the children or a marriage record for John and Elizabeth. And so, the mystery of John Allen remains!

And that's it for this time. If anybody has any connection with, or information on, the Jennisons then please get in touch. Also – if the name John Allen rings any bells then I would be grateful for any help you can give me on that front.

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## METHODICAL FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

### Introduction

The purpose of this article is to emphasize the absolute importance of careful and methodical research when tracing your family line, and the pitfalls and basic deception that can result from short-cuts and wrong assumptions. This is often illustrated on websites such as Ancestry.com where published family trees are frequently in error and the errors are then taken on board by other researchers hoping for easy progress in their own research.

### Hallsworth Family Background

At the time of my birth, all of my grandparents had already died. By the time that I showed any interest in family history I had only my parents, my sister and a few aunts and uncles to give me first-hand information about the family. Even this was sometimes unreliable. For example, I was told that our family “always came from Derbyshire” but before long I discovered that in the 1830s our branch of the family moved to Derby from Bedfordshire. I thus embarked on the tracing of my family tree by means of a combination of:

- Facts, stories, photographs etc from known family sources, all of which however I tried to check and validate as far as possible.

- Use of the normal sources of public information available to all family historians such as census records, birth/marriage/death certificates, and the other resources when available and relevant (such as records of the poor, criminal records etc.).

### Methodology

My professional background is that of a chemical engineer (now retired), responsible for the design of industrial factories. The job itself required a very disciplined approach to calculations, procedures, use of design data etc. It was simply not acceptable to “guess” an answer if an obstacle presented itself. However, even if assumptions were made and duly recorded (as sometimes happened), it was normally soon apparent if the assumption turned out to be incorrect or invalid. Furthermore, design results were subjected to a checking and approval system which normally would identify and expose any important errors. In the case of family history research however, researchers usually work as individuals and if wrong assumptions are made they may very well pass un-noticed – but the researcher would only be fooling himself. Another parallel could be drawn with the modern numbers game of Soduku, often found in newspapers and magazines. Soduku is a game of logic. When obstacles occur, it is poor practice to try to guess an answer when two or three options exist. It is highly likely, specially in difficult cases, that the wrong guess will be made causing the whole game to fail. The failure will become obvious, unlike failures of logic in family history research.

52

***D.F.H.S. Dec Qtr 2018***

**BASIC HALLSWORTH FAMILY TREE**

```

graph TD
    TH1[THOMAS HALLSWORTH  
Born 27 May 1891  
Died 27 Nov 1998] --- MARY[MARY ANN HALLSWORTH  
Born 14 Jan 1897  
Died 19 Jan 1944]
    TH1 --- GEORGE[GEORGE HALLSWORTH  
Born 21 Aug 1904  
Died 7 Dec 1958]
    TH1 --- EVELYN[EVELINE HALLSWORTH  
Born 19 Jan 1887  
Died 11 Feb 1973]
    TH1 --- REG[REGINALD HALLSWORTH  
Born 1 May 1889  
Died 20 May 1950]
    TH1 --- WILL[WILLIAM HALLSWORTH  
Born 11 June 1860  
Died 6 Dec 1922]

    GEORGE --- EVELYN --- TH2[THOMAS HALLSWORTH  
Born 27 May 1891  
Died 27 Nov 1998]
    GEORGE --- EVELYN --- ELIZ1[ELIZABETH HALLSWORTH  
Born 19 Jan 1887  
Died 11 Feb 1973]
    GEORGE --- EVELYN --- HERB1[HERBERT HALLSWORTH  
Born 14 Jan 1897  
Died 19 Jan 1944]

    EVELYN --- REG --- TH2
    EVELYN --- REG --- ELIZ1
    EVELYN --- REG --- HERB1

    WILL --- MARY[MARY ANN HALLSWORTH  
Born 14 Jan 1897  
Died 19 Jan 1944]
    WILL --- GEORGE
    WILL --- EVELYN
    WILL --- REG

    MARY --- HERB2[HERBERT HALLSWORTH  
Born 20 May 1907  
Died 22 Oct 1987]
    MARY --- LOUIA[LOUIA HALLSWORTH  
Born 22 May 1899  
Died 26 Nov 1955]
    MARY --- JESSIE[JESSIE HALLSWORTH  
Born 12 Jan 1893  
Died 23 Jan 1999]
    MARY --- HENRY[HENRY HALLSWORTH  
Born 11 June 1860  
Died 21 Jan 1903]

    HERB2 --- ELIZ2[ELIZABETH HALLSWORTH  
Born 7 Sep 1868  
Died 4 Feb 1936]
    HERB2 --- LOUIA
    HERB2 --- JESSIE
    HERB2 --- HENRY

    LOUIA --- ARNOLD[ARNOLD HALLSWORTH  
Born 9 Dec 1904  
Died 21 Nov 1988]
    LOUIA --- WILK[WILK ANNE WINKLEY  
Born 19 Feb 1884  
Died 23 Jun 1988]
    LOUIA --- VAL[VALERIE HALLSWORTH  
Born 19 Jan 1900  
Died 21 Apr 1900]
    LOUIA --- ALLOC[ALLOC HALLSWORTH  
Born 19 Jan 1900  
Died 21 Apr 1900]

    ARNOLD --- WILK
    ARNOLD --- VAL
    ARNOLD --- ALLOC
  
```

The reason that I have included the logic chart for Thomas Hallsworth is that it illustrates facts and “likely facts” about a particular person, ie it is far enough back in time to contain some unresolved issues. Particular points to note are as follows:

In the column “Primary Evidence” all census records found relating to Thomas Hallsworth are summarised. As can be seen, in census records over five decades five different places of birth have been attributed (albeit two of these are only spelling differences). Nevertheless, all are in Bedfordshire and it can surely be assumed with a high degree of certainty that Bedfordshire was the County of birth. As far as date of birth is concerned, the range between 1822 and 1824 is pleasingly and surprisingly close for census records. The difficulty of achieving full reporting accuracy in the various censuses of the 1800s can be easily imagined, with recorders of varying diligence, illiterate householders, time restraints, dingy lighting etc.

The death certificate is hard evidence about the person, the informant (in this instance it was one of his sons), and the place where he died. The latter is very significant as it is the same address as in the census of the same year (1891). The census entry for 1891 shows Thomas Hallsworth living with his wife and two of his sons, all of which ties up with other evidence. The year of birth back-dated from his age as recorded on the death certificate is 1823, tying up well with the five decades of census entries.

Still in the “Primary Evidence” column there is a summary of Thomas Hallsworth’s marriage to Elizabeth Cockayne in 1850. As he is described as a widower, this was not his first marriage. One difficulty with this marriage certificate is that his surname is spelled Holdsworth. In fact, whilst spelling variations are very common in family history records, Holdsworth is not a variation of Hallsworth that is particularly common in my experience. More frequently, specially when going further back in time, I have found variations such as Halsworth, Holsworth, Allworth and Allsworth to name but a few. Incidentally, at one time I kept examples of envelopes addressed to myself during the period 1970 -2000 which contained numerous wrong spellings of my surname, proving that “there is nothing new under the sun”.

