

Derbyshire Family History Society



Chaddesden
Alms Houses
Church Lane
Chaddesden

See Page 2

Jun 2018

Issue 165

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

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

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

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

BRITISH ISLES per family [at one address] £15

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

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

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

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

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

Please renew your subscriptions promptly. Due to the steep rising rates of postage no magazines will be sent out unless your payment is with us by the start of February. Sorry for the inconvenience but, as you can appreciate, the Society cannot stand the cost of posting magazines that may not be wanted.

Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR SOCIETY INFORMED!

Any changes in your postal or email address etc., please let us know so that we can keep our records up to date. Many magazines come back to us as the intended recipient has moved house without letting us have the information.

MEETINGS 2018

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

12th Jun	The Life & Adventures of Henry Walker, R.N - Stephen Flinders
10 Jul	Old Non-Conformist Families—Stephen Orchard
11 Sep	Women in the English Civil War—Helen Chambers
9 Oct	What is it—Gay Evans
13 Nov	In Pursuit of a Peak District Pensioner Criminal—Tim Knebel
11 Dec	Christmas Social

Front Cover Picture—CHADDESSEN ALMS HOUSES

Once upon a time wealthy people would leave money in their will for prayers to be said for their souls. After the Reformation this was no longer an option and instead it became the norm for the poor to benefit by the creation of charities. In 1638 Robert Wilmot died and left money to found six alms houses in Chaddesden and ten in Bridgegate, Derby.

The Chaddesden almshouses were built very close to the church door, only a cobbled path separating them from the church path. They consisted of one long single storey building, with low beamed ceilings and an attic. Each house had a lean to at the rear and were to be repaired as often as was needed. They housed four poor men and two poor women of the parish and were given one shilling a week. The women were given three yards of linen cloth and a dinner, plus a gown every Christmas. The men were given a cap every two years.

Robert's son, another Robert, died in 1671 and left instructions that £400 was to be invested to bring in a payment of £15.12, enabling another shilling a week to be paid to each of the six poor people in the alms houses. In 1713 Isaac Borough rented the land and his grandson Thomas was still making the payment to the pensioners in 1833.

By 1962 the buildings were in a state of disrepair and were condemned. They had no back doors and two outside toilets between them. An effort was made to save them by conversion, a decision backed by the National Association of Almshouses who offered a grant, but in 1963 they were demolished

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the June edition of our magazine and there are quite a few changes in the air, most of which are sending me round the bend—as if I wasn't halfway there already.

Firstly there is a form enclosed with this edition. Please fill it in and let us have it back ASAP. Without it we can't send your magazine and you won't be able to use the Society properly. Also all articles that are printed in this magazine have names at the bottom, but no address and no email, for the same reason, data protection! Yes I know that is why you join the society, but we have to follow rules—no matter how daft they may be. In future anything you send must actually say that you want your email and/or address printed so that you can have a contact put under your name. I am also no longer allowed to print lists of new members, which means your interests cannot go in either. If you would like your interests printed in the magazine, put it plainly in writing so that I can oblige.

Next we have been having trouble with our email. We have sweated blood and tears over it, cursed, pulled our hair out and made no difference whatsoever. The email bch@dfhs is no longer working no matter what we do. At the moment it is rerouted via our secretary's home email, but that is not really practical. So we have set up a new address. In future please send your questions to us at queries@dfhs.org.uk

In spite of the problems we have had quite a few visitors and we love to see you. Please feel free to call in and do some research or just have a look round to see what we have in our library. More and more is going on our website and if you have an idea for something we can put on to create some interest please come and talk to us about it. We have plenty of ideas, but lack of people to put it into practice.

The one remaining meeting group at Derby is still going on and we have quite a few attend. Both myself and Ruth, however, would like to find someone or a couple of someones to take on the job of organising it. It isn't a big job, but both of us took it on as a temporary measure and we are still here. Is there anyone out there who can give us some relief?

Well I have now run out of room for this time. See you soon.

Helen

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DERBY MEETINGS

Jan 2018

Long Lost Families—John Croft

John talked us through his life with his wife. Their first meeting should have been at Nottingham bus station, but the fog was so bad that he never found her. She must have forgiven him because they married. He learnt of her early life, being taken into care, fostered and eventually adopted.

She was the fifth of ten children, seven boys and three girls. The oldest two children stayed with their parents but the rest were either fostered or adopted. At the age of 2½ she was taken into care because her mother was in hospital. She was moved six times in 8 months until being fostered by a couple on a permanent basis. She was ill on and off over the years and her doctor offered to take her in and look after her but she didn't want to go. Her foster parents eventually adopted her. She appeared to have had a troubled life and had difficulty coping with work.

Having married John, they had one child that died. They were told that they would be unlikely to have any children that would survive because of the nature of the condition, so made the decision not to have any more. They applied to adopt but were turned down, so went down the fostering route. Fostering several children over the years including a brother and sister for 12 years, they were eventually allowed to adopt one of their foster children.

She had never wanted to track down her family but in 2007 there was an article in Bygones mentioning members of her family and they were looking to be reunited. It turned out that they all still lived in the Nottingham area. Eventually a grand get together was organised and extended families all came together to celebrate finding one another.

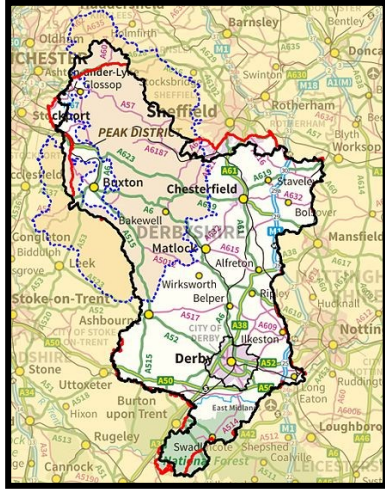
Although John's wife has now passed away, he is still in touch with these family members.

Feb 2018

A Derbyshire Railway Outing—Robert Mee

Robert took us on an outing around Derbyshire using Bradshaw's Railway Guide and timetable of 1922. We started out early in the morning, had an overnight stop in Buxton and arrived back the following evening.

At the time there were three railway companies operating in Derbyshire, the Great Northern, Midland and North Staffordshire. We caught the train at West Hallam in to Ilkeston and proceeded on our way, changing trains and



sometimes stations, wandering in to Nottinghamshire for a time but returning to arrive in Derby in time for breakfast at the Midland Hotel. We then continued out passed the Racecourse, Little Eaton and Coxbench to Butterley. Another change took us to Chesterfield and the “Crooked Spire”. There were three stations in Chesterfield, Great Central, Midland and Chesterfield Central. The next part of the journey took us to Sheffield, then a change to the Hope Valley Line through the Totley Tunnel to Grindleford. We reached Buxton about 7pm just twelve hours from the start of our journey. An evening meal and a walk to stretch the legs before bed were undertaken.

The following morning we left our luggage at the station and continued our journey via Miller's Dale, Litton Mill, Cressbrook, Monsal Dale, Longstone (this station closed in 1962 but for a short time one train a day travelled in each direction to enable a local lady to travel to work) and on to Bakewell with its packhorse bridge. On again to Rowsley, passed Chatsworth and Darley Dale, Matlock Bath and Matlock only to go back the way we came because this line terminated here.

Back in Buxton we collected our bags and proceeded to the High Peak, via Tissington, Hartington, Alsop-en-le-Dale, Fenny Bentley and Thorpe. Here we alighted from the train and took a donkey ride down to the stepping stones. We went on through the Ashbourne Tunnel and on to Uttoxeter and returned via Sudbury, Tutbury and Egginton arriving in Derby about 8pm and finishing our journey out over the Friargate Bridge, through Breadsall to West Hallam.

We saw beautiful countryside, mining villages, cotton mills, churches and Spa towns. We were given brief histories of the areas and saw Country Houses and Ancient Monuments. There was a poem by John Ruskin and the making of the Bakewell Pudding. We ended the evening reminiscing about steam trains and days gone by, thoroughly exhausted by our travels.

Mar 2018

Pictures in Glass—Tony Waldron

When Tony was a child he visited Notre Dame and was fascinated by the

stained glass windows there. Little did he know how this was going to influence his future life. He was employed in the glass industry and the company he worked for was interested in developing the stained glass aspect of glass making. They had no one with any knowledge of this and offered to send Tony to Oxford to learn this skill. Over the years he learned not only how to make stained glass but also the history behind it and he went on to pass this knowledge on to others.

The earliest stained glass appeared in windows of Cathedrals. The painted images of bible stories enable those who could not read to understand their meaning. Coloured glass was used from abroad and put together as a mosaic. They were bright and colourful. Later the glass was painted or stained and the use of silver nitrate gave a yellow tint. The patterns were held together with strips of lead.

In the 15th century John Thornton and Thomas Glazier were creating some of the most beautiful windows at York Minster and New College Oxford and Winchester College.

In the 16th and 17th centuries with the dissolution of the monasteries a lot of early examples were lost. The nobility became interested in advertising their wealth and used stained glass in the windows of their houses depicting heraldry and secular pictures. During Edward VI's reign a royal injunction caused the removal of picture windows in churches to lessen the influence of Catholic power, then in Elizabeth's reign a decision to conserve rather than destroy was made.

During the English Civil War and Commonwealth, images of idolatry were removed and again windows were lost. In many cases during these periods windows were removed and stored for safe keeping until a later date. In other cases the orders were ignored and no one enforced them so the windows remained intact.

With a revival of stained glass in 19th century, artists such as Burne-Jones and Louis Comfort Tiffany had a huge influence in the new designs. By the 1930s houses were being built with some windows and doors having stained glass and even chip shops had seaside scenes. Today's double glazing has coloured film between panes and is not painted or stained.

Tony went on to demonstrate how the stained glass window would have been created, although sadly due Health and Safety he is no longer able pass items around for us to look at. Lead and glass apparently are dangerous.

RUTH BARBER

Was Your Grandmother deaf?

My mother, Madeline Mary Reeves (later Martin) and her sister Joan Margaret Reeves (later Allenby) always described their maternal grandmother as ‘a lady’.



< Joan Reeves, Jane Whitworth(Slack)
Madeline Reeves c1928 at Hoveringham

When they first knew Jane Slack (later Whitworth) she was in her 60s and 70s and married to Albert Ernest Whitworth, the retired stationmaster of Kirklington station in Nottinghamshire and if ever any of the locals had problems it was Mrs Whitworth to whom they turned. My mother remembered Jane as being kind but rarely well, spending many weeks in bed.

Jane was born in 1858 in Cromford, the third child and daughter of Samuel Slack and Elizabeth Hodgkinson. Samuel was a lead miner and Elizabeth the daughter of John Hodgkinson, the barmaster of the Wirksworth mineral court.

When I first started researching my family tree I already knew that Jane’s family came from Cromford and in the days before the internet I had numerous days out in Matlock looking at parish registers and census returns. My mother spent some holidays before the Second World War with her mother’s sister visiting their Howard cousins at Howard’s bakery in the Market Place and walking into Matlock Bath.

In the 1980s I was part of the large number of people who transcribed the 1881 census for the Church of the Latter Day Saints and I was thrilled to obtain the set of CDs once completed. It was astounding to be able to look at the 1881 census for England and Wales from the comfort of my own home. Needless to say I quickly went hunting for all my family who were alive in

1881. In my earlier trips to Matlock I had not had access to the 1881 census so when I found the Slack family at 78 Cromford Hill my jaw dropped to see that Jane Slack was a lowly cotton spinner. Both her granddaughters had considered Jane to be 'middle class' so were both shocked when I told them how she started out.

When visiting Cromford it's not hard to imagine Jane walking down the hill to work early in the morning, along the side of the River Derwent to Arkwright's huge red brick Masson Mill and trudging home at night. Her younger sister Edith and two of her brothers were also cotton hands at the same time but ten years later they had all escaped either by marriage or employment elsewhere.

On one of my days out with my mother some years ago we had a nostalgic visit to Cromford and visited the mill which is now a shopping centre. We could only guess what Jane would have thought as we sipped our coffee overlooking the river. We took the opportunity to go round the small (but perfectly formed) museum on the lower floor to look at the equipment Jane would have used. A few of the looms and machines were working and you were warned not to stay in the area for long to avoid damage to your hearing.

As we emerged I turned to my mother and said 'Was your grandmother deaf?' – 'Oh, yes!' she replied. Now we know why.

Heather Martin [Mem 1398]

PARISH REGISTER EXTRACTS

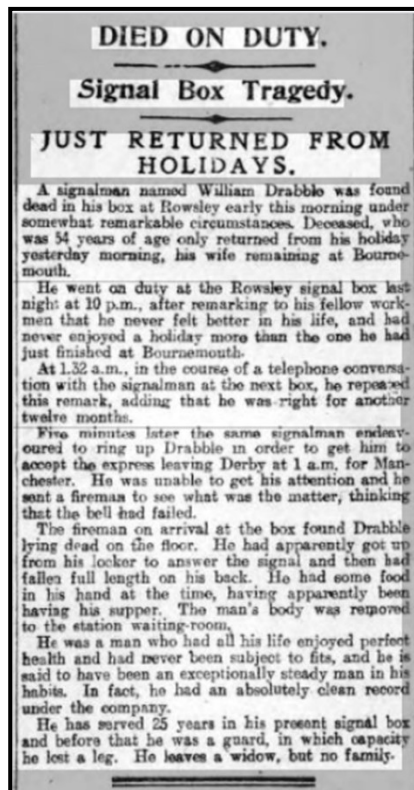
Derby St Alkmund burials

23 Mar 1744 – Samuel Bacton buried. He took Arsenick which was the cause of his death. The jury brought in their verdict, Lunacy. God give others better Grace

19 May 1745 – Peter Needham of St Michael's Parish buried. He died by taking poison viz Arsenick. God give others Better Grace. He expressed great Sorrow for his Rash Action.

DON'T ALWAYS BELIEVE WHAT YOU SEE

Fake news existed long before Donald Trump became President of the United States, as I found when trying to connect this 1908 newspaper report with my Rowsley Railway Drabble ancestors.



Yorkshire Evening Telegraph and Star 29 September 1908 DIED ON DUTY Signal Box Tragedy

JUST RETURNED FROM HOLIDAYS

A signalman named William Drabble was found dead in his box at Rowsley early this morning under somewhat remarkable circumstances. Deceased, who was 54 years of age only returned from his holiday yesterday morning, his wife remaining at Bournemouth.

He went on duty at the Rowsley signal box last night at 10pm after remarking to his fellow workmen that he never felt better in his life, and had never enjoyed a holiday more than the one he had just finished at Bournemouth.

At 1.32am in the course of a telephone conversation with the signalman at the next box, he repeated this remark, adding that he was right for another twelve months.

Five minutes later the same signalman endeavoured to ring up Drabble in order to get him to accept the express leaving

Derby at 1am, for Manchester. He was unable to get his attention and he sent a fireman to see what was the matter, thinking that the bell had failed.

The fireman on arrival at the box found Drabble lying dead on the floor. He had apparently got up from his locker to answer the signal and then had fallen full length on his back. He had some food in his hand at the time, having apparently been having his supper. The man's body was removed to the station waiting room.

He was a man who all his life enjoyed perfect health and had never been subject to fits, and he is said to have been an exceptionally steady man in his habits. In fact, he had an absolutely clean record under the company.

He has served 23 years in his present signal box and before that he was a

guard, in which capacity he lost a leg. He leaves a widow, but no family.

There was no record of this death having been registered. No William Drabble, born c1854, had featured in any of my previous family history research. There was no matching birth registration, no record of a marriage, and although it was claimed that he worked the same signal box at Rowsley for some 23 years, there was no trace of him on any of the local Census records for that period.

Where next? Well, back to the newspapers of the day and it soon became obvious that the deceased in this tragic story was in fact **WILLIAM BLACKHAM**. Born in Peterborough, joined the Midland Railway workforce and moved to Nottingham, where in 1878, he married **Charlotte Stevenson**. The 1881 Census shows them residing at 24 Melton Terrace, Nottingham St Mary, his occupation a Railway Guard. Living with them was Charlotte's 7 year old niece Ada Stevenson.

03 February 1882 the Nottingham Evening Post reported the first tragedy in their married life:

ACCIDENTS IN NOTTINGHAM- This morning William Blackham, 27 years old, and lately residing at Taylor's Cottages, London Road, was engaged in shunting operations on the Midland Railway at Nottingham, when by some means one of his legs was crushed. He was taken to the General Hospital, where the limb was amputated.

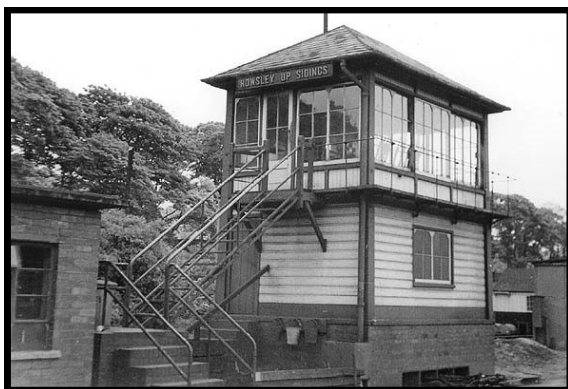
His career path then appears similar to that of my grand-father, George Alfred Drabble, who suffered a similar accident at Rowsley in March 1890, by being re-trained by the Midland Railway Company as a signalman. 5th December 1882, sees William employed as signalman at Dore and Totley on a wage of 21/-s per week. 5th April 1887 he is transferred to the same post at Great Longstone, where he remains until his move to the signalbox at Rowsley Station on 20th November 1890 [*/]. So the newspaper report was also incorrect in its assertion that he had been serving in the box at Rowsley for 23 years.

