

# *Derbyshire Family History Society*



Chelmorton  
Village

See Page 2

*Jun 2019*

*Issue 169*

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## **SOCIETY REFERENCE LIBRARY**

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

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

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

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

## **MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS**

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

## **ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS**

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

BRITISH ISLES per family [at one address] £15

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

### **PLEASE KEEP YOUR SOCIETY INFORMED!**

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

## **MEETINGS 2019**

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

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| 11 Jun | Terror from the Skies—Stephen Flinders                              |
| 9 Jul  | A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Pulpit—<br>Stephen Orchard |
| 10 Sep | Annoying Ancestors—Gay Evans  |
| 8 Oct  | Things that go Bump in the Night—Tony Waldron                       |
| 12 Nov | The Victorians and the Christmas Season—Danny Wells                 |
| 10 Dec | Christmas Social  |

### **Front Cover Picture—Chelmorton Village**

Four Buxton youths—John Wright, Charles Robinson, John Mycock and Harold Southern - spent the evening of Sunday April 22nd in Chelmorton, and after closing time proceeded to inflict as much injury on the inoffensive residents of that peaceful village as the limited intelligence then at their disposal could suggest. According to the story told by P C Wright, Charles Gould, Elizabeth Dawson and William Harrison, they visited one cottage after another, roused the inmates by their boisterous behaviour, threw stones at the doors, and in the case of Mr Gould forced an entrance and refused to quit until he picked up a gun [which was unloaded]. The constable had since counted 13 marks on Mr Gould’s door and the lock had also been strained. All the defendants said they were too drunk to know what they did.

The magistrates considered the charge against them—”malicious injury” - proved and ordered them each to pay a fine of 10s, and divide the costs and damages [totalling £2.2s.6d] between them.

*Derbyshire Times, 12 May 1900*

**[Aren’t you glad it isn’t today. Mr Gould would have been arrested and the four boys would have been treated to a holiday abroad at the taxpayers expense. Sometimes the good old days were definitely better]**

## **FROM THE EDITOR**

Welcome to the June issue of your magazine and I hope you all find something worthy of attention. As ever I have enjoyed putting it together, but there is always something which doesn't quite fit and which causes a few muttered imprecations. I just hope it has all been worth it.

May I draw your attention to the outing to Kew in September. Please join us, we always have a lovely day and it is really worth going just to look at their wonderful library and browse in their bookshop. Bear in mind you can order documents online before you go and they will be waiting for you when you arrive, a great saving of time. There are also refreshments available or you can take your own and sit in the comfortable café to eat them.

The report of the AGM is also featured this time. The Society is still holding its own, but our membership is falling and one wonders just how long we can keep going. If there is anyone out there who has a few hours to spare and would like to help us out, please get in contact. We would like to run an open day somewhere in Derby next year, any takers?

Anyone who would like to visit us [and we love to see you], please note that the flood defences seem to be in place and the workmen, vehicles and general chaos have moved farther down river to cause havoc elsewhere, so you should be able to get to us with little trouble. There is parking on our front and you don't need to book, just turn up after 10 o'clock on a Tuesday or Thursday. We don't have a bad record at knocking down our visitors' brick walls—mind you I have a couple of my own that are standing firm at the moment. Such as how can a lady die as a widow when her husband is still living [in the same village as well], and why does a census return inform me that a couple had 13 children and there are absolutely only 12 children born. Even the local registrar agrees with that last one and we are talking early 1900s here, so it shouldn't be impossible to solve, but so far it is. Then there is my great aunt whose birth wasn't registered at all, yet she certainly existed because I can remember her. Who says family history is easy?

Well that is all for this time. Keep your contributions coming and my best wishes for a hot and enjoyable summer for you all.

*Helen*

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## **DERBY MEETINGS**

**Jan 2019**

### **Talking Butts—Anthony Poulton-Smith**

Not a talk on “Bottoms” but the origin of the word “Butts”. Butts is a term that seems to be from folklore with a variety of meanings.

It could be a place name:

Butts Close, a park in Hitchin, Hertfordshire, England

Butts Ferry, a hand-operated pedestrian cable ferry in Exeter, Devon.

The Butts Ground, a former cricket ground in Coventry, Warwickshire.

Butts Junction, a former railway junction near Alton, Hampshire.

Butts Lane Halt railway station, a former station in Blowick, Southport, Merseyside

Butts Park Arena, a multi-use sports stadium in Coventry.

Butts Spur Line, an English former freight railway  
and our own The Butts Belper.

“Butts Wynd” is a walled alleyway leading to St Salvator's College, St Andrews Scotland.

Butts is a term in Archery and also the unploughed end of a field and the term has taken on various meanings over time.

Legend and folklore has lead us to believe things that might or nor be true (fact in fact is not fact). History has lots of examples:

King Arthur and Knights of the Round Table was accepted as true until investigations proved it to be false. There is no documentary evidence to prove his existence.

Robin Hood and his Merry Men, although stories thought to be true for years, have now been dismissed. Again there is no documentary evidence.

Richard III was depicted as cruel with a hump back, born with shoulder length hair and talons. It is now thought that his character was created by Shakespeare in order to improve the Tudors right to the throne. His skeletal remains show that although he had a slight curvature of the spine, he was not a hunchback.

Vikings did not wear horned helmets.

Thomas Edison was not the inventor of the light bulb but followed on with a better one.

The Wright Brothers were generally credited with inventing, building and flying the first aeroplane in 1903 but a hundred years earlier George Cayley constructed the original flying machine.

The “Trojan Horse” was now thought to be a battering ram or siege engine resembling a horse.

There were lots of other examples and who knows in many years to come perhaps “Harry Potter” will be thought to be true.

**Feb 2019**

**A Walk around Darley Abbey—Peter Nelson**

Peter took us on a virtual tour around Darley Abbey showing us the buildings remaining from the past and giving us an insight in to its history.

Darley Abbey now a suburb of Derby was initially the site of an Augustine monastery and later a mill village created by the Evans family.

In the 1100s money was given by Robert de Ferrers to St Helen's Priory Derby to establish a new religious house but no suitable location was found until Hugh, the Dean of Derby donated land at Little Darley. After the completion of the building many of the canons from St Helen's transferred to Darley and the priory became a hospital. Initially the Abbey flourished but eventually fell on hard times. It was surrendered for dissolution in 1538.

In the C17<sup>th</sup> and C18<sup>th</sup> a series of water powered mills were developed for corn, flint, leather and paper, on land between Darley St and the west bank of the river Derwent. Thomas Evans acquired land on the opposite bank for his cotton mill. They became known as “The Boar's Head Mills” after the family crest. The family over the years provided houses for its workers, schools for their children and a new church.



As we walked around we saw one of two remaining monastic buildings, the Abbey Pub, constructed in the C15<sup>th</sup> and thought to be part of the Abbot's residence. After the dissolution of the Abbey, the village was left without a church until 1819 when St Matthews was consecrated. Members of the Evans family were buried in the churchyard rather than the crypt, facing the mill instead of the normal east-west. We saw some of the worker's cottages, now restored and highly sought after. A row of flushing toilets were built opposite. There would have been allotments in the centre of the village and a section would have been allocated to each family. They were also provided with a milking cow



and blankets. At Whitsun a piece of calico was given to make clothes. St Matthews school built c1820 had accommodation for the schoolmaster and mistress in a wing at each end of the building and is now housing.



*The Abbey Pub*



*St Matthews School*

Our walk took us over the river via the toll bridge to the Mills that have been converted and used for a variety of businesses including a wedding venue and restaurant.



The walk continued through the park where the Old Hall used to stand. Samuel Evans bought the Hall and parkland in 1835 and it became the family's main residence. On the death of the last member of the Evans family, it was donated to the Derby Borough Council. The hall became the home of Central School in 1940.



Coinciding with the building of the first mill in 1782, Thomas Evans built their first family home, Darley House. This house also fell in to the hands of the Council and was demolished in 1931, followed in 1962 by the Hall. Allestree Hall and parkland, once the property of the Evans family, is also in Council hands. The Hall stands derelict destined for the same fate if a new owner is not found.

So our walk ended, without our feet feeling tired, with a cup of tea but in reality perhaps a visit to the Abbey Pub.

**Mar 2019**

**Derbyshire Associations for the Prosecution of Felons—Robert Mee**

This Association was set up by a group of middle-class citizens, at a time when local law consisted of unpaid Magistrates or Justice of the Peace and parish constables. Counties were left to run their own affairs. Any petty crime that occurred in Derbyshire in the late 1700s usually went unreported. It would often cost more to prosecute a criminal than the actual cost of the theft and an individual could not afford to undertake to do this. The rich could afford to prosecute and the poor probably didn't have anything worth stealing so it was down to the middle classes such as shopkeepers and farmers to sort things for themselves. To begin with contributions were only paid when there was a prosecution but later it was decided that a regular payment was to be made. The contributions gradually built up, so not only were they able to pay court costs but also put up rewards, pay for newspaper adverts and handbills, and pay for night patrols. Other people benefited from this scheme, solicitors gained extra work and licensed victuallers gained because their inns were used for the prosecutions. This all continued until the first police force was created and criminals, when caught, were prosecuted by the government. The Association continued for some years but with subtle changes. The cases became less serious, trespass and garden theft. The social side continued for some years, meeting for the AGM but Men Only does not suggest any frivolity.

Robert trawled through documents at Record Offices to unearth this information. You would expect Derbyshire records to be in Derbyshire but he found some documents in Cornwall.

Groups were set up all over Derbyshire, Belper, Dale Abbey, Swadincote and Gresley, Ashover, Chesterfield and many more. At its height there were over 100 groups. Sometimes there were account and minute books and other times just a single sheet of paper.

At Dale Abbey, members would meet each year for a Whitson Feast and a Michaelmas feast when a goose was the centrepiece; one year, three of the Michaelmas geese were stolen and the farmer, in defence of his property, was shot and wounded. Amusingly, the rewards offered reflected their view of the seriousness of the crime: £5 for the capture of the thieves and £10 for the safe return of the geese. These Associations could well have been the start of today's Insurance Companies.

The following is an advert placed by the Wirksworth Association. The list of names is those members subscribing to the Association.

Derby Mercury 20 Jan 1814

WIRKSWORTH ASSOCIATION

For Prosecution Felons.

NOTICE is hereby Given, that the following REWARDS will be paid by the Treasurer of this Association, on conviction of any Person or Persons who shall be concerned in committing any of the Offences hereunder mentioned, over and above the Rewards allowed by Act of Parliament.

For Murder, Burglary, or Highway Robbery	£5	5	0
For stealing any Horse, Mare Gelding, Bull, Cow, Ox Sheep, Lamb, or pig	£5	5	0
For robbing any Dwelling House, Shop, Warehouse, Out-house, Waggon, Cart, or Stall, if the value of the Property stolen shall amount to 5s. or upwards.	£2	2	0
If of less value than one shilling	£0	5	0
For stealing Poultry of any kind (except Game Cocks)	£1	1	0
For stealing, cutting down or destroying any Tree, Hedge, Gate, Stile, Post, Rail, or any kind of Fence	£1	1	0
For stealing or wilfully injuring any Carriage, or any Implements or Utensils of Husbandry	£0	10	6
For stealing Beans, Peas, Turnips, Potatoes, Cabbage, Grass, Hay, Straw, Clover, Corn, or any sort of Grain; or for robbing any Garden, in the Night	£1	1	0
In the Day	£0	10	6
For stealing Apples, Pears or any kind of Fruit, in the Night	£0	10	6
In the Day	£0	5	0
For stealing any Lead Ore, or stealing or wilfully damaging any kind of Mineral Implements or Utensils	£1	1	0
For wilfully damaging or destroying or letting off or taking Water from any Meer	£0	10	6
For any Larceny not mentioned above	£0	10	6

And Notice is hereby further Given,

That such of the Members as have not already renewed their Subscriptions for the year ensuing, must pay the same into the hands of the Treasurer on or before the 28th day of February next, otherwise they will be excluded. And that any Person resident in Wirksworth, or within four miles thereof, who may be desirous of becoming a Member of the said Association, may be admitted on payment of not less than seven shillings and sixpence to the Treasurer, within the time above mentioned.

By Order,

JAMES SWETTENHAM  
Clerk and Treasurer.  
Wirksworth, 10th Jan 1814

Charles Hurt, Wirksworth	Edward Haslam	Mr Henry Brown
Philip Gell	Thomas Foulk	Samuel Doxey, Bolchi??
John Toplis	George Pearson	Samuel Wright
Ralph Toplis	John Blackwall, Esq., Blackwall	John Frost
William Taylor	John Andrew	Miss Elizabeth Spencer
Simon Gaucher	Samuel Nuttall	Sarah Spencer
Anthony Goodwin	Jonathan Twigg	Mr James Shaw
Francis Green Goodwin	John Dakin	Charles Johnson, Callow
Rev. N. Hubbersty	Samuel Walker	Mrs H Gregory, Cromford
Robert Blackwall	Francis Walker	Mary Evans
James Swettenham	John Smedley	Mr German Wheatcroft
John Williamson	Joseph Johnson	Nathaniel Wheatcroft
Charles Wright	Edmund Johnson	R. Cresswell, Ideridghay
Thomas Armstrong	Joseph Wilshaw	J.N. James, Ireton Wood
Edward Griffin	Edmund Hodgkinson	Robert Allsop
Edward Wheatcroft	Mrs Sarah Page	John Renshaw, Kirk Ireton
Ditto for Meerbrook Sough	Dorothy Chawner	John Matkin, Kirk Ireton
Job Longdon	Jos Holbrook, Ashleyhay	Thomas Saxton, Lea
Samuel Harley	Thomas Taylor	J. Smith, Matlock Bath
Joseph Collinson	Thomas Cooper	I. Spencer, sen. Middleton
Thomas Collinson	David Dean, Alton	Isaac Spencer, jun.
John Byard	Mary Brace	Reuben Spencer
John Smith	William Fox	Mrs Elizabeth Woodhouse
Thomas Roebuck	Jasper Wager	Mr Gamaliel Hall
Thomas Marshall	Robert Simpson	Daniel Walker
Edward Jackson	B Gregory, Brassington	Stephen Hall, Middleton
William Bradshaw	Robert Bromley, Alderwasley	Samuel Brooks
John Wright	Thomas Doxey, Wigwell	Thomas Doxey, Wigwell
John Heap	Robert Wayne, Biggin	Nathaniel Bowmer
Mr Thomas Lomas	Mr Wm. Tipper, Wirksworth	David Gregory
Thomas Mather	Miss Frances Downing, Biggin	

RUTH BARBER

### HAVE YOU LOST HENRY?

St Alkmund's Register—29 Jun 1819

Henry [no other details entered] - *"After I had baptised this child I came to ask the nurse who brought it the names of the parents. She informed me that she knew neither, that the child was born in St Alkmund and carried to her in Alvaston in the night, but that she had heard the name of the father was GASKIN."*

## ROUND AND ABOUT

**FAMILYSEARCH CHANGES**—The London FamilySearch Centre, which currently operates at the National Archives, will close on Saturday 23 March 2019. However the National Archives has agreed to become a FamilySearch Affiliate Library and will provide continued access to all the digitised records that FamilySearch makes available. These include many which it is not possible to consult at home. FamilySearch volunteers will no longer be present at Kew, but otherwise the service will be much the same as that currently provided. Access to the records is free of charge but visitors to its site need a free FamilySearch account, which is easy to set up at any time.

**SHROPSHIRE FHS** is holding a family and local history fair at The Shirehall, Shrewsbury, on Saturday 1st June 2019 from 10am—4pm. Admission is £3 and there is free parking and disabled access. Shropshire FHS, visiting Family History Society and Local History Societies, plus Shropshire Archives, will be on hand to offer advice and assistance with your research. There are also commercial stalls offering a wide variety of goods and speakers giving talks in the Council Chamber. Go to [www.sfhs.org.uk](http://www.sfhs.org.uk) for further details.

**DFHS WEBSITE** Data is being put on our website, though it is a long and slow process. As well as getting someone to type it in, it then it has to be checked before being uploaded to our site. We are putting on burials from cemeteries and non conformist records at the moment., but if anyone has any other ideas what they would like to see available, please get in touch with us. If you can offer to oversee the transcribing as well, that would be a bonus.

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES** Finally please remember your society are running a day trip to the National Archives at Kew on the 14th September 2019. You can pay using the link on our website or contact Helena Coney, the trip organiser, by post [contact details at the front of this magazine].

As I have said so often it is a great day out, either researching at the National Archives or having a day out at Kew Gardens or places nearby. The cost is £20 and you will be delivered to the front door of the National Archives. Please think about going, we are running this trip by request, but if we have to cancel again because of lack of support, we probably won't bother in the future. Just remember not everything can be found on the computer. Come and have a good day out.

*She married a Mr Knowles ...  
or the unforeseen consequences of a DNA test*

Reader, I succumbed. On Black Friday 2018 I ordered a DNA kit from Ancestry. I hasten to add that it was the only item I purchased at that time of consumer frenzy. The reduced price gave me the incentive to do what I had been dithering about for a while. Having watched the recent TV programme on Channel 4 'Your Family Secrets Revealed' where every other participant who took a DNA test seemed to have exotic ancestors from foreign climes, I wondered what my results would show. I was doomed to disappointment as my forebears were firmly entrenched in the East Midlands, just as my 40 years' research has shown. At least it proved all that work was accurate!