In order to satisfy myself further that I had the correct marriage certificate, I was able to find confirmation of his wife’s surname (Cockayne) on the various birth certificates of their children (see birth certificate summaries in the “Secondary Evidence” column) and also with known addresses (more about that later). Because Thomas Hallsworth was a widower in 1850, I then searched for evidence of a previous marriage and found a marriage to Charlotte Beeson in 1843. The father of Thomas Hallsworth was recorded as



Thomas in both the 1843 and 1850 marriages. A death certificate was found for Charlotte Hallsworth, wife of Thomas Hallsworth, in 1850 (some 8 months before his second marriage). As Charlotte died in Derby Infirmary and the informant was a Beeson not a Hallsworth, Thomas and Charlotte's address was not listed on the death certificate. From the evidence I have found I am fairly sure that this marriage between Thomas and Charlotte is the correct one for my family tree. Further research into the Beeson family would hopefully confirm this. However this has not been a priority for me because there seems to be no children from the Hallsworth/Beeson marriage.

Having established that Thomas Hallsworth was born in Bedfordshire and that his father was also called Thomas, my research took me to Bedfordshire where I have made some good progress. I was able to find evidence to indicate, with a fairly high degree of confidence, that this branch of the Hallsworth family moved to Derby in 1836 or thereabouts. At that time, it was reported that pauper labourers in Bedfordshire were in great distress from the lack of employment and the low rate of wages, and financial assistance was provided by the parishes for some to emigrate to areas of the country (such as Derby) where industrial labour was needed. Not only did this improve their lot but it also relieved the parish of some of the paupers. Pauper lists, wills and criminal records were very useful in this research. This is however beyond the scope of this article.

A further useful tool I have found in confirming evidence is to list on one sheet the various addresses of a person as found from certificates, census results and other sources (see table over). It helps to illustrate and validate the pattern of a person's life and can also show up discrepancies in your records which can be further examined.

A further summary sheet (in some ways the ultimate one) is a profile of a person's life (also overleaf). This is useful as it summarises the main facts such as date and place of birth, marriage and death, dates of birth of children of the marriage, information on jobs held, addresses etc. Sometimes the information discovered can be somewhat shocking. The fact that Thomas Hallsworth was recorded in the 1861 census as a "Street scavenger" caused quite a lot of amusement amongst my family and it can be rather humbling to unearth such things. On the other hand, there is some admiration that a poor relative has overcome life's difficulties and to an extent has done his best for his family. An indication of this is that his first job, at the age of 11, was a ploughboy in rural Bedfordshire and he then worked as a labourer in Derby for about 15 years during which he was widowed, re-married and fathered five children until his nadir of resorting to scavenging the streets to survive.

RESIDENCES OF THOMAS HALLSWORTH, ELIZABETH COCKAYNE & CHARLOTTE BEESON				
DATE & EVENT	THOMAS HALLSWORTH	ELIZABETH COCKAYNE	CHARLOTTE BEESON	COMMENTS
1835-36 Pauper Description List	Marston Moretaine [Bedfordshire]			
6 June 1841 - Census				
5 June 1843 - Marriage to Charlotte Beeson	St. Michaels Lane, Derby [St. Michaels Parish]		St. Michaels Lane [St. Michaels Parish] Derby Infirmary	
21 Feb. 1850 - Death of Charlotte Hallsworth				Eliza Beeson of 12 Markenton Rd., Derby present at death
20 Oct. 1850 - Marriage to Elizabeth Cockayne	Ashbourne Road, Derby [St. Werburgh Parish]	Ashbourne Road, Derby [St. Werburgh Parish]		
30/31 March 1851 - Census	15 Nurs Place, Derby [St. Alkmund Parish]	15 Nurs Place, Derby [St. Alkmund Parish]		100% sure
27 May 1851 - Birth of son (Thomas)	William Street, Derby [St. Alkmund Parish]	William Street, Derby [St. Alkmund Parish]		100% sure
21 Aug. 1854 - Birth of son (George)	Ashbourne Road, Derby	Ashbourne Road, Derby		100% sure
14 Jan. 1857 - Birth of daughter (Mary Ann)	10 Noel Street, Derby [St. Peter Parish]	10 Noel Street, Derby [St. Peter Parish]		100% sure
7 Dec. 1858 - Death of son (George)	Noel Street, Derby			100% sure
11 June 1860 - Birth of twins (Harry & William)	40 Badge Street, Derby [St. Peter Parish]	40 Badge Street, Derby [St. Peter Parish]		100% sure
7/8 April 1861 - Census	40 Badge Street, Derby [St. Peter Parish]	40 Badge Street, Derby [St. Peter Parish]		100% sure
12 Jan. 1863 - Birth of son (Jesse)	40 Badge Street, Derby [St. Peter Parish]	40 Badge Street, Derby [St. Peter Parish]		100% sure
22 May 1865 - Birth of daughter (Louisa)	40 Badge Street, Derby	40 Badge Street, Derby		100% sure
26 Nov 1865 - Death of daughter (Louisa)	40 Badge Street, Derby	40 Badge Street, Derby		100% sure
20 May 1867 - Birth of daughter (Hannet)	40 Badge Street, Derby	40 Badge Street, Derby		100% sure
22 Oct. 1867 - Death of daughter (Hannet)	40 Badge Street, Derby	40 Badge Street, Derby		100% sure
7 Sept. 1868 - Birth of daughter (Elizabeth)	40 Badge Street, Derby [St. Peter Parish]	40 Badge Street, Derby [St. Peter Parish]		100% sure
2/3 April 1871 - Census	40 Badge Street, Derby	40 Badge Street, Derby		100% sure
12 April 1871 - Birth of son (Herbert)	40 Badge Street, Derby	40 Badge Street, Derby		100% sure
3/4 April 1881 - Census	34 Badge Street, Derby [St. Werburgh Parish]	34 Badge Street, Derby [St. Werburgh Parish]		100% sure
5 April 1891 - Census	175 Watson Street, Derby [St. Alkmund Parish]	175 Watson Street, Derby [St. Alkmund Parish]		100% sure
21 May 1891 - Death of Thomas Hallsworth	175 Watson Street, Derby			100% sure

INDIVIDUAL PROFILE  
THOMAS HALLSWORTH

BORN: 1824 – Marston Moretaine, Bedfordshire

MARRIED: 1<sup>st</sup> 5 June 1843 to Charlotte Beeson at St.Michaels, Derby  
2<sup>nd</sup> 20 October 1850 to Elizabeth Cockayne at St.Werburghs, Derby

CHILDREN: 1<sup>st</sup> Thomas. Born 27 May 1851  
2<sup>nd</sup> George. Born 21 August 1854  
3<sup>rd</sup> Mary Ann. Born 14 January 1857  
4<sup>th</sup> Harry (twin). Born 11 June 1860  
5<sup>th</sup> William (twin). Born 11 June 1860  
6<sup>th</sup> Jesse. Born 12 January 1863  
7<sup>th</sup> Louisa. Born 22 May 1865  
8<sup>th</sup> Harriet. Born 20 May 1867  
9<sup>th</sup> Elizabeth. Born 7 September 1868  
10<sup>th</sup> Herbert. Born 12 April 1871

OCCUPATION: 1835 Ploughboy  
1843-57 Labourer  
1861 Street Scavenger  
1860-65 Jobbing Labourer  
1867-68 General Labourer  
1871 Labourer for Board of Health  
1877 Foreman for Board of Health  
1889 Contract Inspector  
1891 Sanitary Inspector

ADDRESS:  
1824-1836 Marston Moretaine, Bedfordshire  
1843 St.Michaels Lane, Derby  
1850 Ashbourne Road, Derby  
1851 15 Nuns Place, Derby  
1851- William Street, Derby  
1857-1858 10 Noel Street, Derby  
1860-1871 40 Bridge Street, Derby  
1881 34 Bridge Street, Derby  
1891 175 Watson Street, Derby

DIED: 21 May 1891 - Derby  
BURIED:

**OTHER INFORMATION:**

His mother died when he was 10 years old.

