

Derbyshire Family History Society



Clowne
Station
About 1905

See Page 2

Sep 2020

Issue 174

SOCIETY CONTACTS

Website: www.dfhs.org.uk
Email: queries@dfhs.org.uk
Secretary: Ruth Barber, 6 Field Lane, Alvaston, Derby DE24 0GP
Email: ruth.barber55@ntlworld.com
Membership: Catherine Allsop-Martin, 9 Barnstaple Close, Oakwood,
Derby DE21 2PQ. Email: membership@dfhs.org.uk
Editor: Helen Betteridge, 16 Buxton Road, Chaddesden, Derby
DE21 4JJ. Email: editor@dfhs.org.uk
Chairman: Professor S. Orchard, Old Dale House, The Dale, Bonsall
DE21 2AY
Treasurer: Mike Bagworth, 233 Ladybank Rd, Mickleover DE3 0RR
Email: m.bagworth@ntlworld.com
Book Sales: Linda Bull, 17 Penrhyn Avenue, Littleover, Derby
DE23 6LB.
Trip Organiser: Helena Coney, Dale House, 11a Dale End Road, Hilton
Dbys DE65 5FW,. Email: helenaconey@yahoo.com

SOCIETY REFERENCE LIBRARY

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

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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. All cheques should be made payable to Derbyshire Family History Society in full NOT just DFHS or Derbyshire FHS as the bank will not accept cheques made out in this manner.

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 afford to stand the cost of posting magazines that may not be wanted.

We are now offering the option of magazine in PDF format, sent by E-mail. Let us know if you are willing to receive it this way when you renew.

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 2020

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

***NOTE ALL MEETINGS CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE DUE TO COVID 19
PLEASE SEE WEBSITE FOR FURTHER UPDATES***

Front Cover Picture—Clowne Station

John Roberts and Samuel French were charged with being drunk on the Railway Station at Clowne on January 27th and also with obstructing the railway officials.

Mr H Weeks appeared for the railway company and said the men travelled from Chesterfield to Clowne on the night in question. When they arrived at Clowne they created a disturbance on the platform, and there was some difficulty in getting his ticket from Roberts who was helplessly drunk. Both men used bad language and threats were used. A constable had to be fetched to get them from the railway premises.

Sydney Minor, a porter at the station said that when the train arrived Roberts had to be helped out. He refused his ticket and threatened to kick witness' lamp out of his hand. Witness called the station master, but they could not get Roberts' ticket for some time. French used bad language to the station master and said he would do for him the first chance he had.

Collingwood Wade, the station master, said when he got to the men Roberts was lying on the platform helplessly drunk and French was ransacking his pocket, stating that he had a watch of his. P C Guyler spoke to finding both the men drunk on the station and removing them.

Defendants said they got some whiskey at Langwith Junction and they did not know what they were doing. For the obstruction defendants were fined 20s including costs, each, and for being drunk they were ordered to pay the costs.

Derbyshire Times and Chesterfield Herald 7 Feb 1900

FROM THE EDITOR

Firstly the bad news. Society meetings for the rest of this year have been cancelled. Nobody seems to know when—or even if—this virus is going to disappear or at least die down enough for life to get anything like back to normal so it seems the best option is to try and start afresh in 2021. It may even be that we would be forced to wear a mask for the evening and I, for one, am not prepared to do so. It takes me all my time to try wearing one to go into a shop—thank God for online shopping.

On the same lines BCH is now open to our volunteers to try and get some of our projects back on track and available to consult on our website and then on Find My Past. At the moment, I'm afraid, we cannot welcome visitors not having the room to social distance. Keep an eye on the website, however, the moment it is safe to do so we shall open to the public again.

Good news is that we are still researching for people who contact us for help. Indeed we have managed to sort out one or two problems with great success. We have also had several donations for our library, from people who thought they would clear out their lofts and old papers and have come across old documents that were of no use to their research, but were gratefully accepted by us. Thank you and also many thanks to those who found they suddenly had time to work on a few articles for the magazine. I can assure you these are most welcome, 80 pages takes a lot of filling.