What I did not expect to get from the test was any useful cousin matches, so I was very surprised to see a list of promising contacts. I decided to approach these very carefully, only choosing people whose trees were available and who regularly logged into the Ancestry site. One of them was a lady who is descended from my Harris family of Bolsover. Before emailing her I got the file out of the cupboard where it had languished since we moved to our present abode in 2004 and had a good look at the contents. It seemed I had not done any research on the line since the 1980s, when genealogy websites were just a distant dream and records were either on microfiche or film, or you had to look at the originals in record offices and libraries. At the time, I was only interested in going back, so I had never done a thorough study of the family coming forward into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It was the Christmas break, so I got stuck into the research, toggling between Ancestry and Findmypast and finding out a huge amount of fascinating information from the comfort of my armchair. How the times have changed!

My granny, Eliza Harris, born in Clay Cross in 1876, died in 1938 before I was born, and her husband Harry Cousin passed away when I was six, so I was never able to ask them any questions about the family. My mother was the youngest of five, born in 1920, and she didn't know a great deal about the Harris side either as both HER grandparents were long dead before she arrived on the scene. By the time I started to research the family tree in the late 1970s, the only sibling left to answer questions was my Auntie Ruby, born in 1909. As she stayed in Bolsover until the 1930s, she at least had been able to talk to her mother about the family. I am ashamed to say that the notes I took of our conversation are written on the back of an envelope (don't follow my example!) but although brief, they have turned out to be accurate and helped me no end in finding out about the fates of Eliza's six siblings and her half brother Tom.

I had previously traced the Harris line back to Warwickshire where they were silk weavers in the Coventry area who turned to coal mining when the silk industry collapsed in mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the 1870s William Harris, Eliza's father, moved to Derbyshire, to Clay Cross, where he met and married my great grandmother Emma Lake formerly Harrison, and my granny was born. The couple then went back to the mining village of Barnacle, Warwickshire and had five more children before returning to Stone Broom, Derbyshire where the youngest son was born. They moved to Bolsover when the pit opened in the early 1890s.

In 1895 William Harris died leaving his widow with a houseful of children. They were living at the Model Village in New Bolsover and it is possible that it was a tied house, adding to the difficulties. It was no surprise that in 1897 Emma married again. This is where the back of the envelope comes in handy, as it says '*remarried to a Mr Knowles*'. And indeed this was true! The notes also say Emma was a midwife, but I have not been able to substantiate it.

Emma Harris, widow, married Matthew Knowles, widower, on 6 June 1897 at Bolsover parish church. He was described as a labourer and each gave their residence as New Village, Bolsover. They both signed the register in an uneducated hand, and the witnesses were two of Eliza's children. In the 1901 census the household at 54 New Bolsover consisted of Matthew, now a 'blacksmith in colliery', aged 54, wife Emma, aged 50, and Harris stepsons Frederick, 17 and George, 14, both 'coal pit pony drivers', stepdaughter Emma aged 12 and stepson Alfred aged 9. Also resident was a one-year old step grandson William Harris, born Bolsover. The two older girls Eliza and Sarah were in service to the Cousin family of Bolsover, living in, and it turned out that Sarah was the mother of young William. A widowed Eliza Hudson completed the Knowles household, described as grandmother, so presumably Emma's mother.

It was at this stage that I remembered why the file had been consigned to the cupboard! Emma Harris, later Knowles, was one of my brick walls. She had masqueraded under at least four surnames, appeared to have lost her first husband in space, and could not be found in her stated birthplace. How I knocked down this particular obstacle thanks to the wonders of modern genealogical technology is not the subject of the present article. Work is still in progress and I will report back in due course.

I am now getting to the subject of this tale - Matthew Knowles - who is not related to me, but I just had to investigate him, nosiness being in the blood of a keen family historian. And the man my great grandmother had married turned out to have an interesting story!

Matthew was born in Leigh, Lancashire and baptized on 6 October 1845 in the parish church, the son of Matthew Knowles, a plasterer and his wife Hannah. I can't find the family in the 1851 census, but in 1861 he was still living at Leigh with his widowed father and a brother named Timothy and his wife Margaret and their baby son. Both father and son Timothy were plasterers. Matthew himself was aged 17 and described as an iron moulder's apprentice. Who knows what precipitated the move, but by 1865 Matthew was in Derby and marrying Elizabeth Dudley Broughton at St Michael's church. This was the right man as the father is given on the certificate as Matthew Knowles, plasterer. Matthew junior gave his occupation as labourer but when the couple's first child William was baptized on 24 November 1867 at Derby St Andrew's church, he was a machinist and the family was living at 23 Hope Street.

In the 1871 census of Litchurch, Derby, with Matthew now described as a 'striker iron at station', they are living at 18 Hulland Street with William and his baby sister Charlotte, aged 11 months, who was to die a few months later. Also with them was Elizabeth's widowed mother Charlotte Broughton, aged 62. Now whether or not the presence of his mother-in-law in the house had anything to do with it, but in 1874 Matthew enlisted in the Royal Marines Light Infantry Portsmouth Division. This he did in Bolton, presumably on a visit to his family in Lancashire. Why there? Why join the Marines at all? We shall never know, but the engagement lasted for 21 years until he was discharged in 1895.

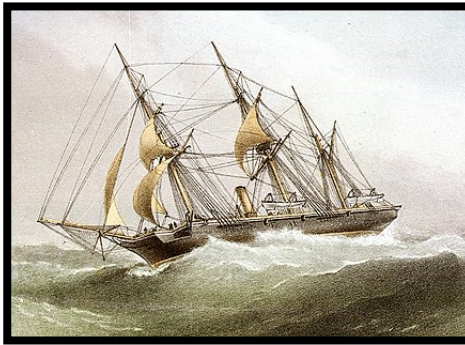
The wonderful thing is that the service records of Royal Marines have been digitized and are available on the National Archives website and also on Findmypast, except Matthew did not appear in the latter's indexes and I had to cough up £3.50 to get a download from TNA. It was worth the money, as not only does the document give a physical description of the man: 5 ft 6ins tall, fresh complexion, grey eyes and light brown hair, but it also names his next of kin: Mrs E Knowles whose address was 25 Castle Street, Derby. It provides his place and date of birth (Leigh, 30 January 1846, which must be a mistake as it post-dates his baptism) and occupation as 'striker', which I found by Googling is an iron worker who is not a full blacksmith. He must have been a strong man to hammer hot metal. Then comes the list of ships and divisions where he served and any training he received.

This is very interesting as Matthew spent some time at sea, but he was mostly living in barracks in Hampshire or on moored training ships. He never rose above the rank of private and his conduct was always very good or excellent. I am not sure if Matthew plied his trade as blacksmith during his military career. On naval vessels the role of Royal Marines, who were part of the army,



was routinely to ensure the safety of the ship's officers and to help maintain discipline in the crew. In war time they engaged the enemy.

*Wild Swan* is an example of a ship he served on and his name can be found listed on board in the 1881 census. It is easy to find out about naval ships on the internet and from Wikipedia I learned that *Wild Swan* was a steam powered Osprey class sloop of war, built by Robert Napier & Sons of Govan, Scotland, launched in January 1876 and commissioned into the Royal Navy that August. She was also rigged for sail.



*HMS Wild Swan*

Matthew served on the ship from September 1878 until October 1881. He saw action whilst on board as *Wild Swan* patrolled off the coast of Mozambique in 1880, operating against the slave trade. In early 1881, she assisted the Portuguese against slavers, landing a Portuguese force at Conducia Bay on 12 February 1881 and supporting them with gun and rocket fire. *Wild Swan* was well armed with two seven inch muzzle loading rifled guns, four 64 pound guns, four machine guns and one light gun. I am not sure that Matthew would have fired the guns although his service record shows some training in this field. Whatever Matthew's role was on the ship, it was certainly very different from being a labourer/blacksmith in Derby.

As Matthew was away in the marines for 21 years, one wonders how his marriage fared during this time. How often did he come home, if at all? I suspect that he had done a runner because in the 1881 census, whilst Matthew was on the high seas, his wife Elizabeth was still living in Derby at 1 Liversedge Place in St Peter's parish, with son William aged 13 and calling herself a widow. She was working in a lace factory and the young lad was earning his keep as a labourer on the Midland Railway. It is possible she thought that Matthew was dead because in 1891, when Elizabeth was a boarder in the house of Thomas Smith of Carrington Street, she says she was married, or is that what Mr Smith told the census enumerator? He had half a dozen other lodgers in residence and his knowledge of their private lives may have been sketchy. Elizabeth's occupation is what looks like 'art mender'. Whatever this was, in 1896 Elizabeth died in Derby at the age of 52.

Meanwhile husband Matthew had been discharged from the Marines a year earlier and must have gone to Bolsover to seek work at the pit. We will never

know if he visited his wife in Derby before she died. At Bolsover he would have met the recently widowed Emma Harris and as already noted, they wed in 1897.

What effect did this new husband have on the Harris offspring still at home? Matthew was rather different from all the colliers in the area. He had lived in the south of England for many years. Did he tell them tales of military service and life overseas, giving them ideas for their own future? Certainly George Harris joined the army in 1909 and his brother Fred emigrated to Canada a year later. The youngest, Alfred, went to London, married and spent the rest of his life there. The girls all stayed in Derbyshire, marrying local men and raising families of their own.

Alas Emma's final foray into matrimony did not last as she died of rheumatic fever in 1904 at the age of 52. The widowed Matthew did not wait long to find another bride and wed a widow, Mary Walker, formerly Boardman, at Bolsover church in 1906. This too was a short-lived marriage as Mary died in 1910 at the age of 70. In the 1911 census Matthew by then aged 66 but still working as a striker, was living at 8 Station Road, Chesterfield with a married step-daughter Teresa Cooper, aged 33 and her brother Arthur Walker, 35, an unmarried newsagent. Both siblings were born at Whittington, Derbys. The next and final record of Matthew is his death in 1915. And here ends my tale of Mr Knowles.

If I hadn't done the DNA test, it is highly unlikely that I would have revisited my research into the Harris family and discover not only much more about them, but also find this character who impinged on their lives for a short time, but who had a most intriguing background.

I am now in happy communication with my new-found Harris cousin, the DNA match, who is descended from my granny's younger brother Fred. My mum's siblings in Bolsover will have known the family well. Fred's life too was rather different. But it is not my story to tell.

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**THOMAS HENRY WILLIAMSON – end of the saga –**  
Dispelling the myth “in the old days people didn’t move far”

A little re-cap in case you didn’t read my other articles. Thomas was born on the 7 October 1879 in Roston, Derbyshire. He was illegitimate and his mother Annie moved/returned to Manchester and he was brought up by his grandmother Harriett WILLIAMSON nee HARRISON.

Still only a young boy, he was with my Great Grandfather Jabez WILLIAMSON when he died in 1896 of a diabetic coma. His Grandfather Joseph WILLIAMSON had already died in 1875 and for a while his Grandmother ran a shop in Roston. She remarried in 1882 to a John ROBERTS also from Roston (nr Norbury). Eventually, he began farming with his step-grandfather – dairy farming in Somersal Herbert, Dovedale and then Upper Tean, Checkley, Staffs.

He married Ellen Mary Augusta BIDDLE in 1900. On the 30<sup>th</sup> August 1912 they set sail on the SS Victorian to Canada, moving to North America and working as ‘Clerk in Holy Orders’ sponsored on the trip by Rev. FB PIERCE of Ramsor.

His wife Ellen seems to have made frequent trips back to Derbyshire but he never did. She died in Somersal in 1936 whilst staying with her sister. Thomas didn’t die until 1969. After Ellen’s death he had worked as a salesman and latterly a petrol pump attendant in a place called Paris, Bourbon County. I found out a little about his life there through being in contact with a Librarian in Paris. His new wife, the death notice in the newspaper, the church he attended etc. There ended his much travelled, varied life.

Then, recently I heard from the librarian again. She belonged to a FB group that posted up old pictures of the town enabling people to comment on them etc. She was very surprised one day to see a photo of Thomas posted. On the reverse of the photo it said T.H. Williamson. She got in contact with his second wife’s family to check that this was indeed him – they confirmed it was. So, although I thought the story had ended 2 years ago, here I had an added surprise! His photo - looking very much the American.



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## BURTON & ASHBY LIGHT RAILWAY

In spite of its title the B&ALR was in fact a tramway linking Burton on Trent to Ashby de la Zouch. It ran from 1906 to 1927 and was wholly owned by the Midland Railway. In some parts of the route it ran in competition with the MR train services but as it progressed through parts of south Derbyshire it covered the parts that no trains did. The route ran from Burton through Newhall, Swadlincote, Woodville and passed into Leicestershire at the appropriately named Boundary.



*A tram entering Newhall, travelling to Swadlincote—courtesy of Magic Attic*

The Headquarters of the B&ALR was at the specially built tram sheds and offices in Swadlincote and for the first time for many local folk they were able to access affordable public transport. Many local people worked on the B&ALR, The Magic Attic at Swadlincote has obtained a copy of the original employee register.

Over seventy pages this fascinating document lists everyone who was employed there in whatever

capacity. The register also shows the employees address, former employer, former occupation, date of birth and the reason for them leaving or their dismissal. The categories were managers, drivers (Carmen) conductors (Guards) or wartime conductresses, engine shed men, office staff, cleaners and permanent way gangs. When the system was dismantled in 1927 it even listed “pole pullers” The register also has a transcribed name index. Are any of your ancestors amongst them? Three volunteers at The Magic Attic have already found their ancestors in the register.

The “reason for leaving” column shows some gems, one man was dismissed for being too short, imagine that today! Another one for flat feet. Several were sacked for being drunk in charge of a tram or inebriated in charge of taking the fares. Its surprising how many emigrated to the USA or Canada. One unfortunate man was working on the permanent way gang chipping away at the trackside when a piece of tarmac hit him in the eye, he was taken to Burton hospital where he had his eye taken out and he was dismissed from

his work. After a couple of years living with his son at Linton and carrying out the job of a road sweeper he went back to the B&ALR to ask for a job. He was told "Sorry we are closing down next week" All this and more can be seen at The Magic Attic during opening hours.

In November 1919, tram No 19 ran backwards down Bearwood Hill at Burton and overturned at the bottom. The conductress, Lillian Parker was thrown out and died later in hospital of her injuries. She is shown in the register as being aged 26 living in Main Street Newhall being employed as a wartime emergency conductress. Her previous occupation was an insurance agent with the Refuge in Swadlincote. She obviously joined the B&ALR in war-time and subsequently lost her life. In July 2018, contractors repairing Burton Bridge uncovered some of the old tram tracks. One set of points was taken away to be stored and it is planned to make these points into a memorial to Lillian Parker and be erected at the foot of Bearwood in November 2019, one hundred years after the disaster. The register also shows that the tram driver, Charles Insley, resigned and never drove a tram again.



*A tram climbing up to  
Woodville  
- Courtesy of Magic Attic*

The B&ALR closed in 1927, it was unable to compete with local, cheaper buses and the general strike took away many passengers. There are several books written on the B&ALR which are well worth looking at. The Magic Attic also has a number of excellent glass plate negatives showing the B&ALR trams on various parts of the route. For more information on the B&ALR and other south Derbyshire historical items see the Magic Attic website, we are also on Facebook.

**[www.magicattic.org.uk](http://www.magicattic.org.uk)**

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## **Welsh Ramblings – More From the Papers**

The thud on the doormat this morning heralded the welcome arrival of DFHS 168, but also served as a reminder that I hadn't yet started on an article for issue 169!

Continuing with the theme from my article in the March issue, and before moving on to my family's brushes with the law, there are a few more examples of interesting things that I have found from the papers of yesteryear (courtesy of the online British Newspaper Archive) which have added to my understanding of my forebears and their families.

My maternal great-grandfather Joseph Warner's retirement was the subject of an article in the "*Derby Evening Telegraph*" on Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup> 1937 in which it was reported that he had been for 32 years foreman bricklayer on the maintenance staff at the County Asylum Hospital, Mickleover, and was presented with a wallet and notes from colleagues in the Concert Hall of the Hospital. He was, along with his wife Sarah, also the subject of an article in the same paper on Friday May 25<sup>th</sup> 1945, which reported on their golden wedding. Apparently, they had moved, just two months previously, from 47, Station Road in Mickleover to 43, Havenbault Lane – and Joseph had returned to work two years before because of the shortage of skilled men. On their wedding day they had been serenaded by the Mickleover Brass Band of which Joseph had been secretary for 40 years. He had won "hundreds" of prizes at horticultural shows in the county.

My paternal grandmother's nephew Bernard Ashby was mentioned in an article in the "*Derby Evening Telegraph*" on September 8<sup>th</sup> 1943 concerning the death of Derby engine driver Harry Goode, who was found lying on the line near platform 6 with his left leg severed. Bernard had been the fireman on a passenger engine driven by Goode which reached Leicester around 7pm, when Goode said he had left his head lamp at Derby by No. 4 water crane. They worked back as a light engine and at about 10.15 p.m., at Derby, Goode told him to put on the tender brake and remain there until he came back. Bernard waited until about 12.35 a.m., when someone told him that Goode had been killed.