His father moved with him to Derby in 1836 (approximately) and re-married in 1842.

After that he had five more children, found employment at the Board of Health and gradually progressed from being a labourer, then a foreman and eventually an inspector. Finding this level of information was possible because of the number of birth, marriage and death certificates available due to his large family.

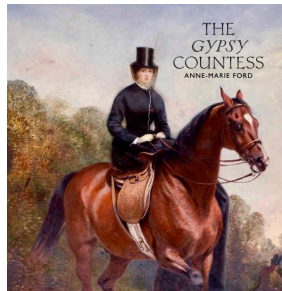
Where available, other facts such as colour of hair, height etc add hugely to the understanding of the individual. It would also include one or more photographs of the person, information on schooling and education, and family recollections about the nature of the person. Unfortunately, in the case of the focus of this article (Thomas Hallsworth), only bare facts are known but for more recent relatives a lot more may be known. It is always a challenge to capture what is known, specially in terms of personal recollections, before it is lost forever.

### Summary

It is highly satisfying and rewarding to unearth information about one's roots and to document it in a clear way for the benefit of future generations. It is vital however to be thorough in the research process and to record any assumptions or doubts. Jumping to conclusions without validated evidence is definitely to be avoided and it serves no useful purpose, either for the researcher or for any future user of the information.

*John Hallsworth [Mem 2001]*

*E-mail: john.hallsworth99@btinternet.com*



### The Gypsy Countess—Anne-Marie Ford

This is a biography of Catherine Cox, the daughter of a Romany Gypsy and a farm labourer, who rose from a farm cottage and career in a circus to marry one of England's richest bachelors and become the Countess of Stamford and Warrington.

What's more, her two sisters also achieved fame as circus ring equestriennes and through high society affairs and marriages.

Anne-Marie Ford is a leading expert in British Gypsy Genealogy and this is the first fully rounded portrait of the entrepreneurial Miss Cox. This A4 book is lavishly illustrated and is published by RTFHS. It is available through them at £16 plus postage. For more information visit the website <https://rtfhs.org.uk/publications/history/>

## *Buxworth Board School 1877- 1920*

This is a much edited story of the development and the machinations of a rural Derbyshire school extracted from the 5 logbooks lodged in the Derbyshire County Record Office at Matlock. The first Bugsworth School logbook entry reads---“14<sup>th</sup> January 1884. I, (Albert Smith) commenced dutie (sic) as headteacher of this school. Admitted 32 children, most of them in very backward state.” Albert did not last long for his last entry on the 24<sup>th</sup> February 1866 he writes a terse “I sever my connection with this school.” A short and not a too sounding sweet brief last comment on his jurisdiction. Read on for a true alphabetical tale of absconding, attendance issues, corporal punishment, patriotic fervour, pestilence in many forms, punishment, SAO's (school attendance officers), social evil, in fact an every day story of a small village school that was no doubt replicated throughout Derbyshire and further afield.

1884.

12<sup>th</sup> Sept. Inspector's Report. School opened in January. The children are very backward. Handwriting and Arithmetic needs especial care. More low seats are required.

1885.

23<sup>rd</sup> April. Received two dozen slates.

1<sup>st</sup> May. Not so good attendance due to Stockport Fair.

29<sup>th</sup> June. & fresh children age 7 to 10 years started, can scarcely say the alphabet.

3<sup>rd</sup> August. Poor attendance due to haymaking.

11<sup>th</sup> November. Inspector of Factories called in respect of half term children.

2<sup>nd</sup> December. Only fair attendance due to mumps

1886.

18<sup>th</sup> Jan. Snow 8 inches deep, attendance bad.

22<sup>nd</sup> Jan. Attendance extremely poor.

25<sup>th</sup> Jan. Attendance worse.

26<sup>th</sup> March. Many children ignorant of the 3R's. I have suspended English lessons.

29<sup>th</sup> Nov. Only 62 out of 112 children present due to the fever.

15<sup>th</sup> December. Dr. Bennett closed the school for one month due to fever in the village.

1887.

27<sup>th</sup> May. Attendance poor this week due to the measles.

2<sup>nd</sup> Aug. School Report. Infants backwards in reading.

1888.

16<sup>th</sup> Jan. I have withdrawn Maud Hall from the register--- death due to drowning in the Peak Forest Canal.

1889. Report. The school in good order and on the whole passed a satisfactory examination.

1891.

June and July. Measles and whooping cough causes poor attendance.

24<sup>th</sup> Nov. Two pupils S. & M. Heath have diphtheria.

7<sup>th</sup> Dec. Fresh cases of Diphtheria only 55 out of 130 present.

1892. The School library opened with 29 books.

1892 Report. Illness present throughout the year and many half-timers enrolled.

21<sup>st</sup> Nov. Miss Kaye states that she has an important business matter, whatever that might be.

28<sup>th</sup> Nov. Miss Kaye now informs me she has been appointed Ass't Mistress at a Stockport School.

1894.

9<sup>th</sup> March. Letter from the Education Dept Whitehall, London. "The children have been kept at work beyond the hours in the timetable, more than 25 hours. The school should open at 9 am. The master did not arrive until 9-20 am."

10<sup>th</sup> Sept. Professor Keeling gave his ventriloquist entertainment to the children.

1895.

8<sup>th</sup> March. Mr. John Hill of Wood Cottages came to school this afternoon using very threatening language, he alleges that his son Gilbert was punished this forenoon. After being absent from school since the 15<sup>th</sup> November last year and being compelled to attend school.

24<sup>th</sup> April. The children rode in a waggonette to Chapel-en-le-Frith Town Hall on behalf of the C of E Temperance Society.

5<sup>th</sup> Dec. A magic lantern show on the Mediterranean Sea to day and night pupils.

1896.

25<sup>th</sup> Jan. Magic lantern show. The Dominion of Canada.

22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. Magic lantern show. Round the World in 100 minutes.

7<sup>th</sup> Aug. Whooping cough prevalent in the village.

14<sup>th</sup> Sept. 31 children away sick.

1897.

1<sup>st</sup> Feb. Mumps still prevalent

7<sup>th</sup> Sept. Typhoid fever broken out.

8<sup>th</sup> Sept. Measles spreading.

11<sup>th</sup> Sept. Only 40 children present at school.

1898.

School Report. This school has not improved, it may be necessary to declare the school inefficient.

23<sup>rd</sup> Nov. Only 23 children attended school. Weather very rough.

1899.

4<sup>th</sup> April. Sangers Circus at Chapel-en-le-Frith.

12<sup>th</sup> Dec. Mrs Pearson, caretaker's wife quarrelled with Mary Lowe. No school in the afternoon due to the heavy snow.