For the 1891 Census William described himself as a Railway Servant while residing at 10 Midland Cottages, Rowsley Road, Darley. Living with them as their "son" was 10 year old Albert BLACKHAM, born in Stanningley, Yorkshire, and two 17 year old male lodgers.

The General Register (Aug1899-Jun 1900) of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, Rowsley Branch, shows Signalman William as a member. The 1901 Census shows him with Charlotte at 28 Midland Cottages, Little

Rowsley. His occupation Railway Signaller. No children or Lodgers. *[This was the same house as in 1891, No.10 having been renumbered 28 following the construction of further batches of Midland Railway cottages along Chatsworth Road between 1896 and 1898.]* [*]

The death and resulting Inquest received wide press coverage (from the West Somerset Free Press to the Hartlepool Northern Daily Mail), probably due to the questions raised as to passenger safety where such incidents involved the sudden death of indisposition of a signaller occur. However, the inspector representing the Midland Railway Company was able to satisfy the jury by explaining the “block” signalling system, which meant a signaller did not let a train pass his section before giving warning to a man at the next box, and receiving a response that the line was clear for the train. There was no danger if the men in the nearest boxes on either side did their work properly.



The jury heard evidence given by Fireman Thaddeus Allsop, who had been sent to the box to investigate when no response had been received from signaller George Hallows' request for acceptance of the Manchester express. He described how he found the deceased lying on his back in the box, and he was of the impression that he may

have been about to make an entry in his book. Midland Railways Inspector George Albert Smith produced Blackham's book, showing that though he had “passed” the “up” mail just previous to his conversation with Hallows, he had not booked it. He confirmed that all his signals were at danger. Dr. Thomas Fentem of Bakewell confirmed that he had previously attended the deceased for acute attacks of colic, which he regarded as being brought on by injudicious eating, taking hearty meals. It was possible that he had had one of these attacks just before his death. Being a stout man there was a possibility there would be a fair deposit of fat in the heart, but he continued that there was nothing which would lead him to class him as a man dangerous to railway work, and there wasn't anything to make him suppose death was due to other than natural causes. The jury returned a verdict of “Death from natural causes”, the foreman adding “that they were satisfied that the safety of the public is not endangered in such cases.” He hoped that through the Press that any public uneasiness on this score would be allayed.

In 1911 widow Charlotte was occupying 13 Meadow Cottages, Darley Dale, together with a 23 year old lodger, Arthur Wrigglesworth, a wagon examiner. Not William Drabble then, but solve one family history mystery and inevitably, another raises its head. Who was 10 year old Albert, described as their son in the 1891 Census, born c1880 at Stanningley, Yorkshire? In all reports of the sudden death and subsequent inquest, the Blackhams were described as having no family. To confirm this, when completing the schedule form for the 1911 Census, Charlotte mistakenly recorded that she had married 22 years earlier [*not necessary as she was a widow*], and that no children had been born during the marriage years. There was an Albert Edward Blackham whose birth was registered in the December Quarter of 1881 at Belper; son of Francis Blackham, a Horse Nail Maker and Ellen nee Briggs of Toadmoor, Heage, but no other births registered nationally. Coincidentally, there was a William and Charlotte [nee Durdy] BLACKHAM residing at Toadmoor with their family at this time, but he was a Lime Drawer.

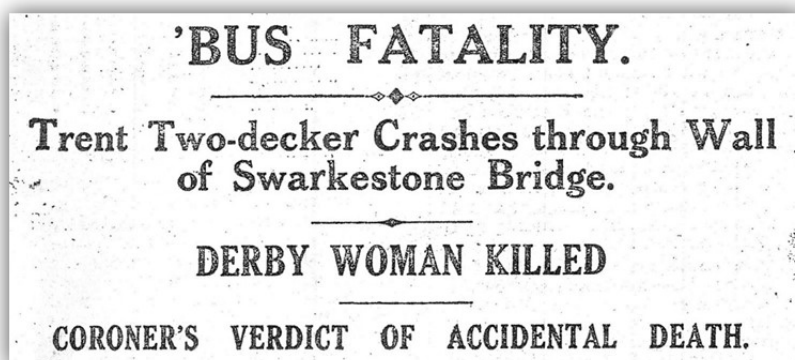
The Admittance Register for Great Longstone Church Of England Infants School records that Albert BLACKHAM, born Aug 1880, was admitted May 9th 1887. His father recorded as William Blackham, of Great Longstone. Last School attended was Dore. Noted that he left to other school (not specified which) August 1888. The birth date corresponds with that in the 1891 Census, but was this our William Blackham? Yes possibly, the date of admittance corresponds with the arrival in the village of signalman William Blackham and the boy had previously attended school at Dore. William and Charlotte were married 1878, so if Albert was their son and born 1880, he would have been born during their marriage, so was he adopted? Well not one of mine, so further research by another at some other time perhaps, to sort this one out?

Postscript:

My Great Grand Uncle William Drabble was appointed a Drayman by the Midland Railway at Rowsley on 31st May 1864, at 18 shillings per week. When he died at his home on Church Lane, Rowsley, in August 1932, he was described as being the oldest resident of the village, and it was reported that when horses were used for shunting in the sidings he was engaged as a driver. He was buried at St Katherine's on 18th August 1932.

[*] Source – Glynn WAITE, *The Rowsley Association*

Ernie Drabble MBE



Fatality on Swarkestone Bridge

On the evening of Tuesday 5th September 1922 an accident occurred on Swarkestone Bridge causing the death of a young Derby woman. The collision between a motor car and a Trent double deck bus (noted in the Derby Mercury as a "Two Decker") caused the death of Mrs Mabel Holdridge (36) of 53 Woolrych Street Derby (This Street runs from Clarence Road to Porter Road Derby.)



**Mabel Holdridge, husband
Charles and their eldest son**

Mrs Holdridge with their two children and her husband Charles Ernest who is employed as the manager of a grocery shop belonging to the Derby Co-operative Society had been out to Melbourne for a half days outing. Mrs Holdridge and her children were travelling home on the top deck of the bus which was an open top vehicle; Charles was following behind the bus on his cycle. It was about 8 o'clock in the evening when Mr Holdridge was halfway down the hill at Stanton by Bridge he heard the sound of a cars hooter, the car over took him travelling at about 25 mph, the driver of the car, Gilbert Hunt a dentist residing in Church Street Melbourne sounded his hooter again several times as he caught up with the bus, the bus then pulled well into the left of the road to allow him to pass.

Mr Holdridge said that the car attempted to overtake the bus without slackening speed and the left front wheel of the car struck the right front wheel of the

bus. The bus driver swerved to the left and the bus smashed through the bridge parapet with the front end dropping into the field below. The rear wheels stayed on the road with the bus stopping at an acute angle. Mr Holdridge saw his wife and one of the children thrown from the top deck; his wife hit her head on a large stone. The child fell into some water and was unhurt. An ambulance was sent for; she was taken to the Derby Royal Infirmary where she was pronounced dead. A witness on the bus said they thought she was dead before she was put in the ambulance.



The bus after the collision. This vehicle was a Thorneycroft J type delivered new to Trent in May 1922 so it would be reasonable to assume there should be no defect with the steering or brakes

The bus driver, John Sydney Heath of King Alfred Street Derby said that he was coming over the bridge at about 10mph, when

his conductor following company procedure signalled via the bells that another vehicle wished to overtake. Mr Heath pulled well over to the left when something struck his bus and the steering wheel was wrenched from his hand then the bus veered to the left through the wall and into the field below. He stated he had driven buses for 16 years and this was his first accident.

The car driver, Gilbert Hunt stated he was driving his car in which were three gentlemen and three lady passengers (it must have been a big car) he kept sounding his horn and eventually the bus pulled over, as he overtook the bus and the front wheels drew level the bus driver for some reason turned his wheels slightly to the right causing the wheels to strike each other (which the bus driver denied.) He went on to say that he felt something as they passed and was intending to stop further on and find out what had happened. He was "amazed to see the bus crash through the wall" and running back found Mrs Holdridge lying unconscious in the field. He immediately drove to Chellaston and telephoned for an ambulance. The slight damage to his car was the rear

mudguard and the rear wheel. When questioned he stated that it was due to negligence on the part of the bus driver. He refused to give a statement to the police, but did give the Coroner a statement.

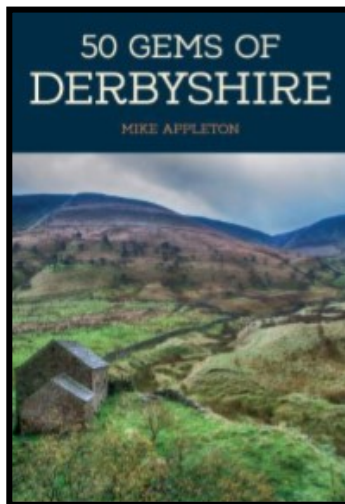
Dr J C Suter house surgeon at the DRI stated that Mrs Holdridge died due to a cerebral haemorrhage following a fractured skull. The Borough Coroner, Mr J Close, returned a verdict of "Accidental Death" He expressed sincere condolences to Mr Holdridge who had spent his half day holiday at Melbourne with his wife and sons, one aged 10 and other 14 months.

This article was condensed from the comprehensive report in the **Derby Mercury Friday September 8 1922**

Copies of the **Derby Mercury from 1782 to 1928** are held in the vast newspaper archive of the **Magic Attic** at Swadlincote. These are free for anyone to browse during opening hours.

Alan Hiley [Mem No 1774]

50 GEMS OF DERBYSHIRE



Famous as home to the Peak District Park, Derbyshire is a county filled with natural appeal. From the historic city of Derby to picturesque villages nestled in unspoiled countryside, this book takes the reader on a fascinating journey through bustling market towns, vast landscapes and special places of historic interest. Spectacular upland landscapes, castles, museums and scenes of beauty are all included here in a book by Mike Appleton and photographer Sally Outram.

This is the latest title from Amberley Publishing and is available at £14.99 from them by mail order or in Kindle format. Go to www.amberley-books.com for further information.

Derby China

Derbyshire Advertiser and Journal 30 Jul 1920

The Victoria and Albert Museum has recently acquired by gift from Mr E.R. Broderip what is undoubtedly the earliest piece of Derby china known to exist. It is a small white cream jug, less than two inches in height, and on the base has the incised mark "D 1750". This specimen is considered by experts to be an important historical specimen, but it does not in any way settle the vexed question of the establishment of the Nottingham-road factory.

It was already known that china was being made in Derby prior to 1756, in which year an unexecuted deed of partnership was drawn up between John Heath, Andrew Planche and William Duesbury. The last named was an "enameller" of china, and was working in London between 1750 and 1756, and from his note-books we learn that he enamelled "Darby figgars" during the years 1751 and 1753. These figures may have been the work of Planche and possibly he may have had them fired at the Cockpit Hill Pottery, which was the property of Heath, or he may be the foreigner which tradition says made china figures and fired them at the kiln of a pipe-maker in Lodge Lane.

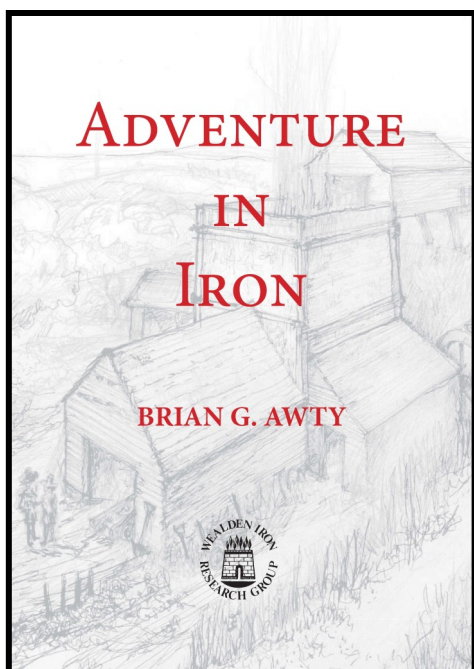
In 1756 then Duesbury came to Derby, and the "D" on this little jug must be taken as standing for Derby, and not for the first initial of the maker's name. The fact that the "D" still continued to form a part of the Derby mark long after the Duesburys ceased to have any connection with the factory gives weight to this view.

What mark was used at Derby prior to Duesbury's acquisition of the Chelsea factory in 1770 is still unknown. The combined "D and anchor" was used during the period 1770-1784, commonly referred to as the Chelsea-Derby period. In 1773 it is said that the jewelled crown above a "D" enamelled in blue was adopted, but there appears to be no direct evidence in support of this view, and it may well have been used much earlier.

The next earliest Derby mark after the one under discussion is one on a transfer printed mug in Derby Museum. It consists of the word "DERBY" and an anchor, which was a rebus on the name of Richard Holdship, a Worcester transfer printer who came to Derby to introduce his art in 1764 and who is known to have left before 1770, his ideas not having met with approval.

Altogether Derby china has appeared with more than twenty different marks, including imitations of Dresden, Sevres and Oriental marks.

***ADVENTURE IN IRON* by Brian G. Awty**



Sub-titled 'The blast furnace and its spread from Namur to northern France, England and North America, 1450-1650; a technological, political and genealogical investigation', *Adventure in Iron*, which it is anticipated will be published at the end of 2018, is a major piece of research into the development of iron-making in the early post-medieval period. Where it differs from other studies of the growth of technology, however, is that a major focus of the research has been the individual iron workers and their families whose occupations and migration from the continent to Britain and, in some cases across the Atlantic Ocean, provided the manpower for the dissemination of the new processes that had a major impact on the

material growth of western civilisation.

The blast furnace and its associated finery forge was introduced into England in the 1490s in the Weald of Sussex but the skilled workforce which initially operated the new process came largely from the Pays de Bray in northern France, to where Belgian founders and hammermen had brought the technology, significantly known as the Walloon process, 40 years earlier. The author has dug deep in the local records in Normandy, in particular, to reconstruct the family relationships of Brayon iron workers who subsequently migrated to southern England. Using denization records as well as parish and manorial resources to trace the movement of those families once they were settled in their adopted country, the author has shown that, after several generations in the Weald, some moved to other areas, such as Derbyshire, bringing their skills with them to help in the establishment of furnaces and forges in succession to earlier, less efficient processes.

Hand in hand with the genealogical information provided in the book, the author has shown how the movement of manpower was directly related to the spread of technology. The blast furnace was probably developed from non-ferrous furnaces and had begun to appear by the late-14th century in the Rhine and Meuse valleys, and the earliest personnel are identified in those areas. An example of the inter-relation of workforce and industrial development can be demonstrated by the familial connection between individuals in the area of Liège, Belgium, in the early 15th century, in the Weald nearly a century later and at Rievaulx in Yorkshire in the 1560s.

The author, Brian Awty (1925-2013), was unable to find a commercial publisher for his research during his lifetime owing to its length and his understandable reluctance to compromise its integrity by radical editing. The Wealden Iron Research Group, a small voluntary charity founded in 1968, will publish the work in its entirety on a non-commercial basis. To enable the Group to judge an appropriate print run, expressions of interest are being sought from individuals and institutions who might consider purchasing the two parts of *Adventure in Iron* when it is published. Please email books@hodgers.com to be kept informed of the final publication details. For further details go to www.wealdeniron.org.uk/publications/adventure-in-iron/

ADVENTURE IN IRON by Brian G. Awty, to be published in 2 parts at about £60 by the Wealden Iron Research Group in 2018; Case bound; approximately 900 pages; detailed Contents pages; 2 Appendices; 14 illustrations (black and white); 21 maps of ironworking sites; Footnotes and Bibliography; General and Persons Indexes.

Jeremy Hodgkinson (co-editor with Christopher Whittick)

In 1887 the Registrar General reported that measles were rife in the town of Derby. Schools in Derby were closed because of the disease and it became close to being called an epidemic. Between 1848 and 1840 measles and whooping cough accounted for over 50,000 deaths in England and Wales. It was not until 1963 that a vaccination was developed, which was further enhanced with the introduction of measles, mumps and rubella vaccine in 1971.

A Policeman's Lot

As I mentioned in my previous magazine article 'Beware of Trains' I decided to investigate my mother's side of the family, the Mawbeys. I have now started to look at my maternal Grandmother Mary Elizabeth Thorpe's descendants to see if I could turn up any surprises.

Mary was born in Derby 11th November 1894 the third child of John Thomas Simmonds Thorpe and Ellen Yeomans. When starting to research her father, John Thorpe, I found it quite difficult, which was not helped by the fact that at some point I believed he had changed his name.

He was born 19th May 1869 and his mother was Catherine Simmonds (nee Thorpe). Unable to find his father's name I sent for John's birth certificate where I discovered his father's name was Thomas Simmonds. All my efforts to find a marriage for Catherine and Thomas were fruitless and I wondered if they had actually married. I was also unable to find any record of Thomas and Catherine after 1871.

On the 1871 census John, Thomas, his mother Catherine and sister Kate are living with Catherine's parents, another John Thorpe, and according to subsequent census returns John lived with his grandparents for most of his childhood. When John Thomas married Ellen Yeomans in 1890 the certificate shows that he has adopted his grandfather's surname as his entry appears as John Thomas Simmonds Thorpe. He then continues to use the surname of Thorpe on all further census returns.

So that was one problem solved. I then moved on to John's grandfather my 3X Gt Grandfather who was yet another John Thorpe b 1823 who married Mary Davison in 1848 at All Saint's Church, Derby. The thing that intrigued me about this John Thorpe was that on the 1861 census he was listed as a Police Sergeant but by the 1871 census he had been demoted to Police Constable. There must surely be a story there somewhere.