Apologies to those of you who have the online magazine, which was rather delayed in getting to you in June. Like the rest of us the printer was running on reduced staff, many working from home where they could. Ironically the actual printed magazine went out so quickly that it took me by surprise, simply because a lot of societies have halted production of their magazine. Swings and roundabouts!! Hopefully things will be more normal with the production of this September issue.

That's all for now. All of you keep safe and fingers crossed that we can soon begin to meet up again in safety.

All the best

Helen

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Bits and Pieces

REQUEST FROM THE TREASURER: Please when writing out a cheque to the Society can you write Derbyshire Family History Society in full. Apparently if it only reads Derbyshire FHS or DFHS, the bank is refusing to cash the cheques. I believe this is quite a new thing but please blame the banks, not us. Thank you very much.

CORRECTION: Apologies to Anne Buck, who wrote the piece on William Morris' connection with Clay Cross in the June magazine. I printed her email address wrong, so those of you who would like to contact her, please do so at martinmbuck@btinternet.com

CORRECTION NO 2: Faulty typing or sheer carelessness this time. When writing the piece about the Market Hall I gave the date for Henry II as 1855. Needless to say that was totally incorrect and should have read 1155—no idea what I was thinking at the time. Ruth picked up on it and I have been expecting a raft of complaints ever since, but either none of you noticed or you were too kind to tell me off. Anyway apologies, hope it didn't spoil the piece for you.

WORN OUT MINISTERS: Further information on this one is supplied by our chairman Stephen Orchard, who tells me a Preachers' Fund was formed in 1763, but without the approval of John Wesley, who felt that sick and aged ministers should rely on Providence rather than insurance. In 1805 it was renamed the Preachers' Merciful Fund and later the Worn Out Ministers' Fund. This was for Wesleyans. Other forms of Methodism had other annuitant funds. After the Methodist union in 1932 new arrangements had to be made, resulting in the setting up of the Ministers' Retirement Fund in 1946. Thank you Stephen, but I have to say the last one's name does not have the ring of the former arrangements.

BACK COVER PHOTO: Beryl Scammell has been in touch from Glossop and she says it reminds her of photos she has of Hospital Sunday parades in the Peak Forest in the early 1900s. Funds were raised in many parishes and allowed people to have treatment at their local hospital. Her photos show mainly woman and children with banners of the Order of the Foresters and the Odd Fellows, with men wearing sashes and carrying the banners. The parades usually ended with a church service, so our photo could be showing a church banner. Any more thoughts? This sounds likely to me.

AN OLD CAMPAIGNER

Memories of a Derbyshire Doctor

"I little imagined when I was in the Crimea in 1854 that in the next century I should be discussing the War with an Imperial Grand Duke of Russia, and be asked by him to write my name in his album – such, however, happened to me last week when I dined on five nights with the Grand Duke Michael at Chatsworth. I was introduced to him on Tuesday by the Duchess of Devonshire's son when he came across the room for the purpose, and handling my miniature medals, asked their meaning and talked for a long time about the Crimea, the trenches, Todleben, and the Russian South Coast...."

So wrote an old Crimean veteran, Dr Edward Mason Wrench, of Baslow, on the 17 November 1902, for he, having served throughout the terrible winter of 1854-5 in the Crimea, when more men were lost through sickness, exhaustion and lack of even elementary comforts than through the casualties of war, had plenty of reminiscences and experiences for conversation with even a Russian nobleman.

Born in the year 1833, Mr E.M. Wrench, M.V.O., F.R.C.S., J.P., V.D., was the son of the Rev T. W. Wrench, vicar of St Michael's, Cornhill. He was educated at Merchant Taylor's School, and afterwards studied for the profession of medicine at St Thomas' Hospital, London. When only 20 he took medical charge on an emigrant sailing ship to America [the first of his three visits to that Continent]. In 1854, on the outbreak of war in the Crimea, he was commissioned as an Assistant Surgeon and sailed for Balaclava from Gravesend on the 26th October, landing on the 20th November to undergo the trials of war as it was waged a hundred years ago.