Given the relative plethora of local newspapers in the latter part of the nineteenth century and early part of the next, it is not unusual to find very similar reports in two, or even three, publications. One example is an "Assault" in Mickleover in July 1894 which was reported in "*The Derby Mercury*", "*The Derby Daily Telegraph*" and "*The Nottingham Evening Post*". Job Warner, a

bricklayer, was summoned for violently assaulting William Radford – the quarrel was about a dog and it was alleged the defendant struck Radford a violent blow to the temple. The defendant admitted striking the blow, but claimed it was under intense provocation. Radford said he was returning from a walk when the defendant's dog commenced to quarrel with his dog and the defendant attempted to strike his dog but was so drunk that he could not see whose dog he was striking, and he hit his own before striking the witness. Warner alleged that Radford had a dangerous dog with him. Warner was fined 2s. 6d. and costs.

In November 1909, "*The Derby Daily Telegraph*" reported that Job Warner, a labourer, and Joseph Warner, his son, also a labourer, and both of Mickleover, were summoned for being guilty of violent behaviour in Main Street, Mickleover. Sergeant Mathews saw Samuel Bull and Job Warner fighting, and Joseph Warner was being held back from Bull, wanting to get at him because he said Bull had kicked his father. There was a lot of violent language used, and a great disturbance was created. Police Constable Hooker also gave evidence. The magistrates considered that Job Warner had had provocation and only fined him 1s. and the costs. The case against Joseph Warner was dismissed. Bull had a recent previous conviction and was fined 10s. and costs.

There was an article in "*The Derby Daily Telegraph*" of Friday March 20<sup>th</sup> 1903 that reported that Ephram Clark, stoker, of Mickleover, Joseph Warner, bricklayer, of Mickleover, John Henry Holbrook, joiner, of Mickleover, John Pym, labourer, of Mickleover, William Fram, joiner, of Mickleover, and Arthur Tilley, of the Spread Eagle Inn, were summoned by Frank Payne, the vaccination officer for the Burton-on-Trent Union, for not having their children vaccinated. None of the defendants appeared and Mr. Richardson (prosecuting on behalf of the vaccination officer) said that since the summons had been served, under Section 31 of the Vaccination Act of 1867, four of the defendants had had their children vaccinated (Warner, Pym, Tilley and Fram) and he asked that the cases against them might be withdrawn on their paying costs.

A certain William Storer, my maternal great-great-grandfather, of Mickleover also had several brushes with the law. It was reported in the "*Derbyshire Advertiser and Journal*" of November 5<sup>th</sup> 1858 that Storer had been summoned by John Wallis for assaulting him. (An almost identical article appeared in the "*Derby Mercury*").

*Complainant deposed that on the previous Friday he took his gun out with him and left it by the side of a tree on his own land.*

*When he returned it was gone. He went in search of it and seeing defendant on the Hon. and Rev. F. Curzon's land charged him with taking the gun. Defendant called him a liar. He said to defendant, "the gun is in your pocket now and you shall go no further till you give it to me." Defendant then threw a bag of acorns off his back, and seized witness by the collar and threw him down. They struggled together, and when they got up defendant threw the gun stock out of his pocket and broke it. Complainant then spoke to a number of fights which took place subsequently between himself and defendant. Cross-examined: The assault took place about half-past ten o'clock in the morning. I went into Mr. Radford's field to look at the cattle, but I did not leave my gun there: I left it in my own field. At the time the assault took place I was on trespass on land, but I was following my own property. Joseph Storer, a boy in the employ of complainant, and nephew of the defendant, and John Bailey, a farmer's son, gave corroborative evidence. Mr. Borough, for the defence, stated that Storer was employed by the Hon. and Rev., F. Curzon to look after the ground and take care of the game. Finding a gun in Mr. Radford's land he naturally enough took possession of it, and when Wallis called out to him he said "If you will go with me to my master I will give the gun up." Instead, however, of doing this, Wallis jumped over a hedge, seized him, and shook him like a tiger. The gun stock was broken in the struggle. He (Mr. Borough) should call witnesses to prove that Wallis was the aggressor and he thought the Bench, after hearing this testimony would come to the same conclusion. He submitted that the summons had only been taken out to prevent one issuing for trespass. Selina Storer said she was out in the fields with her father on the previous Friday morning when Wallis called out "Bring that gun back." Her father said "I have got a gun and if it is yours you must go with me to Mr. Curzon's for it." Wallis jumped over the hedge, caught hold of her father, and threw him down. Her father ordered her to fetch John Spencer, who was ploughing in an adjoining field, and he came along with Frederick Gregory, who was with him. Cross-examined: I don't know where the gun was found. My father pulled his coat and waistcoat off. They caught hold of each other together. After this they began again several times. Spencer and Gregory were also examined, but they only spoke to the second and third fights. The Bench said there had been a good deal of improper conduct on both sides, for there seemed to have been much unnecessary fighting about a matter which could*



*have easily been settled without, but they were of opinion that defendant committed the first assault, and they ordered him to pay the bare expenses, 12s 6d."*

The pair were in the County Court in Derby, before J.T. Cantrell, Esq., Judge, on November 15<sup>th</sup>, as reported in the "*Derby Mercury*". It was an action brought by Wallis against Storer, to recover the sum of £2 for damages for trespass and damages to his gun. After hearing the evidence, the Judge said he believed the defendant's statement that the stock of the gun was broken in the scuffle but that the defendant was not justified in taking away the gun, and by refusing to give it up he had brought the damages upon himself. Judgement was given for £1.

On September 25<sup>th</sup> 1863 the "*Derbyshire Advertiser and Journal*" reported that Storer had been summoned by his brother-in-law, Samuel Davenport, for an assault. They were advised by Dr. Peach to endeavour to settle the matter out of court, as entering into family disputes was very unpleasant for the magistrates. (The reference to William's brother-in-law helped me to identify the family of William's older sister Elizabeth).

Finally, "*The Derby Mercury*" of August 15<sup>th</sup> reported that Storer was summoned by William Harvey for assaulting him. Harvey said he was on land belonging to Mr. Moses Harvey, over which he had permission to shoot, when the defendant came up and collared him, and threw him down, and they struggled together. The defendant was fined 2s. 6d. and expenses of 10s. 6d. The Hon. and Rev. F. Curzon, whose servant the defendant was, paid the fine.

One of the most bizarre court cases that I have found a report on concerned a foot race between Nathaniel Smith and Samuel Thornhill in 1865 and the £20 wager deposited with John Redfern of the Vine, Mickleover. However, I'll save that until next time, when I will also look in more detail at William Storer.

I'll finish now with a couple of photographs.

My father was churchwarden at All Saints in Mickleover for many years from the late 1970's to the early 1990's. In the 1980's a stone slab adjacent to the outside wall of the chancel collapsed (contemporary reports suggested that the vergier, Bill Barker, fell through) revealing steps and a doorway. As churchwarden my father investigated, and beyond the door was a vault containing a number of coffins which were connected to the Newton family – once (I believe) major landowners in Mickleover and owners of Mickleover

Manor. I recall that a surviving member of the family was connected about the “discovery” and it was agreed that everything would be left as found and the vault re-sealed.



And finally; on the opposite page is a photograph of the Pastures Hospital, Mickleover, Home Guard from the 1940's. My grandfather Joseph Warner is on the extreme right of the front row and the bespectacled gentleman fourth from left in the second row might be Arthur Smith (son of the Nathaniel Smith, mentioned above) – I wonder if any readers can identify any other people in the group.

I am afraid I cannot recall who gave my mother this photograph, and therefore regret that I cannot give due acknowledgement)



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The business like way in which the Salvation Army proceed with their developments has received another illustration locally. Evidently they are of opinion that actions speak louder than words. Quite recently they have purchased four residences on the right hand side of Osmaston Road, between the Spot and Sacheverel Street, their intention being to pull them down and erect on the site a commodious Barracks. The cost of the property was £1200 and by the time the full scheme is completed, a sum of money which would deter many older religious bodies will be required.

*Derby Daily Telegraph, 30 Oct 1906*

## **Second Cousins**

There is a curious paradox in genealogical research: the more you know, the more you have to recognize the extent of your ignorance. Suppose you start with a good understanding of your grandparents and a desire to know more about your great-grandparents. You have four biographies and you will have to undertake extensive research to create the biographies of eight ancestors in the next generation. Fast forward a few years: you have a good understanding of your (128) 5G-grandparents and you face a total of 256 family research projects if you want to advance your biographies by a complete generation.

This is about where I was in autumn 2018. I had comprehensive data for a hundred of my 5G-grandparents and the remaining twenty-eight each presented significant (and possibly un-surmountable) problems. So, I decided to do something different! It occurred to me that research into the biography of my immediate contemporary relatives might constitute the basis for an easier project of relatively short duration.

I soon realized that this project would involve a totally different mind-set. Traditional genealogical research involves tracing a path backward in time; from child to parents to grandparents etc. When we look backward in time, we start with a known ancestor and we try to answer precisely two questions: Who was their mother? And who was their father? If we want to take the next step and look for their grandparents we have four similar questions. Two generations - six questions! If, on the other hand, we look forward in time, there are no such limits. We start with an ancestral couple and we are looking for potential grandchildren. Who knows how many children there are in each generation? We cannot have confidence that the list of grandchildren is definitive until we have checked all the people in the preceding two generations, determined whether married or not, and for each married ancestor, identified all of their children.

There are significant problems that arises when we research our own generation. We have grown accustomed to the fact that English genealogy is relatively easy for events that occur between 1837 and 1911; we accept that it gets progressively more difficult for earlier dates. It was a revelation to me that it also gets progressively more difficult for more recent events. People on ancestry's family trees are usually "private" if born after 1900. Census data, after 1911, is not public. There is one exception: the 1939 England and Wales Register was created as an official resource for assigning people to appropriate jobs during the war and is limited to name, address and date of birth. The

data was occasionally updated (with married names inserted in the margins for females who had been under 21 in 1939) presumably because, in the absence of a 1931 & 1941 census, the Register remained a vital resource for Home Office planning. On the other hand, making the document public forced them to provide a mechanism for the general public to request deletions (the hundred year rule). The public made limited use of this opportunity and the deleted records are very obviously blacked out with a wide, black marker pen so, even in the rare case of deletions, one can at least determine the size of the family. The GRO limits the availability of recent Birth Certificates (50 year rule; prior to 1968); Marriage Certificates (25 year rule; prior to 1993) and Death Certificates (25 year rule; prior to 1993). Wills, on the other hand, seem to be available right up to the present date. The FreeBMD limit is 1837 to 1993 for ALL searches. Unfortunately, I do not have access to the obituary columns of all the relevant newspapers - do newspapers still have obituary columns? On the other hand, social media might have facilitated my research but that is not part of my repertoire.

I grew up with regular visits to all of my uncles and aunts so I am very confident that my database of five first-cousins is complete. But my database showed only five second-cousins: I knew that there must be many more than that.

My second cousins are of my generation; they fall into four tribes: The great-grandchildren of:

- Walter Butt Jr. and Eunice Knowles - of Derby - married in 1875
- Joseph Bland and Margaret Maddison - of Peterborough - married in 1874
- Samuel Selby III and Elizabeth Snow - of Derby - married in 1861
- Luke Needham and Harriet Roome - of Derby - married in 1875

The hierarchy is complicated so I will review it briefly:

- Grandparent => Uncle or Aunt => First cousin.
- Great-grandparent => G-Uncle or Aunt => 1C1R => Second Cousin => 2C1R\*
- GG-grandparent => GG-Uncle or Aunt => 1C2R => 2C1R => Third Cousin.

N.B. The default "removal" is to a senior generation; the \* should be interpreted as indicating "removal" to a junior generation. Google "cousin remove Ramsey" for a picture!

It is perhaps counterintuitive to note that in searching for one's second-cousins, our grandparents, parents, uncles, aunts, and first cousins are totally irrelevant.

Take a math break! For a person in my generation (I am 82), our typical great-grandparents were raising families within the last three decades of the nineteenth century when families of five were the norm. Of these five, one is a grandparent (the progenitor of the first cousins); the other four are great-uncles and aunts (the progenitors of the second cousins). Take it as given that subsequent generations of twentieth century families generally had three children; so, we are looking at twelve progenitors in our parent's generation and thirty-six second cousins, in our own generation.

My original estimate was that this would be a relatively easy project of short duration. The final toll is that my total commitment has exceeded twenty hours a week over a period of four months. The expense has also far exceeded my original estimate: I have ordered 22 birth certificates; 26 marriage certificates; five death certificates and ten Wills. Many of these were ordered following up on false leads; a few involved duplicates that resolved ambiguities.

My methodology goes some way towards explaining the expense.

Previous research had given me the names and birthdates of all my great-uncles and aunts but I only had a well documented spouse for about half of them. My first step was to complete the biographies of my great uncles and aunts, their spouses and the birth dates and places of all of their children. Their children (my first cousins once removed) were almost all born between 1903 and 1928 (two were born before the turn of the century). At this point, I took stock of my progress and concluded that my list was indeed complete. I must amplify a bit on the definition of completeness. I assert here that I have taken each of the aforesaid great uncles and aunts; I have ascertained whether married or died-single and, if married, enumerated all of their children. If my research led me to three sons and a daughter and a subsequent document named all four of them in a will, I took this as a good indication that the family was completely defined.

My next step was to find the marriages of these 1C1R's (there were eighteen of them, mostly in the 1930 - 1950 range). Of course, these marriage records were the key that unlocked the path to their children, my second cousins.

In my previous research, I could safely restrict any online search to a single county - usually "Derbyshire". All of the direct ancestors on my mother's side of the family, back to my 5G grandparents, are known to have been born and died within Derbyshire. In the nineteenth century, we could be reasonably confident that children did not stray beyond a few parish boundaries; in the twentieth century, children moved within and beyond the continent of their

birth. Luckily, my family remained surprisingly local for two more generations. For the eighteen in the generation of my 1C1R's (my parent's generation), only three were born and only four were married out of Derbyshire.

My research was also facilitated by the fact that my second cousins were born in the 1930-1950 range (within the decade subsequent to the marriage of their parents), which is well within the limits of the fifty year rule. In fact, Marriage and Birth records on freeBMD were my primary resource. Having found a plausible spouse (based on date range & location), I could search for all births recorded in a given date/place range and having surname XXX and mother's surname YYY. This works well so long as the surnames are relatively rare. If both surnames are relatively common, the ambiguities can be overwhelming. In such cases, the original Birth Certificate is only way to determine the full name and profession of the father and the only way to resolve the ambiguity.

At some point, in December 2018, I felt confident that I had the correct parentage and birth date for twenty-one second cousins and I was sure that that was the final count. But I was not content to leave it at that. I wanted to know more about the biographies and survival rate of my contemporary cousins. The search for their respective marriages was the initial challenge. In the relevant time frame, people had become increasingly mobile. Of my twenty-one second cousins, only two were born out of Derbyshire but of their children, only six of 48 were born within the county. There is an enormous penalty paid if one has to make a nationwide search; for example, David Butt is not a common name but a freeBMD nationwide search for David Butt marriages between 1960 and 1980 gives me four candidates. Most of my cousins had names sufficiently common that there were dozens of candidates. Whenever I found a plausible marriage, I ordered copies of marriage certificates (at £10). I think I scored about 50%. Marriage certificates also provide information not available online; father's name and profession are often required in order to resolve ambiguities; names of witnesses are often relevant. The home addresses and religion can be helpful.

Death certificates of their parents also helped to resolve ambiguities by providing addresses and the name of the informant (often a married daughter). Death dates are a challenge; most of us either died recently (not available because of the 25 year limitation) or are still alive! Wills were also useful, legacies to named grandchildren are a god-send.

Electoral Registers were also very useful. The list of registered voters is published annually. For the purposes of the Register, England is divided into Parliamentary Divisions (about five per county) and subdivided by Parish, Street

and House Number. All the eligible voters at that address are listed by Last Name and Given-names. For the London area, Ancestry has traditionally given us access to the image records from some Parliamentary Divisions and for some years. Recently, Ancestry has published data from a wider geographic range but with a different format. The image is no longer available: the data comprises Full Name; Birth Date Range; Residence Date Range & Address. The Residence Date Range is difficult to interpret; it certainly does not imply that the named individual moved into to that residence at the begin-date and out at the end-date. Some records are obviously contradictory. One of my ancestors shows up with two overlapping date ranges: "2003-2009 at address #1" & "2007-2009 at address #2". The interpretation is clear (but only if you approach the matter as a computer programmer with extensive debugging experience). The key is that in 2007, my ancestor moved to a different address IN THE SAME PARISH. The computer only had access to records starting with 2003; it began a traditional database search and found a new 2003/person/address combination and followed her in the same parish until 2009. Create summary record #1. The computer kept on looking and found a new 2007/person/address combination and followed her in the same parish until 2009. Create Record #2. So, the date range should be interpreted as applying only to the PARISH, not necessarily to the exact address.

192.com provides access to the registers (only years 2002-2017 cost about £1 per record) but I have not used it yet.

### **Summary**

The project was conducted almost entirely using on-line resources and the methodology outlined above. There were two minor exceptions: one of my second cousins had a web site - found by a google search; another cousin was contacted through a public tree on ancestry.