After making enquiries about where to find the police records I went to the Derby Local Studies Library and asked for the Derbyshire Police Watch Committee Records. These I found to be some of the most entertaining family history records I have encountered and I apologise to any members who might have been quietly looking at records at the same time as I couldn't help but burst out laughing on more than one occasion at some of the antics recorded in them.

John Thorpe began his life as a policeman in 1852 but the surviving Watch

Committee Records only began in 1858. It wasn't long before I discovered the first entry for John when in September 1861 he was made up from acting sergeant to full sergeant at 23/- per week. John's pay was increased to 24/- by his next appearance in the minutes in 1865 where he was demoted to constable at 21/- per week for being drunk when coming off duty on the previous Saturday, which he admitted. I suppose he had to make sure all the local hostels weren't serving after hours, well to the public anyway. So that explains the demotion on the census returns. This reprimand however seems to be only the start of a pattern which stretches over his whole career. In 1872 he was in trouble again when he was reported for being insubordinate and not obeying instructions from his Inspector and was fined 3 days pay.

Interestingly, also in the 1872 reports there were several entries detailing the arrangements for 17th December when a Royal visit to Derby by the Prince and Princess of Wales was planned. Even in 1872 security was very tight and the committee authorised payments so that extra police could be drafted in from other forces. In the Derby Mercury it states that 100 extra Police as well as several more detectives were brought in. It was also expected that the police volunteers would be in full force as well as Militia Staff who had been invited to take part in order to make sure the visit went off smoothly. My 3x Great Granddad, John Thorpe would have been part of these arrangements.

In 1873 John was once again charged with being drunk this time when he arrived for his night shift. His punishment was a reprimand, suspended for a week and fined a week's pay.

John had become a policeman in 1852 and in 1877 after 25 years service and his health starting to deteriorate from what the police surgeon described as debility and sciatica, John wrote a letter to the committee asking for permission to retire. At the watch Committee meeting on 31st January 1877 the committee authorised an allowance of 9/- per week from the police superannuation fund. Also, in the same meetings was yet another fine for John for arriving for duty drunk. I suspect that drunkenness was the main cause of his debility described by the police surgeon.

The Watch Committee minutes were a wonderful resource and gave an insight into the running of the police force during the 1800s. In the records were the accounts for police uniforms and supplies needed to equip a police force and the decisions that had to be taken to ensure the smooth running of the force. Some of the antics that some members of the force got up to made very entertaining reading.

The watch Committee Records proved a valuable resource but during John's

25 years in the police force he was involved in several interesting cases that were reported in the local newspapers of the time 'The Derbyshire Advertiser' and the 'Derby Mercury'. Here are just a few.

Derbyshire Advertiser and Journal 24th June 1853

Police Constable John Thorpe and another constable were on duty in Lodge Lane when they heard a scream of 'Murder'. They were told an Irishman, who had just left the Brown Bear Inn, was killing another man in Bridge St. They hurried to the spot and the offender was pointed out to them. On attempting to take him in custody and turning on the 'bulls eye' (policeman's lantern) the constable saw that the prisoner had a two-foot-long chair leg in his hand, which he was just about to strike the constable on the head with. The constable rushed at him, seized him by the throat and brought him to the station house.

The magistrate said it was an unprovoked attack and unless a stop was put to these Irish rows murder would be committed. He was fined 20s and costs. As he could not pay he was sent to prison for 1 month.

Derby Mercury 26th January 1859

P.C. John Thorpe went to the Wheatsheaf Beer House, Liversage Street at 11.35pm Monday night. He found 14 people upstairs drinking and several more men in the tap room downstairs. The defendant was fined 20s and costs. (I wonder if this was one of the days he was charged with being drunk on duty)

Derbyshire Advertiser and Journal 30th December 1864

The title of this article is 'Dreadful Murder at Derby'. It states at the beginning of the article that details of the tragedy were gathered from a statement by Sergeant John Thorpe of the Borough Police Force.

Sergeant Thorpe said he was on duty in London Rd at 12. 45 am Friday morning when he met James Potter, a bailiff aged 55 who lived in Traffic St off London Rd. He asked Potter if he was going home and he answered 'Not unless you go with me,' as his wife had locked him out. Sergeant Thorpe accompanied Potter to his house. Once at the house they discovered the shutters were open so Sergeant Thorpe told Potter to climb through the window. Potter got in and struck a light and Sergeant Thorpe also climbed in the window and noticed that Potter was trembling. They searched the house for his wife. Eventually Sergeant Thorpe entered the lodger's bedroom on the second floor, where he found Potter's wife on the bed quite dead. One leg was hanging out of the bed, her head was towards the window and one arm was stretched out, while blood was trickling from the bedclothes.

The police surgeons were sent for and found a small but deep wound under the right breast. On searching the house Potter's son told the constable of his

grandfather's walking stick which had a spear hidden inside it. The spear was found and matched the woman's wound. At 1pm Inspector Fearn arrived at the house and charged Potter with murdering his wife. Potter said she had run him into debt lately and the inspector replied that it was not a reason to murder her.

Apparently, Potter had been in low spirits for some time and was jealous of his wife. The night before the wife had gone to Inspector Green, who lived in the same street and said her husband would have to be taken to an asylum as he was abusing her and calling her a prostitute. It was concluded from testaments from the lodger and the woman's daughter that Potter had committed the murder minutes before he met Sergeant Thorpe.

Derbyshire Advertiser and Journal 14th June 1870

A few minutes before 5 o'clock on Saturday morning a man, James Allen aged 21, walked into Derby Police Station and said to Constable Thorpe that he believed he had murdered a woman. Thorpe called Inspectors Green and Fearn and Allen told them he had been into a bedroom in Whitecross St and struck a woman on the head with a hammer. Allen was locked up and the Inspectors proceeded to Whitecross St. They found Allen had broken into the house through the kitchen window, rushed up the stairs and struck the unfortunate woman, Ann Eabury violently on the head with a hammer. It appeared Mrs Eabury lay in bed when she heard a noise and thought it was the children but before she could raise the alarm a man rushed into the bedroom and struck her several blows. She banged on her neighbour's wall shouting 'murder'. Allen then went down the stairs and out of the front door. When the police arrived, they found her in a large pool of blood and the police surgeon was called to attend to her.

Mrs Eabury was too ill to attend the court hearing so it was postponed. Her husband was working in St Petersburg, Russia and the family had tickets to leave that week to join him.

John Thorpe my 3xGreat Grandfather died of asthma on the 22nd of June 1881 aged 58 and was buried at Nottingham Rd Cemetery.

Sadly, for the years 1894 and 1895 I found records of John's wife Mary Thorpe who still lived in the family home at 33 Erasmus St receiving just over £7 per year in poor relief from St Alkmund's Poor Union Fund. The reason for the relief was given as old age, in 1895 Mary was 72 and a widow so presumably had no means of support. Mary died in 1899 and was buried with John.

Mal Smith [Mem 7558]

Edwin Fowler Clark

(These notes are based on the recollections of my late Uncle, Peter Baker, supplemented by my own research – including searching the on-line British Newspaper Archive)

Fowler Clark, as he was known, was born in Stroud Registration District in 1887 – his parents were Edwin Dawson Clark and Ann Baker Payne, who had married in Abingdon, Oxfordshire, in 1884.

In the 1911 Census, Fowler was still single and was an engineering apprentice boarding in the house of William Clough Spencer, a physician and surgeon, at 1, High Street in Manchester.

We don't know exactly when Fowler moved to Derby, but he apparently joined Rolls Royce circa 1914/15.

Fowler's first marriage was recorded in "*The Derbyshire Advertiser*" of June 5th 1914:

"CLARK-WALLACE – On 28th May, at Victoria-street Congregational Church, Derby, by the Rev, J. R. Ackroyd, B.D., Edwin Fowler Clark, B.A. (Cambs.), B.Sc. (Lond.), of Abingdon, to Clare Isabel, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Wallace, Breedon Hill-road, Derby."

There are numerous articles of Fowler's activities with the Derby Wireless Club, including in "*The Derby Daily Telegraph*" of Thursday, September 25th 1930:

"Mr. Fowler Clark was in charge of a party of 12 members of Derby Wireless Club, who yesterday visited the works of the Macintosh Cable Co., Sinfen-lane, Derby. Mr. Hodgkinson, secretary of the Wireless Club, was one of the party, who were conducted round the works to see all the processes of cable making, and were afterwards entertained to tea."

Fowler's departure from Rolls Royce was reported in the "*Derby Daily Telegraph*" of Wednesday, April 22nd 1931:

"Mr. Fowler Clark, Trowels-lane, Derby, has resigned from the staff of Messrs. Rolls Royce, Ltd.' Derby, after sixteen years'

service. He was the official in charge of experimental electrical engineering work, and had the supervision of the testing of the magnetos for the famous Schneider which won the trophy. Miss England II., the speedboat, has the same "R" engines as were used for the Schneider race. Previously he held an appointment at Derby Technical College for three years as a lecturer on the mechanical engineering side."

Fowler's first marriage ended in 1932, as reported in the "*Derby Evening Telegraph*" of Thursday, June 30th 1932:

"In the Divorce Court, to-day, Lord Merrivale heard cross petition of a decree of nullity of the marriage between Mr. Edwin Fowler Clark, an engineer, of St. Leonard, Trowels-lane, Derby, and his wife, Mrs. Clara Isabel Clark, nee Wallace, who were married at the Congregational Church, Victoria-street, Derby, in May 1914 Both parties alleged that the marriage had not been consummated. Lord Merrivale dismissed the husband's petition and granted a decree nisi to the wife with costs."

A similar report appeared in "*The Nottingham Evening Post*" on the same day, albeit with the heading "*Divorce For A Derby Woman*" and with the final paragraph stating:

"In the end, after hearing evidence, his Lordship dismissed the husband's petition, and granted a decree nisi to the wife, with costs."

There was a further item in the "*Derby Evening Telegraph*" of Monday, July 11th 1932:

"In our issue of June 30 we published a report of the proceedings for nullity of marriage between Mr. Edwin Fowler Clark and his wife, Mrs Clara Isabel Wallace. The headline of the report inadvertently stated that it was a divorce suit whereas there were cross petitions for nullity of marriage. For any pain or annoyance caused to either parties we desire to express our regret."

While working at Rolls Royce, Fowler had met Amy Duffield who was his, or a, secretary there. After leaving Rolls Royce Fowler moved to London as a Consultant Engineer and Amy followed him. This caused friction with her father, William Duffield; but this was resolved, as photographs of Fowler, Amy and William in London testify.



*William Duffield
and Fowler Clark*



*Amy Duffield and
Fowler Clark*

We have a postcard sent to Amy from Fowler dated February 10th 1933:

"I arrived safely. It took me a good time to get off. It was beastly wet, windy and cold on the way and I had to put my rain-coat on. I v. much enjoyed rolls, butter & potted meat on the way. I blessed you for having obtained the meat – I did enjoy it. The wiper wold not work, but horn O.K. after slight repair to flex."

There was an interesting article, with a photograph captioned “MR. CLARK IN HIS ALL-ELECTRIC LONDON HOME, in the “Derby Evening Telegraph” of Friday, December 3rd 1937:

*“SWITCH FOR EVERYTHING IN THIS HOUSE
DERBY ENGINEERS INGENUITY*

“Heat, sound, light and time in every room” is the motto of Mr. A. Fowler Clark, of Cathcart-road, London.

Mr. Clark, who was born at Brimscombe, near Stroud, Gloucestershire, has lived in many parts of the country, and until three years ago was in Derby, where he still has a house in Trowels-lane.

His home in London – a four-room top flat – is all-electric, although when I visited him, writes a “Telegraph” representative, he had to come down and let me in. An electrical contrivance for opening the front door was, he explained, rather out of his domain.

His flat, however, is a maze of electrical devices. It was impossible to guess how many yards of wire, how many terminals, or how many valves adorned the walls. He used, he told me, over six thousand units of electricity a year.

When he moved in two years ago he found that the voltage from the main supply was 100, but he wanted 230 volts for his apparatus. He persevered to such good effect that there is now a 100 kilo-watt substation outside the house, with 2,000 volts coming in to the main transformer.

In the sitting-room he offered me a cigarette, but no match. A gadget on the wall was pressed, and within a second or two my cigarette was lighted.

There are eight electric clocks in the house, and a wireless set which can be operated from any one of six points.

Mrs. Clark, who comes from Derby, does all the cooking by electricity.

There is, of course, a loud-speaker in the kitchen, while the bathroom is similarly equipped. At six o’clock every morning the boiler is automatically turned on, while later an electric alarm sounds in the bedroom”.

(as my brother – an electrical engineer – remarked; his home sounds like a death trap!)

I can only assume that the initial “A” Fowler Clark was an error. However, Amy and Fowler did not marry until 1942 but we know that she had followed him when he had moved to London; so, were they living as husband and wife

for several years before they married?

During the War, Fowler was based at the Royal Aircraft Establishment in Farnborough and Amy worked as a secretary at the Morland Brewery in Abingdon. My Uncle recalled that Amy lived in a house on the banks of the Thames – with, he thought, Fowler’s mother.

This is confirmed by the 1939 Register, when Fowler and Amy were living at St. Helen’s Mill House in Abingdon with Fowler’s mother Annie, his brother Percival and his wife, and his sister Ethel.

Fowler and Amy married on February 14th 1942 at Reading Registry Office. The marriage certificate stated that Fowler was a bachelor. He was a “Scientific Officer, aircraft factory” and his address was Mansfield House Hotel, 1, Kendrick Drive, Reading. (Interestingly, according to Lionel Lacey-Johnson’s book “*Edwin Clark – Steamboat Builder of Brimscombe*” Fowler’s father had been born at Number 2, Kendrick Drive in 1861.) Amy’s address was still St. Helen’s Mill House in Abingdon. Amy’s father William was now retired from his job at Bemrose Printers in Derby.

Fowler and Amy later set up home in Farnborough and after the War they moved to Jubilee Lane in Boundstone in Surrey. (We have some cine film taken in the garden there in 1959).

Fowler died on May 7th 1958 and an obituary appeared in a local paper:

“Death of Mr. E. F. Clark – A retired mathematician and electrical engineer who was associated with the early development of aircraft engines, Mr. Edwin Fowler Clark, died suddenly at his home, “Cherrywood”, Vine Way, Boundstone on Wednesday. Educated at Abingdon School, Mr. Clark gained a B.Sc. degree at London University and later an honours B.A. at Cambridge. As an electrical engineer and mathematician with the Rolls-Royce Company, at Derby, for nearly 20 years he was closely connected with the development of the balancing of aircraft engines. Subsequently he founded the Rolls-Royce electrical laboratory at Derby from which emerged the electrical components which were fitted to post-1918 Rolls Royce cars. Mr. Clark left the company in the early 30’s to work as a mathematician with a consulting engineer in London. During the last war he worked at the R.A.E., Farnborough. An Associate member of the Institute of Electrical Engineers, Mr. Clark had lived at Farnham for the past 12 years. He is survived by his wife.”

Fowler and Amy did not have any children. Amy continued to live in Farnham and died in December 1998, aged 89. I recall that we stayed with Aunty Amy in 1973 and, after I came down to Southampton, I visited her several times.

(Amy Duffield's father William was the son of John Duffield and Elizabeth Hallam. After John's death, Elizabeth married Joseph Ashby and they were my paternal great-grandparents. Amy was always referred to in the family as my father's cousin, but I suppose that technically she was his half-cousin.)

Simon Baker [Mem 7958]

PANTOMIME AT ROWSLEY



Large audiences assembled at Rowsley Village Hall on Friday and Saturday for performances of Dick Whittington given by The Rowdarlians, a company of children from Rowsley and Darley Dale. The show went with a swing and chief honours were carried off by Joyce Gilbert as Eliza and Vivian Pearson as Idle Jack, who were the chief fun makers. Title role was played by Georgie Prince and that of Alice by Mary Sheldon, while Mona Toft played the part of Fitzwarren. The part of the fairy queen was taken by Rene Toft. For the success of the effort much praise is due to Mrs Pearson and Miss Minnie Pilkington who were responsible for preparing the children, and to Mrs Prince who assisted in the training of the senior chorus.

Derbyshire Times & Chesterfield Herald, 17 Jan 1936

The Origins of the Johnsons in Tibshelf (part 4)

In previous articles, we have been examining the origins of the Johnson family of Tibshelf. First, we looked at the life of **Frances Johnson**, born 1829, who was the grandmother of Joseph and Thomas Johnson, the founders of J & T Johnson, well-known chrysanthemum growers in Tibshelf. They won many national awards and were renowned members of the Royal Horticultural Society. My grandmother Edith Johnson was their younger sister, and was born 24 October 1896 in Tibshelf.

Then we looked at the lives of two of Frances's sisters, **Elizabeth Johnson**, born 1831, and **Sarah Johnson**, born 1848.

In the third article we looked at the parents of Frances, Elizabeth and Sarah, namely **Joseph Johnson** and Sarah Watson, and then Joseph's parents **William Johnson** and Sarah Wardle.

This article will examine instead the mysteries around William Johnson's father, that is Abraham Johnson. As seems to be usual with the Johnsons, this area too is both fascinating and frustrating.

The Mystery of Abraham Johnson

When William Johnson married Sarah Wardle on 22 September 1806 at Breedon, a witness to the wedding was a certain Abraham Johnson. This was most likely either William's father or possibly his brother. In the case of it being his father, we need an Abraham Johnson born at least 20 years before William, who was born in the early 1780s, so born during the 1750s.