1900.

Feb 12. Rough morning with deep snow. Only 23 children at school.

30<sup>th</sup> Oct . Improvements have been affected, school generally in a fairly efficient state.

1901.

9<sup>th</sup> Oct. A circus, came to Whaley Bridge the first time for many years. The children given a half day holiday.

30<sup>th</sup> Oct. Mr Cotterill of Chinley visited the school to photograph the children.

1<sup>st</sup> Nov. Mr. Cotterill retook the photographs of those children who had moved.

1901 Report.

The school is in a satisfactory state. There needs to be a serious want of punctuality. School records not kept in accordance with the regulations.

1902 Report.

There is a marked improvement in the conduct of the school .

4<sup>th</sup> Sept. A number of removals are taking place with the completion of the widening of the railway line between Gow Hole and Chinley.

22<sup>nd</sup> Sept. Mr W.T. Prescott appointed headmaster. (He was to serve in post for almost 35 years and was responsible with the Vicar the Reverend Dr Towers in the official changing of the village name from Bugsworth to Buxworth in 1933)

27<sup>th</sup> Oct. Harry Brand was caught stealing pencils from the school. His parents were sent for.

13<sup>th</sup> Nov. class 1 and class 2 were taken down to the canal basin and given a

lecture on canals.

13<sup>th</sup> Dec. The pupils now number 101.

22<sup>nd</sup> Dec. Dr. Whitehead advised that Emily and Martha Sutton should absent themselves from school due to smallpox in their neighbours house.

1903.

25<sup>th</sup> Feb. Mr. Goddard the sanitary inspector called due to Ellen Ford found to be infected with smallpox.

27<sup>th</sup> Feb. Dr. Anderson vaccinated the master and eight children.

2<sup>nd</sup> Mar. 23 more children vaccinated.

20<sup>th</sup> Mar. 9 more cases of smallpox.

6<sup>th</sup> April. Playground to be asphalted. Slates to be abolished. 45 Infants.

1903 Report.

School much improved under the new headmaster. Attendance fairly good.

7<sup>th</sup> Aug. More children leaving due to the completion of the new railway.

27<sup>th</sup> Aug. Due to a heavy shower of rain most children returned to school in a wet condition. A fire was lit to dry their garments and a musical drill undertaken to get the children warm.

29<sup>th</sup> Sept. Final meeting of the Bugsworth School Board, the County Council now being the new authority.

6<sup>th</sup> Oct. School classroom was flooded owing to a defective roof to which attention to the late Board was repeatedly drawn.

1904.

Temperature in school 49F, snow falling heavily. Children given military drill instead of scripture.

21<sup>st</sup> Apr. Emily and Martha Sutton ( see Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> 1902) have scarlet fever.

7<sup>th</sup> June. Sanger's Circus at Chapel-en-le-Frith, children given half day holiday.

1904 Report.

Marked improvement between the last two visits. Singers deserve praise.

19<sup>th</sup> Oct. James Derkin taken to hospital, treatment due to injuries caused by a fire at his home. The children were lectured on the danger of fire.

4<sup>th</sup> November. Mr. Braddock, School SAO, visited the school to say that for October, this school had an attendance of 96% and it was the highest in the district.

1905 .

16<sup>th</sup> March. School let out in lieu of playtime to witness the funeral of an old lady who lived near the school for over 20 years.

10<sup>th</sup> May . Record attendance of 134 children.



1906.

A chair making industry established in the village for 3 years ago is now moving to Stockport. A dozen children will be withdrawn from the school register.

21<sup>st</sup> June. An inspector from the NSPCC called to make inquiries about the condition of children named Pritchard.

21<sup>st</sup> July. The headmaster T.W. Prescott attended court as a witness in the trial of Geo Pritchard for neglect of his children.

27<sup>th</sup> Aug . Mr. Wetters called at school to complain of fruit being stolen from his orchard at Bugsworth Hall. The true culprits appear to be boys working at the nearby Britannia Wireworks.

23<sup>rd</sup> Nov. Andrew Ridgeway brought a good specimen of a living bat to school

21<sup>st</sup> Dec. Two children, James Rowley and Hilda Heyes were given books having not been absent once over 4 years.

1907.

7<sup>th</sup> Jan. Henry Pritchard (age 3 years) in the infant class died during the Christmas holiday due to pneumonia.

6<sup>th</sup> April There follows an unusual triangular correspondence concerning Mrs Catherine Day, infant teacher at the school, Mr. W.T. Prescott, headmaster and Mr Boycott, Clerk to the Managers.--Mr Prescott --- "*Sir I should be glad to know whether have has any communication from Mrs Day, Infant Mistress, who during last weeks holiday has had an addition to the family. She has not broached the matter to me in any way, in fact, the event was somewhat of a revelation. I should be pleased to know if any arrangements have been, or are to made for the care of the infants.*" There follows on the 9<sup>th</sup> April a letter from Mrs. day to Mr. Boycott. ---"*Sir. I beg to ask the Managers through you, to stay "or is it play ? "away from school for a fortnight for domestic reasons and at the same time tender my sincere apologies at not being able to ask earlier permission owing to exceptional circumstances. I promise to provide efficient help as son as possible.*" Mrs Day and Mr Prescott were brother and sister.

9<sup>th</sup> April. Hannah Prestwich has measles, the first case for 4 years.

26<sup>th</sup> Aug. 5 scholars from the Barnes family are emigrating to Canada

1908.

23<sup>rd</sup> Jan. Jessie Mason an infant scholar taken to the isolation hospital with diphtheria. She died on the 28<sup>th</sup> January.

1<sup>st</sup> Feb. A canal boat boy William McGough admitted to school on Monday. Tuesday afternoon he left for Runcorn.5<sup>th</sup> Feb. There are still several cases of mumps.

25<sup>th</sup> Feb. 117 scholars the highest for 2 years.

27<sup>th</sup> Mar. The greatest number of infants on the books in the history of the school.

March Report. Much credit is due to the headmaster for the energy in which the school work is carried out.

13<sup>th</sup> May. NSPCC inspector called respecting the Fox children.

18<sup>th</sup> June. Mr. Widdows, County Architect visited the school in respect of the proposed alterations.

12<sup>th</sup> July - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept. Measles epidemic over.

18<sup>th</sup> Oct. C. Ridgeway, an infant boy noted with peeling hands, he was excluded and his pencil was destroyed.

22<sup>nd</sup> Oct. The sanitary inspector called about the above case. It turns out to be scarlet fever.

16<sup>th</sup> Nov. Scholar Joe Pritchard sent home with ringworm.

16<sup>th</sup> Dec. Nurse Willett ( Nit Nurse) of Buxton inspected the heads of all our scholars. She informed the head that it was the cleanest school that she had yet visited.

1910.

28<sup>th</sup> Jan. Severe weather, heavy snowfall, school temperature only 39 degrees.

2<sup>nd</sup> Feb. Another heavy fall of snow.

26<sup>th</sup> Sep. A parcel containing 16 bibles arrived.

1911 Report. Upper part of the school is generally well done. The teaching of the infants is meeting with increased success.

20<sup>th</sup> May. Empire Day, lessons on the growth of the Empire and the Union Jack.

21<sup>st</sup> May. Special lesson on the census instead of a nature lesson.