For each generation (& the next) I had to convince myself that none of their children were omitted so I should try to justify my confidence in achieving that goal. I have read many family histories where the phrase "died without issue" indicates lack of effort on the part of the researcher rather than a statement of fact. In my case, it really is an affirmation that I have great confidence in my results. Some cousins died before they were eighteen; some ladies married in their late forties (or later); some died as spinsters. Married couples died childless. In all cases, I searched diligently for missing children. Wills were a key to validating the existence or absence of children (and grandchildren).

The privacy limitations are an obvious handicap to research in ones own generation. I am eighty: for anyone younger, these obstacles would present an



even greater challenge. Privacy considerations also apply to the publication of my research. My second cousins are, by definition, of my generation. I am still alive and I am pretty sure that I am not the only one of my generation to be so. A quick head count suggests that ten of my second cousins almost certainly survived until after 2010 and of these, seven were recently reported as being alive (as of 1 January 2019). Only two have confirmed death records.

The remaining nine are "status unknown". The author has a database and associated paper documentation covering all twenty-one of his second cousins and their 48 children but in consultation with the editor, we have agreed that it would be an invasion of privacy to publish the details.

It should come as no surprise that we all may have second cousins of whose existence we are totally unaware. In my case, 16 of the 21. Most of them will have surnames totally unfamiliar to us. In my case, only four of the 21 carried the same surname as one or other of my four grandparents.

This leads to the inevitable question: how difficult would it be to make a comprehensive list of my third (& fourth??) cousins? I extend the logic of my "math break" paragraph and postulate typical families of six in the generations of both my 2G and 3G grandparents. This suggests that a typical person in my generation would have 270 ( $5 \times 6 \times 3 \times 3$ ) third cousins and 1620 ( $5 \times 6 \times 6 \times 3 \times 3$ ) fourth cousins - I do not plan to embark on either project! If my son were to go looking for his third cousins, he would already be half way there. I already have a list of the forty-eight children of my second cousins, who are his third cousins on his father's side. There would be a similar count on his mother's side.

The author has a database and associated paper documentation covering all twenty-one of his second cousins and their 48 children but in consultation with the editor, we have agreed that it would be an invasion of privacy to publish the details.

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## DERBYSHIRE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL CHANGES IN CARE

### **Changing Aspects of Medical Care**

In 1877 children's doctors would expect to meet the severe – now virtually unknown – complications of the common infections. Diphtheria, measles, enteritis and whooping cough were frequent causes of death and respiratory diseases headed the mortality list of that year. These diseases would hit the malnourished child the hardest and, indeed, malnutrition was common in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Chronic diseases accounted for a lot of the hospital's work; rheumatism, tuberculosis, rickets, abscesses, nephritis, osteomyelitis, were all part of a day's work for a physician and surgeon of the time. Accidents seem to have been as common then as now and infective complications and deformities were feared. Diagnostic tests were very limited as X-rays had not been discovered at this time, so treatment was mainly symptomatic. A common prescription was simply bed rest. Exciting advances in the field of antiseptics meant that surgery could be undertaken more safely, whilst the developments of anaesthesia extended the surgeons' scope.

During the second World War there dawned the antibiotic era that was to dramatically change paediatric practice. The early sulphonamides were used in the hospital. They looked like brick dust and were very difficult to mix. Penicillin was first used in the 1940s; it was kept in a peculiar looking bottle on sister's desk and was used sparingly as it was so scarce. The first child on whom it was used had an empyema [a pocket of pus that forms in the pleural cavity]. By now blood transfusions were used – again rarely – and the principles of fluid therapy more widely understood. Intravenous fluids were seldom given. At this time chronic ear infections and mastoiditis were common. Tuberculosis was treated by rest and fresh air, special nursing huts being constructed for the purpose. Parents used to give their children goats milk to drink, as it was thought that they would then be less likely to contract the disease. Vermin, scabies and impetigo added to the spice of life. By now a small Pathology Laboratory had been constructed and an X-ray department.

In the years following the War, immunisation, improved social conditions and antibiotics made rheumatic fever, chorea and tuberculous meningitis rare. On the other hand asthma and allergy, rarely diagnosed in the 1940s, were seen in nearly one in six school children. Accidents still occurred but poisoning by drugs or household cleaners was a new phenomenon. Children have always been neglected and beaten, but paediatricians seized the initiative to try and prevent child abuse. Derby indeed had a national reputation in this field. Special clinics are now held for kidney disease, diabetes, cancer thera-

py and coeliac disease; most of these would be untreated, indeed unknown, in 1877. The emotional needs and disorders of children are more widely recognised and treated. Rehabilitation and physiotherapy techniques are used for children with physical handicap – from birth or accident – and comprehensive assessment of the handicapped child is undertaken. Pathology and X-ray services have become increasingly sophisticated and modern techniques of intensive care help to save lives.

Lives for children with disease will undoubtedly carry on improving with transplantations and artificial organs making an impact. Yet the diseases of 1877 have still not entirely disappeared and dietary deficiencies are still common.

### **TRAINING OF NURSES**

No formal training existed for nurses prior to 1926. However successful probationers received five certificates to demonstrate their proficiency, covering Conduct, Medical Training, Surgical Training, Theatre and Out-Patient Department. The Ward Sister taught the practical side of nursing, while the Matron and visiting General Practitioners gave a few lectures. A local District Nurse also helped to teach the probationers.

After State Examinations were introduced in 1926 trainees had a syllabus provided by the General Nursing Council giving the guidelines for their education. Each year a few took the Registered Sick Children's Nurse examination. Previously the R.S.C.N. Registration had been granted by virtue of experience in hospitals and good reports from Matrons.

A tutor was appointed many years later who combined her duties with those of the Assistant Matron. A more organised training was provided with lectures and demonstrations given in a small classroom in the Nurses' Home. Physicians and Surgeons gave regular lectures which had to be attended in the nurses' off-duty time.

There were strict rules regarding the probationers and they all had to live at the hospital and were checked in at meal times. A very low salary was paid to the trainees out of which they had to buy textbooks, stockings, shoes and their watch. They did not pay anything for room and board, however.

A Tutor, whose sole responsibility was to teach the nurses, was appointed in 1945. Four years later two adjoining houses [endowment properties] were converted into a Sister's Home with a Preliminary Training School for Nurses on the ground floor. The trainees at that time began their career in nursing immediately, being assigned to wards from the first day.

The three year period of training for the R.S.C.N. certificate included lectures by Medical and Tutorial staff geared to integrate theoretical instruction and practical experience. The trainees were gradually introduced into the ward environment during their eight week preliminary course. Instruction in medical and surgical nursing followed. The training was concluded with a one-week Integration Course prior to the State Final Examinations. This scheme continued at the hospital until 1963, when the General Nursing Council recommended that Student Nurses should be seconded to Birmingham Children's Hospital for one year of their training to gain a broader experience.

A thirteen month Post Registration Scheme, open to State Registered Nurses replaced the three-year course, and was introduced in 1971. This led to the Registered Sick Children's Nurse certificate. A two year training for State Enrolled Nurses with a paediatric bias was also begun in the same year.

From 1974, tuition for Pupil Nurses was given at the Derby School of Nursing, with study days continuing at the hospital. The hospital now provides a wide range of experience through the variety of specialties available.

#### **LEAGUE OF FRIENDS**

The League was formed on 17 October 1956 to provide amenities for both patients and staff. Fund raising activities by the League have been mainly responsible for a steady flow of money, but donations from firms and individuals have also helped to swell the funds.

In 1959 it was decided to introduce a tea-bar at the outpatients department of the hospital in order to provide the facility of a drink and biscuit at '*very reasonable charges*', while awaiting their turn to see the doctors. The profit in those days amounted to nearly £1 per week.

The League worked in close liaison with the hospital staffs and Matrons were co-opted on to the Committee through the years, in order to keep the League informed of requirements. Many dignitaries, lords, ladies, mayors, actors, etc., have been invited to open bazaars, garden fetes, etc, and have always been well supported by the general public.

The North Street site saw many facilities and projects provided by the League:

- A day room where children able to leave the wards could play
- A nurses' rest room
- Cubicle curtaining for most of the wards
- Christmas toys, if needed
- A portable electric organ for use during singing in the wards

A film projector and equipment for the purpose of instructing nursing staff and for film shows for the children  
A parents' rest room  
An overnight accommodation room for parents equipped with a small kitchenette  
A substantial contribution towards providing a Mother and Baby Unit  
An incubator was paid for by money donated by the Derby Round Table, the balance being made up by the League.  
Funds to send children of poor circumstances on a recuperative holiday or a short stay in a home out of town. This was always on application from the Medical Social Worker.  
Newspapers, periodicals and medical publications for resident medical staff.  
A Speaking Doll for the Speech Therapy Department.  
Furnishing of the view room chapel.  
Video X-Ray equipment.

*Helen Betteridge*

### **TERRIBLE FAMILY HISTORY Is it Yours?**

The following is the family history of a man called Jukes in the United States, who was a hard drinker, and the story of whose descendants has been carefully investigated. Through his excesses Max Jukes became blind. Many of his descendants through two generations were also blind, and a large number of them inherited his intemperance. One of the most notorious of his descendants was a woman called Margaret, of whose offspring Richard L. Dugdale writes "*In tracing the genealogies of 540 persons who descended in seven generations from this degraded woman, and 169 who were related by marriage or cohabitation, 280 were adult paupers and 140 were criminals and offenders of the worst sort, guilty of seven murders, theft, highway robbery and nearly every other offence known in the calendar of crime.*" He estimated that the cost to the public of supporting this family of drunkards, criminals and paupers was 1,308,000 dollars.

*Belper News, 29 Jan 1904*

## Geographical Mobility of Derbyshire Families

A 2017 Ancestry.com survey indicated that 51 % live in another part of the country to where they were born, with the average distance being 99 miles away. This compares to their parents' generation, which were more likely to live within five miles from where they grew up. As one traces family trees, it is interesting to note how geographical mobility has changes in the current couple of generations.

When I was born in Derby in 1959, I was another in an ancestral line of Shorthoses born within the same thirty mile triangle in the Trent/Derwent valley since another Nicholas Shorthose married in Repton in 1596. However, my son was born in Puerto Rico. This transition from family concentration to dispersal is indicated by the distribution of surnames. At the end of nineteenth century, my researched families were still concentrated in Derbyshire and Staffordshire. In 1891, 80% of Shorthoses and Steathams in England and Wales were in these two counties. In the 1939 Register of England & Wales, 75 of the 152 Shorthoses lived in these counties. In 1891, 100% of Neaums were in Derbyshire.

There were civil constraints on geographical mobility. The parish was the basic unit of local government, which administered both the statutory poor law and private philanthropic schemes. The Poor Relief Act 1662 was to establish the parish to which a person belonged (i.e. his/her place of "settlement"), and hence clarify which parish was responsible for him should he become in need of Poor Relief (or "chargeable" to the parish poor rates). This was the first occasion when a document proving domicile became statutory: these were called "settlement certificates". After 1662, if a man left his settled parish to move elsewhere, he had to take his Settlement Certificate, which guaranteed that his home parish would pay for his "removal" costs (from the host parish) back to his home if he needed poor relief. As parishes were often unwilling to issue such certificates people often stayed where they were, knowing that in an emergency they would be entitled to their parish's poor rate.

The 1662 Act stipulated that if a poor person remained in the parish for 40 days of undisturbed residency, he could acquire "settlement rights" in that parish. However, within those 40 days, upon any local complaint, two JPs could remove the man and return him to his home parish. As a result, parish bosses frequently dispatched their poor to other parishes, with instructions to remain hidden for forty days before revealing themselves. This loophole was closed with the 1685 act which required new arrivals to register with parish

authorities. But sympathetic parish officers often hid the registration. As a result, the law was further tightened in 1692 and parish officers were obliged to publicly publish arrival registrations in writing in the local church Sunday circular, and read to the congregation. The Removal Act 1795 was an amendment to the Settlement Act of 1662 and stated that a 'non settled' person could not be removed from a parish unless they applied for relief and had become "chargeable".

In the eighteenth century, there two foundational changes which led to geographical mobility in Derbyshire. Under the open fields system, the landless rural poor had the historic right to graze animals and peasants did not need to own the land to have to use of it. This system had been the prevalent basis of agricultural since the Middle Ages. The fields were divided into furlongs and strips and allocated to each villager. In the East Midlands, enclosure of common land had begun at the beginning of seventeenth century. Before 1750, the Private Act was merely an alternative to a Chancery degree recognizing a private agreement where a lord of the manor had bought other proprietors to consolidate his estate. The motivation was usual to increase their social and landowning position. The enclosed lands were converted to grass.

After 1750, the pace of enclosure accelerated and motivation changed. With rising grain prices, freeholders sought to enclose and intensify mixed arable farming responding to the needs of the rising population. Asa Briggs writes in *The Age of Improvement* : "Between 1761-1780 during the first phase of Enclosure by Act of Parliament, 4039 Acts were passed...the Enclosure Commissioners, appoint to survey and allot land ...seem to have carried out their arduous and often prolonged work of appointment very conscientiously." J.M. Martin observes in his study *The Parliamentary Enclosure Movement and Rural Society in Warwickshire* that the main body of estate owners who launched and benefited from enclosures were the esquires and the leading county gentry from the seventeenth century. The poor lost their rights to free grazing and increasingly left the countryside.

The conversion of arable land to pasture and the move towards large-scale scientific farming greatly increased output but made many agricultural workers redundant. Some moved to the fast-growing industrial areas, whereas others decided to emigrate to Australia, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa and the United States. Four ancestries exemplify both internal migration and emigration.

John Shorthose's family farmed near Repton. The land around Repton was enclosed in 1769. This perhaps prompted his son John Shorthose to move, up the Derwent valley to Duffield and the new mill town of Belper. His children,

their children and their grandchildren settled in the Belper area. Similarly, after Robert Steatham moved from the dairy market town of Uttoxeter to newly industrialising Darlaston in 1790s, he had four sons and 20 grandchildren who reached adulthood. All but three of these grandchildren stayed in the same town, the men in the gun lock trade and metal working.

After 1830 the numbers of people leaving Britain increased dramatically. This was particularly true of those farmers and laborers who had lived in counties that had been hardest hit by the agricultural depression, including Derbyshire. The peak rate of emigration was 1853-55, equating to 0.84 % of the average UK population which was mainly driven by the Irish potato famine. This wave prompted successive waves as the earlier migrants sent funding and information to their families who followed them. Towards the end of the nineteenth century, it is estimated that 70% of the migrants coming to the US had their fares paid for them by earlier arrivals. Immigrants with the skills developed in the English textile industry tended to settle in mill towns in Massachusetts. In 1870,

Annie Maria Wheatcroft Neaum, aged about 12, left Belper to join her elder sisters working in the Lancashire mills. In 1899, she emigrated with her husband to the more prosperous cotton town Fall River in Massachusetts. Another skill based migrant was mining engine-wright Thomas Lee. Born into a Berwick on Tweed mining family in 1837, he followed his father to a new mine in North Wales. From 1872-77, Thomas with his younger brother and brother in law went to open up new the mines in the Ruhr. He returned to operate a new colliery in Leicestershire. His daughter settled in Derby after getting married.

Geographical mobility increased in the second half of the twentieth century with more young people going further afield for Further Education and meeting others who had also left their home town. With the increasing bureaucratisation of employment and the public sector, family connections has been less important to securing a job. In current parlance, fewer of us are citizens of somewhere specific and more are citizens of anywhere than at anytime in history .

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## *Derby Crowds go Sight-Seeing*



*Derby County—winners of the FA Cup in 1946*

From 1 a.m. today the Cup Final crowds began to disgorge in London, and among the first arrivals were hundreds of Rams' supporters, who went by train and road from Derby and the country areas. All got off to a good start, the 'specials' run by the LMS proving more than adequate. The crowds at the station were orderly and quiet, but everybody was well blazoned with the County colours, was optimistic, and above all, pleased to get a seat on their train.

Our London correspondent found Derby people sight-seeing at dawn. Later they were in the queues for breakfast, coffee and tea, were seen strolling through the West End, or gazing at Buckingham Palace, the Houses of Parliament, or St Paul's.

In Piccadilly Circus and Leicester Square, the knots of two and three and five and ten leaning against buildings or stood on the kerbs viewing the London scene. Coventry-street, adjoining the circus and square, was a 'Little Derby'. The crowds strolled in orderly fashion and the white and black rosettes were everywhere.

A few Derbeians, who arrived in London just before 4 a.m., told me a story typical of most. They had spent the first three hours of their visit in wandering the streets and seeing the sights. *"We walked through Covent Garden*

*and Trafalgar Square and on to see the Houses of Parliament and Buckingham Palace” said Mr H. Dolman, of Grayling-street, “We are a bit tired, but the best part of the day is still to come.”*

His companion, Mr P. Ballard, of Pear Tree-street, said that the train journey was a good one. *“I hope we are as comfortable going back”*, he said—not very hopefully.

London had many visitors. A Mancunian stood in the middle of Piccadilly Circus looking in a puzzled fashion at a map of the West End and trying to work out where he was.

From Sheffield there was a Derby supporter wearing flannel trousers and sports coat and, believe it or not, a battered top hat.

