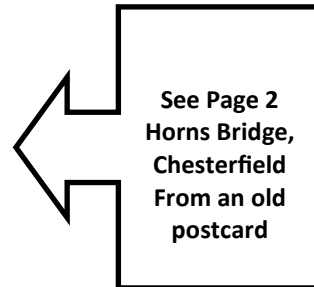
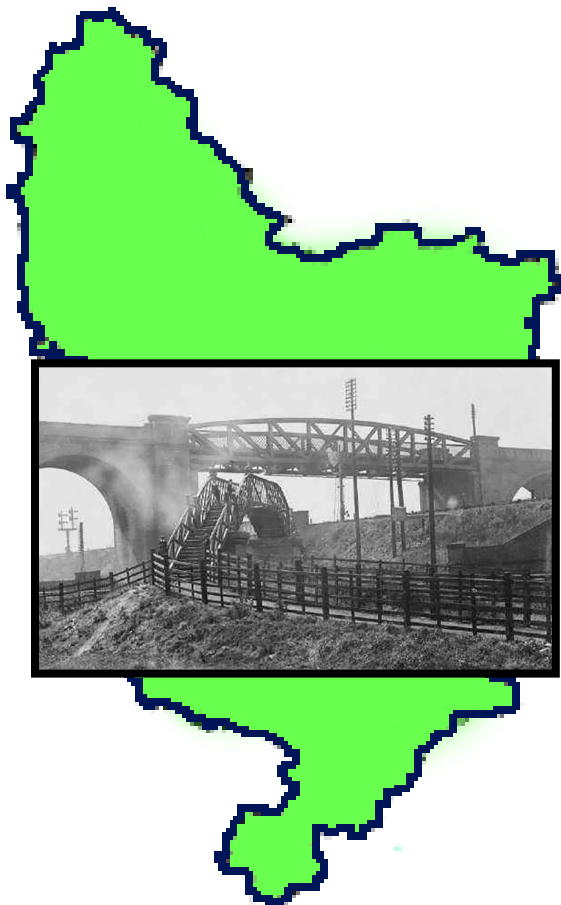


Derbyshire Family History Society



Sep 2019

Issue 170

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

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

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

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

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

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

BRITISH ISLES per family [at one address] £15

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

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.**

- 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—Horns Bridge, Chesterfield

A young woman's body was found on the Midland Railway, not far from the Horns Bridge, horribly mutilated. It appears that several youths were walking on the railway when they came across portions of a woman's apparel. A gang of men were sent out and portions of a body were found scattered about the track. The remains were gathered together and conveyed on a stretcher to the Railway Station, where they were placed in a waiting room. They were not identified until Friday morning, when Mr Pike, who holds a responsible position as foreman of the boiler makers at Messrs Markham and Co's extensive works, viewed some of the clothing, which he recognised as belonging to his youngest daughter Mary Ann Pike. Some time ago, her parents came to live in Holywell Cross, Chesterfield, and as there was a good opening for a greengrocer's shop deceased was started by her father in that line of business. Although only a small shop, she had gathered together a lucrative business, which she and Mrs Pike managed. On Thursday deceased's father requested her to go to see a friend at Hasland to obtain some information. She did not care to go, but towards evening left the house presumably with the intention of doing so. Nothing more was heard until the mutilated remains were found. The deceased, it is believed, was walking along the line in the dark, saw a train approaching and slipped out of the way, being knocked down from behind by the 8.16 express from Chesterfield to Derby. Sympathy is felt in the town for the deceased's father and mother, both of whom are well known.

Derbyshire Times, 30 Aug 1890

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to our September issue. I hope you find something of interest in the following pages. I have had quite a few contributions, but also had to put some articles and fillers in myself to fill up the pages, I hope I have picked wisely. Please consider sending something in, it will help me and may be of help to other members as well. I very nearly just cut some pages out, but got away with it this time.

I have finally managed to talk someone into giving me a hand in organising an open day, which will take place next year on the 24th June [thanks Brian]. More details are on page 10 and any ideas or offers or help would be welcome. Nearer the time please mention it to as many people as you can so we get plenty of visitors. And talking of next year, Family Tree Live will be taking place at Alexandra Palace on the 17/18th April 2020. It was a good show this year so if you are interested there are more details available at www.family-tree.co.uk

Some good news for researchers is that the price of Post 1857 Wills has dropped from £10 to £1.50. I don't know how long they will keep this going, so if you have any wills you are thinking of ordering now is the time to do it. As civil registration certificates have just risen in price again, this one took me completely by surprise—a very nice surprise I might add as there were two or three wills I would have liked, but couldn't afford. Dare I hope I might solve a problem or two now.

Various datasets are still being added to the DFHS website—a slow process, but hopefully it is helping our members. Older datasets have then been sent to Find My Past, helping to raise some much needed money for our Society. The policy will always be to let our members have first skim at new records before they are sent to a commercial site however.

Well I think that is all for now. Enjoy the rest of the summer, which at the moment of writing looks like being a big washout, but a very hot one. I hope to see some of you either at our monthly meetings or visiting us at Bridge Chapel House.

All the best

Helen

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DERBY MEETINGS

Apr 2019

Tissington, Its Past, Present and Future—Sir Richard FitzHerbert



The FitzHerberts descend from a Norman knight, Herbert and originally lived at Norbury Hall. The marriage of Nicholas FitzHerbert in 1465 to Ciceley Frauncis, heiress of Tissington, brought the estate into the family. It would have been a moated fortification that guarded the Norman church of St Mary. The present Hall was built in 1609 by Francis FitzHerbert and remains virtually unaltered today. The Hall is Grade II listed as are the stable block, out-buildings and staff quarters. The Coat of Arms, 3 Lions Rampant sits above the main entrance and a stream that never dries out runs through the heart of the village.

Henry the 3rd baronet (1783-1858) built the village without planning permission.

Sir Richard is the 9th Baronet and inherited the Hall and estate from his uncle, John Richard in 1989 and he and his family live in Tissington Hall. Maintaining the Hall and the estate is a full time job and in recent years the hall has been rewired and reroofed, 48 chimneys repaired and solar panels fitted. Sir Richard has helped to create a thriving village and estate. The 2,500 acre estate has working farms, some that do B&B. Cottages and barns have been renovated and are now holiday lets and craft workshops. The Old Blacksmith's Forge now houses "On a Wick and a Prayer" making scented candles. There is a 1940s sweet shop and vintage homeware. The Old Kitchen Garden is now a nursery selling plants. Tissington Butchers has a deli/farm shop and the school house is a Kindergarten. The Old Coach House is converted into Herbert's Fine English Tearooms, serving breakfasts, lunches, snacks and afternoon teas.

The Hall is open 28 days each year, the gardens open for NGS twice a year.

There are church fetes, Garden Operas and Car Rallies. There are evenings of ghost stories and Christmas events with themes such as Cinderella, Beauty and the Beast, Peter Pan's Neverland and What the Dickens. The Hall is licensed for weddings and there are two rooms in the Hall for a luxurious stay. In the past it has been used for "Bargain Hunt" and a "Naked Ladies" calendar was photographed there.



St Mary's Church, also Grade II listed, houses many memorials to the FitzHerbert family and there is a vault beneath the church.

The village is well known for its "Well Dressings". Each year during the month of May the wells in the village are dressed with flowers depicting different themes. Weeks before the images are chosen and the boards prepared. They are soaked in the village pond and plastered in clay before the picture is traced on to it. Flower petals and natural materials are added to build up the picture. A service is held in the Church on Ascension Day followed by a procession to bless each well.

Sir Richard does an article in Derbyshire Life each month.



He told us a couple of stories whereby being a Sir was not useful. When buying something on the Internet, a name and address was needed, titles listed were Mr, Mrs etc but no Sir, so the option "other" was chosen. The parcel duly arrived addressed to Other R FitzHerbert.

The other occasion was at the airport armed with a passport with Sir Richard on it but a ticket with Mr (again Sir wasn't an option). Because the two didn't match they didn't want to let him board. His family passed through with no

problem leaving him to sort out the misunderstanding.

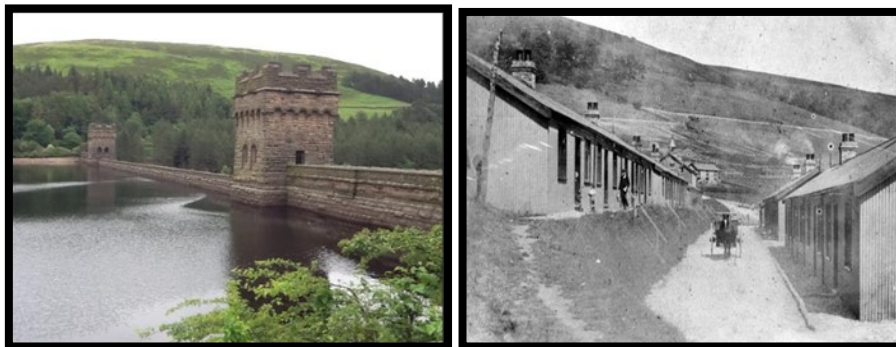
The wells, the Hall, gardens and village deserve a visit, not forgetting the Tearooms. You might even see Sir Richard clearing tables.

May 2019

The Bamford Dams—Keith Blood

At a time of an ever increasing population, there was a need for a supply of clean water. More reservoirs were required. Three Midland Counties, Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire joined forces along with Sheffield with the offer to finance the project. Government approval would be needed and plans were put forward. An area in the Derwent valley was chosen because of the rivers and the high rainfall. Originally the plan was for six reservoirs and an Act was passed in 1899. Edward Sandiman became the chief engineer to the newly formed Derwent Valley Water Board. The plans were scaled down to three reservoirs, Derwent, Ladybower and Howden.

It was decided to build the Dam walls out of masonry rather than an earth bank like a dam in Sheffield that burst in 1866. Work began in 1901 and Howden and Derwent were completed by 1916. Local stone was used from quarries at Bole Hill near Grindleford to build the dam which was wider at the bottom than the top and the hollow structure was filled with crushed stone to reinforce it. Huge stones were transported on a specially created railway. Earth that was dug out to make a trench for the wall created an island in the reservoir. A tunnel to Sheffield had to be made.



Local people were employed but there were not enough for the massive project. Itinerant workers, previously employed in construction in Wales, were brought in and a special village, Birchinlee or Tin Town was created in 1903. There were married huts and lodgings for single men. A hospital, school, shops, library and pub were built. There was a railway line to the village. A recreation room provided billiards, snooker, a stage and dance floor. A foot-

ball team and a brass band were created. Two policemen were employed but it was reported that the cells were never used. Many men died during the construction of these reservoirs and health and safety as we know it today would not have existed. Villages and farmland were flooded, forcing people to find new homes and a new living. The itinerant workers must have moved on after the completion of the reservoirs because the village has now disappeared except for a track that used to be the railway.

The third and final reservoir, Ladybower was not started until 1939. This is part 2 of the story, which we will hear next year.

During World War II, Barnes Wallace created a bomb, later known as the “Bouncing Bomb” and the location chosen to test this bomb was Bamford Dams. Its structure and surrounding landscape were similar to that in the Ruhr Valley and the pilots perfected their low flying skills and ability to drop their bombs correctly to cause the most destruction.

There have been times during long periods of drought that the waters have receded sufficiently to walk through what was Derwent Village.



Jun 2019

Terror from the Skies—Stephen Flinders

Stephen introduced us to his ancestor, Albert Sturman born 1897 Leicester. Albert volunteered in 1915 at the age of 17 joining the 2nd Battalion Leicester Regiment. He received the Military Medal for bravery in the field and also the British War and Victory Medals. He married in 1920 to Ada Symons and Stephen's mother Barbara was born in 1925. Ada deserted her husband and daughter.

Stephen went on to introduce us to another gentleman, Ferdinand Zeppelin 1838-1917. Ferdinand was an officer in the Prussian army and acting as an observer saw a U S helium balloon. He went on to develop and patent an airship that was later called the Zeppelin. At around the time that Albert was

born, these airships were being tested for passenger travel, the first one being in 1900. These were hydrogen balloons. The journey of the L21 lasted just ½hr. L22 blew up in 1907 and L24 crashed. 1910 saw the first commercial flight and by 1914 there had been 1,500 flights and 10,000 passengers.



During World War I, the German military made extensive use of Zeppelins as bombers and scouts, killing over 500 people in bombing raids in Britain. Peter Strasser planned the Great Midland Raid creating new airbases at Nordholz, Tondern and Hage and ordering more airships. His plan to bomb Liverpool, Manchester and Birmingham was thwarted by fog and directions became confused. Bombs were dropped on Loughborough, Ilkeston, Burton-on-Trent and Derby. Two people, Ernest Stubley and Beatrice Smith, who worked at Herbert Morris Works in Loughborough, received OBEs for returning to the factory after it was evacuated to turn out the lights. A plaque was erected in Loughborough in 2016 to commemorate 100 years since the event.

The Stanton Iron Works at British trawler was close by, but fearing for his and his crews safety he did not pick them up but reported it when he returned home some 95 miles distance, by this time it was too late for a rescue. Was he a War Hero or War Criminal?

There was another Zeppelin raid on Edinburgh in April 1916 and thankfully it appears to be the last one of the war.

RUTH BARBER

LATEST SOCIETY NEWS

E-MAGAZINE: As you may be aware, the rise in printing and postage costs has escalated alarmingly over the last few years and the price of the subscription now only just covers the cost of printing and posting out the magazine four times a year. We do save a little by the printers posting out direct, but if we have to post out magazines [e.g. to late payers] then at the end of the day the Society loses money.

One option would be to raise the subscription, but after listening to comments from some of our members we have decided to offer the magazine in PDF form, which will be sent out either by email or into some kind of transfer system [e.g. Dropbox] with a password required. Members would then receive the password so as to be able to access their magazine.

To see whether this idea is viable, we would need to know how many members would be willing to receive their magazine in this form. It is likely that subscriptions would then remain the same, with perhaps a tiny increase for those who would still like to receive their magazine in paper form.

I must stress that nothing is decided as yet, but should we go ahead with this idea then the system will start with the March 2020 magazine. In the meantime would anyone willing to receive the magazine by E-mail please let me know at editor@dfhs.org.uk, as soon as possible.

Depending on the results, further details and explanations will appear in the December issue.

OPEN DAY—ADVANCE NOTICE: The Society is delighted to announce that a Family History Day is being arranged for 2020. It will be held on Wednesday 24th June from 10 a.m. at the old Central Library in The Wardwick, Derby. We hope to have plenty of stalls and exhibitions, some talks, a beginners workshop and old films running all day. Refreshments will be available and our Society will be there with a load of computers and hopefully answering all those questions you have and knocking down those annoying brick walls. There will be goodie bags for new members and hopefully we might have an offer for those willing to sign up with us. Please spread the word around and let's get as many as possible coming along to have a look. More details nearer the time.

TERRY LAMYMAN has sent the following email to us, asking if any of our members can help him with a photograph he has. He writes:

"I have a 16x20inch old studio photograph, not in a frame, of a seated lady aged around 50 - 60 yrs. Good condition, monochrome. Endorsed verso is: "Mrs Whitehurst (nee Archer)/Charles Whitehurst father/and Edith Lambert (nee Adams) mother/lived in Derby/Charles Whitehurst/Sarah Archer b 10/2/1830 d 20/11/1906/lived at St Luke's Street/Derby..... Buriedstone, Staffs.

There is another same-size studio photo with it of seated young lady in a large hat. Someone has written '*Don't know who this is*'. There is handwriting verso but can't make it out. Not bad condition for age, few marks but no foxing to either photo. I would estimate photos taken around 1890ish."

If you think this is your family or can help in any way, please email Terry at teslamyman@ntlworld.com

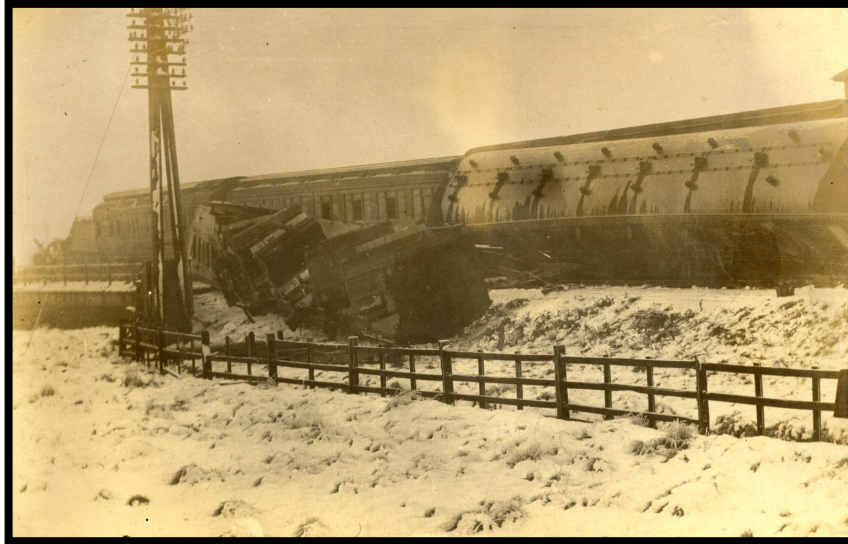
LETTER TO CROMWELL

Thomas Thacker was the cousin of the vicar of St Werburgh in Derby [one Robert Thacker] and also the secretary to Thomas Cromwell, Vicar-General to King Henry VIII. On the 23rd September 1538 he wrote his master a letter. In this letter he advised that he had been encouraging the Abbot of Darley to surrender his premises to the King and requested that as he had been born at nearby Repton and held land locally that he be given the house and goods of the Abbot. However, the house was made over to Robert Sacheverell as holder for the Crown by the commissioners, and Sacheravell purchased the whole contents on October 24th. Two years later it was held by Sir William West.

A few years earlier Richard Strete had written to Thomas Cromwell, stating that he had heard the Archdeacon of All Saints', Derby, was to be made a Bishop, and asked to succeed to the vacancy. "*I should like to change my Archdeaconry of Salop for that of Derby, which is better by twenty pounds*". He sent a reference from Rowland Lee, the divine who performed the private marriage ceremony between Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn.