21<sup>st</sup> June. No school for a week due to the Coronation Celebrations.

29<sup>th</sup> June. School reopened without Ernest Longson who died of diphtheria, his brother excluded from school.

6<sup>th</sup> October. Average attendance for the week of 151. The highest ever recorded.

24<sup>th</sup> Nov. Many children away due to mumps and measles.

1912. 18<sup>th</sup> Jan. Heavy fall of snow 63 children present, 90 absent.

2<sup>nd</sup> Feb. Another heavy fall of snow.

5<sup>th</sup> Feb. Musical drill for 10 minutes for ten minutes due to temperature being only 38F'

23<sup>rd</sup> Feb. Many children with whooping cough and influenza.

3<sup>rd</sup> June. Letter from the Local Authority saying that the school is under staffed.

4<sup>th</sup> July . 20 New Authorised bibles arrived.

15<sup>th</sup> July. Temperature 85 degrees Fahrenheit.  
24<sup>th</sup> Sept. School reopened with 168 pupils, the highest ever recorded.  
16<sup>th</sup> Oct. Dr. Hannah came to perform Medical Inspection, one boy classed as under clad.  
14<sup>th</sup> Nov. Repairs and alterations to the school buildings started.  
10<sup>th</sup> Dec. Nurse Brocklehurst visited school for a case of ringworm. The girls directed to wear a bonnet in school.

1913. Report. About 120 children are taught in one room, the accommodation is insufficient. One teacher has 59 children under her care.

9<sup>th</sup> July. Nurse Brocklehurst again visited the school to inspect the heads of three girls, L. Pattison, D. Fletcher, F. Roe. 6 other girls were examined.  
11<sup>th</sup> Aug. School reopened with damage to the slates and windows this was due to the blasting for a new sewerage system in the village.  
27<sup>th</sup> Oct. Joseph Sidebottom, a scholar, died over the weekend due to a brain infection.  
10<sup>th</sup> Nov. Inspector Millman, NSPCC, visited the school regarding 3 children in the Bates family.

1914.

13<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2 cases of measles.  
25<sup>th</sup> Feb. 10 new cases of measles.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mar. School closed for 2 weeks due to measles. An order made by Dr Howard.  
13<sup>th</sup> Mar. Little abatement of the measles, 16 new cases this week.  
9<sup>th</sup> Apr. Many children still away due to whooping cough and measles.  
22<sup>nd</sup> May. Empire Day. Lessons on the growth of the Empire and patriotic songs were sung.  
18<sup>th</sup> June. Thunderstorm of unusual severity occurred at noon. May children did not return to school in the afternoon.  
14<sup>th</sup> Sept. School reopened with 126 children present. 30 children absent sick. Many lacking boots due to the present poverty.  
23<sup>rd</sup> Nov. Fred Barnes taken to the Isolation Hospital due to scarlet fever.  
27<sup>th</sup> Nov. 20 children with chicken pox.  
9<sup>th</sup> Dec. More cases of scarlet fever.  
11<sup>th</sup> Dec. Nurse Brocklehurst called at school this afternoon to close the school on the orders of Dr. Bennett till after the Christmas holidays. 4 more cases of scarlet fever and 32 cases of chicken pox.

1915.

11<sup>th</sup> Jan. School reopened this morning. Miss. Littlewood, transferred from Chinley School, started her duties. Attendance very meagre, only 118 present. Many children not recovered from sickness. Many cases of mumps.

12<sup>th</sup> Mar. Average for week 127, the highest since January.  
 19<sup>th</sup> Mar. Heavy snowstorm causes a meagre attendance with only 91 children present.  
 26<sup>th</sup> Mar. Miss Williamson a Lecturer at the Lancs and Cheshire Temperance Union gave a scientific object lesson on ALCHOL.  
 1<sup>st</sup> July. The school closed for the remainder of the week in connection with of Bugsworth Church.  
 5<sup>th</sup> July. Mrs. Day absent all day, saying she was unwell ?  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept. Arthur Ford, now on active service with the RAMC, a former pupil at the school visited.  
 10<sup>th</sup> Sept. 3 children in the first class left school for work. Some children off hay making.

1916.

10<sup>th</sup> Jan. School reopened with 137 pupils.  
 21<sup>st</sup> Jan. Mrs. Fox from Chinley came to school regarding the admission of 3 Belgian children who have been expelled from Chinley School.  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb. Children in Standard 1 & 2 are backward in reading. The infants are rather poor. Extra lessons will therefore will devoted to the subject.  
 7<sup>th</sup> Feb. The 3 Belgian refugees August, Antoinette and François Vollemaere are all in a backward state.  
 8<sup>th</sup> Feb. Mrs. Day absent (with permission), her husband in the Royal Scots Regt returns to Dundee today.  
 6<sup>th</sup> July. A letter from the County Office was received intimating that half time children from Cheshire should not be received unless they elect to attend full time.  
 11<sup>th</sup> July. Nurse. Broadhurst inspected the heads of all the children.  
 25<sup>th</sup> Aug. Two children were excluded due to tuberculosis, one to the 31<sup>st</sup> Aug and the other until Christmas.  
 18<sup>th</sup> Sept. A new girl from Gateshead County Durham admitted.  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept. Roy Winterbottom a scholar in Standard 1V was killed today. An accident, being thrown from a hay cart that overturned in a field at Portobello Farm. His father is in India with the Army Medical Corps.  
 11<sup>th</sup> Oct. Dr. Hannah examined 35 children this afternoon. Permission has been given to close the school early during December, January and February

1917.

2<sup>nd</sup> April. A terrific snowstorm raged his morning and only 46 children out of 134 were present.  
 Mr. Shaw the SAO who has been in the army since the outbreak of war, has resumed his duties.  
 16<sup>th</sup> April. School re-assembled, owing to the lack of fuel, which had been ordered 2 weeks ago. No fires could be lit.

28<sup>th</sup> July. Mr. Widdows, County Architect, Mr. Potts. School Inspector present to discuss the moving of the screen between the infants and the main hall by 6 feet. The matter was held over in order to seek the permission of the Trustees of the Lessor's.

1918.

27<sup>th</sup> Apr. Mr. Swindells, the contractor, visited the school to make arrangements to move the screen that separates the main room from the infants.

8<sup>th</sup> Apr. The alterations previously mentioned have been carried out during the Easter holiday but not completed. The presence of the workmen and the noise prevents sticking to the school timetable.

10<sup>th</sup> April. Mrs. Day, Infant Teacher, was absent in the afternoon, having permission to visit her soldier who is in hospital having recently been dangerously wounded in France. (He was later awarded the Military Cross).

29<sup>th</sup> Nov. The school reopened this morning, only 80% being present. About twenty children suffering from influenza.

3<sup>rd</sup> Dec. At noon an aeroplane descended about 2 miles away, in consequence about half the scholars were absent only 74 present.

14<sup>th</sup> Dec. School closed due as the school is required for a bazaar by the lessors.

1919.

28<sup>th</sup> June. Treaty of Versailles signed today.

30<sup>th</sup> June. A holiday was given today in celebration of Peace being signed.

2<sup>nd</sup> July. Miss. Mason the Organiser of Domestic Subjects for the County visited the school in the afternoon to discuss the possibilities of children( girls) attending a cookery centre.