In the case of it being a brother, we need an Abraham born around the early 1780s. Unfortunately, in the Leicestershire-Derbyshire-Staffordshire-Warwickshire area I have not found any baptisms of brothers Abraham + William, nor of any William Johnsons with a father called Abraham. There are various Abraham Johnsons in the area, and various marriages plus children, but none that fit all the criteria. The only brothers Abraham + William that were found anywhere in England were in Shrewsbury, some 63 miles away.

First considerations: possible marriages

Although we do not really know when William was born, we can suppose that as he got Sarah Wardle pregnant in 1805, he was at least 18 years old then, so he will not have been born after 1787, thus allowing us to discount all the William Johnsons who were born after that date.

We also do not really know who William's parents were. If his father was Abraham, then there are only 2 local marriages that could have produced him, plus one other marriage in Shropshire. The first marriage is that of Abraham Johnson to Lydia Fairbrother 22 Feb 1779 at Breedon. The second is the marriage of Abraham Johnson to Anne Ordish (Ordidge) at Church Gresley 11 Feb 1777. Church Gresley is about 8 miles west of Coleorton, where we know our ancestors lived. Breedon is about 4 miles north of Coleorton. The third is the marriage of Abraham Johnson to Elizabeth Roberts 4 May 1780 at Shrewsbury.

Marriage #1: Abraham Johnson - Lydia Fairbrother, Breedon, 1779

If we first examine the marriage of Abraham Johnson to Lydia Fairbrother in 1779 at Breedon, the only Lydia Fairbrother in the region was born at Ashby (3m W of Coleorton) in 1745. There are two candidates for an Abraham Johnson who could have married Lydia. One was born in 1759 at Ashby, the other was born in 1753 at Hugglescote (4m S Coleorton). Note that in both cases, Lydia is significantly older than Abraham, and would have been 34 at the time of marriage. There are no recorded baptisms of any children born to Abraham and Lydia, and Lydia died after 6 years of marriage in 1785 at Lount (2m NW Coleorton). So if William's parents were Abraham and Lydia, he had to be born between 1779 and 1785, and his mother was 34-40 years old, possible, but an unusual age at the time for a first child. In 1793 Abraham married again, this time in Worthington to Mary Tennant of Breedon. She died in 1809 at Worthington, and Abraham died in 1816 at Worthington. Coming back to which Abraham Johnson married Lydia Fairbrother, I am fairly convinced that it was the Abraham born in 1759 in Ashby, same town as Lydia. This also ties in with Abraham's age at death in 1816 (aged 58). In many Ancestry trees, the other Abraham born in 1753 in Hugglescote has been included, and his death specified as 1840 at Donisthorpe. I think that this is unlikely (see below), in fact I believe that this Abraham is the one who married Anne Ordish in Church Gresley.

Marriage #2: Abraham Johnson - Anne Ordish, Church Gresley 1777

Let us now examine in fact this marriage of Abraham Johnson to Anne Ordish in 1777 at Church Gresley. There are quite a lot of children born to the marriage, but no baptisms of an Abraham or a William. The baptisms all start in 1781, so 4 years after the marriage started, which is unusual. In fact, although it does not show in the baptism records, there was definitely an Abraham Johnson born in 1779 in Church Gresley, because he appears in the 1851 census. Pity that his baptism is not there in the records. This was though the only Johnson family in Church Gresley having children at the time, so I am fairly certain that Abraham and Anne did in fact have a son called Abraham around 1778/9. Pity he didn't also have a brother called William born around

1780, as this would have completed the circle. Of course, he may have had a brother, just that so far his baptism has not been identified. Most likely what happened was that in the early years of their marriage, Abraham and Anne moved elsewhere and returned to Church Gresley only in 1781.

Marriage #3: Abraham Johnson - Elizabeth Roberts, Church Gresley, 1780

The third marriage of an Abraham Johnson was to Elizabeth Roberts 4 May 1780 in Shrewsbury. This has the advantage of their first two children being named William b 24 Aug 1781 and Abraham b 11 Jul 1782, both born at Shrewsbury. After that it is all mystery, as the couple do not have any other children in Shrewsbury, or, apparently, anywhere else in England. Neither do Abraham or Elizabeth die soon afterwards in Shrewsbury. Of course they could have moved somewhere else and then one or the other died, without any reference being made to the name of their spouse in the burial record. Quite often you just get an "Elizabeth Johnson died", no age or husband's name. We could suppose though that for some unknown reason the family moved to the Coleorton area. This wouldn't explain however why there are no more children, but it would place 2 Abraham Johnsons (father and son) and one William Johnson (son) in the Coleorton area at the right time.

This supposition also has the advantage that when William married in 1806 aged 25, the witness Abraham Johnson could possibly be either his father or his brother. Analysing the wedding certificates, though, casts doubts on both these hypotheses. This because when his father Abraham married in 1780, he signed his marriage certificate. When, however, his son William married in 1806, the witness Abraham did not (or could not) sign his name. On the other hand, William did sign his own marriage certificate in 1806, and if the witness was his brother Abraham, then it seems strange that William was able to sign his name while brother Abraham is not. That said, William's first two children were named William (b1805 before marriage) and Abraham (b1807). A further point in favour of this hypothesis is that it does seem strange that we don't find the birth of William anywhere in the Coleorton area, and this hypothesis not only provides a place of birth, but also provides him with an Abraham as a father and an Abraham as a brother!

Analysis of the marriages

So where does this leave us? Well, marriage #1, that of Abraham to Lydia Fairbrother, as well as having no documented children, has the disadvantage that Lydia was relatively old (34-40). It does though have the advantage that Abraham's father was called William Johnson, which could be a good reason to call a son William. Why there is no trace of William's birth in the 1780s is not explained.

Marriage #2, that of Abraham to Anne Ordish, on the other hand, has the disadvantage of no baptism either of a William or an Abraham, although I am quite convinced that there was a son called Abraham, so perhaps there was also a son called William. There is a gap in the years between Abraham's supposed birth in 1778/79 and the next child Mary in 1781. The fact of Abraham's parents being John Johnson and Constancy has both advantages and disadvantages. Its disadvantage is that there are no children called John or Constancy, nor, for that matter, William. That said, it does have the advantage of supporting Johnson family folklore that has always said that we were related to a certain John Johnson, born in 1710, and who lived and was killed in Lount in 1760 (so in the right area). Having a father named John who had a child Abraham in the 1750s, and so was born around 1732, would leave this hypothesis open. There is though no other indication of any link to the Coleorton area, whereas in marriage #1 Abraham and Lydia were married in Breedon, and Lydia died in Lount, very close to Coleorton.

Marriage #3, that of Abraham to Elizabeth Roberts in 1780 in Shrewsbury, has the advantage of two brothers Abraham and William both born at the right time. There is though no proof that the family did originally come from Shrewsbury, and most likely no way to prove it.

So perhaps marriage #1, Abraham and Lydia, are ahead on points!

...and if Abraham was William's brother?

Finally, we need to examine the possibility that William's father was not called Abraham, and so the Abraham Johnson who was a witness at the wedding of William and Sarah was a brother to William. Unfortunately, the only pair of brothers who were called Abraham and William are the ones born in Shrewsbury in 1781-1782. Although there were 30 William Johnsons born in Leicestershire during the period 1777-1787, 4 in Derbyshire, 38 in Staffordshire (but only 1 within 20 miles) and 8 in Warwickshire, unfortunately there were no corresponding baptisms of any Abraham Johnsons in these counties during this time period! In fact, there are only about 10 Abraham Johnsons born in the whole of England in this timeframe!

My personal conclusion

My personal conclusion is therefore that the Abraham Johnson who was a witness at the wedding of William Johnson and Sarah Wardle in 1806 was in fact his father born in 1759 in Ashby, and that his parents were Abraham Johnson and Lydia Fairbrother. As can be seen above, however, this is at most a "good guess" and solid proof is just not available.

John Lomas

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

NUTTALL'S of YOULGREAVE, WIRKSWORTH and ALFRETON

At some point prior to his marriage in 1613 to Ann Robinson at All Saints Church, Thomas Nuttall (9x great grandfather) arrived in Youlgreave possibly from Lancashire as this would appear to be where the name originated. His occupation was not known but the area was predominately known for lead mining and probably farming.

They had children, Elizabeth 1614, Johanna 1619, Ann 1621 and Richard 1628, all baptised at All Saints. Thomas and Ann both died in 1653 and were buried in the churchyard but there was no memorial. He did not leave a will.

Son Richard married Mary Mann in 1657 in Chesterfield and they had five children, Hanna 1657, Samuel 1659, Rebecca 1661, Elizabeth 1667 and Richard 1676. Richard senior died in 1698 and was buried in the churchyard. Again there was no memorial and no will. His children, Samuel and Richard married twice and Elizabeth once and were main characters in this part of the family history.

Samuel (7x Ggfather) married Ann Taylor in 1682 at All Saints and had eight children, Francis 1683-1689, Mary 1686, Samuel 1688, Francis 1691, Elizabeth 1695, Richard 1699, John 1704 and Thomas 1707. Ann died in 1712 and is buried in the churchyard. Samuel married later that year to Elizabeth Bellechouse. She died in 1718 and was buried in the churchyard. Samuel's death is uncertain as there were three possible burials but no ages were given. Again there was no headstone and no will. Elizabeth Bellechouse was believed to be a relative of John Bellechouse, a Flemish painter who was employed by Bess of Hardwick. There were records of him working at Hardwick Hall and in return for his work and friendship he was given a house in Ault Hucknald. A bible belonging to him was passed on from Elizabeth to John Nuttall (1704).

Elizabeth (1667) married Isaac Ashburne in 1713 at Bakewell. As Elizabeth was already 46 years old at the time of her marriage, there were no children. Isaac died in 1743.

Richard (1676) married Mary Wall in 1710 at Youlgreave and they had two children, Sarah 1711 and John 1712. Mary died in 1714 and is buried at Darley. Richard married Lydia Allsop, a widow in Bakewell in 1721. They had no children. Both Richard and Lydia left wills. Richard was buried in 1745 in Youlgreave. Lydia died in 1759 and was buried at Matlock in the same

churchyard as her first husband, Denis Allsop.

Samuel's son John (1704) married in 1729 at All Saints to Ann Allsop, daughter of Lydia Nuttall (Allsop) previously mentioned. They had five children, Anne 1730, Elizabeth 1732, John 1735 and Lydia 1739 baptised at Youlgreave and Samuel 1741 baptised at Wirksworth. John was an innkeeper in Youlgreave and moved to Wirksworth around the time Samuel was born. He had purchased the Red Lion Inn in the Market Place around the time that it was rebuilt.

When at Lichfield RO researching Nuttall wills I came across the one for Lydia Nuttall living at The Red Lion. I didn't know who she was at the time. She was leaving money to John's children, her grandchildren but how could that be. Was she Samuel's third wife? It wasn't until I expanded the tree sideways, looking in to marriages of siblings that I came across Richard Nuttall marrying Lydia Allsop, a widow, that it all came in to place. She was the mother of Ann Nuttall nee Allsop.

When Isaac Ashburne died in 1743 he made various bequests to family members including John 1704 son of Samuel and John's daughter Elizabeth. His wife Elizabeth was left the rest of his estates during her lifetime. His brother-in-law Richard Nuttall was left money and was in charge of taking care of Elizabeth. On her death in 1746 Gibfields Farm went to Richard's son John.

When Richard died just two years later in 1745 he makes bequests to his wife Lydia, son John, grandson Richard 1744 and daughter Sarah. There was an older son born to John not mentioned in his grandfather's will but as he looked set to inherit from his mother's side of the family he gave to the younger one.

This line continued with John inheriting Noton Stear from his maternal grandfather and his brother Richard inheriting Gibfield. Noton Stear stayed in the Nuttall family for some years with a wooded area behind the farm named Nuttall's Coppice. The farm and coppice are still there today with little changes made. Richard sold Gibfields to his nephew William and moved to Croxton. When Richard died William moved to Croxton, presumably selling Gibfields again. Gibfields is also still there but greatly extended and run as a corporation.

In Lydia's will 1759 mentioned previously, she leaves bequests to her grandchildren, Samuel 1741 and Elizabeth 1732 and Elizabeth's daughter but not her grandson John. Again as the oldest son and expected to inherit from his father, she perhaps thought she should leave to the others.

John 1704 died in 1761 without leaving a will, administration passed to his wife Ann. The ownership of the Red Lion might have continued with Ann or passed to son John. In any event the son John died two years later in 1763 leaving a widow and two small children. Ann died in 1775 leaving everything to her daughter Elizabeth and nothing for Samuel. Samuel is described as an innkeeper in his will so perhaps he already had the Red Lion. Samuel died in 1795 and his will mentions his wife Phoebe, although she predeceased him, and all their children.

Samuel and Phoebe had eleven children. My 4xGgfather William 1776 was their sixth child and he was the one who married Mary Wilson of Carnfield Hall, mentioned in a previous article. He appeared to have lost any money he inherited because he borrowed off his father in law and when he died there was no will. Administration to his wife Mary was only eight pounds. They had seven children, the oldest being William 3xGgfather. There was an Indenture for a loan for him in 1823. Unfortunately he died in 1825 presumably never paying the loan back. He and his wife, another Mary only had two children, Hannah who died young and William my 2xGgfather who became a miner followed by two further generations of miners.

However William 1776 lost his money, whether through bad investments or gambling, it turned this branch of the family tree's fortunes upside down.

My grandfather lost his job after the General Strike in 1926 and moved to Derby. My father had a good education and became an analytical chemist, a long way from farming and mining.

Ruth Barber [Mem 6736]

In the eighteenth century Derby was described as “a very large, populous and rich and well frequented borough town—few inland towns in the Kingdom equalling it—yet has it many good houses, especially on all parts....of the town, mostly of brick....In it is many persons of good quality and a great number of coaches kept in it. It has a very handsome Market Place—a square with good buildings about it.” [Magna Britannia, Volume 5]

A charter by King Charles granted seven fairs, all lasting two days, to be held in the town. There was also a three days cheese fair confirmed by King James. Derby was also renowned for its Cornmarket which supplied all sorts of provisions on Fridays.

ROUND AND ABOUT

Kent Archaeological Society has published “Searching for Ebony”, telling the story of life in a remote corner of Kent from Saxon times to the present day, and it features more than 150 photographs, most of which have never been published before. It is now on sale at Tenterden and District Museum, price £13.50, and also available by mail order. For further details visit www.tenterdenmuseum.co.uk

Doncaster & District Family History Society are holding a fair at the Doncaster Deaf Trust on Saturday, October 13th. A mix of stalls will include Family History Societies, local heritage groups and commercial stalls selling genealogical products etc. There will also be plenty of crafts from wood turning to jewellery.

See www.doncasterfhs.co.uk/event/family-history-fair2018 for further details.

The Thoroton Society has produced a reprint of a publication showing over 80 estate maps of the 1600s. The maps are scattered through six English counties and include 27 for Derbyshire [mainly in the North East] and a further nine for the south-west of the Staffordshire Peak District. As the original maps are too large to be reproduced in book form digital reproductions are provided on an interactive credit-card sized USB flashcard. Each image can be enlarged on screen to any desired scale. This is accompanied by a 300 page book containing a detailed catalogue entry for each map listing the recorded names of all villages, fields and topographical features as well as the names of their tenants. It also includes over 70 colour illustrations of enlarged details from the maps etc.

Called The Welbeck Atlas, it is a survey of the properties of William Cavendish, Earl of Newcastle, of Welbeck Abbey and Bolsover Castle, one of the largest English landowners of his day. He appointed William Senior to survey and map his extensive estates in seven counties. It costs £29.50 or £33 post paid UK and sounds wonderful if you have interest in the places covered. Address you enquiries to Rob James, Honorary Distribution and Sales Secretary, at sales@thorotonsociety.org.uk

THE WOODIWISS FAMILY

Andrew Miles in *Social Mobility in 19th Century England* 1999 describes how social mobility between generations can be measured using marriage certificates, which, after 1836, had to record the occupations of the partners and parents involved in each ceremony. Social stability was the norm: as they walked up the aisle, sons were more likely than not to be in the same class as their father (68% in 1839-54). However, there was also a clear and accelerating increase in the amount of mobility occurring over time (by 1899-1914, the same class had fallen to 54%). However, the period 1899-1914 less than 8% of the sons of working class men moved out of the class and into middle class occupations. Moreover, virtually all those crossing this boundary were destined only for the shop keeping and clerking.

An outstanding exception was Sir Abraham Woodiwiss who was born in Shaw Lane, Belper in 1828, son of a stone mason. At 11, he was living with his parents in Hopping Hill, Belper working as a labourer. In 1848, aged 20, he married a cordwainer's daughter Emma Wright. By 23, he had become a stone mason. At 33, he was a master builder, employing 50 people. His contracting partnership Benton and Woodiwiss built railway lines all over Britain. In 1868-1870, they built the Trent Bridge in Nottingham and Bradgate Reservoir in Leicestershire. In 1876, the partnership was severely criticised by HM Inspectorate of Explosives investigating a fatal gun power explosion whilst tunnelling near Melton Mowbray for the GNLR. In 1877 he contributed to the Railway Servants Orphanage, Derby. In 1879 he bought the 'Pastures' at Littleover, Derby for £15,000 and spent another £15,000 on improvements. By 44, he was living at The Pastures, with three servants and a prominent Freemason. By 1881, he had built Derby's town centre The Strand and was Lord Mayor of Derby. Queen Victoria knighted him at Derby Station. He retired to Mentone on the French Riviera for his health and died in 1884, leaving £233,500 (equivalent of £28 million)



Dame Emma Woodiwiss

His eldest surviving son, Alderman Abraham Woodiwiss (1852-1912) continued the contracting business with George Benton. They built the famous Settle to Carlisle line for the Midland Railway. He also became, a Justice of

the Peace and Mayor of Derby 1889 and 1901. He enjoyed meeting HRH Prince of Wales when he came to Derby Races. In 1891 his residence was 34 Loudon Street, Normanton. He developed The Strand in the city centre and in 1887 he purchased the land on Ashbourne Road on which St Christopher's Orphanage for railway employees' orphans was built. He was Mayor of the Borough in 1888-1889 and again in 1901-1902. He, like his father, was a prominent Freemason and President of Derwent Rowing Club. When Abraham junior died, he left £87,426 to his widow and his son. This son, also Abraham (1887-1940) married and lived at The Croft, Hazlewood Road, Springhill, Duffield. When he died, he left £39,485. Without accounting for inflation, the two generations only passed on about 40% of their father's legacy.