Derby, Its Rise and Progress

SPONDON RAILWAY ACCIDENT VICTIMS



On Monday the 13th January 1913 there occurred a serious collision on the Midland Railway at Bromford Bridge station near Birmingham. Normally only open on race days for the nearby race course the two controlling signal boxes had been specially opened this freezing and foggy day to allow the 09.55 a.m. Wolverhampton to Birmingham local passenger train to call to pick up a horse box. It was as this was departing the down loop platform line to re-join the down main line it was struck by the 10.10. a.m. Leicester to Birmingham express travelling on the down through line. Despite the express braking hard it smashed into the third carriage of the slow train severely damaging it and the fourth carriage and derailing others.

There were three passenger fatalities, Mrs. Minnie Douglass aged 33 (but reported as 32) and her daughter Margaret aged 7, and Miss Helen Knight of Wishaw aged 61. There were also six seriously injured and many lesser casualties. Minnie Douglass and her daughter had been living in Sutton Coldfield for two years with husband George and two sons but the family hailed from Spondon. The Derby Daily Telegraph for 20th January 1913 carried this report of their funeral.

BROMFORD BRIDGE ACCIDENT : Victims Buried at Spondon

"There were many indications of sorrow on Saturday afternoon when Mrs. Douglass and her child were buried in the village cemetery. As already an-

nounced, Mrs. Douglass was the daughter of Mr. Henry Lather, whilst her husband is a son of Mr. D.G. Douglass, late headmaster of the parish schools, both families being well known and respected in the neighbourhood. The remains were met at Spondon Station about 12.30 p.m., and the cortege then proceeded to the Parish Church, where the first part of the burial service was conducted by the Rev. A. L. Browne, M.A., vicar. Appropriate music was played on the organ by Mr. F. E. Brighthouse. The mournful procession then wend its way to the cemetery where the committal portion of the service was performed by the vicar. There was a most touching scene when the coffins containing mother and daughter were lowered into the same grave, many of those present giving way to deep emotion. Both at the church and graveside were a large number of sympathisers, whilst nearly every blind in the village was drawn during the time of the sad ceremony. The coffin of the child was borne by six girls in the persons of the Misses. Dorothy Ward, Eva Cox, May Sinfoil, Alice Watts, Patty Soar, and Gladys Gadsby. The bearer of Mrs. Douglass's coffin were personal friends of Mr. George Douglass, in Messrs. T. Hampshire, F. Spendlove, Jos. Watts, J. Maddocks, W. Cope, and W. E. Walker-Smith. The coffins were of polished oak and bore the inscriptions "Minnie Douglass at rest January 13, 1913 aged 32 years" and "Margaret Douglass at rest January 13 1913 aged 7½ years".



The headstone in Spondon Cemetery

The newspaper report then continued with a long list of mourners. For readers interested in finding out more about the accident the full eleven page report of the Inquiry conducted by Major J. W. Pringle for the Board of Trade is available to view on the website railwaysarchive.co.uk

Paul Walpole (Mem 5856)
E-mail: paulwalpole@talktalk.net

****Thanks to the Midland Railway Study Centre for use of the accident photograph***

A Walk Around Darley Abbey by Peter Nelson, Feb 2019
Derbyshire Family History Society, June 2019, Issue 169, Page 6
Darley Abbey pub', Medieval First-Floor Hall

Peter Nelson's informative article refers to the Darley Abbey pub', thought to be the Abbot's residence. Indications suggest that the building indeed had an important monastic function because it is a classic example of a first-floor hall typical of England from the 12th century until the beginning of the 15th. Readers will be aware of the older, so-called, "Jew's House" in Lincoln (late 12th century), which is similar. Another example, often given in the relevant literature, is Boothby Pagnell Manor House, in Lincolnshire, built around 1200. There is another example, much altered and extended, at Hartshorn (South Derbyshire), pictured below. Common to all is a first-floor hall, usually with solar, above stores and services on the ground. The hall is therefore approached by a flight of stairs as beautifully demonstrated at Darley Abbey. At Hartshorn the hall has been drastically altered with an attic floor inserted into the roof, but the first-floor entrance is obvious, as the image shows.



Indication of first-floor late medieval hall, Hartshorn, South Derbyshire

I guess (with apologies to Peter Nelson, and to historians and archaeologists better than I) that Darley Abbey hall pre-dates the 15th century but, like the other similar halls, has been altered over time. The hall may date back to the time of King John, who had an interest in the Abbey, and when the Abbey was wealthy enough to have been able to build a structure, lavish for its day. Also, I guess that, given the way in which religious houses were organized, the building could as easily have been a guest house, a hospital, a dormitory, or a dining hall.

In the 15th century, the Abbey seems to have fallen on hard times, although at

the time of its surrender in October 1538 it was valued at £200 annually, which puts it amongst the middle range of religious houses in respect of income (I stand to be corrected). Initially the site was made over by the crown to Robert Sacheverell, and passed over to Sir William West (first Baron De La Warr? Whose grandson founded the American state of Delaware). I guess that the Darley Abbey hall survived because it was a good place in which to live while Robert Sacheverell or his agent, or Sir William West or his agent, was disposing of, or reorganizing, the assets of the erstwhile abbey. These assets were said to be significant (not least the building materials), and included the surrounding farms, on land now occupied by Darley Fields, the water meadows of Darley Park, and the Chester Green suburbs; excellent agricultural land. It would be interesting to know the condition of the hall when the Evans family took over at the end of the eighteenth century. It must have been no less than a good home for someone, or else a barn.

Nick Ashton-Jones, Derby
E-mail: nickashtonjones@hotmail.com

The earliest successful Silk Mill in England was established on an island in the Derwent in Derby and an interesting comment on the employment situation at this mill was given by William Bray who wrote the following in 1783.

"There are 100,000 movements, turned by a single wheel, any one of which may be stopped independent of the rest. Everytime this wheel goes round which is three times in a minute, it works 73,728 yards of silk. These mills employ about two hundred persons of both sexes and of all ages, to the great relief and advantage of the poor. The money given by strangers is put into a box, which is opened the day after Michaelmas Day and a feast is made – an ox is killed, liquor is made, the windows are illuminated, and the men, women and children employed in the work, drest in their best array, enjoy dancing and decent mirth. A holiday, the expectation of which lightens the labour of the rest of the year."

A little presumption...

William Staley was born in Elton in 1819. His birth went unrecorded as he was never baptised. The illegitimate son of Sarah Staley, his father is unknown. In the early days of my family history research, I presumed that William Staley was my ancestor. After all, my mother's maiden name was Staley, her father was Wilfred Staley, and his father was William Staley (and his father was William Staley born 1819). But I was wrong.

The 1871 census revealed that William Staley senior, aged 52 was the step grandfather of William Staley aged 9, whose real name was William Staley Hodgson.

Elton 1871 Census, Lawson Cottage

William Staley 52 Head Outdoor Pensioner Chelsea Hospital Elton, Derbyshire

William S Hodgson 9 step grandson Brompton Barracks, Chatham, Kent

William Staley was also the enumerator for his district in 1871.

In the 1851 census William Staley was 31, single and a corporal at the Royal Artillery Barracks, Woolwich Dockyard, born Winster.

But back to the beginning....

Rebecca Ann Smith was born in 1816 in Woolwich, the eldest daughter of Charles Morehead Smith (born in 1791 in Quebec) and Tabitha nee Wallocks (born in Gibraltar). They married in 1815, and Henry G Wallocks was one of the witnesses. Charles had joined the British army in 1803, aged 12 as a musician. He went on to have a long and distinguished career in the Royal Artillery military band as a French Horn player and soloist (Farmer, 1954). I have been unable to go back any further with Charles' family. Morehead is a place in Devon, but Smith and Quebec don't make it easy! I would presume that his family were an army family too.

Rebecca Smith married Ewen McLaren, a corporal in the army, on 3/7/1837. They lived in Mill Lane, Woolwich and went on to have three children, John Charles (1839), Charles (1841) and Janet (1843). The 1841 census records that Ewen was born in Scotland in 1810, and his marriage certificate states that his father was called John and a farmer. I know nothing more about Ewen. Again, I have a brick wall! However, Ewen died on 9/1/1845 of consumption, leaving Rebecca with 3 children under 7. On Ewen's death certificate Rebecca gives her address as Mill Lane, and states she was present at the death, in Princes Road, Plumstead Common. In the 1841 census Rebecca is listed as working as an army and navy cap maker.

Birth places of Quebec, Gibraltar and a McLaren in Scotland have left me with three brick walls...

In 1841, the census for Mill Lane, Woolwich Arsenal reads

Ewen McLaren head 25 Army

Rebecca McLaren wife 25

John McLaren son 2

N K McLaren son 3 months (later Charles)

Tabitha Smith 15

Tabitha is Rebecca's younger sister. Neighbours in Mill Lane are in the army but there is also a weaver, a tailor and a cordwainer. After 1841 the McLarens prove more difficult to find. Not only have they dispersed but the spelling of McLaren varies too.

1851 No. 11 Artillery Place, Woolwich

Charles Smith head 27 artillery gunner

Sarah Smith wife 23

John McClaren nephew 13 army artillery trumpeter

It also appears that there are 6 households within no. 11.

At no. 12

Joseph Lyons head 43 army and navy capmaker

Eularia Lyons wife 37 army and navy cap maker

Mary Ann daughter

EJ son

A Eularia

FC Lyons 11 months

Rebecca McLaren widow visitor 34 army and navy cap maker

Nurse

Cook

Amy and navy cap making must have been a profitable business! Eularia's maiden name was also Smith, but her father was William – her cousin perhaps?

At 26 Ogilby Street, Woolwich is Rebecca's younger brother Robert and sister Tabitha (now Lawson) and Rebecca's daughter Janet. All were born in Woolwich.

Robert J Smith Head 33 Bombardier Royal Artillery

Sarah Ann wife 27

NEJ daughter 9

James Lawson Head 24 Bombardier Royal Artillery

Tabitha Lawson wife 24 cap maker

Mathilda daughter 1

Janet McLarren niece 7

So where is Rebecca's father in 1851? Curiously enough, he is working as a school master at Thakeham Union Workhouse. Having retired from the army unfit for service, at 66 he has a new career, as does his wife Tabitha.

1851 Thakeham Union

Charles Smith 66 schoolmaster Quebec

Tabitha wife 60 school mistress Gibraltar

Mary Ann daughter 22 needleworker, Woolwich

Charles M Laren grandson 9 Woolwich

Rebecca is visiting, son John is with Rebecca's brother Charles, daughter Janet with her brother Robert and younger son Charles is with her father. Did she have a home of her own? To add to the confusion is the spelling of McLaren.

Charles M Laren

Janet McLarren

John McClaren

Rebecca McLaren went on to marry William Staley in 1857 in Lewisham district. William was also serving in the Royal Artillery, as a bombardier. William stated that his father was G Staley, farmer! Further research turned out to reveal that such lies on official documents was to become a family trait.

Rebecca and William left Woolwich and returned to Elton before 1871. I can find no trace of any of the family in the 1861 census for England and Wales. Perhaps they were all in Ireland. In 1871, William is residing at Lawson Cottage with Janet's son William Staley Hodgson. As the enumerator, he notes at the back that his wife is visiting her daughter Janet in Bury.

Why Lawson Cottage? The mystery of the naming of Lawson Cottage in Elton may be solved by the knowledge that Rebecca's sister Tabitha had married James Lawson. James went on to become an eminent member of the Royal Artillery Band and its bandmaster. Perhaps James and Tabitha helped finance Lawson Cottage in some way.

Education in Elton 1650-1900 by Winifred Woodward (2006) records that Harrod's Directory of 1870 states that there was a ladies' boarding school at Lawson Cottage.

'It is known that there were one or more dame schools in the village. One was at Lawson Cottage and was described rather grandly in Harrod's Directory of 1870 as a ladies' boarding school'

We know that Rebecca and William were living at Lawson Cottage in 1871 courtesy of the census, so presumably they were running a dame school there in 1870. It seems reasonable to conclude that Rebecca had some education as her parents had been employed as a school master and mistress at a work-house.

Lawson Cottage still stands today. A handsome double fronted, stone built cottage it is positioned near the church and close to the spot where William was buried in 1879 aged 59 in All Saint's Church graveyard. It is a large gravestone that marks the place, and most of it is blank. I suspect that Rebecca thought she would one day join him there.

Meanwhile Rebecca's daughter Janet has been busy. At the age of 18, on 25 February 1861 Janet, now known as Jessie Mira married Isaac Hodgson at Aghavellin, Kerry, Ireland. Isaac stated on his marriage certificate that he was a sergeant in the army, and that his father was a farmer called William. Researching the Crimean War I found the Crimean Medal List. On the same page as a Robert Smith is an Isaac Hodgson. They are listed as gunners and drivers of the 6th Co., 2nd Battalion. This Robert Smith could be Janet's uncle, Rebecca's brother who was earlier looking after her son Charles.

In 1862 Isaac and Jessie have a son, William Staley Hodgson, who is born in Brompton Barracks, Kent. How long Isaac and Jessie stay together is unknown, but on 13 October 1869 Janet is marrying again, this time in Bury, Lancashire. The marriage certificate is intriguing. She states that her name is Jesse Hodson, she is a spinster, and her father is a farmer called William Hodson. The groom is another soldier, Henry Mew, born in 1841 in the City of London. I have found no trace of Isaac's death between the two marriages...I suspect bigamy! We know that Jesse Hodson is our Jessie Hodgson as the witnesses at her wedding were her mother and step-father, who must have gone along with the deception.

Jessie and Henry went on to have four children, Amy Mira (1871), Nella (1877), Blanche (1879) and Henry (1881-1881).

In 1879, William Staley died at the age of 59 on 28 November and is buried in All Saints' churchyard, Elton. Rebecca then appears to leave Elton to live with her daughter Jessie and her new family. When William died he left an estate of under £200 (approximately £13,000) and was described as a pensioner from the 9th Brigade of the Royal Artillery.

1881 Census, Orford Military Barracks, Warrington
Henry Mew 40 Sergeant Regiment of Foot Middlesex

Jessie 38 Woolwich
Amy Mira 10 Salford
Nella 4 Aldershot
Blanche 2 Warrington
Rebecca Staley 64 Woolwich

However, by the 1891 census things have changed a lot for the family. Henry Mew has left the army and is now a hotel proprietor, of the Chatsworth Hotel to be exact. The Chatsworth Hotel is located on Loch Promenade, Douglas, Isle of Man. Jessie is his assistant.

Henry Mew 50 Head Hotel proprietor Middlesex
Jessie 48 Wife Hotel assistant Woolwich
Amy Mira 20 Salford
Nella 14 Aldershot
Blanche 12 Warrington
Rebecca Staley widow 74 Woolwich
Harriet Duncalt 29 Housemaid
Jane Pass 27 Waitress

The 1904 Official Tourists' Guide describes the Chatsworth Hotel as a private hotel on the sea front and having 35 bedrooms, 4 sitting rooms and situated three minutes from the landing pier. A room for a night cost 5/6 to 6/6. The hotel is now in the ownership of someone else, but where did a soldier get the funds necessary to buy a sea front hotel?

Henry died on 10 December 1897 in Douglas aged 55. His will states that he left an estate worth £9635, approximately £877,000 in today's money! Named as executors are Jessie Mira Hodgson Mew, widow and William Radcliffe, cabinet maker.

1901 Census, 11 Bradda Mount, Douglas
Jessie Mew 58 Widow
Rebecca Staley 84 Mother Widow
Nella Mew 24 Daughter Music Teacher

Interestingly, the musical talent is still running in the veins of this family.

Jessie and her mother and daughter have left the hotel and are now residing at Bradda Mount, Douglas. Rebecca died aged 87 and was buried on 31 March 1902 at Bradda. At the time of her death she was living at Acacia Cottage, Mount Bradda. She left effects totalling £157 (approximately £12,200 in today's money).

1911 sees Jessie back in England, and living at the very grand sounding Castellain Mansions, Paddington. She is living on private means with Blanche, now 32 who is also living on private means (her father's estate?). It is a flat of five rooms, and fortunately for me Jessie mistakenly completes the census form stating the number of children she has had, are living and have died (5/3/2). I only knew of 4 children at this point (William Staley Hodgson, Amy Mira, Blanche, Nella). More digging revealed the birth and death of Henry, Jessie and Henry's only son, in the same year. Not sure why she had put that two had died when she had only lost Henry.

Jessie died, aged 86, on 5 December 1929. Wills and Probate state that Jessie Mira Mew otherwise Jessie Mira Hodgson of St Elmo, Dumpton Park Drive, Broadstairs, Kent, widow died 5/12/1929. Probate London to Blanche Harriet Mew spinster. Effects £759 9s 6d. (About £34,000 today). Her son William had died in 1920 and her second husband in 1897. Like her mother Rebecca, she had outlived her second husband by many years.

Amy Mira married Harry Rushworth on 16 October 1893, had two daughters and died on 27 October 1948 a widow aged 77 at Ramsey, Isle of Man. She left £4405 (about £137,000) to her spinster sister Blanche. Her daughters predeceased her. Daughter Phyllis had died in the same year as her birth, 1897. Amy had also worked as a music teacher.

Blanche Harriet Mew died a spinster at Broadstairs, Kent in 1959, leaving £15,942 (about £423,000 today). She was 80.

Nella Elise had married Thomas B Clague and they had one daughter, Muriel, born in 1910 in Douglas. Nella Elise Clague died on 25 June 1954 aged 77 on the Isle of Man and left to her spinster daughter Muriel Blanche Clague £1768 (about £47,000 today). Muriel died a year later aged 45.

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Welsh Ramblings

Discovering William Storer

Writing these articles for the magazine has shown me that you should never be afraid to revisit your past research; not only might a fresh look throw up little details that you missed first time, you might also find little errors that you inexplicitly made before – well at least I did when I checked my information for this particular article. For some reason I had recorded the wrong maiden name for a spouse – and, worse than that, I had mistaken the christian name of my 4xgreat-grandfather (too many Thomas's and Joseph's in the family!).

Even if you haven't made errors or missed things, because over the years more data has become available on the various on-line resources, more searching can reveal information that wasn't there the last time you checked.