15<sup>th</sup> July. A letter was received stating that the senior girls might attend a Cookery Course at Whaley Bridge Centre commencing on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

19<sup>th</sup> July. Peace Celebrations.

*Keith Holford*

### **CAN ANYONE HELP?**

I am trying to locate an old Ashover guide book published before 1920. Unfortunately I do not know its title, publisher or author. Does any member hold a copy that I can borrow.

*Paddy Doogan*

*E-mail: padydawg@gmail.com*

## **Reflections on reading Parish Records**

My ancestors were all poor peasants, agricultural labourers, stone masons, miners and the like. Tracing my family tree back to 1837 through Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates was quite straightforward, for the most part they didn't move very far. But then what ? I have Death Certificates from the 1830s and 1840s for ancestors born in the 1760s and 1770s, but as my ancestors were illiterate, did not make wills, own land etc. the only possible way forward was to read the original parish records. Over half my ancestors have Derbyshire roots, I grew up in Derbyshire myself but live too far from the County Record Office to make research there a possibility. So I have been waiting to be able to access the records on line, and finally they are available. I have spent months reading them, and I haven't finished. There are more parish records yet to read. I have found it interesting, exasperating and puzzling. Some clergy have beautifully neat, copperplate handwriting, tidily arranged records neatly divided into separate years, Births, Marriages and Deaths. Others look more as though a spider has crawled over the page. The records are jumbled, tightly packed and almost indecipherable. But if I had written them with a quill pen by candlelight, they would probably have looked pretty terrible too. What amused me was the class consciousness of a few of the priests. When a member of the local gentry married or died, they would enter it in large letters taking up half a page and surrounding the entry with dramatic swirling lines. There were references to "gentleman" or "dowager". Where is the Christian message there. The records are hundreds of years old, so naturally some are insect and rodent damaged, with pages and sometimes years missing. But when I got into them I could really see the smallness of the society. The same surnames occurring over and over again, and particularly in very small places the succeeding generations inter-marrying repeatedly. The invention of the bicycle was a great thing for the gene pool.

Whilst I knew that there would be many child deaths, there were some staggering statistics. In 1834 the Stone family in Heage lost five children in one month, aged from 10 years old down to a baby, and two more children later in the same year. And what on earth happened in Heanor for two people to hang themselves and a third take poison in the space of a year. There were several accounts of strangers being found dead who were then buried unknown. I have a Warwickshire ancestor who married and buried two wives and their newborn children in the space of two years, before finally marrying for the third time and producing my ancestor, Thomas. Thomas then lost his mother when he was only 7. Only one of Thomas' four children survived, so genealogy hangs by a thread. Many women died after childbirth and often children were left parentless at very young ages. In Heanor again one male ancestor died leaving his young wife with several children to bring up. Fortu-

nately, Martha was made of stern stuff, she outlived him by over 40 years, reaching the grand old age of 76, even though she was described as a pauper on Parish Relief. In Earl Sterndale in 1793 I found the following: “*Jany 13. Buried Henry Sleigh of Sterndale. Starved to death the third of the same month on the Common near Workinhouse*”, it was a time of great distress. In 1794 Earl Sterndale recorded 9 burials, and 5 of these were of people from the workhouse. In 1792 the same parish recorded the following: “*October 24<sup>th</sup> Discounted for 12 burials 3/0d*”. The grave digger must have been kept busy. In Hartington one woman buried two illegitimate children by different fathers in 1736. In Weston upon Trent another ancestor died thus: “*Old John Thompson Widower being drowned was buried November 17th*” in 1775. Old John had had a chequered life, my most married ancestor to date, I think he buried 5 wives. Thank heaven for the NHS.

Weston upon Trent's parish records proved interesting reading. From the mid C17th entries there were a number of references to events relating to the Civil War. In 1644 firstly the baptism of a soldier's child, then “*Some souloidrs buryed of ye Garrison*” and soon after “*Durk a souloid buryd*”. On researching this further, I found that parliamentary soldiers were garrisoned at Weston Hall. Royalists were based on the south side of the River Trent and there was an ensuing battle in which 200 royalist prisoners were taken. In 1649 Weston Hall was sold to the Holden family, and the Reverend Charles Edward Holden wrote many of the parish records I was reading. He was Rector of Weston and there are several references to his family in the records. A rectorship would be a very valuable living, unlike many vicars and curates, so it is not surprising it was passed down in the family. I was reminded of Jane Austen's references to the importance of marrying someone with a good stipend. The Civil War also came up, more obliquely, in other records. In Hartington there was a large decline in the volume of all entries. Were people too frightened to travel to have children baptised? Or were people postponing getting married because of the uncertain times? Even burials were down. This was a very rural parish, and people would have had to go several miles to the church. Were men away fighting? However it was, there was a huge baptism spike in the early 1650s, for example 35 children in 1650 and 29 in 1652. We saw the same effect with our own post World War 2 birth bulge. Heanor's Parish Records for the Civil War period are also puzzling. The records end in 1634, the last page has been deliberately torn in half. Then in 1669 the curate wrote thus “*Nota. That from the year 1634 to the year 1643 the account of Christnings, Burialls and Marriages cannot be found: and that from the year 1643 till 1650 these ensuing notes (though imperfect) were found in loose papers in the hands of John Dale the present clark of this parish, and for the satisfaction of any whom they conscerne are here transcribed and imported (the first day of April Anno Dmi 1669) by me James Rathbone*”. This is fol-

lowed by entries from 1643. The only inference I can draw from this is that a political faction, probably parliamentary, deliberately destroyed the records.

Other events make an entrance. Thus in Coughton, Warwickshire in 1793 the vicar held a collection "*towards the relief of the French Clergy, Refugees in the British Dominions*" £9 2s 6d was raised. Other collections were held for the relief of the poor and the "*release of persons confined in the gaol at Warwick for small debts*". In 1776 vicar John Pearkes left "*by his will £5, the interest of which to be laid out in bread, and given to the poor of Samborn at the Parish Church of Coughton forever on the Sunday after the fifth of November*". The 1801 census is detailed, listing the numbers of men, women children and houses, but unfortunately for me not naming them. This very informative man gave all kinds of details about work on the vicarage, the garden, the induction of a new vicar into the parish etc.

So far the furthest I have traced my ancestry is to 1610 in Hartington. The early records, whilst surprising clear to look at, are difficult to read. This is partly because they are in Latin, I have finally found a use for the "O" level I acquired so many years ago. I do not want to put anyone off trying to read these records, the Latin is pretty basic, all you need to know are a few words such as *filius* for son, *uxor* for wife and so on. The real problem however is the alphabet, the way the letters are formed is so different to modern English, that it look completely alien. As one attempts to read it, it does become easier with time. I was interested to see the jobs some of the people did then – husbandman, yeoman, free mason, blacksmith, tailor, weaver and miner. These were all entries from the beginning of the records in 1610. People's names changed over time. There were many Elizabeths, possibly in vogue from Queen Elizabeth (died 1603), also a lot of Richards and Thomases. In the C18th there seemed to be more Williams and Georges, was this again a royal connection ? But how would you like to be called Ferodi or Melchizader (males) or Gartaricka (female), and why was Peri so popular. These mid C17th names, which occurred several times in the records, have not stood the test of time. I spent weeks reading about Hartington's citizens, and following through half a dozen surnames of family connections. Finally I decided to look the place up on the Internet and I was in for a surprise. Yes it's a typical Peak District village, with a local farming community and an economy based around tourism. Amongst places of interest was Hartington Hall, now owned by the Youth Hostel Association. This had originally been built in 1611 by the Bateman family. One of my earliest ancestors was one William Bateman who married Elena Baslom in 1616. Finally someone posh in the family !