Sir Abraham Woodiwiss

Sir Abraham's second son Alfred Woodiwiss (1855-92) was educated at Ockbrook near Derby. He was considered to have a "retiring disposition". In 1881, he and his father joined the Derbyshire Institute of Engineers. At 33, he married a solicitor's daughter and then four years later he died of typhus and pneumonia. The third son, George Woodiwiss (1856-1906) was content, like his brother Alfred, to be "living of his own means" after trying civil engineering in his mid 20s. The fourth son, Henry (1863-91) died aged 28 living on his own means with his mother, leaving £32,000. The fifth son Samuel (1867-1952) became a farmer in Essex. The eldest daughter

Mary (1861-1923) married a Yorkshire vicar's son John Jeremiah Jackson Barstow who became a very successful civil engineer. He was 18 years older and in 1911 they lived with 8 servants. Daughter Emma (1864-1932) married William Robotham, the son of a Derby solicitor, who was also twice Mayor of Derby (1910, 1918). This meant that the Woodiwiss family was involved in Derby mayoral politics for nearly forty years.

Socially, a brewer or railway contractor who bought an estate or manor house might never be fully accepted as a squire, his children would be brought up and go to school with members of the landed classes, at Harrow perhaps, but would retain some interest in the business, their children would be complete-

ly assimilated to the landed gentry, becoming a JP, and know little or nothing of the original business. Sir Abraham's other sons became "gentlemen, living on own means."

In 1890, Sir Abraham's 20 year old son Isaac Newton Woodiwiss (1849-1947) married 18 year old Maud Mary Dyer (1876-1948), the daughter Sarah Ann Neaum of Belper. They lived at Tamworth House, Duffield and initially three servants. In 1901, the family had increased and they had six servants and a resident governess. In 1906, they travelled to New Year. In 1907, Isaac purchased Trusthorpe Hall, a late Georgian manor-house, built about a mile and a half from the coast near Mablethorpe Lincolnshire as a seaside home for the ever-increasing family. His daughter Helen wrote "*When summertime came around near the beginning of the century, our parents, the children, Nanny and under-nurses, servants and general staff, plus all the luggage, embarked at Derby station, filling an entire coach of the Midland Railway. He employed a gardener and arranged for- Dakin to have driving lessons, and sent him to be fitted for a chauffeur's uniform. Dakin received these new instructions with a snort, submitted to the driving lessons, but when he took any of us out in the car, he would chug along, gazing at the road ahead between the ears of phantom horses, encouraging them with his familiar 'clucking' noise from time to time.*" At Firsby station the entire coach was shunted on to the loop coastal line, with no inconvenience to the occupants. When it eventually reached Sutton-on-Sea, some two-and-a-half miles from Trusthorpe and our nearest station, the 'Woodiwiss' coach was received with ceremony by the Station Master, and the family, staff and luggage were packed into the waiting carriages and transported to Trusthorpe Hall. The only members of the staff who did not travel by train were Dakin, our coachman who first came to father as a stable boy when he was 16, and Harry, who lived with his family in a cottage in the grounds at Trusthorpe and looked after the gardens, aided by two lads, while his wife kept an eye on the house in~ the family's absence. Dakin came down by carriage and pair, putting up at Newark overnight on his way down." He lived as a Gentleman, JP with his large family and four servants and a governess. Tragically, their only surviving son was shot down over France as a Royal Flying Corp Observer in 1915, aged 18. These country houses were increasingly obsolete in the 1920s. Helen continues "*Between the two wars we continued to live at Trusthorpe with a skeleton staff, and some of the girls helped mother to run the home. By 1924 father was driving his own car, and decided to buy a Standard 14 for the use of the family.*" The family sold the Hall in 1946.

Isaac's youngest brother Edwin Woodiwiss (1871- 1940) was an example of a Harrow educated late Victorian eccentric gentleman. In 1893 established a private zoo in the grounds of Hill Place, Upminster, including. Jersey heifers,

a large zebu bull and pygmy zebus. He also became a celebrated owner and breeder of prize-winning pedigree Dachshund and Schipperke dogs and was said to have the largest kennels in England. By 1893, Woodiwiss' animal collection had expanded to include a Malayan Bear, an agouti guinea pigs, a herd of alpaca and kangaroos. Birds in his aviaries included a golden eagle, sparrow hawks, eagle owls & barn owls while a large collection of waterfowl – four flamingos, storks, herons, plus a flock of geese – occupied an artificial pond at the rear of the kennels. Edwin later established a herd of over 20 prize Dexter cattle and also took to breeding Manx cats. In 1895 he travelled to United States with his brother Samuel of Sedgemoor, Somerset, who was a breeder of greyhounds and collies, to exhibit dogs in the annual New York show, winning numerous prizes.

In 1900, he enlisted with the newly formed Imperial Yeomanry and departed for South Africa, serving in the Second Boer War. Initially a sergeant, Edwin was eventually promoted to Captain, and for a while was a prisoner of war, eventually returning to Britain in 1902 after the war ended. In 1903, he emigrated to Canada and cultivated 800 acres of farmland near Manitoba for seven years. In 1910, he moved to Winnipeg and embarked in the real estate business. He was a member of the Masons, the Military Institute, and the Anglican Church. He was a justice of the peace in Manitoba. During the First World War, he served as a Major in the Canadian Army Medical Corps. He was made a MBE in 1919. He returned to England, divorcing his estranged wife and remarrying in 1922 and raising a new family at Woodroffe, Great Waltham Chelmsford, where Major Woodiwiss gained a reputation for breeding Abyssinian cats. His son Vivian (1896-1981) became an insurance consultant in Surrey.

Within three generations, the Woodiwiss family had progressed from being a Derbyshire stone cutter to Mayor and then gentleman and JPs. Their achievements in business and public life as well as their interests reflect the Victorian age in which they prospered.

Nicholas Shorthose

<http://www.suttononsea.info/history/trusthorpehall.htm>

CHURCHES OF DERBYSHIRE

50. Chaddesden St Mary

Chaddesden was once a village lying 2 miles east of Derby with a population of around 700. Since then, however, it has become part of Derby with large new housing estates and a huge increase of population, so much so that a new church, dedicated to St Philip, was provided.



The ancient church of St Mary the Virgin can be found at the end of a short stretch of a narrow by-road, at the end of what might almost be regarded as a cul-de-sac and can easily be missed if you don't read the notice pointing to it.

Whether there was a church in Chaddesden earlier than the mid 14th century is impossible to say.

Domesday records the manor as being part of the great de Ferrers fief, but there is no mention of a church although this is not conclusive. The first reference occurs in a grant dated 1347 by Roger Norbury, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, of the rights of burial to the chapel in Chaddesden, provided the dues were paid to the incumbent of Spondon. This plainly implies the existence of a building, which was a chapel in the parish of Spondon, even though all traces have disappeared.

A substantial building was erected in the early part of the 14th century, which probably consisted of a nave and chancel. In 1354 Henry de Chaddesden, Archdeacon of Leicester, by his will established a chantry with three priests, to which a fourth was added some twenty years later. This probably led to the addition of two aisles and finally the tower was added in the fifteenth century, probably in two stages, since there seems to be quite a distinct difference between the stonework of the top and the rest of the structure. During the same century the aisles were extended westward, until their west walls were co-extensive with the west wall of the tower, giving the curious effect that the tower is entirely within the body of the church.

Very little major work was done until 1859, when the sum of £2000 was spent on replacing the east window, which was completely filled with stained glass. This window was badly damaged during the last war. Comparatively recently much of the church has been refloored and the western arches of the arcades curtained off to create vestries, all at a cost of some £7000.

The nave has simple octagonal pillars, fine solid oak pews and a magnificent rood screen and loft. The screen is definitely 15th century in date and is beautifully carved. The loft and the rood itself were removed at the time of the Reformation, but a new loft was put into position, possibly in 1859, which blends very well with the old. It is thought that an elaborately carved cross, now standing in the south aisle, at one time rested on top of the loft. The 19th century font is octagonal, of white marble inlaid with Derbyshire Spar, and stands on a pillar of black marble, the original font dating from the 1350s being big enough to bath a baby, very uneven and now no longer used. The pulpit is of dark oak and of quite modern date, although Jacobean in feeling.

There are several memorial windows to members of the Wilmot family, for many years the most prominent in the Parish. One Sir Ernest Wilmot was Physician to George III. Sir Henry Wilmot, VC, has his memorial in the form of a Triptych which stands in the Chancel. The old stone reredos carries a picture in memory of Arthur Alfred Wilmot, who was the Rector of Morley, and the youngest son of Sir Henry Sacheverell Wilmot of Chaddesden Hall.

The most interesting memorial is a tablet which was once fixed to the wall surrounding the park, but now is on the church wall and it reads "Dear old Greyman a favourite horse [the gift of Sir Edward Boyle, Bart, M.P.] buried here November 18 1919 aged 28 years. He did what he could".

The Registers

Like all parishes, Chaddesden's earliest register would probably have dated from 1538, but in 1824, when Archdeacon Butler visited the parish, he noted the earliest began in 1598 and was in a tolerable state of preservation. Unfortunately the earliest register now dates from only 1718, the older books having now been lost. Some gaps from 1663 can be filled in by using the Bishop's Transcripts, now held at Stafford Record Office, although again there are some gaps that will probably never be filled.

The Society has the Memorial Inscriptions and several books on the parish, all available at Bridge Chapel House.

The Life of Joseph Fletcher Founder of Salem Chapel Wingerworth

Joseph Fletcher was born in 1815 and Parish records list his baptism as taking place at St Matthews Church Pentrich Derbyshire on 4 November 1815.

His parents are recorded as Job and Abigail Fletcher nee Dear (or Doar) who were married on 4 April 1790 at St Matthews Church, West Hallam, Derbyshire.

Job and Abigail had 12 children 5 of which were baptised in West Hallam between 1791 and 1799 the remaining 7 children including Joseph were baptised in Pentrich. Indicating the Fletcher family moved from West Hallam between 1799 and 1801.

Joseph, according to his own account in his book Food for the Flock published in 1859, (the Preface, and life of the author are written by Edward Nicholls) was from humble beginnings, but his mother succeeded in teaching him to read, and educated him in the scriptures. For all his mother's attempts to give her youngest child a sound upbringing, he committed many ill deeds and describes himself "*with the exception of murder, scarcely one sin I did not eagerly commit, or attempt*"

Joseph commenced work at the age of 10 at the Waterloo Pit near Codnor Park. In his book are descriptions of some of the pranks and ill deeds he committed. On one occasion he and a relative stole blasting powder from the miners, to experiment with! They found a secret site, and set about the process to blow it up, however the powder exploded blinding them both, and they suffered severe burns. Their cries alerted others and Joseph was saved from falling down the pit shaft. The writer said "*God was nigh at hand and not afar off*". Although it was thought his sight would be lost, after about 10 days of blindness it was restored.

This theme continues as Joseph describes that while "*ironstone- getting near *Summercoats*" he fell about 25 feet down the shaft and was taken home but had little chance of survival. However he was back at work a week later, and speaks of his deliverance "*I know not then who was my deliverer, but now through grace, my "strong deliverer" is made known unto me, and I can praise Him*"

Following this accident Joseph appears to have mended his character and is being guided by what is described in his book as falling into the hands of a

Worldly-Wiseman. A page later however *“he is returned to old courses of fighting, drinking, gambling, and wallowed in sensuality”*. *“I was”*, he says *“the devil’s merry-andrew, being one of his most willing captives. He had only to put up his finger, and I was there at his call. There was scarcely a month passed for upwards of five years, but I was involved in some disgraceful act, ending in a twofold cost. In the first place, my father had to pay money to liberate me. In the second, I cost my aged mother many hundred, sighs and tears by my unruly conduct, some of which is too base to mention.”*

Joseph’s parents were now very old and infirm and his father unable to work, all of Josephs siblings were married with families of their own, and it was therefore Joseph who was left to provide for his parents; he was at the time recorded as earning eighteen shillings to a pound a week. At nineteen years of age he decides to leave home, to obtain more money, and gratify his roving disposition. Although his parents tried to persuade him otherwise he along with an older brother went to work at a colliery at *Swadlingcote near Burton-on – Trent, and on receiving his first wages and paying his “demands” he had nineteen shillings left over and sent this to his parents via his brother who was obliged to return home to his family.



In Edward Nicholls account Joseph is recorded as saying, *“It is true, I now began to feel a greater love to my parents than ever I had felt, having left them without counting the cost.”* He goes on to explain how his parents had provided all his needs and the love which his parents, particularly his mother, had shown him even in times of his wrong doings, and resolves to do his best to support them in their declining years. In the next two weeks he had one pound three shillings over after his expenses and duly sent this to his parents. At this point he resolved to return home and after a further two weeks work did so taking his parents a further one pound eight shillings. These events surely shaped his life and Edward Nicholls states, *“the first evidences of the sunny influences of grace upon his soul, the first grey dawn relieving a star-*

less night. The spirit of the Lord was upon him. ”

During a further time away, he was called home as his father was dying, another life event which had great influence on him.

Soon after his father’s death Joseph married Charlotte Grayson on 16 April 1838 in Sheffield. According to his book he married into a respectable family, but the pair were not the ideal match, and Charlotte’s early married life was not a happy time. The 1841 census records them living at Worksop Road, Attercliffe- cum-Darnall, Sheffield, Yorkshire, Joseph’s occupation is a coal miner and they have one child Hiram born 1841.

Joseph at this stage in his life describes himself as *“careless, and regardless of all consequences”* and *“an open hater of God and religion, and a fiery persecutor of those who professed it”*.

Joseph describes meeting at the Duke of York, in Darnal, Yorkshire, a young man, who had become a religious character, and it appears Joseph goaded and ridiculed this poor chap unmercifully but underlying this Joseph was inquisitive to know more. Joseph was invited to go to a prayer meeting of the New Connection where they prayed with him and for him. Joseph records *“At length I was enabled to pray for myself; and I felt the burden fall, as it were, from my shoulders.”* He goes on to record how he went home and looking at his few books *“a voice louder than ten thousands vibrated through my inmost soul. The spirit, quick as the lightning’s flash, rent in twain my rocky heart; the foundations of the great deep were about to be broken up; an earthquake shook the foundations of my prison house: all the iron gates, bolts, locks, bars and doors, broke down in one tremendous crash, at the sight of which rottenness entered into my bones, and for a few minutes my limbs were literally paralysed. I cannot find language sufficient to describe what I felt.”* Joseph goes on at length to describe how this event was followed by several months of soul searching and the word ETERNITY loomed large in his thoughts, he could scarcely either eat, drink or sleep his burden was so great but at a prayer meeting he describes how he entered the room and looked for a seat which was hidden *“for sin and shame were my inner and upper garments”* it was here on a Wednesday evening that his great burden was lifted. During the next few months Joseph describes his path as *“as smooth as a sea of glass.”*

What followed were then months of studying his Bible and his new faith was tested on many an occasion. In 1842 he received his calling after reading Ezekiel chapter 3 v17. Joseph said *“I felt the 17th applied to myself and with such power, that my heart broke as it were within me, and I wept like a*

child” “I bowed to the yoke, and the day was fixed on which I was to speak in the name of the Lord.”

Joseph at this time was sinking a colliery shaft in Sheffield when an accident occurred in which he was unable to work for several weeks due to his injuries, on returning to work he was involved in another incident when a narrow piece of iron about five feet long knocked his hat off as it fell into the water beneath in the pit shaft at this Joseph remarked *“I see plainly my work is not yet complete or I should have been killed this time”* Similar incidents occurred while he was sinking a shaft at *Whaleswood in 1844 and in 1845 while working at Staveley he was nearly buried alive. After 1842 many colliers were reduced to working only three days, these were hard times for many families including the Fletcher household, and to supplement his income Joseph used his masonry skills to producing a grave stone for his first born child, (this child was possibly Emila b.1839 d. 1839) this led to others placing orders and this income sustained the family until he returned to his previous employment.

Joseph and his family moved to Derbyshire between 1845 and 1849 and they appear on the 1851 census living at Derby Road, Hasland, Chesterfield. Joseph and Charlotte now have a further son and two daughters, Joshua b. 1844, and Eliza Ann b.1846 both born in Sheffield and Ellen Maria b.1849 in Chesterfield. Joseph’s occupation is now a Mineral Agent.

In 1847 Joseph is out of work again and finds employment at Wingerworth Iron Works as underground steward for the mines. This is the start of his preaching ministry in Wingerworth.