Although not a combatant he had to face the even crueller conditions of the weather and the hopeless task of trying to deal with casualties without proper supplies of food, shelter, fuel or even the necessary drugs. His letters home have been preserved and in one of them he writes:-

"We are all overworked, and the men are in fact dying from fatigue and bad food. It is a great shame that we have such bad food. They give us salt pork or beef, in which there is but little nourishment, five days out of six, and then the fresh meat is what no one would eat in England, this with hard biscuit is all to live on except some green, unground coffee, and rum. Fancy a poor fellow coming home having been twelve hours in the trenches, cold and perhaps wet through – he has first to get a fire to cook his meat, and make

some exceedingly bad coffee, and finally to sleep in a damp tent on the ground with one or at the most two blankets. Can you wonder at this being enough to kill any man, however strong?

And I have rather underdrawn the picture. We are sadly deficient in medicines and medical comforts. Disease is making sad havoc amongst our troops; medicine is of little or no use, it is the provisions that are the cause of it.

We lost at least 500, and I should think 1000 men a week from disease; they are sent to Scutari and never seem to return. Last night in my Brigade we could not muster 900 men out of three regiments, each of which came out 1000 strong. My duty has been very unpleasant as I often have to decide whether some 60 men are shamming or really fit to go to their duty. If at home they would all have been in the hospital weeks ago, but I am often obliged to send them to duty with a harsh word when I feel inclined to cry for the poor fellows. Such is war."

Despite these awful conditions Dr Wrench came through and was mentioned in despatches for his good work, receiving as a reward an appointment with one of Britain's crack cavalry regiments – the 12th Prince of Wales Royal Lancers, and was put in medical charge of the Left Wing, then about to proceed to India where considerable unrest existed amongst the native troops.

The detachment sailed in August 1856 and landed at Madras in time to take part in the suppression of the Mutiny that broke out in May 1857. The Regiment marched from the south to the north of India, and throughout this time Dr Wrench's preoccupation in the great heat of that country was always for the men under his care. His letters home from India show also his growing concern for the creation of opportunities for education for the men, their wives, and especially their children, in whom the authorities had but little interest.

He served through the whole of the Mutiny 1857-58, and just as he had come unharmed through the frosts and snows of Russia, so he survived the jungles and sweltering heat of India, and once more was mentioned in Despatches. But Surgeon Lt. Col. Wrench had had enough of active service and did not fancy barrack life in England. He married his first cousin, Anne Eliza Kirke, daughter of Mr William Kirke, J.P., of Markham Hall in Nottinghamshire in 1861 and retired from the army a year later.

Dr Condell had been medical attendant of the Duke of Devonshire for thirty years, but old age compelled him to give up his practice based in Baslow.

Hearing of this Mr Wrench paid him a visit and was introduced to the Duke, who approved of his appointment, which he took up in 1862.



*About 1862 when taking
up his practice in Baslow*

In those days there were few medical men in the north of Derbyshire and his practice spread over a wide area, which he covered largely on horseback as this was always his favourite mode of travel. He threw himself wholeheartedly into the betterment of the district and the experience he had gained in India in lecturing to the troopers served him in good stead when once again he took up the question of raising the general education of the poorer classes. There were then few facilities for reading and learning and, as a great believer in the spread of knowledge and a great advocate of temperance, Dr

Wrench used all his influence to further both these interests. A Penny Library was formed in Baslow and popular scientific lectures given in the late sixties and early seventies proved so successful that it was difficult to get a room large enough to hold all those who wished to attend.

Although retired from active Army Service he joined the Volunteers and continued as a medical officer with them, attending their annual camp from 1864 to 1900 and receiving the Long Service Medal. Apart from his large country practice he attended professionally three successive Dukes of Devonshire and many other distinguished patients, including His Majesty King Edward VII, who conferred the Victorian Order on him in 1907.

The long association with Chatsworth gave Dr Wrench many opportunities for meeting many interesting and well known personalities, and amongst them in his earlier days was Sir Joseph Paxton. His Great Conservatory in Chatsworth gardens was a source of constant delight to the nature loving medico, for it appealed to his educational instincts and it was always a favourite place for a visit. Only ten days before his sudden death at Buxton in 1912 he had conducted a party of the Bakewell Naturalists Field Club [of which he was President] through the building, and given a series of addresses upon the different trees and plants he had observed for fifty years.