Whilst every discovery made during the course of researching my family history has given me a real sense of achievement – although, admittedly, some more than others – there are two scenarios in particular that have stood out. The first is where my initial research left a few questions unanswered, and a few doubts, which were later resolved by further research. The second is where I have been able to add flesh to the bones, so to speak, by finding out the full story of those little snippets of information that older relations were able to provide.

Such was the case (both cases) with my mother's paternal grandmother – Mum knew that her name was Sarah Jane, but for some reason was unsure of her maiden name. That, however, was provided by Mum's father's birth certificate – it was Storer. ("I thought it was Storer," said Mum!)

In the 1891 census the nearest match I could find was a Sarah Jane Smith, a dressmaker aged 14, living with her parents Nathaniel Smith (53 – a tailor) and Ann Smith (44 – from Minsterley in Salop) and her younger brothers Walter and Arthur in Common End in Mickleover. Smith? Probably not the right person then; but Mum recognised Walter and Arthur as her "uncles" – although she wasn't sure of the family connection. And the surname Smith rang a bell with Mum too.

At this point in my research I was unable to trace a birth certificate for Sarah Jane Storer – not helpful. However, from the certificate for her marriage to Joseph Warner in 1895 I knew that her father was William Storer, deceased. Sarah Jane was aged 19 at the time of her marriage – so was she the Sarah

Jane “Smith” from the 1891 census? Going back to the 1881 census, Nathaniel and Ann Smith had a 4-year old step-daughter by the name of Sarah Ann Storer. Surely Sarah Ann and Sarah Jane must be the same person?

Nathaniel Smith had married Ann Storer in November 1880 at Derby Register Office – and Ann was a widow; so Sarah Jane must have been Ann’s daughter from a previous marriage; presumably the Sarah “Ann” in the 1881 census was a mistake and by the 1891 census she was recorded with her mother’s new married name. (More on Nathaniel, Ann and their family later).

Then came the missing link – I was able to trace Sarah Jane’s birth certificate. I had missed it because the registration district had been mis-transcribed as “Barton” in Lancashire – but a copy of the document confirmed that it was “Burton” and that Sarah Jane was born on June 24th 1876 to William Storer (a grocer) and Ann Storer (formerly Mansell).

Now I was getting somewhere, but I had a shock when I traced William and Ann’s marriage certificate; they were married in St. Alkmunds Parish Church in Derby on 13th June 1876 – so, just eleven days before Sarah Jane was born. And William was a widower - aged 64 - and described as a farmer, while Ann was 29. Tragically, William died just four months later, on 22nd October 1876. His occupation was given on his death certificate as “Grocer and Farmer” – neatly tying together the occupations on his marriage certificate and Sarah Jane’s birth certificate.

I then found the 1877 Probate record for William – “*STORER William Effects under £200. 30th April. The Will of William Storer late of Mickleover in the County of Derby. Farmer and Grocer who died 22 October 1876 at Mickleover was proved at Derby by William Wood of Mickleover Farmer one of the Executors*”. In his Will, made on 17th August 1876, William directed that all his goods and effects were to be sold at public auction and that the proceeds, after any debts had been paid, should be “put out to interest” for the maintenance and education of Sarah Jane until she reached the age of sixteen when the money invested would become the property of Ann. William stated what should happen if Ann died before Sarah Jane became sixteen years old (Sarah Jane would receive the interest until she was twenty-one and would then obtain the money invested), or Sarah Jane died before she became sixteen years old (all the money would go to Ann), or if they both died before Sarah Jane became twenty-one (the money invested would be divided among the children of his first wife). However, he did not make any provision for what would happen if Ann was to remarry. It is interesting that the children from his first marriage were to get nothing, unless both Ann and Sarah Jane died

before Sarah Jane was twenty-one. The Will also referred to an amount of £15 owing to his daughter Elizabeth that was to be repaid – a helpful reference when it came to identifying William’s previous family.

A notice of Sale by Auction appeared in the “*Derby Mercury*” on 8th November 1876 which listed “*the whole of the superior Live and Dead farming stock*” “*of the late Mr Wm. Storer*” as consisting of:

6 in Calf Cows, 5 barren Cows, 2 fat Heifers, 6 coloury Stirks, 2 stirk Bulls, 3 yearling Calves, 4 work Horses, 1 prime fat Pig, 1 in-pig Gilt, 6 couple Fowls.

Minor tools, old wood, 2 short ladders, ditto 25 round (new), 4½ inch cart and wraiths, spring cart, narrow wheel wagon, plough, harrows, stack cloth (new), 2 knife straw cutter, horse tackle, fairy utensils, &c, stack prime upland hay, about 12 tons; heap manure and three fields grass keeping till March 24 1877.

At this stage, that is all I knew about William Storer – apart from the fact (from his marriage certificate) that his father was Joseph Storer. So, to find out more about him and his previous marriage I needed to search the 1871 census and before – a task made more difficult because Storer is one of those names prone to being mis-transcribed (“Stover” and “Storr” being two frustrating examples).

In the 1871 census there was a William Storer of the right age who was a groom and servant to Frederick Curzon, the vicar of All Saints’ Mickleover. William was married, but was recorded at the vicarage – so where were his wife and the children of that marriage? There was a Mary Storer, aged 59 and a labourer’s wife, living at Holy End in Mickleover with her children Elizabeth, Trevor and Sarah A. Is this them? Remember the reference to his daughter Elizabeth in William’s Will – and Mary Storer was shown as being the wife of the head of the household, even though he was not recorded there. But why was she recorded as being a labourer’s wife? A Mary Storer, wife of William Storer, a jobbing labourer, died at the age of 62 in December 1873. So, a lot of this ties up – apart from the references to William’s occupation – it seems a bit of a leap from labourer to grocer and farmer in just a few years, and what about the groom and servant? Had William already severed ties with his first wife, for whatever reason? Had she thrown him out for some misdemeanour? Remember that William’s children from his marriage to Mary were all but excluded from his Will. (Mary’s death was registered by an Ann Smith who was present at her death – again, where was William?).

In the 1861 census William and Mary were living together with their children Elizabeth, Selina and Trevor – Sarah A was shown as being their grand-

daughter. (In 1871 Selina was a servant at Derby School). The 1861 census showed William as a silk weaver. The Stors were living next door to Samuel and Ann Harlow (who were probably related to my great-great-grandmother Mary Warner (nee Harlow)) and living with them was Samuel's brother-in-law Nathaniel Smith (William's future second wife's future second husband!).

In the 1851 census William and Mary had five children living with them – Elizabeth, Harriett, John, Clara and Selina. The birth certificates for John (born 23rd December 1840) Selina (13th February 1848) and Trevor (21st June 1852) give their mother's maiden name as Moore. William Storer married Mary More (sic) in St. Alkmunds, Derby, on 28th May 1834 – I wonder why both of William's marriages were in St. Alkmunds rather than in Mickleover?

Incidentally, the marriage certificates of William and Mary's children John and Clara give their father's occupation as grocer (while John, Selina and Trevor's birth certificates give it as silk weaver) – which confirms William's "rise" from silk weaver, to labourer, to grocer and farmer. (Oh yes - and one of the witnesses at John's wedding was a certain Nathaniel Smith!). It would be interesting to know how William achieved this apparent rise in his social status. The big "leap" came post-1871 so one can only speculate as to whether it had anything to do with either the Reverend Curzon or William's second wife, Ann.

To summarise; I have found six children of William and his first wife – and I will look at each of them in more detail in a future article (or maybe more than one!).

William was baptised in All Saints Mickleover on 11th March 1812 – his parents being Joseph and Sarah. Joseph Storer had married Sarah Milward in Mickleover on 29th December 1794. On the same page of the Church Register is the baptism of their son Thomas on 28th June 1795. I have also found baptisms for Elizabeth (11/12/1797), Joseph (5/4/1801), Sarah (5/2/1804), John (9/11/1806), Robert (23/04/1809) and Ann (12/03/1815). For some reason, John's baptism is recorded (with the same date) in the Church Register in both Mickleover and Littleover. Why would that be?

I found Joseph and Sarah in the 1841 census and I think Sarah died in 1850 at the age of 81 and Joseph died just four months after her at the age of 77. Joseph was baptised in Mickleover on 7th January 1773, his parents being Thomas and Mary (nee Smith), and Sarah was born on 7th March 1770 and baptised in Hinckley on 18th April the same year, her parents being William and Mary (nee York). Thomas Storer was baptised in Mickleover on 15th

August 1752 – his parents being Thomas and Elizabeth. A Thomas Storer (sic) married Elizabeth Lowe in Mickleover on 7th February 1748.

So, what about William Storer's second wife Ann Mansell? We know she was from Minsterley in Shropshire; and in the 1871 census I found her as a servant to Horatio Nelson Davies (I wonder who he was named after?!) and his daughter Sarah Jane in Shrewsbury. Did Ann name her own daughter after this Sarah Jane? There is no way of telling when or why Ann came to Mickleover, or how she met William – on their marriage certificate her occupation was given as a domestic servant, and her father was William Mansell, a miner. Purely speculation – but had she come to Mickleover to serve in the vicarage household (I believe the Reverend Bindley had replaced the Reverend Curzon, who died in 1871) and is that how she and William came to know each other? An Ann Mansell was born in Minsterley to William (a lead miner) and Hannah on 19th March 1847.

And what about Ann's second husband, Nathaniel Smith – whose name keeps cropping up? He was christened in Mickleover on 3rd September 1837; his parents being John and Elizabeth. In 1841 he was living 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; in 1851 Mary was staying with Samuel and Ann, while Nathaniel, then aged 13, was a visitor with the Turner family at 19, Canal Street in Derby. His occupation was already shown as a tailor. We have already seen that in 1861 he was back in Mickleover with his sister Ann Harlow and her family.

This was the Nathaniel who was involved in a bizarre, but interesting, court case which took up many column inches in "*The Derby Mercury*" of 31st May 1865 (see Issue 169). Since writing that article I have found more information about Nathaniel and his family.

In the 1901 census Nathaniel, Ann and their sons Walter and Arnold were living on Cattle Hill in Mickleover. Nathaniel died later that year at the age of 64. Walter married Isabella Tuxford in 1908. In 1911 the widowed Ann was living in Mickleover with Arthur, a joiner, while Walter and Isabella were living in Milton Street in Derby. They had three sons; Ernest (c1910), Alfred (c1911) and Maurice (c1914). In 1939 Walter and Isabella were living in Porter Road in Derby with Maurice. Ernest married Clara Bancroft in 1929, and in 1939 they were living in Milton Street. Alfred married Lily Farnsworth in 1937 and in 1939 Lily and their son Maurice were living with Lily's parents.

My mother recalled being taken to visit "Aunt Izzie" at her home off Burton Road in the St Luke's area of town. She also recalled visiting an "Uncle Ar-

thur” at his home overlooking Derby Greyhound Stadium and believed that he was married twice, had no children and worked with her father at the Pastures Hospital. In 1939 Arthur Smith and his wife Ada (nee Birch – they had married in 1934) were living on Uttoxeter Old Road in Derby (which ran by the Greyhound Stadium). I think Arthur’s first wife was Florence Hedley; they were married in 1915 in Christ Church in Derby, but Florence died in 1933. (This is the “Uncle Arthur” who Mum thought was in the photograph of the Pastures Hospital Home Guard – see Issue 169).

And there I must end. Next time I’ll start looking at the families of William Storer’s siblings. As always; if any of the above is of any relevance to you then please do get in touch.

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THE THIRD TIME

George Parker, a youth, of Bradley Street, Stapenhill, was charged for the third time in the last few weeks with stealing money from the gas meter at his home. P.C. Adams said on December 30th he went to prisoner’s home and from what his sister told him he was led to examine the gas meter, and found that the money had been taken out. When apprehended prisoner stated that he had taken out £1.0s.7d and bought a belt and a cigarette case. He had 11s.5d left.

His mother said her husband was killed on October 11th and she was left with six children. Since that time he had done nothing to help her, though when he was up on a similar charge in November the case was dismissed on his promising to go to work. He failed to comply, but shortly afterwards stole further money from the meter, for which offence he was sent to prison and he had only just returned home when he committed the offence with which he was now charged.

The Magistrates committed him for trial. The Mayor did not adjudicate on this case.

Burton Mail, 3rd January 1919

THE THREE COLONELS ASHENHURST

Growing up in California during the fifties and beyond, our great-grandmother, Euphemia Ashenhurst McDowell (1880-1997), told us about Ashenhurst Hall in England. (Actually, she believed it was a castle). For decades, I've told anyone who would listen that I'm descended from a Colonel John Ashenhurst, a Cromwellian calvary officer who felt obliged flee to Ireland after the restoration of the crown. It turns out the story may not be totally accurate and is, certainly, somewhat more complex. In fact, there were three Colonels Ashenhurst during the English Civil Wars, and it's often difficult to determine which actions are to be attributed to which man. I'll try to sort it out.

The Ashenhurst family can be found in Staffordshire as early as the 13th century. Ralph Ashenhurst of Ashenhurst Hall, near Leek, married the heiress of Beard Hall in Derbyshire near the end of the 16th century. He had four sons. The two eldest, Randle and Edward, were elevated to colonels early in the first war. Edward, a Staffordshire Committee member, was apparently the first of the family to stand with the Parliamentarians. Captain John Ashenhurst, Randle's eldest son, was promoted to colonel in 1650 and given command of a cavalry troop. Randle had two other brothers. Francis, for whom I can find nothing more for this period, was the Mayor of Macclesfield in Cheshire from 1642 to 1643, and Edmund of Old Park in Staffordshire. Edmund appears to have been neutral, but possibly of Royalist sympathies, during the wars.

Not long after King Charles I raised his battle standard at Nottingham in 1642, Captain Randle Ashenhurst, then serving for the Royal army in Derbyshire under Sir John Gell, defected with forty horses and men to the Parliamentary forces of Sir Thomas Fairfax.¹ The next year, Randle was promoted to colonel and raised a regiment of foot soldiers. The same year, Captain John Ashenhurst, Randles' son, was installed as governor of Caverswall Castle in Staffordshire.² The fortunes of the Ashenhursts were on the rise. But in December, Colonel Randle Ashenhurst was captured with one of his sons in a skirmish against Colonel John Frescheville at Hassop Hall in Derbyshire.³ The young son present with Randle on that day hasn't been identified. Randle, styled "of Beard Hall" due to the inheritance from his father, had been married twice and had several sons, at least two of whom were too young to have yet served. His second son, William, was a witness in August of 1643 to the will of Sir Edward Fitton and served as surgeon to Fitton's regiment — that is, in the King's Army.⁴ It's unlikely, then, that that William was Randle's prison companion. It wouldn't have been then Captain John

Ashenhurst as he was active during the pair's nine months of captivity. Another son, Peter, is known to have served as a lieutenant in Ireland ten years later, but his birth date is unknown.⁵ From the evidence gathered so far, however, he's the best candidate for the second imprisoned Ashenhurst. Randle and son remained at Frescheville's garrisoned Stayley Hall until the following August when Major-General Lawrence Crawford commandeered Bolsover Castle and secured the surrounding area.

In the meantime, the other Ashenhursts remained busy in Staffordshire. Randle's brother, Captain Edward Ashenhurst, was promoted to major in early 1644 and given the governorship of Paynsley.⁶ In February, Captain John Ashenhurst, Randle's son, began a month-long siege of Biddulph Hall.⁷ The heavily garrisoned building finally surrendered after the captain deployed "Roaring Meg," the largest cannon of its era, and felled a supporting beam. That August, father and son were released from Frescheville's custody and Randle was given command of the newly relieved Bolsover Castle.⁸

Up until this time, historians can distinguish between the three Ashenhurst men by their respective ranks: Captain John, Major Edward, and Colonel Randle Ashenhurst. By November, however, Edward was promoted to colonel, introducing some confusion as to who was whom. But it was Captain John Ashenhurst (not a Colonel Ashenhurst, as is often stated) who gained a bloody victory at Wolverhampton in July 1645 with ten of the enemy killed and thirty-eight captured.⁹ One of the dead appears to have been Andrew Gifford whose home, Walton Grange, was seized by the captain's uncle, Colonel Edward Ashenhurst. In June of 1651, Gifford's widow, Katherine, pleaded for the return of her estate as she and her eight children were homeless. But in March of the following year, Edward bought the estate's mortgage and was thereafter styled Ashenhurst of Walton Grange.¹⁰

Charles I, the second of the Stuart kings of England, was defeated in 1646. After some negotiation with Parliament, concessions were made and he was returned to the throne. He reneged on his promises, however, and was again captured, tried, and executed in January 1649. Oliver Cromwell, the Parliamentarian leader, was now firmly in power and wasted no time in raising arms in Ireland. During that next year, 1650, as Charles's son was crowned in Scotland as Charles II, Randle Ashenhurst was made Justice of the Peace in Derbyshire and his son John promoted to colonel of the horse. Confident of victory, Charles's Scottish allies quickly invaded England but were routed at Dunbar and defeated at Worcester on 3 September 1651, after which the King secured temporary shelter at Bascopel House just west of the Staffordshire border. None other than Colonel John Ashenhurst and his troop of calvary missed capturing Charles there by no more than a half hour.¹¹ The King had

found cover inside a hollow of a nearby oak tree, now known to legend as the Royal Oak, then, after forty days on the run, gained his passage to France. In 1680, the King confided to Samuel Pepys that a Roundhead passed the oak tree just beneath his hideout.

The remainder of the decade passed peaceably for the Ashenhursts. John Ashenhurst had four children during Cromwell's rule: John, Thomas, Sarah, and Peter, all baptized in Staffordshire during the 1650s. In 1657 alone, Justice of the Peace Randle Ashenhurst conducted seventeen marriages in Derbyshire. Just the previous year, his son Revell was admitted to the Inner Temple, and his youngest son Francis entered Cambridge. In 1659, Randle's brother, Colonel Edward Ashenhurst, was appointed Commissioner of the Militia in the County of Stafford,¹² and Lieutenant Peter Ashenhurst, possibly Randle's cellmate in 1644, was enumerated on the census of Ireland, marrying there to Mary Brooke in 1660. Charles was restored to the throne in 1660, two years after the death of Oliver Cromwell, and the Ashenhursts began to disappear from the record. Randle died in Derbyshire in 1666,¹³ and in 1667 John sold the Ashenhurst estate in Staffordshire to his cousin Francis Hollinshead.¹⁴ Edward Ashenhurst, the miser of Walton Grange, was dead by 1671, and Edmund Ashenhurst, the youngest of the four brothers, died in 1669.