**Spelling used in Joseph’s book Food for the Flock*

Diana Wain [Mem 7711]

From the Derby Mercury of 23 Apr 1851, sent in by Joan Deane [Mem 1335]

THREATENING LETTER.—The following curious letter has been received by Mr. Cooper, clerk of Chesterfield parish church:—“Stockport, April 9th, 1851. Sir—This is to inform you that I James Straw will not allow Samuel Fairchild to be interd in grave were my Father was interd thay deprivd me from comeing to is funere! which I thought it hard that i must not be let know right things ought to go forward and if you let them bury him there I will have him took up again whitness my hand this Janery James Straw which you to inform the Vicer about.”

DERBYSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT SOCIETY OF FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE
Tuesday 10th April 2018

There were 33 members present at the start of the meeting and the Chairman welcomed them to the AGM and thanked them for attending.
The meeting was declared open.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Rosemary Jefferson, Doreen Taylor, Keith Holford and Brian Slack.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

These were distributed to the members and the Chairman asked the meeting if they would take the minutes from the last AGM as read.
There was a show of hands and the minutes were passed as a true and accurate record of the previous year's proceedings.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Stephen Orchard gave the Chairman's report.
There were no questions from the floor.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Ruth Barber gave the Secretary's report.
The question as to whether we could make a charge at the monthly meeting was raised but it was decided that it was part of the membership.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Michael Bagworth gave the Treasurer's annual report. The accounts were accepted, proposed by Chris Meeson and seconded by John Hutton
There were no questions from the floor.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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

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

ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following members were elected unopposed for the coming year, there being no objection from those members present and no further nominees from the floor. The chairman welcomed a new member to the Committee, Ken Wain.

Agreed by a show of hands- none against.

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

DERBY MEETING GROUP

No specific organiser at present

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Michael Bagworth proposed that Steven Wells again be appointed as INDEPENDENT EXAMINER for 2018.

Voted on and unanimously agreed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was a discussion about advertising. It was suggested that we try advertising in various local magazines and free village advertisers. We felt that we would require someone to take on this project in order to give the time needed. If anyone would like the job, please step forward

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

Chairman's Report 2018

On behalf of your committee I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report for the past year. The committee has met on five occasions in Derby. Our March meeting had to be cancelled because of the severe weather. The Society is fortunate in the loyalty of its committee members at a time when some family history societies are closing for lack of people to fill the offices. Although we have found one new nominee for the coming year we continue to be anxious about who will replace some of us when *anno domini* catches up.

The committee are trustees of the Society's funds and responsible for policy and for compliance with an ever more complicated set of legislation for voluntary societies. Every member will receive notification from us of the need to give us specific permission to keep your name and details on our database. Without it we cannot send you your magazine and other information. The new regulations are to safeguard your data from its being sold on by the holders. Thus the abuse of data by a few large charities results in our having extra work to do, when we have never even thought of sharing your information with other people without your permission.

We are now working to index registrar's entries for the years not represented online. We can do this from material already collected and the days of visiting the various registrar's offices are over. We are checking some parish register transcriptions and refreshing the memorial index for the county. Work on cemetery registers continues and some new indexes are now available on our website. We continue to receive visitors at the library and, although numbers are fewer than in the past, the questions asked are more complex. So much information is now available online that confusion is soon created when researching a family. A great many of the family trees put out turn to ashes when subjected to scrutiny. The old rules, see the original yourself and cross check your work still apply.

Much of our time and a sizeable chunk of our reserves has been expended on renewing the web site in the last year. With the collapse of book sales the web site and digital data are our main source of income over and above subscriptions. We recognised that just as we had to employ professional printers in the past, when it was no longer possible to run things off on a Banda, so we needed to invest more time in the website than any volunteer, however gifted, could reasonably offer. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to our previous webmaster, who has been generous with his time and money over past years. Last summer we commissioned a professional web expert to redesign our site and make it even more user-friendly. There were obvious teething difficulties as the new subscription year began but we believe we have

ironed out all the problems now and can offer a web service second to none among county family history societies. New material is added regularly but we would draw your attention to the new wills index with its search facilities, the new cemetery records and the revised library contents, all of which are available to members. It is also possible for the casual visitor to buy credits to gain access to our information, in exactly the same way as the main genealogical websites. If you are having problems understanding the new website do please email us. If you can't email us then the website is not for you and we do still answer real letters and phone calls.

The South Normanton meeting has closed during the year for want of support. We are very grateful to Avril for keeping it going so long. We are always ready to support a local group if someone will take responsibility for organising it. As always we have been well served by Helen Betteridge, ably supported by our Secretary Ruth and our Treasurer, Mike. They can speak for themselves after me. The work of the Membership Secretary has been particularly arduous this year, with the complications of the new website and the requirements of data protection so we are all indebted to Catherine who has carried this particular load. Linda and Dave Bull have kept the flag flying for publications, including working on the new sales site on the web.

Your committee and officers are submitting their names for election to serve in the coming year, with one addition. A volunteer is worth ten pressed persons. We will do our best to continue and strengthen the work of the society over the next year.

Stephen Orchard, Chairman

Secretary's Report 2018

Another year has passed at evermore increasing speed. I am sure it was only Christmas last week. Nothing eventful has happened at Bridge Chapel House this year, no major repairs or decorating. We are still attempting to tidy up but one job leads to another. Stephen has been making a valiant effort to sort out wills, family trees and the pile in the corner that has been added to over the months or maybe years. He actually found a file there that had been lost at least a couple of years ago. We have had some visitors but nothing like years ago before Internet. We still get research requests via the website, when a brick wall can not be knocked down or some other complication has arisen.

Since the completion, at the Register Office, of the transcribing of the BMDs, a group of volunteers now goes to BCH on Mondays to transcribe various

other projects. We still have outworkers transcribing, copying and checking various parish registers, cemetery records and memorial inscriptions. The new website will hopefully create renewed interest with the addition of all of this data.

Outside the building things are not so peaceful. The flood defences mentioned at last year's AGM are still being built all around us. Huge metal pylons have been driven in to form a wall with concrete covering and brick outer layer. The vibration this caused made us wonder that whilst they are trying to protect the ancient bridge and chapel from flood water, they were actually damaging the foundations. Only time will tell.

The meetings here at the Friend's Meeting House continue on a monthly basis. We have had some good speakers and we think more to come. Numbers have dropped a little compared with last year but perhaps when we get some nicer weather things will pick up. Although these meetings run at a loss every month we are prepared to keep running them whilst attendance is reasonable and I am able to trundle across from BCH with my trolley.

I was sorry to hear that the South Normanton group has decided to close its doors but not surprised. They have been struggling on for some time with numbers dropping. A change of venue worked for a while but finally the inevitable happened. I would like to thank those who kept it going over the years, particularly Averil Higginson, Maureen Newton and Dennis Dennerley.

The new Data Protection laws have created a situation whereby we have to have everyone's permission to retain their details although I can not see the point of joining a Society where you are hoping to find people with similar family interests to them have no way of contacting one another. We have never passed personal details on to anyone without checking that it is alright first except the publishers for the magazine. A form will be enclosed in the next magazine. Please complete and return to us immediately. Without your permission we will be unable to send you any further magazines.

It just remains for me to thank all the members for their continuing support, the volunteers, both at BCH and the outworkers for their dedication, the webmasters new and old and the Committee. We are few in number but truly obsessed with family history.

Ruth Barber, Secretary

Treasurers Report 2018

The financial statements for 2017 have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis. The accounts of the Society have been examined by S J Wells & Co who have stated that the financial statements give a true and fair view of our affairs as at 31st December 2017.

Again this year we have made a deficit over the year but there are a number of factors to take into account.

The drop in membership has eased from 8½% in 2016 to 1½% in 2017. Total membership for 2017 dropped to 861 from 875 the previous year. Home membership dropped from 829 to 796 whereas European membership doubled to 14 from 7 and world wide increased to 51 from 39. There is no intention to raise subscriptions which were last raised in 2013 as any increase would not bring in a huge amount and would probably have a negative effect on the finances.

As reported last year I expressed a hope that the Pay per view royalties would increase over the year. In fact they have increased by £6,000 to £10,350.

The one large expense has been on updating the Society's web site which has made it easier for new members to enrol and also there is the facility for pay per view.

As I have reported in previous years we are extremely fortunate to have a healthy reserve built up from the sale of our own publications in the early years of the society. The availability of so much information over the internet have rendered some of our publications redundant, e.g. our 1851 census booklets.

DERBYSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT for the year to 31st DECEMBER 2017

	2017	2016
	£	£
INCOME		
Subscriptions	12,631.66	14,114.22
Income Tax recovered through Gift Aid	1,975.82	2,151.95
Donations and Members Contributions	437.00	662.50
Sale of Publications	217.78	449.02
Interest on Investments	624.57	675.05
Postal Research	889.91	821.88
Pay per View	10,352.17	4,314.05
Meetings, Open Days, Coach Trips etc	100.00	
	<u>£27,228.91</u>	<u>£23,188.67</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Sundries	117.92	659.40
Stationery, Postages etc	1,372.18	760.73
Meetings, Open Days, Coach Trips etc	758.45	1,027.66
Journal	9,200.37	9,626.84
Reference Library	72.43	8.99
Insurance, Fees, Charges & Affiliation to FFHS	1,557.42	1,240.31
Equipment, Maintenance, including photocopier	89.99	75.48
Examining Accountant's Fee	450.00	430.00
Bridge Chapel House	13,196.82	13,900.82
Website	5,160.00	
	<u>£31,975.58</u>	<u>£27,730.23</u>
NET INCOME (DEFICIT) against EXPENDITURE for the year	<u>£(4,746.67)</u>	<u>£(4,541.56)</u>
 ACCUMULATED FUND		
Brought Forward	£65,069.28	£70,610.84
Add SURPLUS (DEFICIT) for the year, as above	£(4,746.67)	£(4,541.56)
Ddt Depreciation	£(1,000.00)	£(1,000.00)
ACCUMULATED FUND	<u>£59,322.61</u>	<u>£65,069.28</u>
Carried Forward		

DERBYSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st DECEMBER 2017

		2017 £	2016 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Furniture, Fittings and Equipment :			
Opening Net Book Value	1,958.11		2,958.11
Add Assets Purchased in year	904.46		0.00
Deduct Depreciation in year	1,000.00		1,000.00
Closing Net Book Value		<u>£1,862.57</u>	<u>£1,958.11</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Charities Official Investment Fund - Deposit account	12,450.77		18,409.80
Lloyds TSB Term Deposits	<u>40,000.00</u>	<u>52,450.77</u>	<u>40,000.00</u>
			58,409.80
Cash & Bank : Lloyds TSB Current Account	4,536.30		4,180.50
Floats in Hands of Officers	<u>350.00</u>	<u>4,886.30</u>	<u>350.00</u>
			4,530.50
Pay Pal		122.97	170.87
		<u>£57,460.04</u>	<u>£63,111.17</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>£59,322.61</u>	<u>£65,069.28</u>
REPRESENTED BY:			
ACCUMULATED FUND	Brought forward	65,069.28	70,610.86
ADD SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR		(5,746.67)	(5,541.58)
ACCUMULATED FUND	Carried forward	<u>£59,322.61</u>	<u>£65,069.28</u>

Michael Bagworth
Treasurer

ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

I have examined the foregoing financial statements, which are in accordance with the books maintained by the Society. In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the Society's affairs as at 31st December 2017

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

JOHN EDMUND BESTWICK

This article is thanks to John Lockett our memorial inscriptions co-ordinator. He is retyping and reorganising the MIs for the Society, some of which were done forty years or more ago, and while doing so he usually keeps an eye out for any soldiers that might be entered into our World War I database. This particular day he gave me a copy of an inscription taken from St James the Lesser in Derby – a church long since gone – which read:



*John Edmund [Jack]
Bestwick
Died Sep 2nd 1920 of
wounds received Aug
1918
Aged 25 years
Interred at Melbourne,
Australia*

He queried whether it was a soldier at all. After all he could have died of an accident, but the date was suspicious as was the fact

that it stated “wounds received”, used widely in reporting deaths during the War.

First I checked the Commonwealth War Graves Site, but not surprisingly there was nothing. Soldiers who died that late are not always found on the war graves site. So I started at the other end, so to speak, namely Australia, and accessed his war record.

John was born in Derbyshire and served an apprenticeship as a Midland Railway Coach Painter. On the 28 August 1913 he left London on the ship *Gee-long*, the passenger ship manifesto stating he was 18, a painter and travelling on his own. After nearly two months travelling he arrived in Melbourne on the 17 October 1913. From what I can gather he then worked as a farm hand.

On the 9 August 1915 John joined the 12th Reinforcements of the 6th Battalion Australian Army as Private 3684. Interestingly his records state he had originally been rejected on grounds of chest problems. Obviously the army

was anxious to get fighting men and after being re-examined he was found fit. How soon before that date, I wondered, had he been turned down?

John's army record shows a trail of hospital admissions. He was wounded in action in France on the 16 August 1916 and hadn't long been back in the trenches before he spent nearly a month in hospital "sick" in March/April 1917. Obviously not shot this time, but had he caught something in the trenches or was it the old chest trouble flaring up. His records don't state the reason. He was "sick" again from 6 May to the 4 June 1917 and hospitalised in France, returned to the trenches and was shot in the left hip on the 4 October 1917. This time it was serious enough for him to be sent home to England on a hospital ship and there he stayed until rejoining his battalion on 17 January 1918. There followed two bouts of "sickness", serious enough to put him in hospital in May 1918 for a fortnight and then only ten days later he was admitted again for a week until the 6 June.

John had one final effort. Having rejoined his battalion in June, he was shot in the head, buttock and left leg in September and sent to the King George Hospital in England. This time it was the end, he never returned to his battalion and was finally sent back to Australia on the 16 March 1919 though in what condition we shall never know.

The next mention of John is probate. He died on the 2 September 1920 at Morwell, Victoria, and was intestate. To my surprise his occupation was given as a miner. With his history of chest trouble and all his troubles in the war, I was not expecting such a hazardous occupation. He left £19.12s.6d, which reverted to the state as he was a bachelor. So was it his old chest trouble, an old war wound, or the unspecified "sickness", which had haunted him throughout the war, that finally caused his death.

I returned to John's early years, now I knew a bit more. He was baptised on 2 Jun 1895 at St Peter's Church, Belper, the second son of John Henry Bestwick and Lilian Ann [nee Dallman], who had married in 1892. Although baptised at Belper, John, and his elder brother, Harold, were both born at Cromford, where their father was a Midland Railway Canal Agent. The family moved to Measham where John Henry [dad] obviously was working at the Ashby Canal and where unfortunately he died in 1904, aged just 41. Their mother, Lilian, took both boys to live in Derby and both Harold and John worked at the railway, Harold as a Railway Coach Trimmer and John, as already mentioned, as a Wagon Painter. In 1913, as previously mentioned, John emigrated to Australia and one has to think it would be on account of his health.

So the next question was, “why didn’t Harold or his children inherit after John died?” Did John keep in touch with his mum and brother? Well we shall never know the answer to that one, but it would be very strange if they didn’t at least write to him when he was in hospital in England, even if they didn’t go to see him. And they must have known of his death to erect a plaque in St James Church.

Harold also went through the First World War, firstly as Private 26992 in the Notts and Derby Regiment, then as Private 515507 in the Labour Corps. He demobbed in 1919 with the British War Medal and Victory Medal and went back to his original job as a coach trimmer. He stayed unmarried until 1935 when he wed Florence Shields in Ashby de la Zouch, where he was living with his mother Lily. There seemed to be no children, which isn’t really surprising as Florence was in her fifties when they married. I expected to find them together in the 1939 Register, but Harold was with Lily and Florence was living in Castle Donington. So had they divorced? To be honest I don’t think so.

Living with Florence in 1939 was her daughter Violet, then in her 30s, but the head of the house was a Martha Dallman and what could be her son, John, a railway signalman. Dallman, if you recall, was Lilian’s maiden name so I would think Martha was a relation of Harold’s. Did his wife go to stay there because of the war? I would hardly think Ashby was in the route of the bombers.

And what happened to Lilian, Harold and Florence. Well Lilian was buried in Ashby on the 13 May 1946 aged 75 years. Harold died on the 18 Jun 1959 and left his money to be divided between Ernest William Miles, a solicitor’s clerk, and Violet Elizabeth Palmer, daughter of Florence. I can’t find a death for Florence at any time, so there are still questions. What turned out to be a page filler for the mag has turned into a puzzle I have yet to solve. But at least I know why an Australian soldier was once commemorated on a wall of a church in Derby.

Helen Betteridge [Editor]

Green Farm, Newbold and the Needhams.

(Green Farm, Newbold, Chesterfield, Derbyshire.)

"Remember those from whence we came."

(Chisholm Memorial, Glen Affric.)

Preamble

Since I am now the last surviving resident of the pre-war years at the farm it has been suggested by more than one person that it might be useful to give an account of life there for other generations since-who knows- someone else might be interested in the lives and the people who toiled there.

Occupants at the farm 1921 to 1963/4

1. Lewis Thomas Needham, my grandfather, who ran the farm from c.1920/21 until his death in 1969. He originally farmed at Ingmanthorpe Farm, Cutthorpe, now demolished and replaced by a hip roofed house. He was born at Abbey Farm, Lower Cutthorpe to a large family of basket makers.

2. Emily Needham, my grandmother, born neé Elliott from the Glasshouse, Barlow. (A family originally from Bretton). Her parents farmed at "The Farm" opposite Green Farm after leaving the Glasshouse which was a market Garden. She died in Penzance in 1953. She had had a stroke before, brought on by a life of hard work. She was one of six children.