When 75 this active old gentleman went alone on a long cycle tour of the South Coast to visit many different relatives and to see again the old haunts of his boyhood, and on one occasion travelled the remarkable distance of fifty miles.



Dr and Mrs Wrench at their Golden Wedding

In 1911 Dr and Mrs Wrench celebrated their Golden Wedding and were the recipients of many presents from their local neighbours, who appreciated so greatly their life long endeavours for the welfare of the district. As well as those mentioned above, he was a trustee of the Whitworth Institute, a consulting surgeon of the Whitworth Hospital in Darley Dale, a governor of Lady Manners School in Bakewell, chairman of the Baslow Gas Company, a Justice of the Peace, and president of the Midland branch of the British Medical Association for some years. Further he was an honorary life member of the St John Ambulance Association and a livery man of the Drapers' Company, London. They had been associated with so many activities in the village of Baslow that after Dr Wrench was laid to rest a Memorial fund was quickly raised by over 300 subscribers and a beautiful stained glass window in Baslow Church was installed to pay tribute to his half century of service for the district.

WHO DO YOU THINK THEY ARE?



I have had this beautiful photograph in my possession for many years and whilst enjoying [?] lockdown decided to try and find out more about the people pictured and possibly reunite it with family members.

It is in a post card format stamped Frederick J. Boyes, Osmaston Road, Derby. Boyes was operating as a photographer between 1887 and the 1920's, so I assume the print was taken at the time of the 1914-18 war. On the reverse it is addressed to Mrs Baxter, 3 Foundry Row, Denby Village plus No 19576521. Could this be a service number for one of the men? Although I lived in Denby Village in the 1950/60s and there were Baxters in the village I have not, as yet, been able to make a connection. There is that infuriating gap between the 1911 census and the 1939 Register, which the forthcoming 1921 census might well solve.

Of the two couples the right hand lady wears a wedding ring, but the other lady's hand is not visible. The two women are beautifully dressed with what appears to be a long jacket and skirt suits, typical of the period and have fur tippets, whilst three of the group are wearing wrist watches, not inexpensive items in that era.

The sailor has HMS Linnet on his hat band and on further investigation this was a Laforey Class Destroyer with the 3rd Destroyer Flotilla based in Harwich. The flotilla was deployed to secure the approaches to the English Channel to prevent the German navy breaking out into the Atlantic, whilst the major part of the fleet had dispersed to Scape Flow and other North Eastern Ports to protect the Northern routes. The ship transferred to escort duties after 1917 and was decommissioned in 1921. He also has a chevron on his left arm, could this be a good conduct badge awarded to naval ratings?

The soldier's uniform intrigued me, particularly the slouch hat, which reminded me of the hats worn by Australian forces. Again a bit of internet searching provided some possibilities. The 3 inverted chevrons on his lower right sleeve are "Overseas Service Chevrons" awarded from 20 Dec 1917, denoting overseas service undertaken since 4 Aug 1914, one per year. The slouch hat was worn in the Salonika Campaign [1916-17]. Further delving revealed that the Derbyshire Yeomanry part of the Notts & Derbys Mounted Brigade, later the 7th Mounted Brigade, served in Salonika as part of the 27th Division. See a brilliant photograph of "British Yeomanry in Salonika WW1 by a British War Photographer [Imperial War Museum—Photo HU81082]. They are riding down the Struma Valley, Salonika, in 1916 and all wearing the slouch hats, bingo!

So my suggestion is that the soldier pictured was part of a similar mounted Yeomanry Brigade. He also has an epaulette with a stripe and badges on his collar which I cannot decipher. But I would be interested to know if military historians out there have any ideas or an alternative view, please let me know!

If you can shed light on the photograph, put names to them or think that you recognise or are related to the sitters in any way, do get in touch.

I would be delighted to restore this item to the family.