But what of the American Ashenhurst's supposed ancestor, Colonel John Ashenhurst, the terror of Wolverhampton, the bomber of Biddolph Hall, and the would-be captor of the King? Did he and his family flee to Ireland after Charles regained the crown in 1660? In fact, Ireland might not have been the safest place for someone on the run possibly on the run from the King. And, if he had been a fugitive, why would he have remained in England until at least 1667 when he sold the family estate? His children, however, appear to be no mystery: Peter is recorded to have died in infancy and, according to the *History of Leek*, the others had no issue. True? Or might it be that the whole lot simply disappeared to another land? Although there were likely other John Ashenhursts during Restoration England, it needs to be noted that a man of that name was transported, courtesy of the King, to Barbados in 1669 and is presumably the man of the same name to have stepped ashore on the American mainland in 1675.

One way or another, Ireland was well populated by Ashenhursts by the end of the eighteenth century. Lieutenant Peter Ashenhurst, Randle's son, remained and died there, but he seems to have had three daughters and no sons. Major Edward Ashenhurst, fourth in descent from Randle, and said to have been the last of the Ashenhursts, died in Ireland in 1770 leaving a single daughter. Yet, however it came to pass, an extended family of Ashenhursts crossed the Atlantic from county Tyrone to Virginia in 1793. It consisted of brothers Oli-

ver and William, their sister Nancy, and her husband, a first *cousin named* William Ashenhurst. During passage, Nancy gave birth to the couple's youngest child, Oliver Ashenhurst, my great-grandmother's grandfather. In addition to later emigrations to Australia, Canada, and South Africa, some Irish Ashenhursts returned to England and others moved into Scotland. Thus, there is a virtual Diaspora of Ashenhursts throughout the English-speaking world, and possibly beyond.

Some years ago, I started the Ashenhurst Y-DNA project at FTDNA.com, but only four male Ashenhursts have tested and are found to be of the very large Y-DNA haplogroup, R1b-U106.15 Should more brave Ashenhurst men contribute a wad of spittle to the effort, it's possible to establish, at minimum, whether there's a single distinct family of Ashenhursts, or whether there's another tribe that can more rightfully claim the appellation, "Ashenhurst of Ashenhurst Hall.

Endnotes

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Michael Cooley

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CLAY CROSS

Beware Of Whom You Woo

A few days ago a young guest who was upon love intent, found his way to Clay Cross, when he was quickly captivated by one of our young ladies of fair proportion and ample crinoline. The anxious swain was soon a victim of cupid's sly art, so charmed was he by Miss-----'s winning ways and of course a little brandy was necessary to quench the fire of love which was now raging in the bosom of Mr-----. Glass after glass was quaffed and at last poor Mr----- fell a victim to the tyranny of Bacchus when visions of dark eyes, hair and large crinoline floated before his eyes, and he was only able to pronounce the name of his dear-----,who alas! Fickle fair one! Had departed with his gold watch, rings and appendages. Application was then made to an inspector of police to extricate him out of his love fit and restore him his jewellery, which were quickly restored to him. No doubt Mr-----will be careful on whom he expends his love next time he visits Clay Cross.

Ilkeston Pioneer 1861

Sent in by Dorothy Tilley [E-mail: dtalley@dordan.plus.com]

[Isn't it wonderful? Why don't they write them like that any more? - Ed]

LIVING WITH THE ENEMY

During the First World War people with German names were attacked and their businesses wrecked. Many changed their names [indeed, the Royal Family did so] others put notices in the papers, such as the following. This one isn't Derbyshire of course, but these appeared all over the country. It was given to us recently and I thought it very interesting. I wonder if the family had any more trouble after this was published. One has to feel sympathy for them.

"To All to whom this **NOTICE** may come, **WE** the undersigned Charles Schulz and Ethel Mary Schulz [formerly Robinson] of Low Street, Keighley, Pork Butchers, wish to announce:-

That it having come to our knowledge that certain statements have been made and rumours are current that we are of German nationality, we hereby declare that such statements are entirely untrue. The father and mother of me, Charles Schulz, resided in England from Childhood. I was born at Heckmondwike and my wife at King's Lynn. We have lived in the Keighley and Bradford Districts for the last 25 years and in Yorkshire practically all our lives.

We have never been to Germany and do not know the language, nor do we employ anyone of German nationality.

Our interests and sympathies are, always have been, and always will be, with the land of our birth and the people among whom we live.

CHARLES SCHULZ
ETHEL MARY SCHULZ

Witness to both signatures:

FREDERICK W. DEWHIRST, Solicitor, Keighley"

Taken from an unknown paper in 1915

NO VOTES FROM NEW MILLS

“With regard to my opponents I say nothing. No doubt they are respectable gentlemen, but they will not be the slightest use in the next House of Commons, not a little bit. Men like me are wanted, and not swells who don’t understand business.”

So said John Mullany, an ironmonger and general dealer who had a store at the corner of Torr Top Road and Market Street in New Mills. A rugged Irishman, blunt and vigorous in speech, he decided to stand as an Independent candidate for the Northern Division of the County of Derby in the second general election of 1868. Two million new voters would poll throughout the country, causing the election to be called the ‘leap in the dark’ election, and it was to be the last one at which votes had to be made in public, not in ballot. It was also the first time that Gladstone would lead his Liberal regiments against Disraeli’s Conservatives.

Mr Mullany thought he was needed at this time. He was probably one of the first small shopkeepers even to contemplate the possibility of a Parliamentary career and to gauge the amount of support he might have in the constituency he prepared a poster, which remarkable document has passed into local legend. In bright blue lettering he advertised his views on the popular political issues of the moment, no doubt all freely discussed in his shop.

Railways were at the front of local news. The previous year there had been a landslide at Bugsworth and after it had been repaired the line to Miller’s Dale had been opened to passenger traffic. The London-Manchester expresses passed over the new bridge and through the new tunnel at the bottom of Torr Top Road. Direct rail connection with Derby, London and Manchester was a great fillip to local industry and to local pride. No wonder Mr Mullany heard the call of Westminster.

He had his opinion on the railway however, probably due to his talks with the Irish navvies working in the neighbourhood, who no doubt said what they thought when they came into his shop, so strategically placed at the most important road junction in the village and now made more important by the opening of the railway station.

“Having carried on business for the last forty years as an ironmonger and general merchant, I shall be fully capable of entering into all the details of railway business, as I understand that somebody is going to propose that, as the companies are so dreadfully mismanaged, the fares and the carriage of goods so high, and the dividends so very small, that the government shall take them into their own hands.”

After that sideswipe, he carries on *"Now, Gentlemen, in such a case what an invaluable man I would be; I would take care that the country was not robbed of a shilling and that it get the worth of its money. I would take care there should be no jobbery, and if it was needed I would take the whole management of the business myself, which I am perfectly competent to do."*

This election had been forced on the question of the separation of the Church of Ireland from the State. Mullany, being Irish, had a forthright opinion and says it in a typical Irish way.

"With regard to this I shall not say a word as I don't like to interfere...but I must say one thing," - and proceeds to do so in his usual vigorous and amusing way.

His views on taxation are elementary. *"I hate taxes. And so does everybody. I would abolish no end of them at once and the others I would do the same gradually. As to taxes on everything the working man wears, eats and drinks, these I would do away with instanter....In fact, gentlemen, before I was in the House of Commons long, I would hope to abolish all taxes."* At the time Income tax was fivepence in the pound.

He encouraged the services vote. Soldiers and sailors should be *"well paid and fed, for the money they get they spend in the country, and that is good for trade."*

He was uncompromising in his attitude towards the then novel ideas of Trade Unions and Teetotalism.

"If the Unions did not behave themselves, I would transport them at once," and *"I will never vote with the teetotallers."*

Mr Mullany's Dickensian personality must have stood out in the north Derbyshire village a century ago and Westminster would probably have been the livelier for his presence, though possibly not the wiser. He did not, however, arrive there. His good friends persuaded him not to proceed to the hustings as the reactions to his exploratory poster were not as enthusiastic for his Independent views as he was himself. Eventually only 3 candidates presented themselves and Mr Gladstone was not to receive the advice of Mr Mullany. Instead the winner who headed to Westminster was Lord G.H. Cavendish, a Liberal who polled 2,904 votes.

[Based on an article in the Derbyshire Countryside, Feb/Mar 1958]

Chatsworth Estate Families 1750-1900

The Work: 1750-1811

The time of the 4th and 5th Dukes; the work included reclaiming the farmland called Edensor Lees/Lindop, turning it into parkland designed by "Capability" Brown. Building two new bridges and associated roads by James Paine 1760. Demolition of one bridge and the old mill and building new corn mill. New stable block again by James Paine 1761. Building of Edensor Inn, designed by Joseph Pickford 1777.

The Workforce: 1750-1900

A census of Edensor 1788 taken before the demolition of the village began showed 407 people in over 70 cottages and farmsteads. John Strutt, blacksmith; Henry Booth, labourer, very poor; John Bossley, butcher; Richard Littlewood, blacksmith; Thomas Hutchinson, driver of ox team; Joseph Cowley, joiner; Richard Lees, publican. 16 people in Edensor receiving poor aid 2s to 2s.6d per year, included 3 Booths, all widows.

- 1757 Plowing ye Warren. The women of Baslow, Pilsley and Edensor, burning sods and following the plough to put the sods to level ground in ye warren £25.19s.2d. Three generations of Bowring, George, John and William, tenant farmers, carted in materials from all over North Derbyshire. See DFHS June 2012.
- 1744 John Bowring, leading some oakwood felled at Baslow to Chatsworth £1.10s.
- 1755 John Bowring, leading stone from cowclose and laying causeway at Oxclose £1.
- 1759 George Bowring, waggon and horses from Nottingham £1.13s.
- 1758 John Bowring, carriage of 10 tons slate from Holmesfield to new building £6.7s.10d
James Booth and partners, Edward mason, getting stone, building Chatsworth new bridge and pulling down ye old bridge £652.
- 1760 Mrs Travis, Calton Lees, team leading stone to Mill and Weir £52
Richard Hodgkinson for carpenter work down at new mill £10.4s.6d
- 1761 John Woodson and partners, draining, levelling and stubbing out old hedgerows and fences in the new park ending Dec 1760 £25.18s.5d
Martin Furness, carpenter making wheelbarrows, ploughs and other carpenter work done on the earth moving acc. as per bill £7.6s.8d
- 1763 Geo Vickers, labourer walling in ye park under ye stand hill £6.8s
Wm Vickers going with oxen to roll ye park as per bill £6.15s

The names above are just the lead name and then they would pay off their many helpers. Going rate seems to be 1s per day per man, 2s per day per horse and man. These families have also been on the estate for many generations. Sheldon, mainly stonemasons, lived in Pilsley and Edensor. Hutchinson, Beeley were cordwainers, gamekeepers and blacksmiths. Booth of Edensor and Pilsley mainly labourers. A very large family Mortin, Morten of Pilsley, Beeley and Edensor, were stone masons. Hibbert of Pilsley, Edensor, Beeley and Baslow, were labours and gamekeepers, with several very large families, totalling over 50 relatives living at Pilsley in 1800. Newtons were Pilsley plasters, every generation with Christian name Sampson, also kept the Devonshire Arms late 1800.

The Work 1811-1900

The 6th and 7th Duke of Devonshire. The 6th Duke [bachelor] inherited great debts from his mother Georgiana and father the 5th Duke, over £200,000, but this did not stop the 6th Duke from spending. He built the new North Wing by Godfrey Wyattville and many other projects on his many estates. The Duke even sent tradesmen to rebuild Lismore Castle in South Ireland.

Along came Joseph Paxton as a young head gardener. After the north wing was complete the garden needed revamping. New lakes, the Emperor fountain, greenhouses, the great conservatory, Paxton's rockery and Barbrook with its greenhouses. 1823 was the start of the demolition of Edensor over the next 20 years, 30 houses/farms were demolished, 30 houses re-faced plus 20 new dwellings in the decorative style. After Edensor was completed, many Pilsley and Beeley cottages were refaced or rebuilt, including building new schools in the three villages. Alteration to the turnpike road system, from a farming community to a model village. 1861 Edensor Church was rebuilt [7th Duke] by Sir Gilbert Scott.

The Workforce 1750-1900

A lot of grit stone would have to be quarried and carted from the Fallinge and Grafton quarries at Beeley during this period. Lees from Beeley Hilltop were farmers and carters, while one branch of the family became drapers.

Holmes of Pilsley and Edensor were carpenters and wheelwright, except for one branch of the family, Anthony Holmes a cordwainer. Anthony lived at Park House, Edensor, which stands on its own in the park opposite to Edensor. The story goes that the Duke did want to move him before demolition, because of his age and health. He must have lived to a great age as the cottage still stands today.

Vickers of Pilsley were stonemasons, another branch were farmers and carters from Calton Lees. Sam was born a Gratton of Rowland, a two/three generation of stone quarry merchants from Chesterfield Road, Beeley. He had 3 daughters and 9 sons, most working in the quarry. Bonds of Pilsley were mainly labourers. The Beeley Bonds were stone quarry workers with some failies living at Fallinge where there were 3 or 4 cottages, a farm and the grit stone quarry that supplied most of the stone for Chatsworth. Holmes of Belley were carpenters, blacksmiths, farmers and publicans at Devonshire Arms. Halksworth had several families and generations lived at Fallinge working the quarries. Hawksworth mainly lived in Beeley village, carpenters, cordwainers and shopkeepers. The last two names are very confusing in the Church records. I find some families using both names in the register and every family has a Samuel.

The families above have served the Estate for 5 or 6 generations and more. There are many others, some are still working for the Duke.

In a census of 1788, before the demolition of Edensor, there were over 70 dwellings with 407 inhabitants.

	Edensor		Pilsley		Beeley	
1841	45 dwellings	280 inhabitants	75	369	76	406
1851	51	280	75	325	72	343
1861	52	280	72	296	74	454
1871	51	264	63	263	75	368
1881	50	296	60	184	69	418
1891	50	282	53	226	81	389
1901	48	235	52	208	73	348
1911	48		50		72	

Edensor village was demolished in the 1820s, rebuilding starting in the late 1830s-1840s. Some of the inhabitants moved to Pilsley and Beeley, hence the irregularities in the population census.

Census was sometimes not gathered in from the outlying farms. Also Edensor Inn, with 20 residents and staffs, and Chatsworth house with maybe 20 or 30 living in servants, were missed in the early census. Some of the population would be employed directly by the estate 48 hours a week or more. The others, especially the tenant farmers with their horses and carts, would contract in on a daily basis. The hours would be long and 6 days a week.

Other than the 3 estate villages many more tradesmen and labourers came to work at Chatsworth from the surrounding villages. Many came from Baslow

and Bubnell, especially at the Duke had exchanged/bought most of Baslow from the Duke of Rutland in 1823.

Baslow and Bubnell families:-

Hibberts—carpenters, quarry men, many with relatives living in Pilsley and Edensor.

Hearnshaw—farmer, butcher, with family living in Edensor.

Sheldon—nearly every male was a stonemason

Marple—many generations worked on the estate

Staley—carpenter, joiners and wheelwrights

Gardon—blacksmiths, made ironwork for Chatsworth House.

Watson—stonemasons. Samuel was a master mason, many generations at Chatsworth.

Materials

Chatsworth Estate was virtually self sufficient. Some materials would have to be brought in by road or the Chesterfield Canal [1777].

Masonry and other stone was from several nearby quarries, with Fallinge the main quarry. Sand was very often taken from the river Derwent, lime from kilns of Stoney Middleton. Bricks from the clay of the brick pond in the park. Lead from any of the lead mills on the Estate, Shacklow, Ashford, being the main one. Stone slate was from Holmesfield, large blue/green slate from the Burlington slate quarries in Cumbria, for the stables, Edensor Inn and Edensor church. Staffordshire blue tiles from the Potteries is what is on many cottage roofs of Edensor Village.

Timber for the roofs and internal use would be sawn and seasoned from Estate woods, oak trees in particular would be pollarded every 50 to 100 years. The blacksmith would make all the nails, brackets and railings etc. I have no idea where the glass came from, although Bess of Hardwick had her own glass works for the building of Hardwick Hall, 1590.

Paint and putty would be sourced locally and made up to the different colours, main ingredient being linseed oil. Lots of plaster would be used by the Newtons, the main ingredients being lime and sand with ashes and horse hair added.

*Gordon Bowering [Mem 5804]
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RECORD OF THE CELEBRATIONS IN DERBY

A new book on our library shelves is most fascinating. It was published on behalf of the County Borough of Derby and describes the celebrations that took place in Derby at the time of the Coronation of King George V and Queen Mary in 1911.

As well as extracts from various speeches, it describes the procession, the bands, the decorations, the Mayor's Garden Party and the Coronation Banquet amongst other things. There are even some poems written to mark the occasion. It is a fascinating read, with some photographs, and the celebrations that took place at various churches are described with names mentioned. As a taster, here is how it was celebrated in the Morledge:-

"Many of the poorer streets were beautifully decorated and several of these had little celebrations of their own, but probably the best of all was organised in the Morledge, where an enthusiastic committee took charge of the arrangements, and these included the roasting of a sheep, swimming and aquatic sports in Bass's Free Baths, and old English sports in the Morledge. The Derby Reporter's description is appended:

Apart from the official celebrations there was no place in Derby where the King's Coronation was kept up on a more pretentious scale than in the Morledge. It was really surprising how many people in little streets banded together to show their loyalty and have a celebration on their own, but it was left for the Morledge to have a big display, and the novelty of the festivities attracted thousands of people to the vicinity. The affair was organised by a few gentlemen associated with the neighbourhood, and the suggestion by one that a sheep should be roasted whole and distributed was heartily taken up. Plenty of money was subscribed to purchase this and to provide prizes for sports, and all day long there was plenty of fun going on. It was originally intended that the sheep should be roasted on Cockpit Hill, but some objection was raised to this, and a huge fireplace was specially constructed on some enclosed land near by. The sheep was duly put on the spit before a roaring fire in the presence of a very large crowd, and thousands of people witnessed the process of roasting. Experienced hands superintended the process, and after about four hours the sheep was taken down, cut up, and distributed. To use a homely expression, it was done to a turn, and tasted excellently, all those who partook of it expressing appreciation. What is more, none was wasted.