3. William Needham, ("Willie"), the eldest son. He farmed at "The Farm," (opposite Green Farm) after his maternal grandfather gave up the tenancy there. He stayed until after the end of the war when he and his wife Mary divorced. At this time, the Chesterfield Borough Council had purchased the two adjoining farms for housing development. He then became an agricultural contractor and freelanced for local Councils building walls and laying hedges. An example of his work is the long stretch on the A6 west of Ashford in the Water. They had two children, Frankie, the eldest and William, "Billie" the youngest.

3. Owen Needham, second son, the "problem" son. He married Freda Furniss from Eastmoor who died tragically aged only 40 from a ruptured varicose vein one afternoon whilst her youngest son slept beside her in the kitchen at Walton House Farm. Strangely, she called at Green Farm that day and left the three eldest children at Green Farm for the afternoon, where we all played together.

My grandfather had set him up in business as a butcher, at Stonegravels on Sheffield Road, but he soon ran into financial trouble. He then obtained the tenancy of Walton Hall Farm, Walton where he operated until the end of the

war. He had also been given responsibility for running the farm now off Greenways close to the "Blue Stoops" public house on Orchards Way, (This farm had been earmarked for Lewis if and when he returned from the war). Unfortunately Owen had an obsession with recovering coal from Walton Wood and subsequently went bankrupt, losing both farms in the collapse. He ended up living in the "Royal Oak" at Upper Brampton co- habiting with Florence Harbidge, the licensee.

4. Winifred Needham, My mother was the only daughter. She was born in 1915 and died in 1998 aged 83 years. She married George Frederick Elliott of the Clay Cross Elliotts, not the Peak District Elliotts on my mother's side. They married in 1933. She left the farm in 1946.

5. Lewis Needham was the third son. He was called up at the start of the war having just reached enlistment age. He joined the Royal Military Police and spent the entire war in India. He returned in 1946 and spent the rest of his working life at Green Farm. He married Clarice Ward from Barlow who lost two brothers in the war. A nicer person you could not wish to meet. They had two sons, David and Clifford, the latter dying of 'flu at sixteen years old.

6. Colin Needham, the youngest son did not join the armed forces, being in a reserved occupation. He married Jessie Hancock from Hasland and had one son, Paul.

7. George Frederick Elliott, my father. He met my mother through Willie, a mutual interest in motorcycles bringing them together. They were both members of the North Derbyshire Motor Cycle Club. Due to difficulties at his home after his mother's death he had to leave and come and live at the farm after my grandmother offered him shelter. (I was conceived, it is said on Bolton Moor after a motorcycle trip to Blackpool and born in 1934!)



**Lewis Thomas and Emily
with Winifred, my mother
in the middle. On holiday
in Blackpool c 1923**

The House

The house was entered via the north (top) yard side with an enclosed paved area adjacent to the garden. Up the side of the house and fastened to the wall was a large productive cherry tree. Access was directly into the kitchen where there was a large scrubbed yellow pine table capable of holding twelve people. To the right was a large shallow slate sink and going round the room, the next big item was a huge copper shaped like a witches cauldron with provision for a fire under it. This was lit and the week's washing was boiled in it every Monday, when the domestic, Mrs Hardy from the village came to help. She fancied herself as a conversationalist and I do remember her persistently talking about "raytions" instead of "rations." Before washing could start on a Monday, my grandmother would have to scoop out the cockroaches which had fallen into the copper during the week and throw them onto the fire. It is also worth mentioning that there was often a cricket living somewhere around the hearth, which chirped all night in the summer months. There was a breeding colony of them in the walls of the boiler house where the steam was generated for sterilising milk churns and bottles. This was adjacent to the Dairy.

There had been running water at the farm installed when I was born, but no electricity. Lighting was by candles and paraffin lamps. Electric lighting was installed in the nineteen fifties.

Communication with the world was by a radio which required a battery which had to be charged up every few months. My grandfather would bring a newspaper back most days, "The Daily Express" and at the weekends, "The News of the World" and the "Empire News."

Next round the outside was the fireplace with side ovens where cooking for a dozen people seemed to be done with ease. Round to the next wall and the very large walk in pantry was reached. This served as a dairy when my grandfather first went there.

Coming round again and there was a door leading down to a huge cellar with a large stone table. It was in here that the slaughtered pigs (more of this later) were salted and preserved.

Going next to the kitchen door, a passage ran down the length of the house and turned left to the front door, which was rarely used except to access a small lawn. On the right was my mother's room and on the left was a vast dining room/parlour. Upstairs was accessed by a staircase at the end of the passage and opposite the front door. The front door was here with the house headstone above with the date 1678. I was always intrigued by the presence

of a skull and crossbones in the stone carving. I believe this was a good luck icon.

Upstairs were five bedrooms and a bathroom. The far room was mine and always hung with many hams. The shadows from these made it quite eerie at night by candlelight and going to bed as a child with a flickering candle was a challenging experience.

The Farm

The farm was some 55 acres in extent with a variable amount of adjacent land periodically additionally rented. It was primarily a dairying organisation delivering milk to the doorstep every day. The agricultural side was devoted to supplying the requirements of the 40 or so cows that were on the farm (give or take one or two.) There was a lot of grassland and a lesser amount of oats grown, usually two oat stacks were built and threshed in the two days annually when the thresher came.

The next product of the farm was eggs and some 800 hens were kept scattered at different points around the farm. There was a much smaller flock of ducks and always a minimum of 20 geese, often more and both of which were largely, but not completely, sold off at Christmas.

Finally, there was a piggery, but only a small number of pigs were kept and two of these were earmarked every Xmas for home consumption. The piggery was quite large and their cleanliness was impressive. On Saturday evenings, they were let out to have a wander round. They would always try and make for the coal heap where they loved crunching it up. Also on a Saturday evening, my grandfather would dress up in his best clothes and shined boots, pick up a walking stick and chain smoking a packet of W.D. & H.O. Wills Goldflake cigarettes, walk the whole of the farm.

The farm (now the Old House/Food Station or something similar) lay some hundreds of yards from the main road down a slightly bent gravelled trackway which ran down hill just to the right of Loundsley Green Road past a large pond (L shaped) on the right and the lower stackyard on the left which contained three large hen cotes and accommodation for the ducks and geese. The lane then turned right into the large (north) yard and also carried on to the (south) yard at the other side of the main house. In the middle of the north yard was a capped well. The division here gave an area which was the main vegetable garden with a rich black soil - the result of easy access to a huge manure heap situated in the south yard. (This manure heap was situated almost under my bedroom window, but I never suffered any ill effects from its proximity.)

Coming back to the main yard, there was one cowshed here with room for eight cows. Next to here was the pigsty and then the only lavatory for the house, 25 yards away from it. This lavatory had two seats and there was a drop of three feet and an opening at the back. Toilet paper was torn newspapers. Every three months, a Mr Hedge from Orwin's Row would come with a horse and cart and empty the faecal waste and take it away and dump it in the "Clayhole" (see later). Also in this area was the ash pit where ash from fires and house waste was dumped. This was set on fire periodically and the residue also carted away to "The Clayhole." (There was no refuse collection). The next buildings were turned at right angles and consisted of a workshop, large garage and store shed. Within this freestanding area was a coal shed and dog kennels. (Two dogs were always kept.) In the middle of the Yard of course was the capped well, in use until mid nineteen thirties.

Behind the sheds was a large orchard consisting of some twenty five to thirty trees. Dispersed in the orchard were more chicken sheds and duck sheds. The orchard ran down to the pond.

The author as a boy at leisure on the pond in 1944 with Zena, of who more will be heard later and an unhappy Rover. (This picture was staged by the "Derbyshire Times.")



The ground then rose slightly as the end of the house was reached and a roadway turned behind it. Here was situated the dairy, a large sterilisation and wash room with a huge steam chest that I could walk into. The steam was generated by an upright boiler in a boiler house adjacent to it. This was lit every day and was also used to heat the food for the pigs. The farm collected food scraps from all its milk customers and even places like the Odeon Cinema in town. All the scraps were mixed with bran and steam from the boiler was then bubbled through it to cook and sterilise everything. Next to the boiler room was a barn entrance for hay storage and the location of an Alfa Laval engine for milking the cows installed in 1943/44. Also in here was a large petrol engine with a gigantic flywheel to operate a belt driven saw outside in the upper stackyard. It was not often used since there was a lot of vibration from it. It was installed by my great uncle, George Elliott the young

brother of my maternal grandmother. He worked for Twiggs, who were engineers in Matlock. Beyond here was a byre for 6 cows and next to it was the stable, the home of "Tommy," a white carthorse and a brown one called Chestnut. My grandfather was greatly attached to them. I do possess a tapestry done by my mother to commemorate them.

There was then an entrance into the upper stack yard and the ground dropped to the left into the south yard. Here facing the house were the main cowsheds, the first contained 8 cows, the next 12 cows and one of 6 cows. Here was an entrance into the fields where the cows would exit the yard into the pasture. In the yard was a large water trough in which small trout, caught in the Holme Brook were kept to mature, though they would often jump out. To the left and now facing up the south yard, was a corrugated iron building housing the rest of the cows. It is interesting to note that every cow knew its stall. To the house side of the yard was a large manure heap, rather close to being under my bedroom window. The garden was full of Hollyhocks with a small lawn though otherwise, it was totally occupied by growing vegetables. Every cowshed had open windows to allow access for the many swallows that nested on the farm. They were useful in helping with the fly problem.

The immediate surroundings to the farm

The upper stack yard was limited by a spoil heap consisting of a gray clay material about 20 feet high and growing out of it was a monster ash tree. This spoil heap then ran northwards acting as a boundary to the orchard, its nature changing here to a coal based spoil only now about ten feet high with mature oak trees (in a line in it) and past the west end of the pond. Here there was a gap to allow a winter stream to run through. There were the remnants of a bridge here before the spoil heap now began to rise to about twenty five to thirty feet high. To the west was Mr Bargh's coalyard behind the spoil heap.

Standing on the top of the spoil heap (now close to Newbold Road) and looking eastwards was a large tunnel entrance, about ten feet high in the shape of half a diameter. This sloped down into the ground and it was possible to enter it and go downwards for about one hundred yards, before being stopped by a roof fall. it was lined with bricks. I was told that it ran down to Wallsend Cottages a mile or so away down Newbold Road. It now can be visualised as being in the road opposite Nos 51 and 52 Olde House Road and running beneath them.

To the east of the tunnel, being the ground over which the tunnel descended were many old grassed over small spoil heaps which if excavated were piles of cinders and slag. Perhaps these came from an earlier time. These old cin-

der heaps and old disturbed ground went down to the pond. Next we are back to the track down to the farm having completed the circuit. Willis Draper, had the corner field here, before the Back Lane. This was two hundred yards to the east of here and called Newbold Back Lane, (a tarmac road) which, after half a mile turned sharp left. At this point were a few cottages including one now demolished to make way for Loundsley Green Road and occupied by the Orwin family. Lionel the son was a distant cousin and a childhood best friend. One cottage was occupied by the Wheatcroft family, one by the Lilleyman's and one by the Kirtons who had five daughters. Where the road turned sharp left, a sunken bridleway ran in the opposite direction (parallel to the Farm across the nearest field to it). It was an ancient way called the Water Lane and at its deepest, was some eight feet below adjacent field level. The track ran all the way up to Cutthorpe, more or less in a straight line, but broken at Upper Newbold and also exiting at Upper Newbold adjacent to Chain Bar Cottages.

The Outer surroundings to the farm

Starting at Upper Newbold, at the exit of the Water Lane was a large area called the Furnace ground. This was a brownfield site, many acres in extent with evidence of excavations like bell pits and piles of cinders.

Just to mention also that next to the Furnace Ground at the Four Lane Ends side, was a mine called "The Tin Chimney." From here, clay was mined for use by Pearson's Pottery down on Whittington Moor, Chesterfield. Some coal was also got from here at one time judging by the spoil heaps. The western extremities of the farm, particularly Pearson's field were subject to regular collapses into the mine shafts from the mine. A lot of time was spent with the carthorses getting spoil to fill them in. Some of the shafts had old exits across the fields where there was an outcrop called the Clayhole.

Going down Newbold Road from Upper Newbold, back towards the farm entrance, on the left was Draycott's Farm, very small in acreage, and a row of cottages called Orwin's Row, built by George Orwin, the previous incumbent of Green Farm. After this, was the "Institute", now demolished which acted as a Community Centre for Newbold. It was run by a charming gentleman, a Mr Newbold, who wore spats even in summer. My uncles and father used to shoot at the air cooling vent on the roof with a .22 rifle. Apparently it used to make a "wheeeeeing" noise and would bring Mr Newbold, the manager, rushing out to find out what the noise was. Opposite here was that coal yard run at that time by one of the Bargh family.

Next to the Institute was a low lying semicircular area say with a radius of 20 yards, planted with trees. At the roadside here was a large attractive stone/

stucco water trough with running water. On its side was the legend **"Be ye therefore merciful."** The last time I saw it, after postwar development, it was down by Green Farm House - "The Old House." My mother said that it was put there in the first world war to water the soldiers horses as they passed through, since the pond there kept drying up. Immediately beyond this was the access to the semi detached farm occupied by Willis Draper on this side and adjoining the farm occupied by my uncle Willie (William Needham.) Willis Draper had five daughters, but they never ever spoke to me. Willis would occasionally threaten me for walking in his fields. He had a particularly attractive area to young children, a deep sandstone quarry behind his house. It is now the open space a few hundred yards away on the present housing estate.

We are now opposite the farm entrance again with its substantial entrance pillars. It is interesting to note that one of these pillars was fractured and toppled by Tommy the horse one day when his milk cart hit it. My grandfather was in the habit of having a drink in the village public houses at lunchtime after milk deliveries. He would then get in the cart, slap Tommy on the back-side and lie back in the cart. Tommy knew the way home, but on one occasion he cut the corner short and fractured one of the pillars in half.

Looking north, up the driveway to the Farm, (opposite Green Farm) were a grove of Horse Chestnut trees and then a long garden. In this garden, my Great grandmother used to keep bees. To the right was a stone wall some twelve - fifteen feet high over which was Newbold House, the home of Col. Broomhead. I believe that he was ex Indian Army and had a vast collection of butterflies from the sub-continent.

In the corner was an intriguing tree which I learned in later life was an Acacia. This of course was chopped down in the shocking and ignorant reconstruction of the area for the council estates that all had to make way for. Only a few of the Beech trees were spared and survived and are now in the grounds of the old people's home. The house itself was demolished. Behind the house was a vast orchard some of whose trees survived the development, but one by one, died off. Col. Broomhead died in c 1944 and the house was occupied for a while by a refugee scientist called Bondi who worked in the Coal Industry. He had a son who could speak German which was a novelty to the youth of the village.

Into the edge of the village now with a row of cottages on the right and the Wheatsheaf Inn was reached with a short lane immediately behind it running down to Littlemoor, ending opposite Dukes Drive. Here was a farm occupied by a branch of - I think the Mason Family. It was notable to me because

the high vaulted kitchen had swallows nesting in the rafters! The occupants of the Wheatsheaf were the Heap family and Mrs Heap was an amateur poetess and won a competition to name the "Moonrakers " public house at Upper Newbold which was built later on the Furnace ground.

Beyond there was the war memorial on grassy triangle and opposite was the "Nag's Head" run by Mrs Green. The memorial was subsequently moved to make way for road widening. Her husband was noted for his habit of saying "Why worry !" to just about everything that was said to him. Next to this pub was the access to the Eyre Chapel and some iron gates accessed a footpath that ran back down towards Newbold Back Lane after it had turned. These were called the Wishing Gates and were a pair about forty yards apart. A wish was supposed to be made while walking between the two gates.

The other side of this access on Newbold Road was Watson's Farm. Beyond this was an old lady who lived in a house called "The Hollies." She lived alone and as children, we would creep up to the window on dark evenings and watch the mice running around feeding on her kitchen table while she dozed in her chair.

The effective centre of the village is now reached with a few shops such as Frearson's Grocers where my father made his first foray into business and learned some hard lessons. Highfield Lane diverged here and on the corner was the "Cross Daggers" pub.

Now to return closer to the Farm. Going back along Newbold Road and turning into Newbold Back Lane, on the west side in the war, a hundred yards down was very large beech tree and under was a concrete flat roofed building without windows and about forty feet long and very solidly built (three bricks thick). This was built at the start of the war and was used by the military as a bomb store. I did occasionally manage to get in there by courtesy of the soldiers who came periodically to check the contents and the bombs which numbered hundreds. The beech tree died in 1970 and the bomb store had already been demolished by this time.

Where Newbold Back Lane took the sharp left turn, to the right was the start of the sunken bridleway called the Water Lane, mentioned earlier. (It was again ignorantly filled in by development and was a wildlife paradise.) This deep pathway ran for a few hundred yards and then rose to accommodate a trackway which ran out into the fields. The track that ran away from Green Farm began to slope down after several hundred yards, This gave way to a bank on the right which was full of old excavations and was called the Clay-hole and had underground connections to the Tin Chimney Pit, mostly col-

lapsed. This rough ground was a haven for rabbits and foxes. The trackway then carried on until a steep hill (The Hilly Fields) was reached which then ran down to the Holme Brook. This hill still exists as an open space, but the slope has been greatly modified to a more gentle incline. Even in the sixties, health and safety was rearing its ugly head!) This was called the "Hill 60" by the village children due to the high speeds that could be obtained when sledging in winter. The brook was thickly lined with trees as it meandered eastwards, its origin being above the Linacre Reservoirs. It teemed with fish, Sticklebacks, Redbreasts, Loach and Trout. Many of the latter were quite large and fairly easily caught by the procedure known as "tickling." The large trout may have originated in the ponds below Linacre.