*Val Brown [Mem 7868]
E-mail: vb161025@gmail.com*

BAPTISMS AT ST ALKMUND'S

What a difference in St Alkmund's parish as the nineteenth century drew to a close, compared with the early years, reported in a previous article. From 1872 the baptisms around Chester Green are transferred to the newly opened St Paul's. Ploughing on with baptismal transcriptions at St Alkmund's the growth of Derby and the changes that went with it are clearly seen. The framework knitters are gone, to be replaced by general labourers as the largest group of people employed in the parish. Many of them are living in courts off Bridge Gate, St Helen's Street and Orchard Street, now all swept away. There are various jobs in the iron foundries and the china works. The railways have come and by the 1890s the employees of the Midland Railway have to be distinguished from those of the Great Northern, which scythed through the parish. Children are being baptised while patients in the new Children's Hospital in North Street. There are still a few gardeners and hay cutters but they are now supplemented by cab drivers and dray men. The few gentry and professional people are to be found up the Duffield and Kedleston Roads, at the far ends.

St Helen's House is now given over to Derby School and the resident Head Master, James Sterndale Bennett, has his sons, James and Walter, baptised, one of whom was almost certainly the elderly man who turned up at the school round about 1960 to re-acquaint himself with his childhood home. Another Derby School teacher is Benjamin Tacchella, in charge of language teaching, who promotes himself from tutor to professor by the time his second child is baptised. There is John Hefford, not yet joined with Battersby in an electrical business, but making shoes. The first two electrician fathers appear in the 1890s as the technology develops. Charles Foulds is selling music, Arthur Cox wine and Frederick Lancaster is an optician. In my mind's eye I am walking into Swindell's the butchers, in Green Lane, as a child. As the 1890s unfold it becomes apparent that many of these children were the elderly people around us, when those of us over 70 were growing up in Derby.

One of the more interesting entries concerns the four children of Thomas and Maria Stones, timber merchant, of Matlock Bath. The children were Lilian Mary (16), Francis Dawbarn (14), Gerald Cunliffe (13) and Robert Yelverton (11). The footnote to these entries reads: 'These were baptized as adults, by immersion, in a large bath placed in the Vestry, by request of the parents and direction of the Bishop.' Thomas Stones ran his timber business at Whatstandwell, but quite why he had Baptist convictions and won the support of the Vicar of St Alkmund's and the Bishop of Southwell is not

clear, nor do we know if they warmed the water in the vestry that January.

Thomas Stones came from Wisbech and his children were born there. This was the generation which came to maturity during the First World War. Gerald Cunliffe Stones took up an occupation as an artist in Needham Market in Suffolk, before emigrated to Australia as an 'orchardist'. He enlisted in the 4th Light Horse Regiment in 1915. He was killed in action at Rafa, in Palestine, on 30 May 1917, serving as a Lieutenant attached to the Australian Flying Corps. His brother Robert served with the Church Missionary Society as a medical missionary in East Africa. At the outbreak of war he enrolled in the Royal Army Medical Corps, serving in Egypt, and then in what was Tanganyika. After the First World War he worked at a hospital in Kampala, returning to England in 1939. He then took up military medical service again and found himself in Malta during the siege. He died in Kampala in 1961 and was given an obituary in the British Medical Journal. He was awarded the Military Cross for his service in the First World War.

I have now finished transcribing the nineteenth century entries. Streets such as Belper Road now come into view and the first tram driver has been entered in the register. Perhaps the sign of the times is the early 1900 naming of a son, 'Pretoria', a reminder of the Boer War. The Crimean War passed with little impact on baptismal entries for this local parish. So many of the families now being recorded have a worse war to come and it will have broken out before I finish the current register.

Stephen Orchard

This was found by Mike Bagworth:

From the Baptismal Register of Becket Street Methodist chapel in Derby, approximate date of 1909/1910.

Entries 240 and 241 are left blank with this note written next to them:

"Two persons came on a Tuesday evening and both left early. Cannot trace. A.H.R."

The mind truly boggles so if you are missing a baptism!!!

RALPH CLEWORTH - **MAN OF MYSTERY REVEALED**

Readers may recall my appeal for information in the March 2017 issue of the DFHS Journal, about the origins of my GGG grandfather, Ralph Cleworth, a bit of a “rolling stone” who had an interesting life including a bastardy order, a bankruptcy, a common law wife, a legitimate wife and eight children en route! The particular dilemma had been two Ralph Cleworths both born 1796 in Westleigh, Leigh, Lancashire and both with fathers named as Ralph Cleworth.