The sports had begun at a somewhat early hour, the programme opening with swimming and diving contests in the Bass Recreation Baths. These were

very amusing, and the baths were packed. Perhaps the most diverting sport of the day was a tug-of-war across the canal near the Mill Fleam. There was no humbug about it – one side or the other had to go through the water, and though more had a ducking than was really necessary for the contest, it is remarkable that even more were not pushed in, so big was the crowd. Appended are the results of some of the events: Swimming race [three lengths Bass's Baths], 1, T.A. Hallam; 2, S.Fogg; 3, Sugg. Plunge Dive: 1, Sugg; 2, Jones. Tug of War across Canal: Hilton's team pulled Smitey's team across canal. Wheelbarrow contest [100 yards]: Hedges and Hawkins divided first and second prizes. Sack race [10 starters]: 1, Wilson; 2 and 3 were disqualified. Find your boots race [down the Morledge, 8 starters]: 1, Smith, who was the only one to fulfil all conditions. Swimming contest [afternoon, three lengths]: 1, S. Francis; 2, Letherland. Plunge dive: 1, Hoult. Three hundred yards flat race [Cattle Market Bridge to Cockpit Hill, 18 starters]: 1, Pitman; 2, C. Kidger; 3, Sims.

It will be gathered that the events created a lot of interest, and one thing that went on all day and caused great fun was diving for coins by children on Cockpit Hill. A huge tank had been placed there and filled with water, and from early morn till late at night youngsters scrambled after the coppers that were thrown in. One precocious youth stripped to the waist so as not to get his clothes wet, and others who got saturated philosophically went and dried themselves before the fire, which thus served more purposes than one. Diving for coins in the baths, too, proved a huge attraction, but as to the bun worrying contest – that's another story.

Amongst those who worked most energetically in making the arrangements for the sheep roasting and carrying out the sports were Messrs George Eley, H. York, E.J. Furniss, W. Spencer, J. Francis, F. Chambers, T. Bowns, and J. Ensor, and they had a busy day. Then in addition to all this the Derby Excelsior Drum and Fife Band, which had not been definitely engaged for any festivity, paraded various streets in Castle Ward all day and great great pleasure by their playing. It was curious that on the programme was the offer of a prize "For the best band selection for bands not engaged on this day". No one dreamt that any band would be disengaged, but this one happened to be through some mistake and they turned up, and certainly deserved an award. At night there were fireworks and the 'go as you please' stakes later were very popular, after such a tiring day. Still the day is one that will be long remembered by those who visited the Morledge and participated in the festivities."

CHURCHES OF DERBYSHIRE

55. Chesterfield St Mary & All Saints



It is not known how long there has been a church in Chesterfield. It is conjectured that one may have been founded before the year 700, but the first mention is in 1093, when a church is said to have existed at the time of Edward the Confessor [1042-1066].

Dates for the present church are approximate. Work began at the east end and much of the fabric was completed by 1370, the spire being added about 1400. As early as 1500 fresh work cropped up, the roof of the nave was raised and the

clerestory windows put in. Between 1509 and 1547 the west front was rebuilt. In 1769 the north transept was also rebuilt and George Gilbert Scott carried out a restoration in 1843, when a new ceiling was installed and new east window inserted with stained glass by William Wailes of Newcastle.

The early market adjoined the church on the north side, so it was customary for the nave to be used for a meeting place and storage. It was quite usual to find woolsacks in the nave and for the Earl of Derby to hide there at the time of the battle of Chesterfield. Later the struggle between Lancaster and York reached a peak in 1422 when the Lancastrians, under Thomas and Richard Foljambe, made an attack on their rivals at mass. They were later indicted “for rout and riot in Chesterfield church” and “for the shooting of arrows against the high altar on Christmas Day”.

The present pulpit was erected in 1602 and the South Transept porch built in 1637; this was later removed in 1875. In 1738 the North gallery was erected, then replaced in 1843, while the organ was built in 1756 and rebuilt several times afterwards. In 1839 a history of the church records over 40 memorials, many installed in the 1700s, and a lot of which had a long list of the members of the family. A valuable history.

St Mary’s is, of course, famous for its peculiar 13th century twisted spire, which leans at an alarming angle. Many have been the explanations, but the answer seems to lie in the lead tiles used to cover the spire’s timbers. Over 32 tonnes of lead created such a heavy weight that the timbers simply could not bear the strain and twisted alarmingly. An additional reason is that the

builders didn't use a cross brace to compensate. This seems a very basic error, but the spire was built during the period when the Black Death devastated England. Was the spire started by experienced workmen who died in the plague and the work finished by inexperienced men, who simply didn't know enough to put in braces? Just one explanation.

On 11 March 1861 the church spire was struck by lightning, which snapped the gas lighting pipes in the tower, starting a fire in a beam next to the wooden roof of the chancel. The fire smouldered for three and a half hours until it was discovered by the sexton on his nightly round to ring the midnight bell. A hundred years later, in December 1961, another fire destroyed many of the interior fittings, including the organ. It was replaced in 1963 by a redundant T.C. Lewis organ from Glasgow, which is a large four manual pipe organ with 65 stops.

The tower upon which the spire sits contains ten bells, which were cast in 1947 by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in London, replacing a previous ring. The place in which the bells are situated once held the builders' windlass, which is one of the few examples of a medieval crane in existence and is the only example of one that has survived from a parish church. The windlass is on display at Chesterfield Museum.

The spire is open to the public most Saturdays in the winter and most days in the summer, and can be climbed partway up. The views stretch for miles and it is well worth the effort.

Inside the church there is a massive West gallery and a light, spacious nave. The chancel has 4 guild chapels surrounding it and historic features include the Jacobean pulpit made of 'black bog oak', a Norman font and a late 15th century wooden screen in the south transept. A window on the south aisle wall depicts scenes from the history of Chesterfield. A medieval tomb in the south aisle has an effigy of an unknown woman, her hands clasped in prayer.

The parish chest was created around 1600 and is beautifully bound with iron straps. Nearby is a 17th century long case clock, embellished with detailed carvings, including a Crucifixion scene, foliage and the figure of a cockerel.

In the churchyard can be found the grave of Francois Rainbeard, a French officer during the Napoleonic Wars. He was held prisoner in Chesterfield and died before the war ended and he could be repatriated. He was thus buried in St Mary's Churchyard and his gravestone is inscribed in English, French and Latin.

56. Chesterfield Holy Trinity & Christ Church

The Holy Trinity church is one of the churches in Chesterfield town centre and is thus used regularly for worship. Built in 1837 it is now a listed Grade II building.

It was originally built as a Chapel of Ease to St Mary and All Saints and was licensed for baptisms and burials right from the start. The licence for marriages wasn't issued until 1853 and it became a parish in its own right in 1867.



Holy Trinity is a large church, very simple, but attractive with an open beamed ceiling and a small chancel. It has no particular architectural features of note, but it is well known as the resting place of George Stephenson of engineering fame. The originator of the English railway system occupied a pew in the church for many years before his death and the Prayer Book used by his second wife, Elizabeth, is still preserved. He died at Tapton House, Chesterfield, on 12 August 1848, his remains being entombed in a vault within the Communion rails of this church. A plain inscription marks the place.

The Society of Model and Experimental Engineers were obviously not impressed by such a simple memorial and placed a bigger, more impressive, one behind the altar. There is also a stone in the churchyard, informing those who are interested that he is buried inside the church. The churchyard is now closed for new burials.

George Stephenson's son donated the East stained glass window, which contains his father's initials in several places and is very impressive.

Having become a parish, Holy Trinity acquired its own Chapel of Ease, when Christ Church was built in 1869. The first baptisms and burials are to be found in the Holy Trinity registers and it has never been licensed for marriages. Christ Church became a separate parish in 1914, comprising part of Holy Trinity and the southern part of the parish of Newbold.

The Derbyshire Times described the church in 1870:-

“A simple rectangle, 58 feet long by 21 feet wide, with an apsidal east end, embracing nave and chancel under one roof with the addition of a south porch and a vestry on the north side, as also a bell turret on the western gable. The roof is open timbered; the benches, pulpit, lectern and reading desk are all of deal, stained and varnished. The church is well lighted on all sides and the windows are glazed in quarries with Cathedral tinted glass. It is also warmed by hot water.”

The site behind the church holds war graves and also those of the deceased from the local workhouse. It has now been sympathetically developed as a wild life garden.

Chesterfield Christ Church



The fourth church in Chesterfield itself is St Augustine, which was built in 1876 and formed from parts of St Mary and All Saints and Brampton St Thomas in 1830. It also includes Boythorpe.

The original registers for all the Chesterfield churches are at the Derbyshire Record Office, Matlock. St Mary and All Saints dates from 1558 and includes Calow until the early 20th century, Hasland until 1851, Temple Normanton until 1863 and Walton until 1832. It also included the chapelries of Brimington and Wingerworth until early in the 19th century.

Holy Trinity has baptisms from 1838, burials from 1839 and marriages from 1854, while Christ Church has burials from 1871 and baptisms from 1876. There are no marriages. The last church of St Augustine has baptisms only from 1876. These can be accessed on film or DVD by booking a seat at the Record Office. Earlier ones, of course, are available on Ancestry.

The 1939 Register

This was mentioned in “Second Cousins” in the last issue of the DFHS magazine and a comment was made about the alterations made. As mentioned the Register was to do with the direction of labour but primarily it was for Identity Cards and rationing. It was also used to administer conscription and to monitor and control movement of the population caused by military mobilisation and mass evacuation.

It was a requirement that any change of name or address was recorded, whether due to marriage, divorce or deed poll in order that new documents could be issued.

Rationing continued until 1952 and prior to this, in 1948 the Register was used when the National Health Service was created. They continued to update the information until 1992 when paper-based record keeping was discontinued.

There is a one hundred year closure on the Register and at present does not include anyone born after 1918 (the entry being blacked out) unless they are known to have died. This data is being updated continually and any death can be reported and the entry opened.

Full information concerning this register is available on the National Archive website.

Ruth Barber

JOSEPH STRUTT

Joseph Strutt was born on 19 September 1765 to Jedediah and Elizabeth, the youngest of three sons. He was educated at Derby School and married Isabella Douglas at St Oswald's Church in Ashbourne in 1793. He was in charge of the family mill on the Morledge at Derby making silk, cotton and calico. His wife died in 1801 leaving him with a son and 2 daughters. He was a great benefactor to Derby. He opened up his house as a museum and art gallery, held the office of Chief Magistrate and was Deputy Lieutenant of the local militia during the Napoleonic Wars. He died at home in St Peter's Street in 1844.

THREATENING TO SHOOT A LOVER

“At the Town Hall, Glossop, on Thursday last, James Bennett was charged before J Summer and J Wood, Esqs, with having assaulted a young woman with whom he had been keeping company at Charlesworth. Mr Drinkwater, solicitor, of Hyde, appeared for the complainant. The prisoner is about 19 years of age and was employed up to Wednesday last as a blacksmith at Messrs Taylor, Lang and Co., machinists, Stalybridge, but resided at Charlesworth, near Glossop. The particulars of the case will best be gathered from the evidence.

Jane Rowbottom said:- *I reside in Woodseats, Charlesworth, and the prisoner and I kept company for about twelve months. We ceased going together about two months ago. On Saturday night I met him at Lee End, between seven and eight o'clock. It was dark, and the place was lonely. As I was passing, he said, "Now then". Afterwards he asked me who was that young man who was at our house on Sunday night. I tried to pass on, when he put his hand on my shoulder, and said I was not going any further until I had told him. His right hand was down, and he held a pistol in it. I was all of a tremble at the time, and wondered what he was going to do. I got away from him, and went about two or three yards, when he called out, and then came to me and wanted me to sit down. He at the same time pushed me in the breast. He had the pistol still in his hand. I told him I would not go with him, and he then put the pistol in his pocket, and said "I will do nothing to you now." He then said "You will wish me good night. They will perhaps be the last words you will speak to me." He appeared quite calm when I met him. I felt in danger of my life..*

James Burdekin deposed that he met the prisoner on Saturday evening, and he had a pistol with him, similar to the one produced. The pistol was loaded and the prisoner said he would shoot Jane Rowbottom.

Police constable Lees said he went with Superintendent Moran to Woodseats, on Wednesday night, to apprehend the prisoner. On getting to the police-station he said he had bought the pistol to frighten the prosecutrix. There were two pistol caps found in his possession. Mr Superintendent Moran said the prisoner told him he had bought the pistol at Stalybridge, for the purpose of frightening the girl, and not with the intention of killing her. There was no powder or ball found upon the prisoner.

Mr Drinkwater pressed the case, for the safety of his client, and the girl's father also asked for a conviction. After a short deliberation, the magistrates said they considered the case a very serious one and they should order the

prisoner to find bail, himself in £100 and two sureties in £50 each, to keep the peace for six months, or in default to be committed to gaol for that period.”

The above article appeared in the Ashton Weekly Reporter and Stalybridge and Dukinfield Chronicle on 19th October 1867. It did not say whether James Bennett was granted bail or went to gaol. Jane Rowbottom [1848-1923] was the daughter of Moses Rowbottom and Harriet [nee Stout].

Jane’s father, Moses Rowbottom [c1822-1888] was indirectly responsible for the Derbyshire FHS issuing the DVD of scans and transcriptions of documents found in the safe at Charlesworth Independent Chapel. He was the eleventh of twelve children of Moses Rowbottom [1772-1858] and Hannah Jackson [c1781-1828], of Moorside Farm, Chisworth, near Glossop, Derbyshire.

Jane’s parents, Moses Rowbottom and Harriett Stout, were married to each other twice without being divorced, legally separated or widowed. Initially I could find no record of Moses in the 1841 census.

By the 1851 census Moses Rowbottom, born Chisworth, with his wife Harriet, and three children Joseph, born Hull, Yorkshire, Isabella and Jane, both born Manchester, Lancashire, were living at Lane Head, Charlesworth, with Moses working as a joiner.

A search for the birth certificates of their children, Joseph, Isabella and Jane, resulted in only one being found, Jane Rowbottom, born 18 November 1848 at 24 Merridian Street, Ardwick, Lancashire, to Moses Rowbottom, a joiner, and Harriet Rowbottom formerly Stout.

On 9 August 1851 an Official Notice appeared in the Manchester Times, regarding the bankruptcy of Moses Rowbottom, currently residing in Charlesworth, previous in Merridian Street, Manchester, who in 1841 had been living and carrying on business as Joseph Sidebottom, a joiner and builder, in Kingston upon Hull, Yorkshire. That would explain why I could not find Moses Rowbottom in the 1841 Census, I was looking up the wrong name.

Joseph Sidebottom was listed in the 1841 Census at Commerce Buildings, Kingston upon Hull working as a joiner, not born in Yorkshire. Further research showed that on 19 October 1841 at St James Church, Holy Trinity, Kingston upon Hull, Yorkshire, Joseph Sidebottom, a joiner the son of Joseph Sidebottom, married Harriet Stout, daughter of Charles Stout.

Presumably, using the name Joseph Sidebottom caused some discussion about the legality of this marriage, as on 12 October 1851, Moses and Harriet were married at New Mills, Derbyshire, giving their address as Rowarth, where his brother John lived and worked at Little Mill. Harriet is shown as the daughter of Charles Stout a painter.

Moses and Harriet registered the births of their children as:

Charles Sidebottom, born 9 August 1842 in Commerce Lane, Hassle Road, Kingston upon Hull

Priscilla Jane Sidebottom, born 3 December 1843 at Porter Street, Kingston upon Hull

Isabella Sidebottom, born 16 March 1847 at 24 Merridian Street, Ardwick, Lancashire

Jane Rowbottom, born 18 November 1848 at 24 Merridian Street, Ardwick, Lancashire

Charles and Priscilla died in 1842 and 1843 respectively, and are both buried at Holy Trinity Church, Kingston upon Hull.

I have been unable to trace the registration of the birth of Joseph Sidebottom/Rowbottom. He died on 27 October 1866 at Woodseats, Charlesworth, and was buried at the Congregational Chapel, Charlesworth, on the 31st.

On 19 November 1888 Moses died. In his will he asked that money from his estate [£94.10s] be used to provide a headstone on his grave. Although the Parish Register shows that he was buried at the Congregational Chapel, Charlesworth, there is no record of his gravestone on the MI listings for the chapel. So I asked the Deacon if I could look in the grave register to see if Moses had his own, and therefore unmarked, grave, or whether he was buried in the family vault.

While the rest of the congregation enjoyed their coffee and biscuits, the Deacon and I poured over old registers. Unfortunately the only grave register I could see appeared to have been rewritten at some time, with the names of the grave owners inserted, but the boxes for details had been left blank.

I remember I was reading a Sunday School Attendance Register dated 1820, as I asked the Deacon if I could notify the Derbyshire FHS of the existence of these documents. The rest is history.

*Peter Rowbottom [Mem No 7897]
E-mail: peterrowbottom101@uwclub.net*

VOYAGE TO AUSTRALIA

Many families in Australia must trace their roots back to Derbyshire. There is an interesting diary written by a Chesterfield man, recording details of his voyage to that country in 1879. Unfortunately the only clue to his identity are the initials, W.M.B., on the last page. We do know that his wife was Fanny and they had two daughters, Francey and Jenny. There is also someone called Rolsey, who is constantly referred to, obviously a friend.

The family first proceeded to London and embarked on the S.S. Kent to Gravesend. There they had a medical examination on board—which was described as a ‘farce’ - and they sailed on to Plymouth.

“Gravesend is a dirty, shabby-looking place. Plymouth, on the contrary, is a beautiful place, and has a very fine bay, and on the points round it are many forts. On the passage from Gravesend to Plymouth my wife and Jenny were sea-sick. Rolsey and I kept up wonderfully, and on Sunday night stayed on deck until 12 o’clock, looking for Plymouth. It was not exactly a blessed or profitable way of spending Sunday, there being no Service whatever, held on board. Rolsey, Fanny and I had a good sing on deck, to which the people listened very attentively.”