Two friends from Liverpool—one confident of Derby’s success, the other prepared to bet on Charlton, were walking the streets with four tickets. The other two members of their party had been unable to make the journey. In Leicester Square it was a war of the rosettes. Hawkers displayed boards with the colours of both teams and were selling steadily at the rate of one a minute. There was a brisk trade in programmes.

Father and son from Chaddesden, Mr A.J. Trueman and Mr J.W. Trueman, who live next door to each other in Wollaton-road, were feeling ready for breakfast at a tea shop after a walk which took in St Paul’s, The Embankment, the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, Hyde Park and Oxford Street. Mr Trueman senior was paying his first visit to the capital *“It is very nice for a change”* was the only comment he would make on London, but felt sure the County would show Londoners how to win the Cup.

One group of ten from Derby told that they were going on a coach tour of the sights before leaving for the match. Another little knot of Derby fans said ruefully that they queued outside a restaurant for nearly three quarters of an hour and then found only toast to eat.

The surprise message of good wishes to Derby County from J.D. Cox, who played in the 1899 Cup Final team and is now resident in Canada, was telephoned to Mr J.R. Cholerton at the Harpenden headquarters this morning. He exclaimed *“How interesting! I remember him well. He used to play with Bloomer. The boys will be glad to hear of this.”* Mr Cholerton told me that they were smothered with telegrams and letters of good wishes this morning. *“Everything is ready for Wembley now”* he added, *“The team is all fit and well and ready to move off when our police escort turns up”*.

There was a message of good wishes for the County from Mr Frank Beresford, the Derby artist. *"I wish I could be there, but I have not been able to get a ticket"* he told the Telegraph. *"Best of luck to Derby for this great occasion"*.

*"The Cup Final traffic during the early hours of this morning proved no strain on our resources",* an LMS official said in London. *"It was not as heavy as we expected and two trains from Derby district were cancelled owing to the lack of travellers. As far as we know everybody got a seat."* Supporters from Sheffield and other parts of Yorkshire were so numerous, however, that relief trains will have to be organised for their return tonight.

There was one amusing incident at St Pancras. Derby supporters spotted a suburban train standing at a neighbouring platform, and on its engine the driver had chalked "Charlton 2 Derby 0". They ran over and quickly rubbed out his prophecy.

Buckingham Palace, as usual proved a popular attraction to Cup Final visitors. By 10 o'clock this morning a steady crowd of many hundreds was passing in front of the palace, amiably controlled by the many extra policemen. Unfortunately the Royal Family was not in residence so there was little to wait for.

Two Derby supporters to whom I spoke told me that they had travelled to London the previous evening and had spent most of the night walking about London. All they wanted at the moment was a place in which to revive their energies for the match. They were not alone, because even in the early hours of the morning numbers of sightseers had been passing in front of the palace.

The crater in St James's Park where 'Annie' - the 1000lb German bomb—had been exploded the previous evening also attracted its quota of curious sightseers.

Down the Mall I followed the steady tide of black and white into Trafalgar Square. Nelson always proves popular with visits and only the fact that the first of the scaffolding ladders at the top of the column had been removed, prevented a number of enthusiastic supporters from visiting him. One Derby man swore he could see the black and white of a rosette pinned to Nelson's tunic.

*Derby Daily Telegraph, 27 Apr 1946*

## **CHURCHES OF DERBYSHIRE**

### **54. Chelmorton St John the Baptist**

At 1200 feet above sea level, Chelmorton is the highest parish in the Derby Diocese and the highest church with a spire anywhere in England. It is built into the hillside at the top of Chelmorton with its historic listed field strip system, and this means that different parts of the church are built on different levels.



A place of Christian worship existed here at least in the early 13th century, probably much earlier. The oldest surviving written record is dated 1256, but one of the old oak beams that has now gone was believed to have been marked 1111.

Throughout its existence the church has suffered from the adverse climate that it has to endure so high above sea level, necessitating a number of extensive restoration programmes over the years. There was major work carried out in the 13th, 16th, 19th and 20th centuries and repairs aimed the safety of the tower were completed in 2011. A golden locust, the symbol of John the Baptist, sits on the weather vane above the spire in full splendour. The tower is home to five bells that are still in use. The treble and tenor bells were re-cast in 1960 to incorporate metal from the bells of Derwent Church, which now lies drowned under the reservoir.

The Lady Chapel was built in the second half of the 13th century as a chantry

and became a lady chapel as the church grew. It is now enhanced by 20th century embroidered panels that show the history of the village and some of the flora and bird life common to this part of Derbyshire. The oak parish chest can also be found here with its inscription '*Ralph Buxton of Flagg gave this 1630*'. This chest once contained the parish registers, which date from 1589. In them the name of the village is listed variously as Chelmorton, Chilmorton, Chelmerton and Chelmarton. The present day spellings of John, Anne and Ellen emerge as Jhon, An, Ane, Elen, Elin and Elyne. There are also some unusual names such as Cutbeard, Sabrae and Silence.

Inside the church the first thing to notice are the stout octagonal piers and the beautiful chancel arch, both dating from the 13th century. There is a rare stone screen separating nave from choir, which was carved about 1345, just a few years before the Black Death carried off so much of the population. The wooden screen above it was added in this century.

Walking towards the altar rail there is a long kneeler with embroidered locusts matching the weather vane. On the right are the carved stone Piscina and Sedilia, seats for the clergy. At each side is a stone head, one male and one female. It seems likely that the marble for the memorial tablets on the chancel walls may have come from the next parish of Ashford, where marble was quarried and worked from 1748 until 1905.

In the nave of the church the pillars on the right differ in level from those on your left. The arches on the right are pointed, those on the left are round headed. The lower windows are from the 13th century, the more elaborate upper ones were put in two centuries later, when the height of the walls were increased. The North doorway [the Devil's door] is blocked.

The font has contemporary old English lettering on each side of its 8 faces, possibly spelling out 'seb semno' [Reverence the Revered One]. There are two charity boards on the west wall. Money is still collected today and then distributed annually in accordance with the benefactor's wishes. The Tudor entrance doorway leads out to the newest part of the church's structure—the Elizabethan porch. Here there is a holy water stoup and, incorporated into the walls, the Norman dripstone with its chevron pattern and the grave covers which show a sword [for a soldier], shears [wool-stapler] and others.

Until 1950 Chelmorton had its own resident vicar. Its parish, including Flagg, is now joined to the parishes of Monyash and Taddington, so as to form a united benefice with the Vicar living at Monyash Vicarage.

## Family History - Should be Available on Prescription?

Doctors are slowly realising that, in many instances, there are better ways of reducing the physical and mental effects of ageing than medication. These include mental challenges, social contact, and regular exercise.

Suggestions for mental challenge often include crossword puzzles and jigsaws, but isn't family history the biggest "jigsaw" in the world? It has millions of pieces (facts) that have to be fitted together to create family trees and the stories that go with them. Some of these pieces actually end up being wrong, or belong to someone else's "jigsaw", but that's part of the fun. Like doing a jigsaw, family history can become totally absorbing, with time passing unnoticed until some extraneous event (usually, in my case realising I need a drink or a pee) intrudes.

There are also new mental skills to learn along the way, if that's of interest. My own knowledge of computing has grown immeasurably through the hobby, and includes spreadsheets, internet search techniques, data scraping, Facebook editing, image editing, and website design (which I'm just beginning).

There is as much social contact available in family history as you could want, ranging from meeting other like-minded folk at meetings, conferences and talks, to visiting archives and graveyards (where quite often someone will enquire why you are there, and then say "Oh yes, you should speak to old Mrs So-and-So who married one of your relatives"). There is also virtual contact through the internet, where family history mailing lists, forums, and Facebook pages have put me in contact with friends all over the world, some of whom I knew years ago, but most of whom I shall probably never meet in person. Nevertheless, we are a community, who share common interests and help each other where we can.

Family history can even provide physical exercise, and not just through lugging laptops and paper files around the house, providing you build the exercise regime into your lifestyle. I have a subscription to Ancestry's UK package, and visit our local library to investigate the detail behind the outline information available to me for free from Ancestry's worldwide package, FindMyPast, the British Newspaper Archive etc. I keep a running list of items to check (I use OneNote but a sheet of paper is nearly as good) and, two or three times a week, take a brisk walk to the library to access it on their computers.

That's around six miles and two hours of good exercise each week. If I go on a Monday morning or Thursday afternoon, I can also meet up with a group of local genealogists doing much the same as me, so that's more social contact.

They say that you live as long as you want to. With an absorbing hobby like ours, where we are trying to solve an enormous puzzle without edges, and experience the occasional "YES, YES, YES" moment (remember those) when a "brickwall" comes tumbling down, that's a lot to live for.

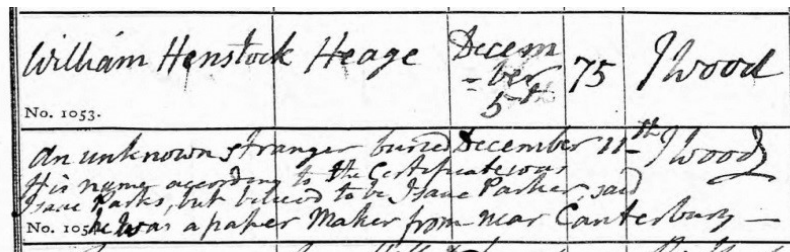
My only caveat is that our hobby can become all absorbing (some people say I'm obsessive; I prefer to call it focussed) so we just need to remind ourselves not to let the dead take priority over the living.

Live Long and Prosper.

*Nick Higon [Mem 3813]  
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## HAVE YOU LOST ESAU?

Anybody searching for an Esau Parks or Parker and cannot find him? He can be found in the following entry.



**Burials, Pentrick parish register, 1847 (page 132).**

"An unknown stranger buried December 11<sup>th</sup> his name according to the certificate was Esau Parks, but believed to be Esau Parker. He was a paper maker from near Canterbury"

*John Henstock [Mem 2558]*

## **The life and tragic death of a South Derbyshire coalminer**

My 3 x great grandfather Edward Pickering did not have an auspicious start to life when he was born in Albert Village in Leicestershire in June 1847. He was the illegitimate son of Elizabeth Pickering and his paternity has never been proven, despite a father's name being recorded on his later marriage certificate.

The Pickerings lived in the Ashby Woulds and Woodville area which straddles the South Derbyshire/Leicestershire county boundaries. Elizabeth subsequently married James Canner, a coalminer, also of Ashby Woulds. By the 1861 census Edward was already working as a coalminer even though he was only 12 years old.

Edward married Sarah Curtis on 22 January 1872 in St Stephen's, Woodville. Sarah was the daughter of Joseph Curtis and Ann Bird, and had been born in April 1849 in Lount, Leicestershire. By 1881 they were living a short distance away in Church Gresley in South Derbyshire with five children. They had three more children in the 1880s. The male children worked as coalminers, whereas the females worked in the pottery industry; this was the other main employer in the area and focussed on sanitary pipe ware rather than decorative pottery.

Tracking Edward's life through the decennial censuses revealed an experienced miner who had risen to become a chargeman, or foreman in modern-day terminology, rather than a hewer. Edward may have had a slightly less onerous work life, but the accident which caused his death on 2 November 1915 at Cadley Hill Colliery suggested that he was still working at the coal-face. Some online definitions of chargeman suggest a person who worked with explosives, but he was not responsible for firing the shot which caused the roof to collapse on him.

A report on the inquest into his death, which was held at the Wilmot Road Baptist Chapel in Swadlincote, appeared in the local paper, *Burton Daily Mail*, on 5 November and his funeral was reported in the same newspaper on the following day. In the newspaper report Edward is described as a stallman, or a "Sub-contractor in charge of a "stall" or working place".

Those attending the inquest included H.M. Inspector of Mines, the manager and under-manager of the pit, a representative of the owners and the Mining Officials' Association, as well as a representative of the South Derbyshire



Miners' Association. Edward's son James and several of his co-workers testified.

It is rather poignant to read of Edward's son, James, saying that his father was brought home dead on Tuesday. Witnesses explained the actions that had resulted in a roof falling in after a shot had been fired about 11am. The deputy found that the coal had brought out three props with it, and the coal was scattered for two or three yards. After the fall he gave instructions for the props to be inserted and examined the roof. When, he was recalled soon afterwards, he found Pickering fully buried under the stone apart from his head. *"The part which fell on him was about 4½ ft. by 4ft."* Thomas Brooks, the deputy, stated that Pickering had a pick in his hand and his neck was dislocated. Brooks thought that the deceased had set one prop and was about to set another when the accident occurred. In his opinion the quantity of shot used was correct.

Mr Timms, on behalf of the owners, read out an inspection report. *"We found the place well timbered and packed and in perfect working order. In our opinion it was a pure accident."* Mr Timms expressed the sympathy of the firm and the officials with the relatives of the deceased, who had worked at the colliery for 34 or 35 years. A jury returned a verdict of *"Accidental death."*

Cadley Hill Colliery was one of the main pits in the Church Gresley/Swadlincote area.

It was sobering to learn that Edward had worked at the pit for 34 or 35 years and was still working underground at the age of 67 years. What a shock it must have been to his wife, Sarah, to hear a knock at the door and find her husband delivered home dead. The nearest hospital was in Burton-upon-Trent, some 6 miles (10km) away, but it appeared from the witness statements that little could be done for poor Edward. What was there left to do but to organise the funeral?

As can be seen from the newspaper report of his funeral in the *Burton Daily Mail* of 6 November, Edward and Sarah's wider family were present at the funeral, as well as representatives from Cadley Hill Colliery where Edward worked and the Miners' Union.

#### *INTERMENT AT GRESLEY*

*The funeral of Mr. Edward Pickering of Lansdowne Road, Swadlincote, the victim of the Cadley Hill Colliery fatality, took place at the Gresley Cemetery on Saturday afternoon. There was a large*

*and representative attendance. The service was conducted by the Rev. S.M. Bridge (curate) of Church Gresley, and the principal mourners were: Mr. and Mrs. J. Pickering, Mr. and Mrs. G. Pickering, Mr. J. Pickering, Mr. and Mrs. J. Kinson, Mr. and Mrs. S. Smart, Mr. and Mrs. J. Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. J. Newbold (sons, daughters-in-law, sons-in-law, and daughters), Mr. T. Canner, Mr. C. Canner (brothers), Mr. and Mrs. J. Roberts (brother-in-law and sisters), Mr. J. Curtis (brother-in-law), Mrs. Pinder, Mrs. Hull, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Green (sisters), and nieces and grandchildren. Four nephews, Messrs F. Hull, G. Canner, G. Bannister, and H. Green officiated as bearers. The followers included Mr. T. Brooks (deputy) and a number of men from the Cadley Hill Colliery. The Cadley Hill branch of the South Derbyshire Miners' Association was represented by Messrs. W. Insley and G. Hinds. The Rechabite Lodge was represented by about a dozen members. A large number of choice floral tributes were sent.*

What is surprising is that Sarah was not in the list of mourners at the funeral. Perhaps she was too ill or distraught to attend. She died only six months after Edward in July 1916, and was also buried at York Road cemetery. Of note at Edward's funeral was the attendance of several members of the Rechabite Lodge. A friendly society established in 1835 as a temperance movement, over time the Rechabites transformed into a benefit society and financial institution. It paid benefits from its insurance and savings schemes to members who had signed the Pledge: a promise not to drink any alcoholic beverages for religious or medical reasons. Their attendance suggests that Edward was a member so Sarah and family would probably have received financial assistance for the funeral.

Edward was only one of a long list of coalminers in my paternal ancestry. With the hindsight of over 100 years and developments in occupational health and safety regulations, I was dismayed by the reported reaction of the mine owners and the fact they were not held to account more for underground work practices. Coalmining was a dangerous and unhealthy occupation that impacted not only the miners themselves, but their families, many of whom suffered from pulmonary and cardiac health issues due to dust.

*Pauline Williams [Mem 1814]  
E-mail: pstirland@hotmail.com*

<http://www.dmm.org.uk/educate/mineocc.htm>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independent\\_Order\\_of\\_Rechabites](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independent_Order_of_Rechabites)

## WHITFIELD CHURCHYARD—UPDATE

Ann Pass, in her article about Whitfield Churchyard, asks about the civilian occupations of the soldiers buried in the war graves there.

John Charles Hulme was a paper mill worker, Harold Ingerson was a cotton piecer and Albert Wardle was a cotton card room operative (all as shown in the 1911 census).

All three men are commemorated on the Glossop War Memorial (Harold Ingerson belatedly as his name was omitted at first). John Charles Hulme and Harold Ingerson are also remembered on the Whitfield St James memorial.

As part of its contribution to the commemoration of the centenary of the Armistice, Glossop Heritage Trust created pages on its web site for all local memorials for which it has details (see <http://www.glossopheritage.co.uk/warmem/warmems.htm>).

Some of our volunteers are checking and verifying details of individuals we have from several sources and those will be loaded once the exercise is completed.

*Graham Hadfield [Mem 4038]  
Director of Glossop Heritage Trust  
E-mail: [graham@gjh.me.uk](mailto:graham@gjh.me.uk)*

### *Ester Joule*

In 1791 Henry Henstock 37 married Ester Joule 38 at Youlgreave.

Their daughter Ann born 1798 at Youlgreave married preacher Samuel Marsden at Youlgreave in 1816. The couple emigrated to the States in 1844 settling in Albion Prairie.