The land across the river was farmed by the Gaunt family and here in their field hedges were the brushes and jumps which gave rise to the name: "Donkey Racecourse." Further east across the river were old pit tips, some quite large and occupied by a character who lived in a caravan there and who would fire at intruders with a catapult. For this reason, we as children never ventured further in that direction

Brian Elliott [Mem 380]

[Part 2 will appear in the September magazine]

Appearing in court at Chesterfield on Saturday with two badly discoloured eyes, Minnie Tennant, Palterton, asked for an order against her husband Thomas Tennant, a pit sinker employed at Glapwell, on the ground of persistent cruelty.

Applicant said she had been married to the defendant for eight years. He was frequently striking her, there was no sooner a word than there was a blow. He was always accusing her of gossiping, but there was no truth in the accusation. She had left him before, but had not summoned him.

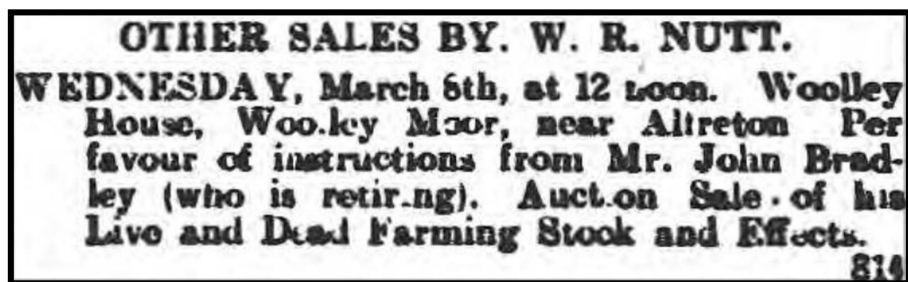
The Court Missioner [Mr Mayling] having failed to effect an amicable settlement, the Bench bound the defendant over in £5 for six months and adjourned the case for six months.

Applicant protested strongly that she would not go back and said she would rather die than do so. Eventually the Magistrates made an order for £1 a week and bound the defendant over.

Belper News, 18 May 1917

WOOLLEY HOUSE

The picture on the back of the March magazine prompted many of our readers to write in with further information on Woolley House. I am indebted, in the first case, to Maxwell Craven who informed me that Woolley House was a mid-Victorian model farm, built by the Ogston Estate, and farmed by the Hopkinson family in the 19th century, firstly Samuel and then Henry. It then passed to John Bradley and the following advertisement appeared in the Derbyshire Times of 8 February 1911.



At some point after this Woolley House was turned into a hydro and I have looked in vain for any adverts or similar to see what it was like. Apparently it took visitors all year round and had a small village store attached to it. How long the Hydro existed is uncertain, but it was eventually sold and divided up into six small cottages, the shop still remaining.

In 1958 the whole lot disappeared, replaced by a large body of water called the Ogston Reservoir. Along with Woolley House and the village shops, also destroyed were the blacksmiths, joiners, laundry, old sheep dip and Napoleon's Home, the local pub. Also swept away was Amber Valley Camp School which was built in 1939 to give 250 children from urban areas the benefit of having a month's education in rural surroundings. During the war it housed Derby School, evacuated from Derby.

The villagers were rehoused into council houses built in another local hamlet, Badger Lane, higher up in the valley. This became known as Woolley in the Moor and then just Woolley Moor.

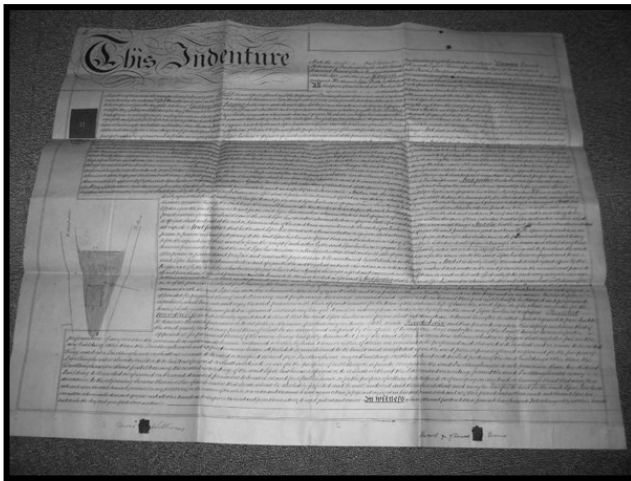
My thanks to everyone who took the trouble to contact me.

Welsh Ramblings

The title gives it away – we successfully moved and are now settled in to our new home just outside Porthmadog in North Wales. All the numerous boxes and crates were unpacked surprisingly quickly, and everything is now where we want it to be. That means I again have access to all my family history papers, which in turn means that I really should have made a start on following up the various loose ends that had to be packed away in Southampton – but, alas no. My main excuse is (to get in the Editor's good books!) that I have given priority to putting this article together to submit it in good time for the next magazine. However, to be honest, I have been side-tracked into following up a different angle of research – but at least that has given me something with which to start things off this time.

Following the completion of our move, the solicitor told us that he had the pre-registration deeds and documents for us to collect and so we duly went along to his office expecting to be handed a few bits of paper. But what he actually gave us was a big envelope, about 3-4 inches thick, stuffed full of papers. "Everything is recorded electronically now", he said, "so you can safely throw all this away if you want, but some of it you may find interesting". Well, I was intrigued enough to have a sort through the wad of papers and I was somewhat astonished to find a number of hand written legal documents, of which the earliest was dated 1866 and referred to the original lease of the land for building purposes.

It is a magnificent document, measuring approximately 29 inches by 24 inches,



es, beautifully written in wonderful legal jargon and with the wax seals, and sets out the terms under which the 377 square yards of land were leased from the owner of much of the land around here to a labourer for the purpose of building two "messuages or dwelling houses". There are some fourteen of these "Indentures" which

have allowed me to follow the assignments of the original lease and the eventual outright purchase of the two houses right through to 1914. And all the subsequent Conveyances are there too, so I can also follow the various sales right up until the previous owners – and now, of course, us. (The two separate houses were converted into one by the previous owners).

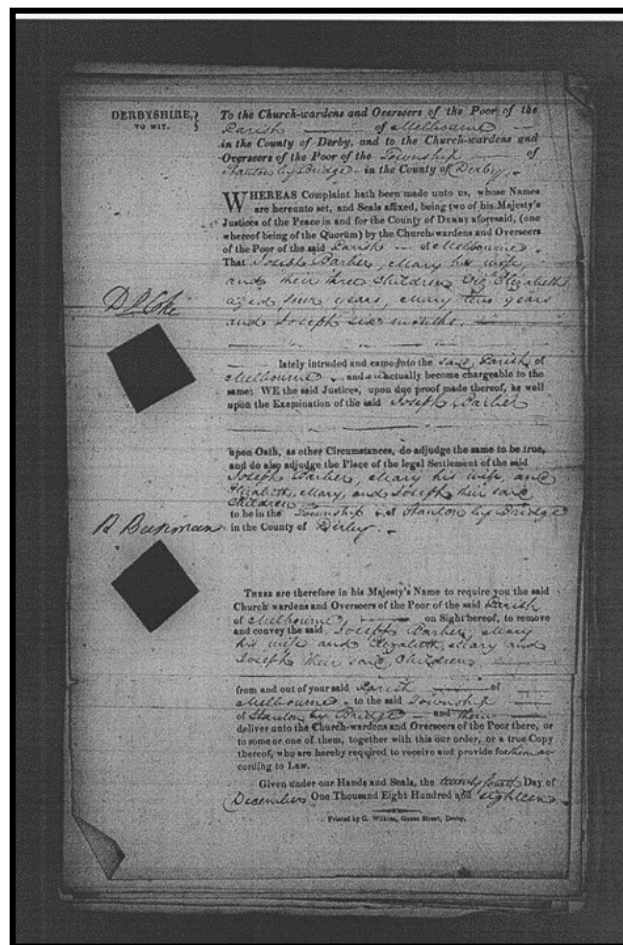
Not that this necessarily means I have a record of who has actually lived in the properties over the years, as the various leaseholders and owners may have had tenants in at one time or another. So, the next step was to interrogate the various census data from 1871 onwards. That proved to be more difficult than I envisaged. Even though it was a small village (even now, the population is only just over 2,000) and therefore only some 30-40 pages of documents for each census; and even though almost all the houses have a name and are recorded as such; a combination of the writing on the documents, variations on house names being used and, apparently, more than one house in various parts of the village having the same – or a very similar – name, it has been very frustrating trying to find the right properties.

1871 has so far drawn a blank. However, in 1881 I have found the two properties known as “Bryn golaue” and in one of them the head of the house is someone to whom the lease had been assigned four years earlier. Mind you; how he, his wife and their eight children aged 17 to 3 months, all fitted in to the house is a wonder. According to the leases, the original two houses measured 25’ x 19’ (on 207 square yards of land) and 17’ x 19’ (on 170 square yards of land). The heads of both houses were slate quarrymen, so it is a safe assumption that they travelled to work in the quarries in Blaenau Ffestiniog on the Festiniog Railway which runs through, and has a station in, the upper part of the village. (Ff is correct for the place and F is correct for the railway due to the Anglicisation of the place name in the railway’s original 1832 Act of Parliament). Interestingly, living in a neighbouring property in 1881 was somebody with the same name and occupation as the person who purchased both properties before his death in 1908. (He bought the lease of one of the properties at auction in 1894 for £35; purchasing the land and house from the landowner outright the following year for £21 5s). In his Will he left the two properties, one to each of his nieces – they were both in residence in the 1911 census.

All in all, a very interesting and unexpected variation on my research – and some more work still to do. Although it has no Derbyshire relevance, I hope it is of interest.

Right; back to more local matters. Last time, I mentioned my Barber ances-

tors in the Melbourne area (particularly Stanton-by-Bridge). My great-great-grandmother Mary Barber's parents were Joseph and Mary (nee Winfield) and her grandparents were Joseph and Hannah (nee Bailey). Her parents were married in April 6th 1812; Joseph having been christened in Melbourne in 1790. One of the contacts I made through Genes Reunited sent me a copy of a Removal Order for Joseph and Mary, dated December 24th 1818. That set me off on one of my searches for more information.



The Settlement Act (1795?) allowed for the removal from a parish, back to their place of settlement, of newcomers whom local justices deemed “likely to be chargeable” to the parish poor rates. Each parish was responsible to pay for the relief of its own poor. If the parish thought that the person was

likely to become a burden to the parish and did not have settlement rites (such as having worked in the parish for a year) then they could obtain a removal order.

The Order for Joseph and Mary was addressed to the:

“Church-wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Melbourne in the County of Derby, and to the Church-wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Township of Stanton by Bridge in the County of Derby”.

It went on to include the statement:

“WHEREAS Complaint hath been made unto us, ... That Joseph Barber, Mary his wife, and their three children Elizabeth aged four years, Mary two years and Joseph six months, lately intruded and came to the said Parish of Melbourne and did actually become chargeable to the same: We the said Justices, ... do adjudge the same to be true, and to also adjudge the Place of the legal Settlement of the said Joseph Barber, ... to be the Township of Stanton by Bridge in the County of Derby.”

And further:

“These are therefore in His Majesty’s Name to require you the said Church-wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish of Melbourne on Sight hereof to convey the said Joseph Barber, ... from out of your said Parish of Melbourne to the said Township of Stanton by Bridge and deliver unto the Church-wardens and Overseers of the Poor there, or to some or one of them, together with this our order... .”

On the reverse of the Order it is written:

“I hereby declare that I have removed the within named Joseph Barber, his Wife and Three children, agreeable to magistrates orders, to Robert Ward overseer of Stanton by Bridge on Saturday the 26 Dec 1818... .”

I have identified ten children of Joseph and Mary (and another child of Joseph’s) so I have another potential article to work on!

Mary’s grandparents Joseph and Hannah were married in Worthington in Leicestershire on September 4th 1785. The same contact who sent me a copy of the Removal Order also referred me to *“Melbourne 1820-1875: A Diary of the Various Occurrences Which Have Taken Place”* by the naturalist and to-

pographer John Joseph Biggs whose father apparently was born and resided for 88 years at Elms Farm in Kings Newton:

“Mar 7 1846. Old Joseph Barber died at Melbourne rather suddenly. Although in appearance he looked healthy as usual he seemed for some days previously to his death to have an idea he should not live for more than a week and he told people he should be buried by the next Sunday. He died the Saturday before that time – he was 81 years of age and worked under my grandfather and father at (Kings) Newton as day labourer for nearly 70 years who esteemed him highly for his straightforward, honest and industrious character – Buried March 12th.”

I always read Helen’s editorial with interest (again; keeping in her good books) and note that she is again asking for contributions of articles for the magazine. I do my best to send her pieces for her consideration for inclusion, but there will come a point when I am scraping the bottom of the proverbial barrel to find things to write about (some might say that I have already reached that point). One thing that occurred to me was that there must be many members, like myself, who have joined the Society in recent years and there must be a wealth of articles in the magazines that were issued before we subscribed which might be of interest to us. I wonder if there is merit in a “from the archives” section in the magazine? Presumably the Society holds all the back issues of the magazine; thinking some more (and this is easy for me to say – if I lived locally I would happily volunteer to do this) could there be an index of past articles which members could then request copies of? Okay; maybe that is a bit “pie in the sky” thinking, so I’ll get back to writing some more articles. *[Thanks Simon, working on it!!!! - Ed]*



Finally; another photograph from the Baker archives. This is of Bretby Hospital – the photo is undated, but I assume that it is from the 1950’s.

My father had a series of operations on his hand between the 1950's and early 1970's and I know that he was in Bretby hospital on one such occasion – before I was born, I think, so before 1960. His surgeon throughout this time was “Mr” Pulvertaft, after whom the Pulvertaft Hand Centre at the Royal Derby Hospital is named. Here's a bit of trivia for you – Dad's final operation was the amputation of the little finger on one hand (he had Dupuytren's contracture) and the offending digit was “pickled” to be used for teaching students! I wonder what became of that? (That's one thing we haven't got in our family archive!)

Before I forget, I must apologise to the person who contacted me regarding one of my “*Warners of Mickleover*” articles; I didn't respond at the time because my papers were packed away and now I find that I have inadvertently deleted the e-mail – so apologies to you!

And that's it for this time.

Simon Baker [Mem 7958]

Rrrrrrr	Numb. 477 6
The Daily Courant.	
Saturday, February 9. 1717.	
Whereas John Lees, born in or near Darby, Servant to Jeremiah Tasker at the King's-Arms Inn in Leaden-hall-Street, London. Run away from his said Master, on Thursday the 7th of this Instant February, about 6 in the Morning, and took away with him a pair of Black Breeches, with a Silver Watch and Chain, made by Tho. Tasker; two Silver Seals, one with a Coat of Arms 3 Lyons Rampant, the Crest a Boar's-Head issuing out of a Ducal Coronet, the other a Cypher Seal; one Gold Ring, the Poëie (O Lord us bleis with Happiness) besides a considerable Quantity of Money. He is aged about 23 Years, pretty tall and slender, his own black short curled Hair, walks badly, a swarthy Face, much Pock-broke. Whoever secures him, or the said Goods, shall have two Guineas Reward, and reasonable Charges, paid by his said Master.	

The above advert was sent in by David Purdy. Is he yours?

RESEARCH CENTRE AND LIBRARY



BRIDGE CHAPEL HOUSE DERBY

Acquisitions at 1 May 2018

Alderwasley:	The Lost House of Oakhurst
Cromford:	Around Cromford—Growing up between the Wars
Darley Abbey:	The Vanished Lock Up
Derby:	Meynell's House
	The Devonshire Hospital in Derby
	Derby Through its Streets [donated by Maxwell Craven]
	Derby at Work—People and Industries Through the Years [donated by Maxwell Craven]
	Secret Derby [donated by Maxwell Craven]
Glossop:	Glossop Hall
Hathersage:	Hathersage Remembers
Melbourne:	Derbyshire's Melbourne
Shirebrook:	Stuffynwood Hall
Pentrich:	The Revolution and the Strange Case of Oliver the Spy
Spondon:	Spondon House
Woolley Moor:	A Reservoir Takes Its Toll
Famous People:	
	Percy Thrower 1913-1988

Religion:

A Stage or Two beyond Christendom—Social History of the Church
Of England in Derbyshire
Derby's Quaker Links

World War One:

The Thankful Village of Bradbourne—the 18 Soldiers who Returned
We Will Remember Them—Those from Repton and Surrounding
District who died in World War I
Winged Warriors—Derbyshire Fighter Pilots in World War One

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

As explained in my editorial, I can no longer print names and addresses of new members without your permission because of the new data protection laws. However for the last quarter 27 new members have joined us, 24 from the UK and 3 from overseas. Thank you all very much, I hope you enjoy being a Derbyshire member and enjoy your magazines.

If you would like to contact any of these members I suggest looking at the members area of our website and check out the interests posted. Also for those members who have not posted any interests I would suggest doing so, that way other members can access your contact details and get in touch with you. Just go on to the website and follow the instructions for entering your interest names.

My apologies for all this nonsense, as usual with any Government all this is way over the top. If we can help in any way, let us know and we will do our best short of actually breaking the law. Who was it said "The Law is an Ass"? Whoever it was knew what he was talking about.

CORRECTION:

Mem No 8136 was entered in the March newsletter as Mr A. Andrews and should be Mr A. Adams. Apologies for that mistake.

Derbyshire Family History Society

June Quarter 2018



Not sure where this picture came from but it is of three vicars, all of St Alkmund Church, Derby. The gentleman on the left is the Rev Edward Henry Abney, vicar from 1841-1886. The one on the right is the Rev Dunkley and the one in the middle is unnamed. We know nothing of the latter two so if anyone can help.....?