They rose at 7 am, washed on deck and dined on cooked beef supplied by the ship. The writer then bought a supply of provisions for No 5 Mess for the week. Fanny was ‘very sickly’ still. The next meal consisted of boiled eggs and tea.

At noon on the 13th they were 200 miles from Plymouth and later crossed the Bay of Biscay. Fanny now seemed to pick up a little and had a good tea consisting of ‘a nice slice of ham’ given to her by a young man. The lurching of the ship caused a heavy sea to flood the cabins, the portholes having been left open, and beds, clothes and food were saturated. Feeding and sanitary arrangements seem to have been extremely haphazard.

The weather grew hotter as they progressed southwards, awnings were put up, and by Sunday 18th, they were 1,400 miles from home. On this occasion Divine Service was held in the First Saloon, attended by our friends. Then they saw flying fish for the first time. *“They are in size and shape, something like a herring, with wings as fine as gauze”.*

On Monday the East coast of Africa was sighted and the heat became intense.

"I believe we are the only persons on board from Derbyshire, there are English, Scotch, Welsh, Irish, German, French, Dutch, Russian, Jewish, Portuguese, Italian and American passengers. The total number is, I believe, 400, besides which we have 4 cows, 2 bulls and one calf, also some prize sheep and dogs on board, and a number of sheep and pigs to be killed on the passage. One cow and one bull are from the Duke of Devonshire's herd at Holker. A gentleman named McCulloch is taking them out for breeding and very fine specimens they are. These two cost Mr McCulloch about £3000."

In the afternoon they nearly ran into some rocks near the African coast, the sails were hurriedly taken down, the engines reversed and the ship turned right round. If it had been dark they would doubtless have been wrecked, and our writer thought that the narrow shave was not to the Captain's credit. Now 2000 miles from home they saw a shark for the first time and at night sighted a Donnie Currie steamer from the Cape which signalled to them by means of fireworks.

"Wednesday 21st. Hotter than ever. Wife and children very well considering the heat. Passed Cape Verd about two o'clock—a nice coast and appears to be a fertile and well wooded country."

"Thursday 22nd. Went with Fanny and the children to the doctor to get some different food ordered, as that supplied is not fit for children. Salt beef, salt pork, sour bread and tub butter. The Doctor ordered sago for the children. Still very hot and I slept on deck. Rain came and I got wet."

"Friday 23rd. Fanny fell down the stairs but did not harm herself fortunately except a slight bruise on her bottom. In the afternoon an Irish woman died in a fit. She has been unwell ever since she came on board, and has never been out of her berth. There was a good deal of drinking and excitement tonight amongst the 2nd and 3rd class passengers."

"Saturday 24th. The young woman who died yesterday was interred at 8 o'clock this morning. I mean after a short service she, poor thing, was pitched into the sea. A funeral is a solemn thing anywhere but at sea it seems awful. She being a Roman Catholic the Service was led by a Priest who happened to be on board. The Service was short and then the corpse was cast into the Ocean near the Poop on the Starboard side. The corpse is stitched up in canvass and weighted at the feet. The ship was stopped during the ceremony. God preserve me and mine from such a fate."

On the 25th they were 3000 miles from home. Flying fish were seen as they crossed the Equator. The next day, the sailors had their fun, which consisted

of bathing and shaving those of the crew who had not previously crossed the Line. In the afternoon they was racing, jumping, greasy pole climbing etc., for which prizes were given by the passengers. Nearly £11 had been collected for this purpose. In the evening a concert was held near the poop. The engines were stopped from 12.30 to 8 p.m. *"on account of the heat from the constant friction on some part of the Cylinder which was getting on fire."*

There are constant references to Francey's illness. At last she was taken to the Doctor, who said she was very ill, and gave her some medicine. *"The medicine she wants is better food"* comments her father. *"Poor little thing, she can't eat and suffers awfully with blisters with which she is nearly covered. Fanny and Jenny are well. The food supplied is wretched, bread sour and the meat so salty."*

"Friday 30th. Soaked and warmed the ship biscuits which done thus are better than the bread. Until they are soaked they are so hard you could throw them all over Chesterfield Market Place without breaking them. Night on Fokesail reciting to a few friends."

"Saturday 31st. Rose early, bathed on Fokesail. As I came down from there an event occurred which I will relate because it shows how roughly the 3rd class passengers are treated by some of the Officers of the Ship. The docks are swilled every morning and over our cabins are grates for ventilation, and, when swilling, the covered to these holes should be put down instead of the grates, but the Boatswain won't be at this trouble and consequently the water and not only the water, but dirt and filth from the cow and sheep pens comes into the cabins and is a great nuisance. Of this I complained and this morning the man who with his wife and family occupies the cabin opposite ours complained to the Boatswain and also threatened to go to the Captain. The Boatswain threw a bucketful of water over the passenger. A most outrageous thing to do. Of course he went and lodged a complaint with the Captain. Bread very bad today."

Sunday June 1st. Whit Sunday on board ship. What a Sunday School day this will be at home. I wonder what the hymns will be."

Services were held on the ship, all denominations being catered for. Whit Monday was distinguished by the sight of a whale about 30 feet long. On Tuesday he records fetching water and stores for the Mess; flour, suet, sugar, currants, tea, coffee, sago [ordered specially by the Doctor for the children], preserved potatoes, salt, pepper, mustard and a bottle of lime-juice. Water and bread were given out every morning and salt beef and pork once or twice a week, and pease soup on Monday and Friday. *"The salt beef given out*

ought to be masticated by machinery, it is so tough." The next day they were all unwell with dysentery again.

The mountainous Cape Coast was sighted on June 7th after some very rough weather, now 6000 miles from home. Albatross and Cape Pigeons were seen, the former large and beautiful with a wing span of two or three feet. On the 9th a terrible storm arose and lasted forty-eight hours. The sails were torn to ribbons and a sailor had three ribs broken. The pump and part of Fokesail bulwarks were washed away, fowls drowned and cattle tossed about dreadfully. Next day the sea was running mountains high. *"I can compare it to nothing with which you are familiar but Hady Hills."* Most of the passengers spent the day in bed and father had to forage for the family and friends. He made some cocoa, bought some sardines and begged a bit of mutton. Their discomfort was added to by the bursting of the W.C. apparatus. Boulle soup partaken of the next day, upset them all again.

Speeding along in full sail through calmer waters, they planned a concert which was a great success. A piano was borrowed for the occasion. *"Fanny sang beautifully and Rolsey obliged with The Quack Doctor."*

On the 24th of June, now 10,000 miles from home, the weather turned very cold and they had snow and hail for several days.

"I was in bed all morning very sick, the food is so bad the the life so monotonous. Francey is not at all well and she has a nasty boil on the back of her neck. She is not strong.....If we don't land soon I shall lose this child. Jenny seems and looks as strong as a Welsh pony."

As the travellers neared the end of their voyage an auction sale was held on board the ship. *"I bought a lamp, a chair and a vest, all for four shillings and twopence. Our friend Hartley offered me his wool mattress, washstand and two chairs for £2. I offered him 25s, he didn't say he would sell. A good many drunk and some fighting at night."*

"Monday 30th. The Agent's [Melbourne] Boat came alongside tonight, bringing some gentleman and a lady on board the Kent. A rumour is afloat that there is some case against our Captain. Considerable excitement and noise tonight. Distance 11,450."

Tuesday July 1st. Came alongside Sandridge Pier at 5.30 tonight. Thank God for having brought us safely here. Went ashore with Hartley and others, the night was so beautiful Hartley and I went again with our wives."

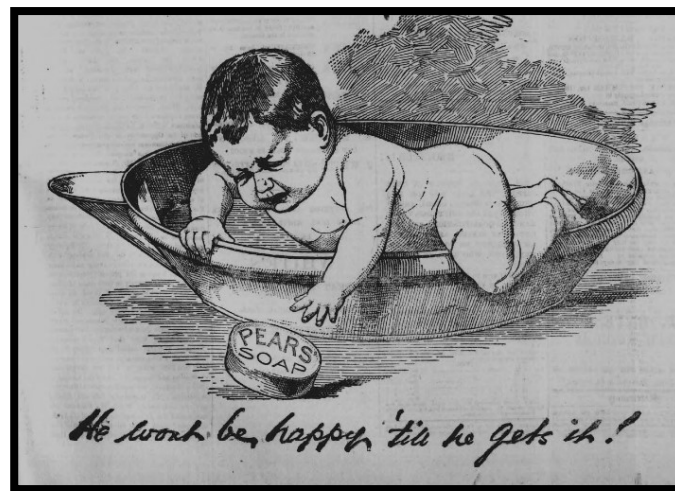
"Wednesday 2nd. Went in search of a suitable house in a suitable neighbourhood. Found one in Richmond, but could not get in today so had to stay another night aboard the Kent. Rolsey left us to go his own way, only saying if I left my address at the G.P.O. he would call for his things when we had unpacked."

"Thursday 3rd. Finally left the S.S. Kent and got into my new home. Fanny and the children very well. Our house has four rooms, shed and large back-yard. With this I close my Diary"

"Note. If I was coming again I should come by the Orient Line instead of Money Wigram & Co's and I should bring plenty of something to eat with me in the shape of eggs, hams, potatoes, and a box of herrings. Our parkin was invaluable to us and the eggs which Fanny brought a luxury, but there was not a sufficient number to last all the time."

This journey took seven weeks and covered 11,710 miles. Hard to imagine when today it would be possible to be there in a day. No wonder some didn't survive to start their new life with conditions such as described above.

So can anyone name this family. Did they make a success of their new life? Has anyone got a family in Chesterfield who abruptly disappear? The initials could be a clue if so.

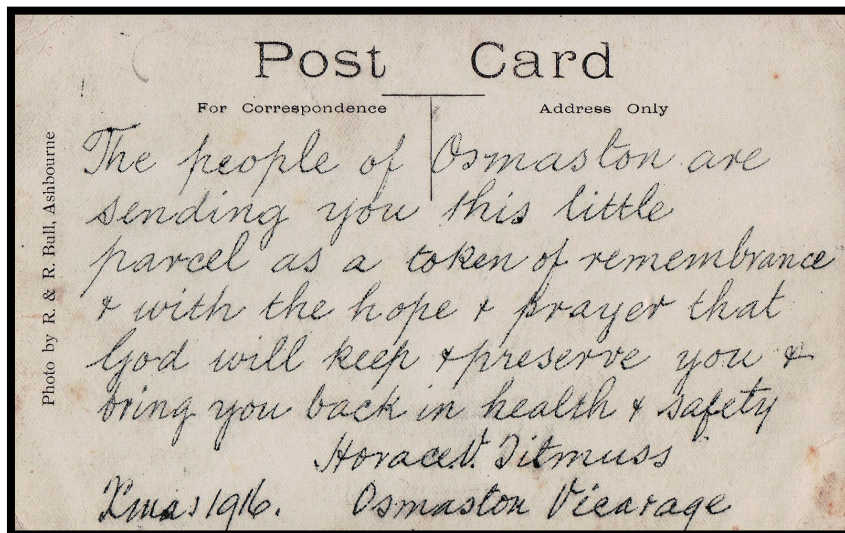


I'm a sucker for old adverts, but I have never seen this one before. Isn't it wonderful? From a newspaper of 1890

Are Any of Them Yours?



Thanks to Judith Redfern [Mem 6408] who sent us this postcard, obviously from a soldier during world war I. Does anyone recognise any faces or can tell us any more about is.



NOTHING CHANGES

DERBY, SEPTEMBER 4th, 1787.
Saint Mary's Bridge.
THE BRIDGE, called Saint Mary's Bridge, over the River Derwent, in the Borough of Derby, being much in Decay, and inconvenient, and dangerous to the Public, The Corporation of Derby, have been desirous of Re-building the same, and conceived that it would be necessary to obtain an Act of Parliament for the Purpose: But it having been suggested, that it is probable a sufficient Subscription may be raised, and the Necessity of imposing a Toll thereby avoided—The Corporation are desirous to meet the Wishes of the Public, and to adopt those Measures on the Occasion, that may be least burthensome to the Country:
Notice is therefore hereby Given,
That a MEETING will be held at the TOWN-HALL in DERBY, on MONDAY the 17th Instant, at Eleven o'Clock in the Forenoon, when a Proposal is intended to be submitted, on the Part of the Corporation for the Consideration of the Public: And it is hoped that those Gentlemen, who are resident in the Country, as well as those resident in the Borough of Derby, and who consider themselves interested in the Measure, will not fail to attend.
H. FLINT, Mayor.

Ruth found this in a Derby paper of 1787 while researching something for somebody. As we have been enduring so much upheaval over the past few months while they did the flood defences [apparently these will stop the once in 100 years flood when it happens!!!!] it rang a definite bell with us. The current workmen also think that the Bridge isn't in the best condition and that a flood will cause a great deal of damage hence the need to build a series of Berlin walls and gates that will divert the flood away from bridge and town and send it harmlessly back into the river. What the good of that is when the river will presumably already be bursting its banks I have no idea, but then

anyone who lives under this council can only shake their heads at the money wasting that goes on and wonder what on earth they will think of next.

Back in 1787 there was no public money available to mend the bridge hence the call for donations [subscriptions], which were readily forthcoming. A goodly sum of money was raised and eventually it was decided to do away with the old bridge altogether and build a new one. The original bridge was probably built in the 12th/13th century and was the only road into Derby at the time. The chapel built at the side served the needs of those crossing the bridge, either to receive refreshments or to spend a few minutes in prayer after a safe journey. Less popular would be the toll, levied on both goods and animals, which went towards the maintenance of the bridge.

Over the years the bridge began to deteriorate, hence the above notice. A new bridge was designed by Thomas Harrison and it was erected alongside the old one, which was then taken down, leaving just the foundations of the supports. When the river is low, these can be seen peeping up from the river. The Bridge Chapel itself stands on the one remaining arch that was not taken down.

The building of a new bridge was obviously not straightforward. In the Derby Mercury of 21 May 1789, a letter was printed:-

"How much longer is St Mary's Bridge at Derby expected to lie in a state of dormancy? It has lain so long in embryo, there is reason to fear it may be stillborn, or at least prove a weak and rickety offspring, very difficult to be reared.

Should the present generation live to see the first stone of St Mary's Bridge laid, believe me, I shall have no objection to stand Father, as well as Godfather, at the Christening, and shall give it the name of Snail Bridge, because it creeps on so very slowly.—William Woodward."

I can't find the exact date of the opening of the new bridge, but assume it will be sometime in the 1790s. It is now showing the ravages of time yet again, but somehow I don't think this council will leap to the rescue as did those in the past. In spite of it being listed, I wouldn't be surprised to see it collapse into the water and a nice, new, soulless concrete edifice erected that would delight the current architects, builders and council, and be the despair of everyone else.

Sometimes I really think past times were better!!

JACK PLATTS

Derbyshire Cricketer

Jack Platts was born on December 6th 1848, at Chellaston, a village in the south of Derbyshire. He was one of the best known of the old cricketers who played for the county, being a fast bowler and a punishing bat. He appeared for the County Cricket Club in its first match against Lancashire at Manchester in May 1871 and took 3 wickets for 4 runs in the Lancashire second innings [he didn't bowl in the first] and thus helped Derbyshire to win by an innings and 11 runs.

He had a number of excellent performances to his credit and scored the first century ever made for Derbyshire, being 115 against Hampshire at Derby in July 1877. He played continuously for the county and made his last appearance in August 1884 against Lancashire at Derby, just over 13 years since his first match against the same side. He also had the distinction of bowling out the great W.G. Grace.

His record for Derbyshire was as follows:-

BATTING: Innings 170. not out 7. Highest Score 115. Runs 2133.
Average 13.08

BOWLING: Overs 2118.2. Maidens 755. Runs 3581. Wickets 198.
Average 18.08

Unfortunately he is remembered chiefly because of one lamentable incident at Lord's in 1870, when he was playing for the M.C.C. against Nottinghamshire. A ball from Platts rose straight up and struck George Summers on the cheek, causing an injury from which he afterwards died. The Derbyshire Advertiser of the 24 June 1870 reported the incident.

"Mr Browne, the Nottingham coroner, held an inquest on Monday on George Summers, the celebrated Notts cricketer, who died from the effects of a blow on the head while playing at Lords on Wednesday, in the great match between the County of Notts and the Marylebone Club. The room was crowded with gentlemen interested in cricket, the deceased—who was the son of a hotel keeper in Nottingham, and only 25 years of age—being greatly respected, not only for his cricketing talent, but as a well conducted man. It appears that Platts, a Derbyshire bowler, was bowling against him, when one of the balls, delivered with terrific force, rose up and struck him on the head. He fell to the ground stunned and soon became so exhausted that he had to be removed and taken to bed. He remained in London till Friday, when having expressed a desire to see his parents, he was conveyed to Nottingham on a

bed in a saloon carriage. The best medical skill was called in, but he rapidly became unconscious, and at 3 o'clock on Sunday afternoon expired. It was shown that the force of the ball had fractured the deceased's skull and brought on concussion of the brain, and a verdict to this effect was returned. Deceased was one of the eleven selected to play this week in the great county match between Notts and Yorkshire."

The above version of Summers death was contradicted in the book Lord's, which said that Summers was given brandy and sat in the hot sun the next day before returning home. Alfred Shaw, another famous cricketer, did not agree and stated in his autobiography that every care was taken of Summers, who did not leave his hotel until he started on his return journey to Nottingham. Wisden records that the wicket was excellent, but that the fatal ball pitched on a pebble. Whatever the truth of the matter it certainly had an adverse effect upon Platt's career and prevented him from attaining greater heights than he did.

After finishing with first class cricket Jack Platts turned out only for the local club, bowling slow stuff and not liking being taken off. He also became one of the regular county umpires. He finally realised that his hand had lost its cunning, and broke down, never to play again. He kept the old 'Rose and Crown' in Chellaston for a number of years, and it was his custom when matches at Derby finished before their allotted time, to bring one of the visiting professionals home with him for the weekend, and together they would play for the village team.