There are numerous Marsden family trees but no one has ever come up with a baptism for Ester born 1753. She could have been a widow or just late to marry.

Any help would be most welcome.

*Bill Horne [Mem 7917]  
E-mail: [bh5842@btinternet.com](mailto:bh5842@btinternet.com)*

## *Tracking down Isaac Hodgson - Which is the one?*

This is a story that I am sure will be familiar to many – is he or isn't he (or she – marriage makes it even trickier for women)? I knew very little about Isaac Hodgson, and I am still not sure how much I do know.

This is how the story began....

Janet McLaren was born in Woolwich, in 1843, the only daughter and youngest child of Ewen McLaren (born Scotland, 1810) and Rebecca nee Smith (born Woolwich, 1816). Ewen died in 1845 and Rebecca went on to marry William Staley in 1857 (born Elton, Derbyshire, in 1819). Rebecca was the eldest daughter of musician Charles Morehead Smith (born Quebec, 1791) in the Royal Artillery Band, and both Ewen and William were in the Royal Artillery. There is no trace of any of the family in the 1861 census, but by 1871 William has returned to Elton with his wife. Janet is my great, great grandmother on my maternal side.

Janet McLaren later became known as Jessie (a pet form of Janet) and as Jessie McLaren she marries Isaac Hodgson in Listowel, Ireland in 1861. She is 17, possibly 18 years old. Isaac states on the marriage certificate that he is a sergeant, and that his father is a farmer called William. This led me to the army records, where I find two likely candidates called Isaac Hodgson. The first seems the more likely, and it is this Isaac Hodgson whom I believe to be Jessie's husband. Frustratingly, at no point in either set of the records is there any mention of next of kin.

The first Isaac Hodgson is born in Whitehaven, Cumberland in 1837, the second in Leeds in 1839. Let's look first at Isaac of Whitehaven. He has a very poor record, and it makes fascinating reading. In 1876, after 20 years' service and its termination, it is recorded that he served in the Crimea for just over one year and in India for 7 years (1870-6). Janet's elder brother John had served in the Crimean war too, also in the Royal Artillery, but no dates are given for service in the Crimea or in Ireland. I was trying to find which Isaac had been in Ireland in 1861 and anything else that would tie one of the Isaacs to Janet...Isaac Hodgson's conduct had been fair, he had no good conduct medals and had been four times tried by court martial. He did however have a medal for the Crimean War, and a clasp for Sebastopol and no school certificate.

However, on 1 July 1860 Isaac Hodgson (Whitehaven) is promoted to ser-

geant and remains a sergeant until 29 October 1866. This ties in with the marriage certificate of Isaac and Jessie. However, the following day, the 30 October 1866 Isaac is awaiting his second court martial and for the second time is tried and imprisoned. Unfortunately, and crucially there is no mention of where he was serving during this period. However, on the 10 December 1867 Isaac is re-engaged at Dublin for a further term of 9 years. This Dublin connection could be another link to Jessie. Tenuous, perhaps. Isaac is finally discharged in July 1877 after many hospitalisations in India with ague due to the climate.

In 1859 Isaac of Whitehaven is 5' 8¼" tall, with a chest circumference of 36" and weighs 11 stone 11 pounds. He has fair hair, his pulse is 65 beats a minute with 19 respirations, his muscular development is good.

At discharge in 1877 he is 5' 8 ¼", of dark complexion, with brown hair and eyes with the trade of tailor, intending to return to live in Whitehaven, Cumberland. Having looked at many census records over the years, I have generally found that a farmer's son is rarely a tailor! We will look at Isaac Hodgson of Leeds a little later....

Meanwhile Jessie has returned to England and their son William Staley Hodgson is born in 1862 in Brompton Barracks, Kent. The next time Jessie appears on an official document is when she marries Henry Mew in 1868 in Bury. Henry is also a soldier in the Royal Artillery in Bury. On her marriage certificate Jessie calls herself Jessie Hodson, a spinster, and that her father is a farmer called William. This might sound familiar...If Isaac of Whitehaven is her first husband then he is alive and well and still serving in the army! I know that Jessie is 'my' Jessie as the witnesses at the wedding are her mother and step-father, Rebecca and William Staley.

The 1871 census for Elton finds William Staley living at Lawson Cottage, Elton with his step grandson William Staley Hodgson. A note at the back of the census states that his wife Rebecca is away visiting her daughter Jessie in Bury. William, conveniently, is the enumerator. Family lore has it that William Staley Hodgson's step-father wanted him to be articled to a solicitor in Bakewell, but William had other ideas – he joined the Royal Artillery, like his step-father, step-grandfather and father, and grandfather, and great grandfather before him. However, when he joined the army he gave his trade as clerk, so perhaps he gave it a try. Crucially, he also changed his name, dropping the Hodgson and signing up as William Staley. It is tempting to conclude that this is perhaps a reflection on his father Isaac and the step-grandfather who brought him up in Elton. Or perhaps he was just trying to cover his tracks when he ran away. Interestingly in his army records he gives

his next of kin as Jessie and James. This caused confusion for decades as we originally presumed that William Staley was Rebecca's only husband, and therefore my direct ancestor. My mother grew up a Staley and never knew until recently that she really should have been called Hodgson.

Isaac Hodgson of Leeds was born in 1839. He joined the Scots Fusiliers Regiment of Foot Guards at Leeds in 1858 and left after being declared unfit for further service on 23 August 1861, however his service was extended until 3 September 1861 when he was finally discharged after 2 years and 115 days. He had been admitted to hospital constantly with primary and secondary syphilis. He remained a private throughout his service and was imprisoned on several occasions for assault and absence. His final description at discharge states that he is 22 years old, 5' 10" tall with a fresh complexion, hazel eyes, brown hair with the trade of mechanic and that he intends to reside in Leeds.

A very experienced family historian friend has pointed out to me that these are the records that are held, and that it could be the case that neither Isaac is 'my' Isaac.

At this point, half convinced that Isaac of Whitehaven is the right Isaac, my attention turned to the census, hoping to find, conveniently an Isaac Hodgson working as a tailor born in Whitehaven to a farmer called William in 1839 who then vanished temporarily from 1861-71. I didn't!

I did find, however, the following record  
**1841 Census Queen Street, Whitehaven**  
William Hodgson Head 30 Tailor Whitehaven  
William Hodgson Son 6 months Whitehaven  
Isaac Hodgson Son 2 Whitehaven  
Ann Hodgson Wife 30 Whitehaven  
Mary Ann Hodgson Daughter 5 Whitehaven  
Jane Hodgson Daughter 3 Whitehaven

And then the **1851 Census, 209 Chapel Street, Whitehaven**  
William Hodgson Head 40 Master Tailor born Egremont  
Ann Hodgson Wife 40 born Abbey Holme  
Mary Ann Hodgson Daughter 15 House servant born Whitehaven  
Jane Hodgson Daughter 13 Scholar born Whitehaven  
Isaac Hodgson Son 12 Scholar born Whitehaven  
Joseph A Hodgson Son 8 Scholar born Whitehaven  
Elizabeth 3 Daughter born Whitehaven  
Fletcher 1 Son born Whitehaven

By 1881 there is no sign of either Isaac in the census. Hodgson is quite a common name in Cumberland, and there are quite a few deaths listed on [www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)

Another aspect to consider is the health of these two soldiers. Isaac of Whitehaven went on to suffer from ague and then malaria, related to the conditions in India. Isaac of Leeds had syphilis, a condition that was usually sexually transmitted and was untreatable until the advent of penicillin. Jessie went on to have four more children, with Henry, and lived in to her eighties.

Drawing my own conclusions, I believe that Isaac of Whitehaven is my great, great grandfather. I think that the young Jessie made a mistake in marrying Isaac, one that she conveniently forgot when she 'married' Henry Mew later in the same decade. Jessie probably parted company from Isaac after the birth of their son in the barracks, and she and her son joined her mother and step-father in Elton. The mystery remains however, along with how did 17 year old Jessie come to meet Isaac? Through her brother John perhaps. John was a hero of the Crimean War, decorated for his bravery by the French, but that is a story for another day.

If you have any ideas, thoughts or suggestions for my dilemma, or are researching any of the individuals mentioned here, please feel free to get in touch.

*Gill Wheatley [Mem 8427]  
E-mail: [kidoodle15@gmail.com](mailto:kidoodle15@gmail.com)*

### **The Derbyshire Royal Infirmary**

On the 19th May 1891 a letter was received by the Mayor of Derby from E. Leigh Pemberton, who advised that, "the Queen was pleased to command that the Derbyshire Infirmary be styled Royal". Queen Victoria visited Derby on May 21st to lay the foundation stone of the new Derby Royal Infirmary on London Road. Although the plans had been approved, the building work had not started at the time of the Queen's visit, so they entered into a contract with Messrs Slater & Walker for the erection of part of the building so that the foundation stone could be laid by Her Majesty.

*The History of the Derbyshire General Infirmary*

## **DERBYSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**HELD AT SOCIETY OF FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

There were 19 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**

None

### **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM**

These were distributed to the members and the Chairman asked the meeting if they would take the minutes from the last AGM as read. This was proposed by Alan Foster and Hayley Wingfield. 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.  
There were no questions from the floor.  
A report from Nick Higon, the Facebook coordinator, was read out. Congratulations on a professional job was made by the members.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Michael Bagworth gave the Treasurer's annual report. The accounts were accepted, proposed by Hayley Wingfield and seconded by Ken Wain.  
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. 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. Agreed by a show of hands - none against.

Helen Betteridge, David Brown, Alan Foster and Ken Wain

Brian Slack put himself forward as a nominee for the Committee, proposed by Chris Shelton and seconded by Ann Wolverson. There were no objections from the floor.

### **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 2019. Voted on and unanimously agreed.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

It has been decided that our Constitution needs to be updated to fit more with the changing nature of Family History. A proposed draft based on suggestions from the Federation of Family History Societies was available to look at and details will be discussed at the next Committee Meeting before being published.

Hayley offered thanks, on behalf of the members to the Committee for their efforts during the last year.

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

### **Chairman's Report 2019**

On behalf of your committee I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report for the past year. The committee has met formally on five occasions in Derby and kept up informal consultation between meetings. We have suffered a great loss in the death of Ernie Drabble, who worked tirelessly for the Society. Almost all the committee were able to attend his funeral at Dove Holes. The loss of Ernie also meant that Beryl Scammell offered her resignation, no longer having transport to the meetings, and we lost another source of information and support from the north of the county. They will be hard to replace. Everyone on the committee does a great deal in addition to attending the meetings, so reducing numbers restricts what we can offer to members. That is why we urge members to keep in mind the possibility of nominating others to serve, or volunteering themselves. The committee are trustees of the Society's funds and responsible for policy and its implementation.

The main activity of the Society continues to be the transcription and processing of data and the upkeep of our extensive collection of family and local history. The work of transcription and checking is partly done at Bridge Chapel House, where people enjoy each other's company as they trawl through the records of parishes and institutions. A great deal is also done at home by members who are not easily able to come to our library. This is where email and the internet have changed the nature of our work over the years. At one time we had to assemble a team at a meeting and fill in slips for our huge paper index. Now it is possible to fill out a simple spreadsheet at home and submit it to our collection. In addition to our new data we are continuing to update the Memorial Inscription Index.

The fall in the number of queries has continued, with very few coming by post. We tend to be asked for answers when they cannot be found online. Here the experience of our volunteers comes into play, often knowing simple facts which are not evident on-line. Although we can often push people into new areas of research beyond the dead end they have reached we sometimes have to share the sad news that there is no more data, because of missing registers or relatives who chose to disappear for their own reasons. As always, the library has seen a handful of visitors from the other side of the world on pilgrimages to their ancestral homes in Derbyshire and we have tried to make them welcome and encourage them.

There have been times over the last year when we have felt under siege at Bridge Chapel House as major works on flood defences have been carried through. We have been surrounded by contractors' vehicles and faced closed roads. It is now complete and we wait to see if, in protecting one area from

flooding, nature decides to send the waters elsewhere. 'River stay away from my door.' is our theme song.

The Derby meeting at the Friends' Meeting House in St Helen's Street is our only surviving meeting group and attendances are declining as anno domini does its work. Unless new members and organisers are added in the coming year we may have to cease this activity. Our main link with members near and far is the magazine, which Helen takes from strength to strength, and the new web site, which has attracted a great deal of positive comment, although it still has the capacity to baffle those new to it. You may always ring us on Tuesday or Thursday and get advice with any problem, or email us. Most of the difficulties arise from lost membership numbers or wrong email addresses, problems common to all web communication as most of us know to our cost. There are constant additions to the data made available through our site.

We also now have a presence on social media and are very grateful to Nick Highton for volunteering to maintain our Facebook page. We encourage those living at a distance to use social media to promote the conversations we are not able to have in person. Like all organisations we have been plagued by the introduction of data protection legislation. Our main difficulty has been persuading members to give us formal permission to store their personal data on computer so that we can record their subscriptions and print off their addresses at magazine time. We are also updating our constitution to take account of changes since 1989 when it was adopted. The main details remain the same but we are reducing the quorum for meetings, to reflect our present attendance, and updating references to the Federation.

Our Secretary, Ruth, has kept the minutes and correspondence but also works with Helen in keeping the Library and Derby meeting running. They are often working at Bridge Chapel House when the rest of us believe it is closed. Mike Bagworth, our valued Treasurer, will speak for himself in presenting the accounts. Catherine Allsop-Martin has worked hard as membership secretary, especially with all the complications of data protection and assisting members who find access to the website a problem. Linda Bull continues to look after our publications efficiently. Without such volunteers there would be no Society. As I have indicated, your officers and committee are offering themselves for re-election with an invitation for others to join them.

### **Secretary's Report 2019**

Thank you Stephen for that report, it covers just about everything, leaving me the chance to talk about me. After the death of my husband in 2001, I decided to do my family tree. Beginning firstly at the Local Studies Library and

then attending an Open Day at Bridge Chapel House. I little realised what it was going to lead to.

My role in the Society has changed over the years. It initially started in 2002, visiting the Chapel on Tuesday afternoons, researching my own family. I received help from volunteers, some now deceased or unable to attend and others still volunteering. My interest over the next three years increased and my visits gave me a purpose. I began answering the phone and checking transcription work in return for the help as I was unable to make frequent donations. My local and family history knowledge progressed and I was set for lifetime's obsession.

When I retired I began doing research for the Society and then in 2006 I joined the Executive Committee and became Secretary in 2009.

These two roles involved me working at BCH and from home. As Stephen mentioned Helen and I are often at BCH re-organising or planning Christmas parties or other events and other times transcribing records with other volunteers with the aim of adding to our website and FindmyPast.

Over all these years I have enjoyed attending the monthly meetings and hearing some excellent talks. Three of our four meeting groups have fallen by the wayside due to the lack of support. Early in 2015, when Carol-Marie left without warning, Helen and I took over running the Derby Meetings, as a temporary measure. Circumstances led us to find a new venue that I think has been successful despite limited parking. Helen and I have come to a point where would like to concentrate our efforts at BCH and have decided to finish organising the meetings at the end of this year. We are hoping that someone will come forward to take over and continue running the meetings on the Society's behalf.

I would just like to point out that this wasn't an exercise in boasting but to show just what a would-be volunteer could get out of joining us in the Society. Finally I would like to thank everyone here for attending these meeting and in particular those who have helped out on the night. I hope you enjoy tonight's talk and those for the rest of the year.

From Nick Higton, Facebook administrator

The Society's Facebook page was commenced in July 2018 and readership has been growing steadily. The number of "Followers" who automatically receive an email notifying them every time a new Post is made was 48 on 1 Oct 2018, 186 on 1 Jan 2019 and 263 on 1 Apr 2019. In addition Followers can share any Post with their Facebook Friends and any subscriber can view

a post at any time. All of the Society's meetings and other events have been publicised on Facebook, with additional emphasis in the few days prior to each meeting. 59 Posts have been made, on a wide variety of topics of interest to Derbyshire family historians, including Society membership, Society publications, other Derbyshire resources for genealogists, offers from commercial providers of genealogical data, and hints and advice on research sources and techniques. The most popular post reached 1351 people. Posts remain on Facebook permanently, so new readers can scroll back through all earlier posts. Hence the readership of old Pages will continue to grow over time. The readership is global, with 75 living in Derbyshire, 151 elsewhere in the UK, 120 in Australia or New Zealand, 24 in North America, 9 in mainland Europe, and 1 on Norfolk Island (somewhere in the Pacific Ocean). In the future, it is probable that the rate of growth will slow, as the potential readership becomes captured, and the availability of good topics to post reduces. However, the Facebook Page will remain a useful way for the Society to communicate, alongside the website and the magazine.

### **Treasurer's Report 2019**

The financial statements for 2018 have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis. The accounts of the Society have been examined by S J Wells & Co, who have stated that the financial statements give a true and fair view of our affairs as at 31 December 2018.

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

There has been a drop in membership again this year resulting in a drop of around £2000 taking gift aid into account. 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 finances.

The PayperView royalties held steady, resulting in £10000 income.

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 has rendered some of our publications redundant, eg census booklets.

**DERRYSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

**BALANCE SHEET as at 31st DECEMBER 2018**

		2018	2017
			£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Furniture, Fittings and Equipment :			
Opening Net Book Value	1,862.57		1,958.11
Add Assets Purchased in year	739.58		904.46
Deduct Depreciation in year	1,000.00		1,000.00
Closing Net Book Value	<u>£1,602.15</u>		<u>£1,862.57</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Charities Official Investment Fund - Deposit	23,198.29		12,450.77
Lloyds TSB Term Deposits	<u>20,000.00</u>	43,198.29	<u>40,000.00</u>
			52,450.77
Cash & Bank : Lloyds TSB Current Account	6,174.97		4,536.30
Floats in Hands of Officers	<u>305.00</u>	6,479.97	<u>350.00</u>
			4,886.30
Pay Pal		50.28	122.97
	<u>£49,728.54</u>		<u>£57,460.04</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u>£51,330.69</u>		<u>£59,322.61</u>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>			
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNI Brought forward</b>		59,322.61	65,069.28
<b>ADD SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR</b>		(7,991.92)	(5,746.67)
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNI Carried forward</b>		<u>£51,330.69</u>	<u>£59,322.61</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 2018

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

**DERBYSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT for the year to 31st DECEMBER 2018**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Subscriptions	11,096.00	12,631.66
Income Tax recovered through Gift Aid	1,578.71	1,975.82
Donations and Members Contributions	324.00	437.00
Sale of Publications	208.32	217.78
Interest on Investments	595.52	624.57
Postal Research	562.82	889.91
FFHS Pay per View	10,066.14	10,352.17
Pay as you Go on Website	185.00	
Sundries	17.06	
Meetings, Open Days, Coach Trips etc	-	100.00
	<u>£24,633.57</u>	<u>£27,228.91</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Sundries	-	117.92
Stationery, Postages etc	1,711.68	1,372.18
Meetings, Open Days, Coach Trips etc	596.02	758.45
Journal	9,445.83	9,200.37
Reference Library	35.00	72.43
Insurance, Fees, Charges & Affiliation to FFHS	726.51	1,557.42
Equipment, Maintenance, including photocopier	83.98	89.99
Examining Accountant's Fee	470.00	450.00
Bridge Chapel House	14,236.47	13,196.82
Website	4,320.00	5,160.00
	<u>£31,825.49</u>	<u>£31,975.58</u>
<b>NET INCOME (DEFICIT) against EXPENDITURE for the y</b>	<b><u>£( 6,991.92)</u></b>	<b><u>£( 4,746.67)</u></b>
<b>ACCUMULATED FUND</b> Brought Forward	£59,322.61	£65,069.28
<b>Add SURPLUS (DEFICIT) for the year, as above</b>	£( 6,991.92)	£( 4,746.67)
<b>Add Depreciation</b>	£( 1,000.00)	£( 1,000.00)
<b>ACCUMULATED FUND</b> Carried Forward	<u><b>£51,330.69</b></u>	<u><b>£59,322.61</b></u>

## **The Strange Case of Nathaniel Smith**

Whilst randomly searching the British Newspaper Archive for articles relating to my ancestors I stumbled across the following bizarre, but interesting, court case as reported in “*The Derby Mercury*” of May 31<sup>st</sup> 1865 –

*“This was an action brought by Nathaniel Smith, of Mickleover, tailor, against Mr. John Redfern, of the Vine, Mickleover, publican, to recover from him the sum of 20l, deposited in his hands as stakeholder, to abide the event of a foot race between the plaintiff and one Samuel Thornhill.*

*Mr. Leech appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Cranch from the office of Mr. Flewker for the defendant. A jury was impanelled to try the case. The case stood adjourned from the last Court.*

*Mr. Leech, in opening the case, said that prior to the race being entered upon an agreement or rules to be observed by the parties was drawn up and signed both by plaintiff and defendant; to that agreement at the former Court Mr. Cranch took exception, on the ground it was a document that required a stamp, when the Court being of that opinion, instead of nonsuiting the plaintiff on a technical objection, adjourned the hearing to give the plaintiff an opportunity of getting the paper properly stamped; and his client being confident in the justice of the case had since paid the penalty and the stamp duty to the Government, and now brought the case before the jury on its merits. The agreement was in these words. “Mickleover, Feb. 8, 1865. Rules to be observed for the match between S. Thornhill and N. Smith, both of Mickleover aforesaid. This is to certify that N. Smith doth hereby agree to run S. Thornhill 120 yards, for the sum of ten pounds aside, the race to come off on the 18th instant, to be on the ground at 4.30, to start by the report of a pistol; either party starting before the report of the pistol shall lose the race; either party shouldering, crossing, or causing any obstruction to the other’s way shall forfeit the stakes down. Signed Samuel Thornhill, Nathaniel Smith.” The parties met at the hour and place appointed, and a great number of persons had assembled to witness the race. Both sides then looked out for a disinterested person for a starter, when their choice fell upon a Mr. Yole; two umpires were then chosen, one by Smith and the other by Thornhill. James Flandes was selected by Smith, and John Fisher by his competitor. The umpires then made choice of a referee. The runners then took their position for starting. Mr. Yole, the starter, stood three or four yards behind them, and when he had*



raised the pistol and was putting his finger on the trigger, Thornhill started, and before the report of the pistol could be heard had advanced about four yards. Smith, notwithstanding his opponent was thus in advance of him, did not start till the report of the pistol, but he nevertheless reached the goal two yards only behind Thornhill, thus clearly establishing himself the fleetest man. The starter, Mr. Yole, seeing the unfairness of the start hastened to announce the facts to the umpires, and was not more than a minute behind the runners. The umpires on hearing Mr. Yole's statement appealed to the referee, who decided that the race should be run again, first appointing the same evening for the purpose, but on Thornhill declining to run he appointed Saturday, the 25th Feb., at half-past-four in the afternoon, at the same place, and directed both parties to attend. The time for re-running the race arrived, and the parties attended except Thornhill, who did not attend. After waiting sometime in vain for Thornhill's attendance the referee directed the plaintiff to walk over the ground, which he did, and was then declared winner by the referee. The stakes were demanded of the defendant, who declined to pay them over to the plaintiff, when this action was subsequently brought.

In support of the plaintiff's case, as stated by Mr. Leech, the following witnesses were called:-

Mr. Yole, the starter, who was then butler to Mrs. E.S. Chandos-Pole, but is now residing in London. On cross-examination, Mr. Yole said he had no pecuniary interest in the race, but before he was selected starter he tried to change a 5l note, and not succeeding, to borrow 5s to back Smith, his fancy. James Flandes, umpire for Smith, who had something on the race, an equal sum with the umpire for Thornhill. Wm. Campbell, farm bailiff to E.S. Chandos-Pole, Esq., of Radborne, the referee who had no pecuniary interest in the race. Thomas Hill, of Mickleover, miller, who stood close to the starter, and had no pecuniary interest in the race. This witness in cross-examination denied that he had in a conversation with a man named Potter said that the race was as fair a race as ever was run; that it was like setting a pony against a race horse. Thomas Coggan, of Derby, pedestrian, who stood near to the starting point, and had nothing in the race; and Edward Clark, of Derby, sawyer, who stood near the starting place, and had no pecuniary interest in the race.

Mr. Cranch for the defence raised several objections in law which the Court over-ruled, and in addressing the jury said the defendant being stake-holder simply had no interest to lead him

*to favour either party; his only wish was to do that which was right between the parties, and his desire was to hand over the money to the party justly entitled to it. The stakes were also demanded by Thornhill who denied that he started before the report of the pistol, and alleged, as was now admitted by the plaintiff and his witnesses, that he came in first, denying, therefore, unfairness on his part, and being first at the goal he considered himself the winner, and entitled to the prize, and in that opinion he was supported by many who saw the race. Under these circumstances, the defendant objected to part with the money to the plaintiff until he had established his right to it, and it appeared to him (Mr. Cranch) that the facts of the case justified him in pursuing that course. It would be borne in mind that the agreement upon which the plaintiff relied pointed out was proper to be done in case either party started before the pistol had been fired, the person so offending was to lose the race; all that had been done therefore by the referee in appointing a fresh contest was in excess of his duty, and without the consent of Thornhill could not add to the plaintiff's title to the prize. Thornhill withheld that consent believing that he had fairly won the race.*

*The witnesses called for the defence were Thomas Pedley, farmer, Radborne, who witnessed the race as he stood on a gate, near halfway between the starting and coming in ends, but close to the goal than the starting point. George Brooks, gamekeeper to C.E. Newton, Esq., who said he stood on a high bank, about halfway between the end and the starting point. Joseph Bottom, gamekeeper to E.S. Chandos-Pole, Esq., of Radborne Hall, who said he stood not far from Brooks, on a bank and he saw the race. All three said the pistol was fired before either party started, and the latter added that the starter stood with his back towards the runners, and that Thornhill came in first by four or five yards. William Mason, Policeman, of Mickleover, who said he was in plain clothes, and stood about four yards from the starting point; he had no interest in the race; Thornhill did not start before the pistol report. Frederick Gregory, of Mickleover, farmer's son, who said he stood two or three yards from the starter, and Thornhill did not start until the report of the pistol. He and his brother had 11 each on Thornhill. Samuel Thornhill, the plaintiff's opponent, who said he waited for the report of the pistol, and then started; he had a bet of 11 in his own favour. Alfred Potter, of Mickleover, farmer, who said the plaintiff's witness, Hill, had since the race said to him that Thornhill was able to beat the plaintiff, it was like running a race horse*

*against his (Hill's) pony; and John Fisher, the umpire for Thornhill, who said that Cooper, the plaintiff's umpire said immediately the parties reached the goal, that plaintiff had lost. Mr. Leech then replied, when His Honour summed up the evidence to the jury, who, after a few moments consultation, returned a verdict for the plaintiff for the amount claimed."*

Nathaniel Smith was christened in All Saints, Mickleover on September 3<sup>rd</sup> 1837; his parents being John and Elizabeth. In 1841, he was living in Mickleover with his parents John and Betty and his older sisters Ann and Mary. It would appear that Ann married Samuel Harlow and Mary married a Woolley, and in 1851 she was staying with Ann and Samuel.

In 1851, Nathaniel, then aged 13, was a visitor with the Turner family at 19, Canal Street in Derby – the head of the household, James Turner, was a silk Throwster and his son, also James, was a tailor, as was Nathaniel. In 1861 Nathaniel was living back in Mickleover with his sister Ann Harlow and her family next door to William and Mary Storer and their family in Holy End. In 1871 Nathaniel was living on his own in Common Road in Mickleover.

Nathaniel married Ann Storer at Derby Register Office on November 23<sup>rd</sup> 1880; their addresses were both given as Liversage Street and Nathaniel was a tailor. Ann Storer was the widow of William Storer - and was his second wife; William having been previously married to Mary (Nathaniel was living next door to them in 1861!) In 1881 Nathaniel and Ann were back in Mickleover and had a 4-year old step-daughter, Sarah Ann Storer. This was my great-grandmother (actually, Sarah Jane) – daughter of William and Ann.

In 1891, Nathaniel and Ann together with Sarah Jane (a dressmaker) and their younger children Walter and Arthur in Common End. In 1901, Nathaniel, Ann and the two boys were living on Cattle Hill in Mickleover, Sarah Jane by then having married Joseph Warner.

Nathaniel died later that year, aged 64 and in 1911 Ann and Arthur were living in Mickleover. Walter had married Isabella Tuxford in 1901 and they were living at 3, Milton Street in Derby.

***Simon Baker [Mem 7958]  
E-mail: S-BAKER1@sky.com***

## James Eyre Artist of Derby

In Ashbourne's lovely church of St Oswald is a tablet with the following inscription:

*James Eyre, son of Hannah Eyre, Died Feb 21st 1838  
"He fell in early blighted youth  
If age you estimate in years,  
But if in knowledge, goodness, truth  
He won the palm of hoary years"*

Further researches revealed an obituary in the Derby Mercury for this gentleman, who was an artist and died, as the memorial hints, at an early age when he was just showing his talents as an artist.

Nothing much is known about his life although he has a few lines in the biographical dictionaries. Neither can they agree about his date of birth, but a look at the Ashbourne church registers reveal that James, son of James and Hannah Eyre, was baptised on the 29th August 1807. The Eyre family was in Ashbourne for many centuries and the descendants of this family are still in the district to this day.



Old Jacobean House at  
The Wardwick

According to his obituary in the Derby Mercury James "*evinced a considerable talent for drawing, to the improvement of which he devoted the whole of his time*". In 1827, at the age of twenty, he was given a job by the well known Derby solicitor, Francis Jessop, who practised in the old Jacobean house in the Wardwick, but he gave all of his free time to his painting "*robbing himself of the repose required by nature for the preservation of his health*". While working in the Jessop office his drawings "*first attracted the attention of some of the gentry of the neighbourhood, by whose encourage and flattering promises of support he was induced to give up his situation, and apply himself entirely to his favourite study, invariably choosing nature for the subject of his pencil in preference to the works of even the best masters*"

His chief patron was Sir George Crewe of Calke Abbey, who appreciated the fact that the young man was not content just to copy the work of great masters, but was working to develop his own talent as a landscape painter. It was possibly with his encouragement that James went off to London and was accepted as a pupil by the celebrated Peter de Wint, whose work had for many years been one of the most attractive features of the Royal Society of Painters in watercolours. De Wint had been born at Stone in Staffordshire and had himself been a pupil of John Raphael Smith, the Derby engraver. Eyre made considerable progress and people took far more notice of his work than they had in Derby. He did not exhibit at the Royal Academy but in 1835 he had three paintings in the British Institute exhibition, all of Derbyshire subjects. His address on the Institute's record was 5 Derwent Place, Derby. In 1836, when living in London, he had two more paintings hung and in the same year the Suffolk Street Galleries exhibited four of his works.

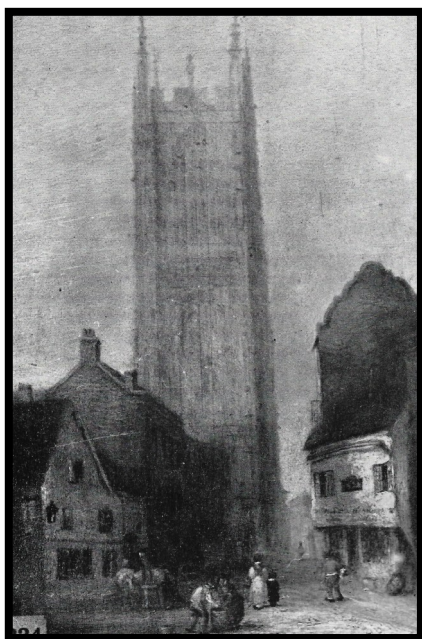
Back in Derbyshire Eyre was determined to help others, as he himself had been helped, and he started free classes in drawing and design at the Derby Mechanics Institute. One wonders how he lived for he had no income apart from his work and when he died he left no property or will. His obituary rather pompously stated that *"he lent his powerful aid gratuitously"* to the Mechanics Institute *"and the numerous attendance and complete success which crowned his efforts must have been to the highest degree satisfying to his philanthropic mind"*.



Inside the Jacobean House by James Eyre

In 1837 Eyre travelled amongst the scenes he loved best and which were his inspiration. The wilder parts of Derbyshire, Cumberland and Wales, which was his last visit and from which he returned home sooner than expected in the autumn of 1837. Only just thirty he was already a sick man, marked by the dread signs of consumption. During the winter he was racked and wasted by his disease and finally died in Derby on the 21st of February 1838. His death certificate gives the parish in which he died as All Saints. His occupation is given as Artist, showing that he did not attempt to follow any other profession once he had escaped from the solicitor's office in the Wardwick. John Salt, a joiner of Bridge Gate, was with him when he died.

After his death the Mechanics Institute paid tribute to James Eyre by holding an exhibition of his paintings, water colours and drawings, among them his picture of All Saints Derby from Queen Street. This was later engraved by Lowes Dickinson, and is the work by which he is best known in Derbyshire. Most of the pictures shown were small ones and the Derby Mercury expressed regret that some of the larger Welsh scenes had not been lent "*as a better notion of his powers as a landscape painter could have been formed*".



In 1870, when an exhibition of loaned works was mounted at the Derby Art Gallery, Eyre was given an honoured place. There was a further revival of interest in his work as a local painter, and his landscapes [always with his mark of a little figure in red somewhere in the composition] became much sought after.

The final words belong to the Derby Mercury, who ended his obituary with "*the works he has left behind to perpetuate his memory will sufficiently prove that he is an artist deeply imbued with the poetry of the art and possessed of a mind susceptible of the finest impressions of nature. His paintings are not without faults, but they are the errors of genius which time would have rectified*".

In 1332 the vicar of St Werburgh in Derby received the Bishop's order to be the General Confessor, or Penancer, for Derbyshire. He was then termed *pro officio Penitentiaries*. The office of Penitentiary gave him the power to hear confessions from all of the clergy and laity of Derbyshire, apart from exceptional circumstances where he passed the graver cases over to be heard by the Bishop, or even the Pope. After listening to confessions the Penitentiary was duty bound to impose a fine that matched the sin.