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## *Round and About*

**FAMILY TREE PORTRAITS**—Rob Gill can create a personalised family tree portrait from a supplied family tree with images relating to family members. The content can be as much or as little as you wish and prices vary, depending on how much work is involved. For examples see the Facebook Page Family Tree Portraits and Rob can be contacted about prices at enquiries@familytreeportraits.co.uk

**CAMBRIDGE ARCHIVES** and Huntingdonshire Archives will close to the public on 1 December 2018 in preparation for a move to a new location in Ely in 2019. They anticipate re-opening the Archives again in the summer of 2019. Further information on [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

**RARE FOOTAGE** of a posse of illegal street bookies from 1935 can be seen on the link <https://player.bfi.org.uk/free/film/watch-evidence-1935-online>. The images were captured by a policeman who was watching for trouble in Chesterfield market place and became the first film to be used as evidence in a British court. It's a fascinating piece of footage—watch out for the elephants! Thanks to Dave Gordon for bringing it to my notice.

**NEW BOOK IN YOUR LIBRARY** Maxwell Craven's latest offering is a fascinating A-Z tour of the city's history, exploring its lesser known nooks and crannies and relating many a tale of the most interesting people and places, all fully illustrated with photographs past and present.

Derby's history dates back over 2000 years to when the Celtic Brigantine tribe inhabited the area, and includes such notable events as the building of England's first Silk Mill in 1717, the power centre of the railway system and the first car at Rolls Royce in 1904. The face of Derby is now completely changed and this book should appeal to residents and visitors alike.

Priced at £14.99, this latest title in the A-Z series is available from all good bookshops. Email [p.dean@amberley-books.com](mailto:p.dean@amberley-books.com) for further details.

**ALEXANDRA PALACE** The Society was hoping to be represented at the Fair organised by the Federation, but I am afraid there have been no volunteers to help us run it so we have had to cancel. The few of us willing to go down would have to travel down by train with all we needed, stay overnight and be on our feet all day for two days. Very expensive and very tiring. We also had very few wishing to go with us if we hired a coach, so again we have had to cancel. Sorry to those of you who were happy to give us a hand, but I think today's family historians prefer to stay at home in front of the computer.

## *The Fosters*

David Foster was my 2<sup>nd</sup> Great grandfather. Helpfully for me the preface to David Foster's book gave a brief biography. The book was called 'The Scientific Angler', which ran to at least 11 editions. I haven't been able to pin his parents down so at the moment this is a brick wall for me. The Preface sets out:

"Born Sept. 22nd 1816 at Barton-under-Needwood near Burton-on-Trent, where his parents, Joseph and Mary Foster owned a small farm which they worked in conjunction with a larger holding of sixteen hundred acres under the then Marquis of Anglesey, and this being prior to the death of David's father whose decease in middle age left his widow with six small children of whom David was the eldest son and was then a boy of twelve. Misfortune followed the demise of the head of the family. The family afterwards left the farm and moved to Burton on Trent in which town David's mother commenced business as a dyer of fabrics which appears to have been carried on successfully for a number of years.

David tried successively half dozen callings, from office work, a position in a manufacturing confectionery establishment, as understudy to a member of the medical profession, he was placed in a chemists shop and finally articulated with a firm of solicitors, but at none of these openings did he stay long. He ran away from the last and was not heard of by his family for a space of two years. It was then discovered he had spent this period at the factory of the late Mr Samuel Allcock, Fishing Tackle manufacturers of Redditch.

Mr Allcock's father was head of the firm in 1831 but then this firm was the largest fish hook and tackle manufacturers in existence.

During boyhood young David was to be found more frequently than otherwise rod in hand on the bank of the river Trent or on neighbouring tributaries. He is said to have often absented himself from school.

Whilst at Allcock's factory he originated a method of brazing treble hooks among other innovations which left the temper of the hooks unimpaired, and which mode of manufacture was afterwards managed by one of the late Mr. Allcock's brothers for over forty years. As a result of this mode of manufacture this firm has ever since enjoyed a permanent reputation for reliable double and treble hooks. Another of David's inventions of about this time was a system of reducing and refining the diameter of silkworm gut, which had then practically ousted the use of horsehair for angling purposes in fresh wa-

ter, but being no finer in the strand, was superior on the score of strength only, until young David hit upon the idea of splitting the end of a strand of silk-worm gut and putting it through a series of minute holes, each having a sharp cutting edge which shaved off a portion of the gut so treated, this arriving finally - after being thus drawn through from three to four more holes, each one finer than its predecessor, at the 1X, 2X, 3X, or 4X as the case may be of the degree of fineness now is use everywhere where fly fishing for trout and grayling in clear water is practised. The same mode of refining gut is still in use to this day, save that for the still more perfect result a pierced diamond is used for the purpose.”

His first ‘wife’ was called Frances Elizabeth and was born in Hixon in Staffordshire (some 8 miles east of Stafford) about 1827. She was married by 1851 and they live in Ashbourne, according to the census, but disappeared before September 1858 when David (re)married....when he said he was a bachelor. I found no sign of his marriage to Frances, or of a subsequent death, so guess they never married.

*Church Street,  
Ashbourne  
Home of the Foster  
business and family  
house*



In 1858 David married Harriet Pickard, my Great Great Grandmother on my mother’s side. She was born in 1832 the daughter of a brass founder called John Pickard and his wife Harriet, who were living in Shoreditch, London. After Harriet was born in London, the family, including 5 young children, all moved in about 1837 to Birmingham but their parents separated. Her father John later said that he was a widower (he wasn’t) and went on to ‘remarry’ Emma Nash in 1849.

Having apparently been deserted, Harriet’s mother - also called Harriet (nee Edwards) - went to ‘The Asylum for Poor Infants’ in Birmingham and took her younger children with her. The Master of this institution was also called

Edwards, so may have well been a relative. In the Asylum, Harriet had another child Kezia, who was born in 1837 and died in 1839. In 1841 her daughter Harriet (my GGGrandmother) aged 9 was a servant in Birmingham working for a bricklayer. By 1851 she had moved back to London and was a servant for a Greengrocer. She then met her fiancé, David Foster from Ashbourne, though I have no idea how they can have met. Curiously, David and Harriet married in 1858 in Derby exactly 6 days after Harriet's father John Pickard (bigamously remarried) died in Birmingham, so maybe John Pickard disapproved of David? She was 15 years younger than her new husband. Shortly after they married, her mother ceased being a nurse in The Asylum in Birmingham and moved to Ashbourne to become a servant and live close to David and Harriet. This can't have worked out well as 10 years later in 1871 her mother was back in Birmingham and lived to the age of 83.

David and Harriet had 6 children, the oldest, born 1860, was William Henry Foster who took over his father's fishing tackle business.