Platts himself would relate that he learned to bowl as a lad, when leading the gypsum carts down through the village to the railway station or canal, relieving the tedium of the journeys by picking up stones and bowling them. The gypsum mines are long gone and the noisy rattle of the carts down the deeply rutted village street has ceased.

Having left the village, Platts went to live in Derby where he died a few years later on August 6th 1898, when he was in his fiftieth year. He was buried in Chellaston churchyard, in an unmarked grave and it is doubtful whether anyone now knows whereabouts it is.

Both before and after his death a fund was running '*for poor Platts*', to raise some money for his wife and children to enable them to set up in business. Platts first wife Lydia had died, leaving him with two children, and his second, Alice, had then presented him with another four. Many cricketers and also local fans of the game contributed and there were letters in the paper, asking for contributions, but after his death Alice remarried to an Andrew

Fleming and never needed to start herself off in a business.

The Derby Mercury of 10 August 1898 published his obituary:-

"The death is announced of John Platts, the once famous Derbyshire cricketer, which occurred at his residence in Langley Street, Derby, on Saturday. Platts, who had been suffering from a complication of diseases for some time past, was at one time a well known figure in the cricketing world. When the Derbyshire County Club was formed in the year 1871 he was one of the players selected to take part in the opening match against Lancashire.....the Derbyshire eleven also included Mr Unwin Sowter who was top scorer. Platts only scored a couple of runs, but he bowled six overs for three wickets. On the return match he again accomplished a capital performance with the ball, taking five wickets for only 34 runs. From this time onwards Platts was regularly included in the county ranks and rendered yeoman service for the club with both bat and ball.

It was in a match against the M.C.C. that the unfortunate accident occurred which caused the death of poor George Summers. Prior to this Daft had also been struck by one of Platt's deliveries. The unfortunate affair caused a great deal of talk at the time and though the bowler was not blamed at all the incident led to the abandonment for a time of the inter-county matches between Notts and Derbyshire, and also led Platts to alter his style. During the whole of his cricketing career Platts was very popular indeed with all classes, and after his retirement he became the landlord of the Rose and Crown Inn at Chellaston.

Of recent years things had not gone well with him; pecuniary difficulties overtook him, and he was attacked by a complication of diseases. Several gentlemen interested themselves generously in the matter and the appeal being readily responded to every possible comfort has been provided for the poor fellow during the last few months of his life.

Platts was always one of the keenest and most straightforward of cricketers and everybody who knew him will hear with the deepest possible regret of his death."

With thanks to the Derbyshire Countryside, Widen and Sir Pelham Warner's Lords. The statistics are taken from W. Piper's History of D.C.C.C., published in 1897.

The Johnsons of Tibshelf (update to article 3)

Over the past few years, I have written 4 articles examining the origins of the Johnson family of Tibshelf. First, we looked at the life of **Frances Johnson**, born 1829, who was the grandmother of Joseph and Thomas Johnson, the founders of J & T Johnson, well-known chrysanthemum growers in Tibshelf. They won many national awards and were renowned members of the Royal Horticultural Society.

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

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

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

Finally, in the fourth article, we examined instead the mysteries around William Johnson's father, a certain **Abraham Johnson**.

I thought that that was that, that I could put the Johnsons to rest permanently. I updated my ancestry tree (Johnsons of Staunton Harold, tree# 89653133), I updated my own family history website (www.lomascuderi.com), and moved onto other parts of the family.

Then earlier this year, I got an e-mail from Australia, and everything had to be changed! As seems to be usual with the Johnsons, this research was incredibly fascinating and frustrating.

Initial Contact with Greg Wardell-Johnson

The initial mail I received from Greg Wardell-Johnson of Australia can be summarised as follows: "Nice research mate, lots of good stuff there, pity that you have my 3rd great-grandfather dying as an infant! My reckoning is that there are some 1500 descendants of that infant!"

Greg was right, I had made a mistake. He is descended from the eldest child of **William Johnson** (1784-1851) and **Sarah Wardle** (1787-1873), namely from William Johnson Wardle (1805-1867) who married Jane Bowles (1805-

1860). I on the other hand am descended from their 3rd child Joseph Johnson (1809-1878), who married Sarah Watson (1809-1883). Joseph and Sarah were the parents of Frances Johnson (1829-1903), whose life story was presented in the first of my Johnson articles.

Not content to set me straight about William Johnson Wardle, Greg then proceeded to completely dismantle the reasoning that I had presented in my 3rd article on the Johnsons, that concerning our 4th great-grandparents, namely **William Johnson** (1784-1851) and **Sarah Wardle** (1787-1873). I am sorry to say that that 3rd article now needs to be thrown away!

This article will hopefully set the story straight.

One or Two Families?

Previous research (July 2017) by me had indicated that there was serious doubt as to whether William Johnson and Sarah Wardle were in fact the parents of all of the 14 children assigned to them. This was due to Sarah Wardle apparently being present in 2 separate census entries in 1851, thus indicating the possibility of 2 distinct families, with the first 7 children being in Family 1, and the second 7 children being in Family 2.

In this hypothesis there were 2 William Johnsons, 1 Sarah Wardle and 1 Sarah X (surname unknown). Following analysis and discussion between myself and Greg Wardell-Johnson in March 2019, we have been able to reconcile these facts, and we are both convinced that there is only one family, one William Johnson and one Sarah Wardle.

The main reasons for one family are the following:

Family tradition. Although this can often be unreliable, in this case it provides a clear indication. According to a story relayed to Greg by his great aunt in the 1970's, the death of his grandmother Sarah (nee Wardell/Wardle) was the reason the Rev William Wardell Johnson (1834-1898) decided to hyphenate his surname. This clearly establishes that the Sarah who died in 1873 was Sarah Wardle, and not as had been suggested in the 2 family approach as the "other" Sarah.

DNA testing. These indicate that Greg is equally related to a fifth generation descendant of Jacob Johnson (1828-1912) living in the USA as he is to a fifth generation descendant of Joseph Johnson (1809-1878). Jacob was from Family 2 while Joseph from Family 1. The common DNA indicate that in both cases the most recent common ancestors have to be William Johnson and Sarah Wardle based on the trees uploaded to Ancestry by these DNA participants.

The unusual Christian name Laban was used liberally by both Family 1 and Family 2. It was first bestowed by the parents on their son Benjamin Laban Johnson born 1825 (Family 2), then used by oldest son William b1805 (Family 1) for his second son in 1828, in Joseph's family (Family 1) for his grandson Laban Johnson born 1858, by Jacob (Family 2) for his son Laban Johnson born 1865. There seemed to be no other use of the name Laban in any other Johnson family and its genesis is unknown unless just a biblical name initially favoured by the matriarch and patriarch William and Sarah.

The duplicate 1851 census returns: These can be explained by supposing that Sarah, who usually resided with her husband and son in Whitwick, decided to visit her daughter Lydia at or around March 30 and was included on the Richards family list (albeit not described as a Visitor but M in Law to Joseph Richards, which she was even if she was a visitor rather than usual resident). Returning to Whitwick before the forms were collected on March 31, husband William Johnson has listed her even though he should not have because she was not in his house that night. If you examine the Richards enumeration carefully, it appears that Sarah is described as married (Ma'd) in exactly the same form as others on that page, rather than as widow - and she was most certainly still married to William even though she was away that night.

Lack of suitable William Johnsons in the 1780s: It has proved impossible to find the birth of any William Johnson in or around Staunton Harold around 1784, never mind 2 separate William Johnsons. An exhaustive analysis was carried out of all the William Johnsons born in the area: 19 in Leicestershire, 1 in Derbyshire, 31 in Staffordshire and 6 in Warwickshire. Within 12 miles of Coleorton, this list reduced to just 8, none of which were born in Coleorton, Breedon, Worthington, Whitwick, Staunton Harold or Calke. The nearest to a birth in 1784 is one in 1785 at Quorndon (12m E Coleorton).

Lack of suitable death for William Johnson1: There was only one suitable William Johnson who died between 1816 and 1841 in the area, he died at Leicester St Mary in 1823, some 13 miles from Whitwick, and who was born in 1781. There seems to be no connection between him and "our" Johnsons in Coleorton.

Lack of death of Sarah Wardle between the 1851 and 1861 census returns: In the two family approach, Sarah Wardle needs to die before 1861. There are 3 possible deaths of a Sarah Johnson in the area, in 1851, 1856 and 1859, and none are "ours".

Lack of knowing who Sarah X is: William Johnson² most likely married Sarah X around 1818 near Newbold, being as their children were all born in Newbold and baptised at Worthington, starting in 1819. There is only 1 marriage for a William Johnson to a Sarah during the right timeframe, to a Sarah Mason at Hinckley 22 Jun 1819. However, all subsequent census returns say that Sarah was born in Coleorton, so this must be discounted. This leads to the fact that we have no idea who Sarah X was or when she married.

The conclusions are clear, there was only one family!

The Descendants of William Johnson Wardle

Coming back now to the eldest son of William Johnson and Sarah Wardle, William b1805 was an illegitimate son of Sarah Wardle (then just 17) and William Johnson (then aged 20), born at "Moor" and baptised at Breedon as William Johnson Wardle on 21 Apr 1805. Looking at the map, this was most likely Coleorton Moor (just to the south of Coleorton centre) or alternatively Gelsmoor (just to the north of Coleorton centre). Both of these would tie in with the location of the birth of most of William Johnson and Sarah Wardle's children, born at Coleorton or Newbold-Worthington.

Following his parents' marriage a year later on 22 Sep 1806, the name Wardle was dropped, to be resurrected in the 1850s by his son William Johnson (b1834), who subsequently became known as William Wardell Johnson. After emigration to Australia in 1869, the name became hyphenated, apparently around 1874, and he became known as William Wardell-Johnson. To this day, all his descendants have this double-barrelled surname.

Next Steps

Working with Greg has meant that I have had to re-evaluate quite a lot of my original research. I am pleased to say that this was not just one-way traffic: Greg has also had to re-evaluate a lot of his research! Together in fact we have made quite a few startling discoveries, and in one particular case managed to solve a riddle that Greg had been pondering about for over 40 years! Watch this space, the next Johnson article will be all about Hannah Green, the mother-in-law of the Rev William Wardell-Johnson! I am sure that Hollywood will want to buy the rights!

John Lomas

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

UNHEALTHY DIET

My thanks to Ruth who found this amongst some belongings when she was sorting out. We have no idea of the date—possibly 1920s/1930s—but today's nutritionists would have a fit. I would have thought dancers might have needed plenty of energy and I would doubt they got it from this diet.

LONDON

93 Harley Street, W.1.

Diet Sheet. Especially recommended for Dancers

BREAKFAST

Grilled fish or 1 slice cold meat, or 1 egg [plain boiled or poached in water]

1 slice unbuttered toast

1 tea cup of liquid [no sugar] with saccharin or Sucron

LUNCH

2 eggs or ½lb fish, or ½lb lean meat [Red meat, chicken, lamb, mutton, veal, or tripe – either grilled, boiled, steamed or stewed]

Vegetables and salads [NO potatoes, Butterbeans, Carrots or Peas]

Tomatoes

1 Slice of Bread

1 tea cup of liquid

TEA

1 tea cup of liquid and 1 plain biscuit

DINNER

2 eggs or ½lb Fish or lean meat

Green vegetables, salads and tomatoes

2 slices of Bread and Butter

1 tea cup of liquid

ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL

NO more than 4 tea cups of liquid in 24 hours

NO fruit or fruit juice except lemon

NO alcohol

NO sweets, chocolates, cakes, pastries, nuts, puddings, jams or marmalades

NO salt, or food preserved in salt. BUT pepper, vinegar and lemon juice are allowed

Parishes and Chapelries

Many years ago this was on our Society noticeboard and was also once printed in our magazine. In spite of the wealth of information on the Internet, people still get confused so I am reprinting it and hope you will find it useful. It was originally sent to us by Sylvia Browne [sadly no longer with us] and it is still extremely relevant to today's researchers. Sylvia tended to concentrate on the High Peak as all her researches were done there, but the following is relevant anywhere in England.

"Tracing back from the present day, through the twentieth century, and nearly three quarters of the nineteenth, one finds much to help with one's family research—gazetteers, electoral rolls, post office guides, directories, censuses and civil registrations, to name but a few. From the date of civil registration in 1837 Parishes and Chapelries were of diminishing influence in the life of their inhabitants, and as time went on the diminution accelerated; but tracing back from 1837 the converse is the case. One still has Parish and Chapel Registers, but only for little more than a century and a half, prior to which they are increasingly sparse. There are sporadic records occasioned by local or national events—moot courts, land ley lists, army musters, church levies, "The Free and Voluntary Present" [made county by county to the impecunious Charles II after his restoration], Feet of Fines, Wills and Rental Rolls if one is fortunate enough to find them.

The country was divided and sub-divided into parishes and chapelries, in the days when the law of the land was administered by the Church. The High Peak is the area with which I am most familiar, but the same system applied countrywide, and similar anomalies will be encountered in the rest of the county and elsewhere.

BOUNDARIES. One only had to climb or go over a hill, pass a stand of trees to one's right instead of one's left, cross a river or hop a brook, to put oneself into a different parish or chapelry, and this could have some influence on the conditions under which one lived as well as the whereabouts of any records concerning one's birth and subsequent movements.

The parish was responsible for the local timepiece, the state and repair of roads and bridges, the administration of local charities, some apprenticeships and the workhouse, and sometimes played a part in the appointment of the clergy. They seem also to have had a very jealous regard for their boundaries! In the seventeenth century Chapel en le Frith and Fairfield were in dispute regarding 18 acres and 30 perches of land in the vicinity of Dove Holes,

and at the same court evidence was taken on oath concerning a 79 year shepherd of Combs, who had driven his master's sheep "and other cattel unto and upon Corbar". [Corbar Hill and Corbar Side are in Fairfield].

An unmarried, expectant mother, working away from her own parish, was liable to be ordered back there before the birth, lest she and her child should become a charge on her adoptive parish, and knowledge of the boundaries was sometimes of use to those in trouble with the law, as was demonstrated by the counterfeiters of Flash!

CONSISTORY AND PECULIAR COURTS. Most of the Parishes and Chapelries of Derbyshire fall under the jurisdiction of the Consistory Court and the Archdeaconry of Derby, and are, with few exceptions, smaller in area than those of the Peculiar Court. The latter is represented mainly in the NW of the country, plus Kniveton Parish further to the South, and Sawley Parish with its three chapelries, Breaston, Risley and Wilne. These Peculiar parishes fall under the jurisdiction of the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield, with the exception of Hartington and Dale Abbey. These two have their own archdeacons, and Dale Abbey is also a Liberty.

Parish registers were kept and signed by the Church Wardens and countersigned by the Vicar, and Chapel Registers by the Curate [the incumbent of a Chapel]. Once every three years the Bishop or his representative made his "Visitation" to the Parishes, where he was presented with a copy of the Register. These are the B.T.s [Bishop's Transcripts] that covered the previous three years. Human nature prevailing it is difficult to imagine that the vicar or curate tackled this three yearly copying grind much before it became a really pressing chore! Hence the many difference that crop up between the two copies of the registers. The visitations were usually in May, and the end of the year [pre 1752] was in March. Between B.T.s to be copied, the approach of Holy Week and Easter, plus the usual duties, it must have been a very busy time for incumbents. The heading of the B.T.s states where, when and to whom they were to be presented—Chelmorton, for instance, was presented at Bakewell to the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield.

Probate of wills and letters of administration were granted by the Court of the Bishop, but there were unexplained exceptions. My own main areas of research have been around Chapel en le Frith, Chelmorton, Fairfield, Fernilee and Peak Forest, and I have found Probate grants from Tideswell, Bakewell, Chapel en le Frith, Hartington and even York, as well as the expected Lichfield. Besides the parishes above and those of Staffordshire, the Peculiar of Lichfield also includes several parishes of Warwickshire.

Not all parishes have Chapelries, but records of both nearly always include reference to areas within their environs, e.g. Combs in Chapel en le Frith, Pictor in Fairfield, Litton in Wormhill, etc. Around 1700 the parish register of Tideswell carries marginal notes, suggesting that the vicar and neighbouring vicars and curates paid each other for officiating at ceremonies on each other's behalf. Later in the 18th century the Reverend Lomas, curate of Chelmorton, kept very meticulous records, giving place names with nearly all entries, but for very complicated reasons the years ascribed to several pages of entries are not accurate, and this applies to both the Chapel Register and to the Bishop's Transcript.

B.O.T.P. This is an abbreviation known to most researchers, but unfortunately it is very often misunderstood. The operative word is "Parish". For example if it is written in respect of a marriage in Buxton, the meaning is that both parties were of the Parish of Bakewell, but, had the same couple married at Bakewell [the "mother" church], B.O.T.P. would still have applied, and didn't mean they were living in Bakewell. There are several variations on this theme—the couple may have both lived in Buxton, or one in Buxton and the other in Great Longstone [or another of the Bakewell Chapelries]], but they were still correctly B.O.T.P., i.e. the Parish of Bakewell. Fortunately not many Parishes have as many Chapelries as does Bakewell.

The misunderstanding doesn't occur only in respect of marriage entries: Joseph Vernon's application for a marriage licence refers to him as a "publican of Hope". Correct, he was a publican of that part of Dove Holes which is in the Chapelry of Fairfield within the Parish of Hope. Henry Morten named his son John, farmer of Great Rocks, as an executor of his will. I knew where Great Rocks was, but early in my research I was rather at a loss to understand why in the probate document, John was described as a "farmer of Tideswell". Of course I later learned that Great Rocks was in the Chapelry of Wormhill within the Parish of Tideswell.

EXTRA-PAROCHIAL PARISHES/LIBERTIES had a degree of autonomy and so weren't as dependant on the Diocesan Council for permission to order their own affairs as were other parishes. They are particularly remembered for their issuing of marriage licences, and performing marriage ceremonies for couples from quite far afield. Peak Forest had a brief resurgence of popularity in the early days of WW2, when this ancient dispensation was recalled, but the situation wasn't of any duration as it was soon announced that the dispensation had long been rescinded.