*Notes on the Churches of Derbyshire, Volume 4*

## THE EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

*[NB—The following appeared in the DFHS magazine of September 1982. As I have a few pages to fill and this is rather interesting, it is being reprinted for your enjoyment [I hope] —Ed]*

To avoid even the small expense of a work-house upbringing many towns, especially London, sent their orphans to the manufacturing cities of the Midlands and the North, to become “apprentices”. This really meant the children were forced to work in a factory from the age of about seven until they were 21, without any wages at all. They lived in barracks near the mill and were often organised in two shifts. One group worked 12 hours during the day and the other worked 12 at night, and as one group got up, the other crawled under the same filthy blankets.

The punishments inflicted on these defenceless children are almost unbelievable. For the smallest mistake they had heavy iron weights hung round their necks as they worked or had iron vices screwed to their ears. One boy from a Midland nail-making factory told a government official that the usual punishment there was to drive a nail through the offender’s ear into the wooden bench.

As industry grew bigger so the coal mines had to go deeper and deeper to meet the steam engines’ unceasing call for fuel. And bad though conditions were in the factories, they were worse in the pits.

Men, women and children toiled side by side in the damp darkness of the pits, and surprising as it may seem, children usually began to work underground at an earlier age than they did in the factories. The youngest children [4-6 years old] were usually trappers. This is what the government report of 1842 said of their job: *“The ventilation of the mine again depends entirely on the trap-doors being kept shut and on their being properly closed after carriages conveying the coal have pass them. The youngest children in the mines are entrusted with this important office. Their duty consists in sitting in a little hole, scooped out for them in the side of the gates behind each door, where they sit with a string in their hands attached to the door, and pull it the moment they hear the corves [the carriages for conveying the coal]...they are in the pit the whole time it is worked, frequently about 12 hours a day. They sit, moreover, in the dark, often with a damp floor to stand on.....”*

Working 12 or more hours under the ground, and going down before dawn and coming up after dark, many literally saw daylight only on Sunday. It is

little wonder, too, that until well into the nineteenth century a condemned criminal in Scotland would be offered the choice of execution—or going into the coal mines.

Extracts from the Children's Employment Commission of 1840

ELLISON JACK, 11 years old, coal bearer: *I have been working below three years on my father's account; he takes me down at two in the morning, and I come up at one and two the next afternoon. I go to bed at six at night to be ready for work next morning; the part of the pit I bear in, the seams are much on the edge. I have to bear my burden up four traps, or ladders, before I get to the main road which leads to the pit bottom. My task is four to five tubs; each tub holds 4½ cwt. I fill five tubs in 20 journeys. I have had the strap when I did not do my bidding. Am very glad when my task is wrought, as it sore fatigues.*

This is another description of each of the 20 journeys Ellison Jack made each day: *She carried 1-1½ cwt of coal all day long, 84 ft from the pit face, crawling on her hands and knees along the narrow, low tunnel, then up an 18 foot ladder, along a third ladder, along another tunnel, up a fourth ladder to the tub. She lifted the basket and tipped the coal into the tub. Her task was to fill four or five tubs, each holding almost a quarter of a ton, every day. The baskets of coal this eleven year old girl had to carry often took two people to hoist them on her back at the foot of a ladder.*

JANE KERR, 12 years old, coal bearer: *I get up at 3 in the morning and gang to the work at four, return at four and five at night. It takes us muckle time to come up the road, and put on our clothes. I work every day, for when father does not work the master pays me 6d a day for bearing wood for him. I never get porridge before my return home, but I bring a bit of oatcake and get water when thirsty. Sister and I can fill one tub of 4¼ cwt in two journeys. Sister is 14 years of age. My sisters and brothers do not read, but I did once go to school to learn reading when at Sir John's work; have forgotten all the letters. The Ladder Pit in which I work is gey drippie and the air is kind of bad, as the lamps do na burn as bright as in guid air. My father straps me when I do not do his bidding. The work is very sair and fatiguing. I would like to go to school, but I canna wone owing to sair fatigue.*

MARGARET LEVESTON, 6 years old, coal bearer: *Been down at coal carrying six weeks [makes 10-14 rakes a day]; carries full 56 lbs of coal in a wooden bucket. The work is na guid; it is so sair. I work with sister Jesse and mother; dinna ken the time we gang; it is gey dark. Get plenty of broth and porridge and run home and get a bannock as we live just by the pit. Never been to school, it is so far away.*



Extracts from the Report on the Physical and Moral Condition of the Children and Young Persons engaged in Mines and Manufacture, London 1843

In this district the hours of work are commonly 14 and are sometimes extended to 16 out of 24, and the mines in general are most imperfectly drained and ventilated.

THOMAS STRAW, aged seven, Ilkeston. *They wouldn't let him sleep in the pit or stand still; he feels very tired when he comes out; gets his tea and goes to bed.*

JOHN HAWKINS, aged eight, Underwood: *Is tired and glad to get home, never wants to play.*

ROBERT BLOUNT, aged ten, Eastwood: *He is always too tired to play and is glad to get to bed; his back and legs ache; he had rather drive, plough or go to school than work in a pit.*

JOHN BOSTOCK, aged 17, Babbington: *Has often been made to work until he was so tired as to lie down on his road home until twelve-o'clock, when his mother has come and led him home—has done so many times when he first wen to the pits; he has sometimes been so fatigues that he could not eat his dinner, but has been beaten and made to work until night; he never thought of play, was always too anxious to get to bed.*

NORTH DURHAM AND NORTHUMBERLAND: Mr James Anderson handed in the following written evidence:

*"The boys go too soon to work; I have seen boys at work not six years of age, and though their work is not hard, still they have long hours, so that when they come home they are quite spent. I have often seen them lying on the floor fast asleep; then they often fall down asleep in the pit, and have been killed. Not long ago a boy fell asleep, lay down on the way, and the waggons killed him. Another boy was killed; it was supposed he had fallen asleep when driving his waggon and fallen off and was killed.\*\* "*

**Contributed by C. Hallen**

\*\* Could this be a similar case: In the Ashbourne Register, a young man is buried on the 21 June 1772—"William Tunnicliffe, from Longnor, a young man of about 18 years old, who was killed by a waggon wheel going over his back in Painters Lane, supposed that he fell off the shafts, being asleep."

## NEW BOOKS IN YOUR LIBRARY

### **Tracing your Ancestors using the Census**

I was a bit sceptical when I received this book, after all we have all been using the census for years, what more can anyone write about it. But I found it fascinating and believe it or not I found out some bits and pieces that were totally new to me.

Written by Emma Jolly she describes how and why census records came to be created, then looks in detail at each main census giving advice on how to get the most from the records. There is also information on those less well known censuses dating from before 1841. Each chapter covers the relevant historical context and compares online and other sources, identifying problems like lost or damaged records and showing how the specific information can be interpreted effectively. If you are looking for ancestors this is well worth a read, you just might find something out that will help in your search.

Priced at £12.99 it can be purchased from Pen and Sword. Access their website for further information at [www.pen-and-sword.co.uk](http://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk)

### **Suffragettes—Images of the National Archives**

This is a subject that naturally grabs my interest as I had a granny who was a suffragette, even if she didn't go to the lengths of being thrown in prison. Also published by Pen and Sword [website above] at £14.99, it was published last year to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first women's vote and is written by Lauren Willmott.

1918 was a watershed moment. For the first time some women could vote, marking the culmination of a fifty year long arduous struggle from thousands of women and men up and down the country. Using historic documents and images from the National Archives, the book delves into the world of suffrage and traces the journey of those thousands of women who were fighting to achieve women's rights in a man's world. The story of the militant Pankhursts is well known and Emily Davidson achieved headlines by dying under the King's horse at Derby Day, but this book shows just how widespread the suffrage movement was and follows the women, men and organisations in their fight to achieve equality.

Both these books have been placed on our library shelves and you are welcome to come in and have a look, if you are thinking of purchasing one. Believe me they are well worth it.

## EARTHQUAKES IN EYAM

In February and March 1750 there were serious convulsions on the continent causing mass evacuation of London, where the effects were felt amid complete panic. There had been a mass evacuation of London and an eye witness wrote *"I saw the Westminster end of the town full of coaches and crowds flying out of the reach of the Divine justice with astonishing precipitation. One woman fell dead in the street as she was stepping into her coach."*

Another writer said *"This great city has been for some days past under terrible apprehension of another earthquake. Yesterday thousands fled out of town, it having been constantly affirmed by a dragoon that he had a revelation that a great part of London and Westminster would be destroyed between twelve and one at night."*

As was the case in those days the churches were crowded with frightened people, fearful of the consequences. Rev George Whitfield preached at midnight to a large crowd assembled in Hyde Park and Charles Wesley composed several hymns contrasting the security of Heaven with the insecurity of Earth. In Eyam the shock was felt in the village and William Wood, the Eyam historian, wrote *"It happened on Wakes Sunday and the inhabitants were in church when the shock came on. Several had their Prayer Books forced from their hands by the shock and the pewter plates tingled on the shelves of the houses in and around Eyam."*

Five years later, on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 1755, a terrible earthquake rocked continents and islands. The epicentre was at Lisbon in Portugal and that city was reduced to ruin, killing between 60,000 and 100,000 people. The earthquake was followed by a tsunami and fire, resulting in near total destruction. Contemporary reports state that the earthquake lasted between three and six minutes, causing gigantic fissures, 16 feet wide, to appear in the city centre. Survivors rushed to the open space of the docks for safety and watched as the water receded, revealing a sea floor littered by lost cargo and old shipwrecks.

Lisbon was not the only place affected by the catastrophe. Destruction was rampant in the Algarve. Shock waves were felt as far as Finland and North Africa. Tsunamis as tall as 20 meters swept the African coast and the island of Barbados, and a three metre tsunami hit Cornwall. The tsunami had taken almost four hours to reach the UK and it was also seen along the south coast of England and on the River Thames in London. Contemporary reports say that there were three of these waves and that the sea receded very quickly. Although there is no record of the overall death toll, the 19th century French

writer Arnold Boscowitz claimed that *“great loss of life and property occurred upon the coasts of Cornwall”*. At the same time Scotland was hit by tremors and vibrations and it is believed that the earthquake affected an area of over one million square miles. In England every church and chapel was crowded and a day of national fasting was announced.

In Derbyshire lead miners felt the shocks while at work. *“At the same time miners in the bowels of the earth in Derbyshire felt the ground vibrate and heard a noise as if the rocks were grinding against each other.”* An account of the experiences of Eyam lead miners has been preserved:

*“It has been noticed as a curious and interesting fact, that the great earthquake which on Sunday the first day of November 1755 destroyed nearly the whole of the city of Lisbon, was very sensibly felt in many parts of Derbyshire, and particularly in the lead mines near Eyam. The narrative of Francis Mason, an intelligent overseer of the mines on Eyam Edge has already appeared in print, and I have not hesitated to compress it into a smaller compass, yet in so doing I have faithfully preserved the leading features of his detail.*

*About eleven o’clock in the forenoon of the first of November 1755, as Francis Mason sat in a small room at the distance of from forty to fifty yards from the mouth of one of the engine shafts, he felt the shock of an earthquake, which raised him up in his chair and shook some pieces of lime and plaster from the sides and roof of his little hovel. In a field about three hundred yards from the mine he afterwards observed a chasm or cleft in the earth, which he supposed was made at the same time: its direction was parallel to the vein of ore which the miners were then pursuing and its continuation from one extremity to the other was nearly one hundred and fifty yards.*

*Two miners who were employed in the drifts about sixty fathoms deep when the earthquake took place, were so terrified at the shock that they dared not attempt to climb the shaft, which they dreaded might run in upon them and entomb them alive. They felt themselves surrounded with danger, and as they were conversing with each other on the means of safety and looking for a place of refuge, they were alarmed by a second shock much more violent than the one preceding. They now ran precipitately to the interior of the mine: it was an instinctive movement that no way bettered their condition; it only changed the spot of earth where they had previously stood; but their danger and fears were still the same. Another shock ensued, which after an awful and almost breathless interval of four or five minutes, was succeeded by a fourth and afterwards by a fifth. Every repercussion was followed by a loud rumbling noise, which continued for about a minute; then, gradually de-*

*creasing in force, like the thunder retiring into distance it subsided into an appalling stillness more full of terror than the sounds which had passed away, leaving the mind occupied by other impressions, to contemplate the mysterious nature of its danger. The whole space of time included between the first and the last shock, was nearly twenty minutes.*

*When the men had recovered a little from their trepidation, they began to examine the passages, and to endeavour to extricate themselves from their confinement. As they passed along the drifts they observed that pieces of mineral were scattered along the floor, which had been shaken from the sides and roof, but all the shafts remained entire and uninjured."*

Many theologians claimed that the earthquakes were a manifestation of Divine wrath, much to the disgust of the Rector of Eyam, who was the Rev Thomas Seward. He was also the Canon of Lichfield Cathedral and the father of Anna Seward, whose poetry and literature had earned her the title of "Swan of Lichfield". Rev Seward preached a sermon on the subject and published it in the following year under the title "The late dreadful earthquakes, no proof of Gods particular wrath against the Portuguese."

*With thanks to the Derbyshire Countryside of 1955 and the Derby Mercury*

### THE RAGGED SCHOOL

On 16 June 1846 the second meeting of the Ragged School Union was held at the Music Hall on Store Street. The chairman was Lord Ashley, who commented that his experience over the last year had showed him how necessary these types of schools were, in order to keep evil away from the children. He used one Sunday evening Ragged School as an example. Here the average attendance was 260 and the children's ages ranged from 5 to 17. Of these, 42 had no parents, 21 had stepmothers, and 7 were the children of convicts. When the children were asked how they lived they answered "By picking up coals on the river banks, selling things in the street, and habitual stealing." 27 of the children had themselves been in prison and when asked why they committed crime answered "Because their parents sent them out and told them to get a living the best that they could". 36 had run away from home, 41 lived by begging, 21 had never slept in a bed, 17 had no shoes, 13 had neither hat, cap nor bonnet, and 12 no undergarments at all.

*From the Derby Mercury*

## RESEARCH CENTRE AND LIBRARY



### BRIDGE CHAPEL HOUSE DERBY

#### Acquisitions at 1 April 2019

Allestree:	Allestree by Elizabeth Eisenberg
Ashbourne	The Historical Setting
Birchover:	Birchover Methodist Church Centenary 1867-1967
Brackenfield:	Maria Turbutt of Ogston Hall [1821-1877]
Brailsford:	Brailsford Hall
Derby:	Derby Pubs and Breweries during the Great War
Derwent:	The Story of the Lost Villages
Langley:	Langley Hall
Matlock:	The Steep-Gradient Tramway
Pinxton:	In Times Past
Ticknall:	Knowle Hill
Youlgreave;	The Parish Church and Records
General:	Legends of Derbyshire
Miscellaneous:	Tracing your Ancestors using the Census Suffragettes—Images of the National Archives
Trades/Occupations:	Clarity of Vision—the history of Lancaster & Thorpe [including family trees] - Maxwell Craven Derbyshire's Old Lead Mines and Miners

Certificates:

Marriage: John Fox & Frances Needham, 1913, Clay Cross  
Death: Frances Needham, 1920, age 70, Clay Cross

Family Histories: The Cheney's of Langley  
Birkitts of Chesterfield  
Tildesleys of Staffordshire  
Wass

Family Trees: Alsop of Alsop le Dale; Ashton of Killamarsh; Bagshaw of The Ridge; Balgey of Aston; Barker of Dore; Barley of Barley; Barlow of Dronfield; Beard of Beard Hall; Bentley of Breadsall; Beresford of Bentley; Beresford of Beresford; Beresford of Newton Grange; Bowdon of Bowdon; Bradburne of Bradburne; Bradbury of Ollersett; Bradshaw of Windley; Brailsford of Senior; Browne of Marsh; Browne of Snelston; Bullock of Darley; Bullock of Unstone; Capell of Morton; Cavendish of Chatsworth; Charlton of Sandiacre; Clark of Somershall; Cley of Crich; Cokayne of Ashbourne; Columbell of Darley; Curzon of Croxall; Curzon of Kedleston; Dakyn of Stubbing Edge; Deane of Beeley; Debanck of Hartshorne; Dethick of Breadsall; Dethick of Newhall; Draycott of Loscoe; Eyre of Hassop; Eyre of Highlow; Fitzherbert of Norbury; Fitzherbert of Somersall; Foljambe of Walton; Frauncis of Foremark; Frechvill of Staveley; Fulwood of Middleton; Gilbert of Locks; Gilbert of Youldgreave; Hardwick of Hardwick; Harpur of Normanton; Hunlock of Wingerworth; Hunt of Aston; Hurte of Ashbourne; Johnson of Kilbourne; Kniveton of Bradley; Kniveton of Mercaston; Lathbury of Holme; Leeke of Hasland; Leeke of Sutton; Leigh of Eggington; Levinge of Parwich; Lister of Eaton

Famous People: James Eyre, Artist of Derby  
John Flamsteed, First Astronomer Royal  
John King and The Mine Cage Safety Detaching Hook

## **Derbyshire Family History Society**

**June Quarter 2019**



**Kindly donated by Stephen Orchard, this lovely photo shows a group of children from Derby Primitive Methodist Church. On the back is written Bennets, Ironmongers—Was that where this photo was taken?**

**There is also a separate card stating Rosetta Bennett was a member of this church in November 1904. I wonder which little girl is her?**