Their second son, George Sherwood Foster became a professional artist, exhibiting a sea painting at the Manchester gallery in 1906 which I now have. In August 1906 he married the delightfully named Maud Christina Fairfax-Clary. She was American and may have been rich. In 1911 he was living in Kensington, estranged from his wife, following a messy divorce case in 1911 when he divorced his wife Maud in connection with her relationship with Thomas Beecham, a famous opera promoter and scion of the pill-makers. He joined up as a second lieutenant in the RASC in 1914. He lived in fashionable parts of London, including Lancaster Gate and Kensington. He died in 1946 with an estate of £19,473, which was left to his widow Norah Patrickson whom he married in 1943, though solicitors for his estate were seeking additional beneficiaries. They had a son Julian in 1926 who went to New College Oxford and became a successful academic in California.

A third son, David S Foster born 1864, was mentioned in an article in the Ashbourne Parish Magazine. "Many will doubtless remember David Foster, who was for some time the leading treble of our choir. We regret to announce his death on Jan 15 1895 at Butte, Montana, in the United States, where he had gone to settle. He met his death endeavouring to assist those who were crushed beneath the ruins of a large warehouse, which was wrecked by a fearful explosion of gunpowder. We may add that the deceased gentleman showed typical courage in rendering the assistance, and his death adds another name to the list of Derbyshire heroes. Prior to his departure for America Mr Foster was a member of the eminent firm of fishing tackle manufacturers Messrs D & W H Foster, Ashbourne. David is buried in Mount Moriah Cemetery, Butte, Montana, USA."

Fourth son Walter Foster was born in 1874 died only aged 21 in Ashbourne. David and Harriet's first born son William Henry Foster married Mary Frances Hurt in 1890 in Ashbourne. She was born in 1858 daughter of James and Bessie Hurt, who were an established family of tailors in Ashbourne. Mary Hurt's brother was Louis Bosworth Hurt, known in the family as Louis B. He was a successful professional artist who specialised in painting highland scenes with cattle. He used to travel to Scotland in the summer, sketch or paint the landscapes and then return to Derbyshire to add the cattle. To help, he kept some highland cattle in a field near Ashbourne in Derbyshire. Many of his paintings have been sold at Sothebys. His sister Alice Hurt married another artist William Elleby, who cooperated with Louis on artistic projects. William and Alice Elleby also lived in Ashbourne.

Ambrosine Hurt (b1827) was the granddaughter of Louis B. I met her at her flat in London. She never married and at one time worked front of house in the Windmill theatre in London. She bequeathed me one of Louis B's paintings.

William Henry and Mary Foster had three children. Joyce Foster who never married and died in Ashbourne in 1968 aged 77. Their second child was Walter Maxwell Foster (Uncle Max) who married Nell Doughty and became a film and TV actor. He died in 1983 age 84. Their other child was my grandfather, Wilfred Foster b1893, who took over the family fishing tackle business. He died of cancer in 1969 aged 76. He married Ida Wheeldon in 1918 and they had their honeymoon on the Isle of Man. Ida was the daughter of a long established farming family from nearby Waterfall in Staffordshire.

The fishing tackle business (Foster Brothers) was sold after Wilfred's death and the office in Church Street, Ashbourne (earlier also the family home) and nearby factory had to be sold as none of his three daughters wished to carry the business on. The business had apparently been started in 1780 making it one of the first such businesses in England.

*Nigel Burton [Mem 1516]  
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## RESEARCH CENTRE AND LIBRARY



### BRIDGE CHAPEL HOUSE DERBY

#### Acquisitions at 1 Oct 2018

Derby: Devonshire House, Derby  
A—Z of Derby—Maxwell Craven  
Matlock: Secret Matlock and Matlock Bath—Richard Bradley  
Pinxton: Pinxton Castle

Directories: Post Office Directory of Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire 1876

#### Family Histories/Trees:

The Coppinger Connection [donated by Carol Anne Moore]  
Hollis [descendants of Humphrey Hollis 1661]

Military: Chesterfield Parish Church Honour Book 1914-1919  
Female Railway Workers in World War II

BCH staff are having their annual holiday—namely two weeks rest  
[unless you are a woman!!] - over Christmas.  
Bridge Chapel will close at 4pm on 20 December 2018 and reopen on 3  
January 2019 at 10 am. The house will also be closed on Tuesday 18 De-  
cember for the whole day.  
The Society wish you all a very Happy Xmas and successful ancestor  
hunting in 2019.

## The Society on Facebook

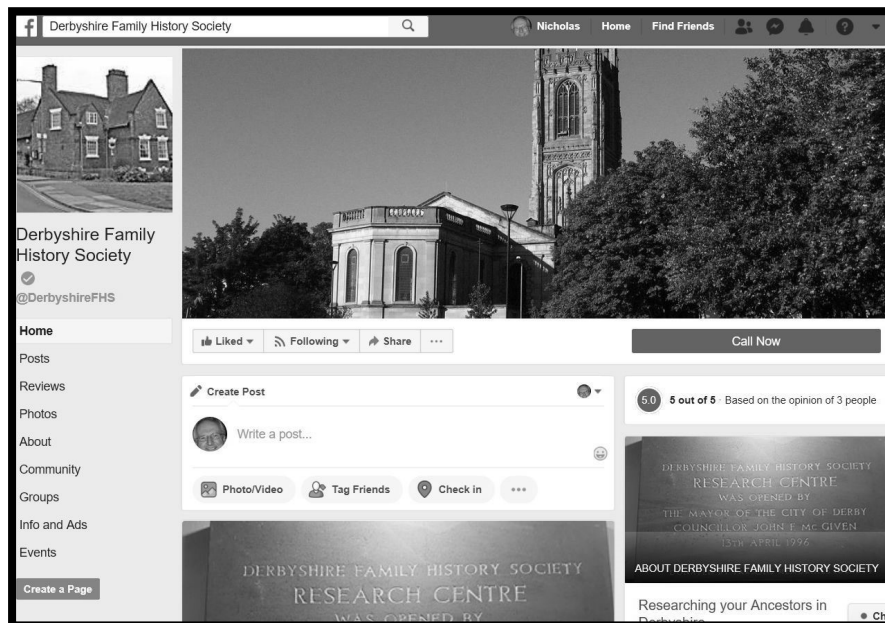
Did you know that we have a Facebook Page, that you can find it by searching for “Derbyshire Family History Society”? If you “Like” the Page, you’ll automatically get a prompt each time it is updated.

We try to add something new every week, and welcome contributions from members. As long as it’s relevant to Derbyshire family or social history, we’d like to hear about it.

It sits alongside our quarterly Magazine, and our newly revamped website, but is able to offer its “Friends” more immediate access to items of interest.

You’ll find information about the Society, including forthcoming meetings (particularly useful if the event has to be changed at short notice for some reason); new data published on the website (sometimes available to be purchased, often free to members); news about our library in Bridge Chapel House, Derby; and comments about articles in the Magazine. You’ll also find occasional short items about what other local history groups around Derbyshire are doing, and discussions about members’ “brickwalls” and the other challenges we all face as family historians.

We’d love you to Like us on Facebook.





# **Derbyshire Family History Society**

**Dec Quarter 2018**



**We have been given some postcards of old Buxton and this is one of the Thermal Baths. Unfortunately they are not dated, but going by the cars this one is probably from the 1920s/1930s.**