We are all told to interview elderly family members in the hope of discovering something of our family history. I know of three cases, two in my own

family and one not, of this type of handed-down information regarding someone, as a child, being taken by train to Buxton, where a visit was paid to family members, the implication being that Buxton was the place where the family had its roots. Naturally the researcher's first recourse is the Buxton census and in each case they draw a blank. This was because the childhood memory was of getting off the train at Buxton station, which was the terminus, but, prior to 1917, the old, named areas surrounding Buxton still retained their separate identities, a situation which lingers on, with diminishing intensity, for another generation.

Except locally, Burbage, Fairfield and Harpur Hill are now spoken of as Buxton, but prior to 1917 Buxton railway station, the Palace Hotel, St John's Church, and various other Buxton landmarks were actually in Fairfield. In the above three cases two of the families were found in Fairfield and the other in Burbage. The latter was without its own church until the last quarter of the 19th century and, prior to 1917, was part in the parish of Bakewell and part in Hartington. There are many records of Burbage folk in the Fairfield registers. This is an example of how boundaries and nomenclature may change, and Buxton, no doubt, is not the only central area which has subsumed other, not necessarily smaller, surrounding, localities.

AREAS WITH NO PLACE OF WORSHIP. Not necessarily to be confused with named districts within Parishes and Chapelries, these areas can be very difficult to research. Some areas are not contiguous with the parishes to which they belonged, although the eventual inclusion of Brushfield into the chapelry of Ashford seems to have been a sensible move—it had formerly been simply “of the Parish of Bakewell”. I understand that the people of Froggatt just nipped down the road to Stoney Middleton when in need of spiritual Ministration, but I cut my genealogical teeth on my Fernilee forebears! At one point I even had to abandon my family history to concentrate on the geography of the area in which I was born and grew up, and with which I was physically though not politically familiar!

At the time there were others also trying to understand the situation and, via “relative” input, the Hibert/Cheshire I.G.I. had actually acquired some Derbyshire entries! I was asked to write up and share my findings. As may be supposed, there are several other place-names within the Fernilee area—Carr, Overhillhead, Whitehall, Shallcross, Goyt's Head and Goyt's Bridge, Nook and Calf Hey. The nearest church to those living at the northern end of the area was at Taxal in Cheshire, and there are several chapelries in that huge Cheshire Parish of Prestbury which were nearer to the folk of Fernilee than was their own Mother Church at Hope. Burials may often be found at Taxal, baptisms at Taxal or Fairfield, and marriages at Hope or Fairfield, but there

was no hard or fast rule and one shouldn't overlook Chapel en le Frith, Earl Sterndale, Chelmorton or Hartington, nor those other Chapelries on the far side of the Goyt.

Many baptism and burial entries will give sufficient details, usually of named farms, to establish whether or not Fernilee was the place of residence, but marriages can be difficult. Rarely, if ever, is Fernilee mentioned.—those taking place at Hope or Fairfield are B.O.T.P. A Chelmorton entry gives “of Whitehall”, and one at Chapel en le Frith gives “of Hope”. It was once suggested that there had been another, earlier area of the same name near to Hope, but nothing has ever been found to substantiate this theory.

Having discovered a possible baptism, marriage or burial entry it is as well to try to back up one's findings with other data—e.g. wills or land tax assessments. The Chapel en le Frith marriage mentioned above was of Ann Ollerenshaw and she and her husband are both named in the will of her father, Edward Ollerenshaw of Carr, Fernilee.

Although the foregoing relates chiefly to the High Peak Hundred, as previously indicated the same conditions apply elsewhere—there are instances of moved boundaries and changed place-names or spellings in most counties. Current road maps should be used in conjunction with older ones, and the County Parish Maps are of great help. Try comparing the last with either of the others, it is often possible to recognize the geographical feature which formed the boundary in the first place.”

SYLVIA BROWNE

POACHING

On 18th Sept 1894, John Staples of Derby was stopped by PC Stone coming from land where it appeared he had been poaching. When searched by the constable, he was found in possession of a bag, a number of pegs, nets and other implements all used in poaching. He was summoned to the Derby Borough Court on Wednesday, September 26th 1894, but did not appear. The defendant, who was described by the court as of 'bad character', was fined 20s plus costs or one month in prison for default.

DERBY COUNTY GAOL PERSONNEL

Up to 1532 the prison for felons in the counties of Nottingham and Derby was at Nottingham, but an act meant that a separate gaol should be built in Derbyshire. Even then it took many years before the justices obeyed the act and provided a building in Derby, John Baxter of Kirk Langley being appointed as the first gaoler. The gaol was from the first a gross discredit to the shire and was notorious above all others for its foulness and consequent frequent visitations of plague and gaol fever. It seemed that the county authorities deemed it most economical to confine their prisoners in a place where fatal fevers were nearly a certainty, for it was built in the Corn Market over the then open brook, which was at that period merely the town sewer. Hutton wrote *"Our ancestors erected the chief jail in a river, exposed to damp and filth, as if they meant to drown the culprit before they hanged him. A worse situation could not have been chosen."*

On the evening of 13 February 1752 four prisoners broke out by making a breach through the bottom part of the wall and then, breaking the ground, came through on the bridge. At last the county was shamed into providing more decent accommodation for their prisoners and in 1755-6, a plain, substantial brick building was erected in Friar Gate to serve as a gaol for felons and debtors, and also as a house of correction for short sentence prisoners.

Gaolers or Governors

Up to 1720 mention has been made of four county gaolers, namely John Baxter [1508], Henry Agard [1647, Mrs Vessy [1680] and William Wragg [1690] and an indictment shows that Joseph Walker was gaoler in 1718.

From 1720 we are able to give a complete list of the gaolers or governors of the county prison. Down to 1760 the names and dates are taken from the contracts for the transportation of felons, and subsequently from the Orders of Sessions.

1720 Sept 10th	John Greateorex
1726 June 29th	Mary Greateorex
1733 Aug 18th	John Greateorex
1741 May 2nd	Henry Greateorex
1743 April 13th	Samuel Greateorex
1744 Feb 15th	Richard Fletcher
1750 April 15th	John Greateorex
1752 Oct 6th	Richard Fletcher
1756 April 2nd	John Greateorex

1758 Sept 27th	John Marriott
1760 Sept 17th	Blyth Simpson
1793 Epiph.	William Eaton
1832 Trans.	Richard Eaton [resigns]
1832 Mich.	John Sims
1852 Mich.	James Henry Sims
1879	C.E. Farquharson, the present Governor, late Captain 21st Hus- sars, was appointed Governor of Northampton prison by the magistrates of that County in 1876 and transferred by the Prison Commissioners to Derby in 1879.

Chaplains

With regard to the spiritual welfare of the prisoners, it is of interest to note, though not very creditable to the justices, that the first move for a chaplain proceeded from those in confinement. At the Epiphany Sessions, 1710, the following order was made:-

“Upon Petition of the Prisoners in the County Gaole for Divine Service and Prayers and Preaching. This court having taken the same into consideration doe nominate elect and make choice of Jasper Horsington of Derby in the County of Derby Clerke to doe the same if he will except of it upon the termes proposed by this Court [vizt] to read ym prayers or Divine Service once a week at least, and to Preach once a Month at least; the tyme for so doing to be performed at the Electon and convenience of the said Mr Horsington, for which This Court doth Order and it is hereby ordered that Mr John Wright Treasuurer doe pay to the said Mr Horsington five pounds per Annum which money is to be paid Quarterly from the date hereof.”

Jasper Horsington was vicar of Mackworth from 1695 to 1724. Though the sum of £5 seems small for his services at the gaol, Mr Horsington held such a multiplicity of appointments that he doubtless made a fair income. In the Allestree register he is described as *“Curate of Allestree, vicar of Mackworth, curate of Quarndon, and one of ye Friday lecturers at All Saints in Derby.”*

In 1732, on the death of Mr Horsington, William Lockett obtained the gaol chaplaincy at a like stipend; he was also vicar of both St Michael and St Werburgh in Derby. On Mr Lockett's death in 1751 the same duties and salary were assigned to William Blackwell, curate of St Peter's, and to him succeeded, at the Easter Sessions 1761, the Rev Mr Dixon.

At the Michaelmas Sessions, 1766, the justices took a more generous view of their duties, both with regard to chapel and chaplain, now that the prisoners were in the new gaol, and *“ordered that Blyth Simpson keeper of His Majes-*

ty's Gaol for this county do employ a proper workman to Bench round and Desk the Chappel in the said Gaol for the convenience of the prisoners there during service." The cost of these improvements, as certified at the next sessions, was £22.13s.9d. At the same sessions it was resolved that the salary of the chaplain be raised from £5 to £20, "*for performing that office on the execution of Criminals and for performing divine service in the Chappel of the said Gaol every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, and also for preaching a sermon every Saturday.*"

At the Easter Sessions, 1769, Rev John Seale, vicar of St Michael's and St Werburgh's, was appointed chaplain at a salary of £20; but the salary was raised to £30 in 1774, when the appointment of a chaplain became by law compulsory. After the death of Mr Seale, the Rev Ellis Henry was appointed in 1775 at a salary of £30, which was augmented in 1787 to £35. At Easter 1806, Rev Nicholas Bayley, vicar of St Michael's, was appointed the salary being augmented to £40 in the following year.

In 1814 the Rev George Pickering, vicar of Mackworth, was appointed Chaplain, the stipend being then £70, which was increased in 1817 to £120 and afterwards to £150. Mr Pickering resigned in 1855 and was succeeded by Rev Henry Moore. The present chaplain, who was appointed in 1877, is the Rev Charles Edward Crellin, M.A. The present chapel is a low inconvenient room, and does not compare at all favourably with the places of worship in several other gaols of a like size.

Surgeons

The first appointment of a surgeon to the gaol was made, on compulsion by Act of Parliament, in 1774, when John Harrison was nominated at a salary of £30, inclusive of medicine. He was also allowed three guineas for travelling to Chesterfield and Bakewell when the sessions were held there.

At the Trans. Sessions, 1784, John Harrison and Timothy Pitman were appointed joint surgeons. Four years later the appointment was solely in the hands of Mr Pitman, who only received a salary of £20, though extra grants were voted by the court on several occasions.

In 1793 Mr Pitman died and at the Easter Sessions of that year Francis Fox was appointed at £20 per annum, which was, however, augmented to £40 in 1802. In 1823 Douglas Fox was elected, on the resignation of his father, and the salary, on occupying the new gaol, was raised to £120. On the resignation of Mr Douglas Fox in 1855, Mr Henry Francis Gisborne received the appointment. The present surgeon is Mr C.A. Greaves.

Three Centuries of Derbyshire Annals, 1890

NEW IN YOUR LIBRARY

We have had several interesting books or articles given to us this time, but of special note is the book “Painters and the Derby China Works” by John Murdoch and John Twitchett. It gives a short history of the works and some potted histories of their most well known painters, lavishly illustrated and a joy to look at. The following is an extract:-

“Edwin Prince [1827-1896] was one of the last men to be apprenticed as a landscape painter before the closure of the Derby works in 1848. The fullest account of his life is given in an obituary which probably appeared in a Derby newspaper, which Bemrose dated in pencil January 1896.

Death of a Derby Artist—The death is announced of Mr Edwin Prince, of Overstrand, Cromer, which took place on Thursday evening. The deceased was the last of the old school of china painters, employed at the old Crown Porcelain Works, Nottingham Road, and excelled particularly in landscape work. At the break up of the old factory in 1848, he went to Newcastle on Tyne, where he was employed for many years as a painter on glass for ecclesiastical windows. His work had a national reputation, and he executed many commissions for the Pugins. In his retirement at Overstrand he occupied his leisure in landscape painting on china for his old friend Mr Sampson Hancock of King Street, Derby, and it is a somewhat remarkable coincidence that these two links with the past should be broken within a few weeks of each other. No-one who has seen specimens of Mr Prince’s work could fail to admire the extreme delicacy of its shading and the faultless character of his perspective, in which he stood almost without a rival. Mr Prince was a member of an old Derby family, and one of his brothers occupies a responsible position at Messrs Haslem’s Union Iron Factory. At the time of his death, which was caused by bronchitis, he was in his 70th year.”

The above is followed by various drawings done by Mr Prince, that appeared on Derby china.

Another interesting piece is more difficult to describe. It is a large bit of parchment that opens up to describe a varied curriculum for children of all ages—and a right eye opener it is as well. On the front it announces:

“Daily Mail—£500 First Prize Curriculum for Girls by Mrs Helen Dobson, B.A., Hons. Lond., [Trained Certificated Teacher], Clay Cross Vicarage, Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

This curriculum was awarded the First Prize of £500, open to women competitors, by Sir Michael E. Sadler, K.C.S.I., Master of University College, Oxford, and Sir Theodore Morison, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., Vice-Chancellor of the

University of Durham, Principal of Armstrong College, Newcastle on Tyne, who acted as Judges of the Competition in which The Daily Mail offered £2000 in prizes. Dated June, 1925”

I am a little puzzled as to what exactly this is, but seems to be a copy of the curriculum drawn up by Helen Dobson for girls which was entered into a competition and deemed good enough to win a prize. Like I said, a real eye opener. For instance English for age 9-10 is drawn up as follows:

Literature: Hiawatha, English Ballads, Sir Patrick Spens, Chevy Chase, Fair Helen, etc. Narrative Verse. Modern Poetry.

Reading: Greatest possible variety. Cheap books changed frequently. Hans Anderson with dramatizing by the children to encourage free expression. Improvised dancing and folk songs may be introduced in the classroom plays.

Composition: Very simple records of things done. Aim at picture-diaries, with personal touches, as notebooks of History and Geography lessons. Oral work is the more important during this year.

Grammar: a) practical: correction of faults of speech: b) Formal, The Sentence, capital letters and full stops, Subject and Predicate, The Noun and its relations.

Writing: Great attention to beauty and legibility; letters in art. Drawing and modelling of good forms.

This is the sort of thing I was tackling at age 15, for girls age 10-11 I think it is incredible. It is well worth a look if you are interested in history of education. At the bottom, Helen Dobson has summed up her curriculum.

“At the age of 12 it is supposed that girls will proceed to the Central School to prepare by further study for work in the skilled trades and crafts, or to the Secondary School en route for college or university.....Mistresses should be experienced and highly qualified as special aptitudes may arise and individual cases need special treatment. In the case of retarded development it should be possible for a girl to pass to Central or secondary School. The elementary School is in no way a school for the mentally deficient; its instruction in elementary facts will be kindled by the many-sided appeal of a less ambitious and more practical curriculum.

Including Drill and Dancing 1 hour, Singing 30 mins, Registration and Recreation 1 hour 30 mins, the school time for the week is 27 hours 30 mins.”

Please feel free to come in and have a browse, not only with the new acquisitions but with our other books as well.

RESEARCH CENTRE AND LIBRARY



**BRIDGE CHAPEL
HOUSE
DERBY**

Acquisitions at 1 Aug 2019

Belper: Green Hall, Belper
Bradbourne: The Thankful Village
Chesterfield: Chesterfield School—A Tribute to Excellence
Clay Cross: £500 First Prize Curriculum for Girls to Mrs Helen Dobson,
B.A., Hons. Lond., trained certificated teacher, Clay Cross
Derby: Chesshyre's House, Friargate
Coronation of King George V & Queen Mary in 1911
St Luke's Parish Magazine—just one or two odd ones from
1907, the last one being Feb 1925. Quite a lot of names
in these
Eckington: The Story of William Elshaw 1758-1839
Ockbrook: Moravian Church & Settlement 1750

Directories: Bulmer's Directory 1895
Family Trees: The family of George Frederick Meakin 1851-1925, wife
Selina & son Ernest. Includes a tree and family papers
including certificates etc.

Trades &
Occup: Derbyshire Clock & Watchmakers [Full of names]
Lead Smelters of the Peak District
Painters and the Derby China Works [again full of names]

Certificates: These are spare certificates given to us, they are available to have a copy if one is of interest to you.

Birth: Edward Bowen, 1845, Bridgnorth; Ellen Court, 1869, Birmingham; Sarah Travis, 1847, Sheffield; John Warren, 1843, Chorlton;

Marriage: Ann Atkin, 1874, Sheffield; Thomas Wass, 1953, Mansfield;

Death: Francis Allwood, 1848, Salford, age 41; Ann Atkin, 1914, Sheffield, age 63; John Barcroft, 1837, Bury, age 5 wks; Eliza Bowen, 1925, Bridgnorth, age 70; Mary Broxholme, 1862, Horncastle, age 81; Elizabeth Harwood, 1856, Basford, age 24; Elizabeth Harwood, 1856, Nottingham, age 66; John Morris, 1869, Salford, age 73; Edward Morris, 1916, Oswestry, age 38; Henry Oakes, 1857, Wolstanton, age 45; Mary Taylor, 1905, Sheffield, age 55; Thomas Travis, 1850, Ashbourne, age 66; Sarah Vardy, 1864, Belper, age 31; Ann Vardy, 1864, Mansfield, age 78; Herbert Walker, 1984, Rushcliffe, age 82; Ann Wass, 1865, Mansfield, age 30; Ann Wass, 1842, Mansfield, age 4; Emma Wilkinson, 1941, Bridgnorth, age 81

WHIPPING OF WOMEN

Public whipping of women was continued in Derbyshire right through the reign of Queen Anne, but there is evidence it carried on for longer. At the Quarter Sessions held at Bakewell in 1735 three prisoners were ordered to be flogged naked to the waist, two of whom were women. On Sept 29th 1738, Alice Pearson, single woman, confessed to stealing "*the cloth belonging to the Coach Seat being the property of Bach Thornhill Esq*", when taken before Mr T. Gisborne. Justice Gisborne, in forwarding the committal to the Clerk of the Peace at Chesterfield, where she was to be tried at the Sessions, coolly writes across the committal, in a big straggling hand "*She is a Yorkshire woman, I hope she will be severely whipt at Chesterfield and sent home*".

At the Michaelmas Sessions 1761 a strolling woman, pretending to be deaf and dumb, was ordered to be severely whipped next market day at Derby, in the open market, as a vagrant and cheat, and to be kept at hard labour in the house of correction until further order.

Derbyshire Family History Society

Sep Quarter 2019



This photo has recently been given to us, but we have no idea where or what it is. It is obviously a workshop of some kind and has suffered some kind of disaster. We can't even guess when it was. So over to our readers. Any ideas, or do you actually know anything or anyone in the photo? Please let us know if you can help.