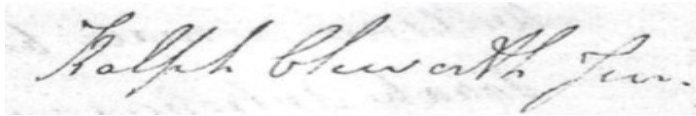
Here is the updated piece, relating all the information, old and new, that tells his story.

Ralph Cleworth (1796-1866)

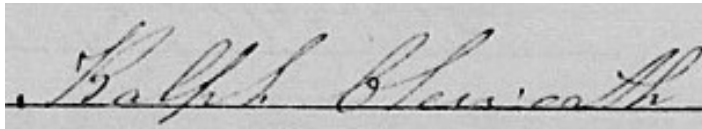
- Born in 1796 in Westleigh, Lancashire to Ralph Cleworth and Susannah Speakman. (The other Ralph Cleworth born in 1796 in Westleigh, son of Ralph and Martha Cleworth had died in 1834, so was subsequently eliminated from the equation). Ralph Cleworth Senior was a successful cotton mill owner and had substantial land and property interests in the Westleigh area.
- Ralph was subject to a bastardy/filiation order in 1820 for his son William Antrobus (Mother Sarah Antrobus) which was upheld despite his appeal.
- His father died in 1824 and Ralph was left the cotton mill business which was declared bankrupt in 1828. The other surviving seven children (by 3 deceased wives: Ann Gillibrand, Elizabeth Lythgoe and Susannah Speakman) were left property and land, Ralph Senior having been taxed on 24 cottages in the local area.
- He took refuge as a book-keeper in Kilburn, Derbyshire and fathered an illegitimate son with Mary Elliott, John, who was baptized at St Clement's, Horsley, Derbyshire in 1835.
- He left Mary in 1836 and apparently had a daughter with Elizabeth (Bate?) in Liverpool.
- Three years later Ralph had returned to Mary, who gave birth to an illegitimate daughter, Mary Junior, in 1839, who was also baptized at St Clement's, Horsley.
- Ralph, by now termed a clerk, finally abandoned Mary for Elizabeth Bate in 1841, whom he married in Liverpool.
- Mary Elliott was reduced to living with her parents (1841 Census) and died a premature death of consumption/tuberculosis in 1842, after Ralph

had abandoned her and their children to an uncertain and precarious fate.

- After marriage to Elizabeth, Ralph was employed as a warehouse man and dockworker in Liverpool. He and Elizabeth had four more children before he died in 1866.
- Ralph's signature on his Bastardy case in Leigh in 1820, matches that of his marriage record in Liverpool in 1841.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ralph Cleworth Jun.", written on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

1820

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ralph Cleworth", written on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

1841

- A death duty entry in 1867 verified Ralph's death in Liverpool.
- Mary Junior, adopting her mother's surname of Elliott, was cared for by her grandfather until her marriage to Joseph Alldread in 1857, at St Clement's, Horsley. Mary called Ralph a ship carpenter on her marriage certificate and stated his name as Ralph Clueth. She may have known her father lived in Liverpool but was not aware of his occupation.
- John Elliott was employed as a farm servant on a local farm and denied the name Cleworth, also reverting to using his mother's surname. John married Emma Taylor Parkin in 1861, at St Clement's, Horsley and stated his father's name as Ralph Clewerth. He did not state his father's occupation on his marriage certificate, suggesting that there had been no contact between them.

Final thoughts

Val is descended from Ralph Cleworth, through John Cleworth/Elliott, George Elliott, Percy Elliott and Percy William Elliott all of Kilburn and Horsley. The branches are tangled and the deep roots that I thought were well embedded in Derbyshire now have a Lancashire thread woven into the fabric. Case closed? Maybe not, one brick wall demolished, now the next conundrum!

Where was Ralph between bankruptcy in 1828 and 1835 when his illegitimate son John was baptized in Derbyshire?

We will maybe never know how and when Ralph came to be in Derbyshire, if he was employed as a bookkeeper where might this have been? As the bankrupted owner of his late father's cotton mill business, it is feasible that he utilised his connections in the cotton trade to seek work in Derbyshire.

At this time, the cotton mills of the Derwent Valley, (now a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site), were booming due to the business acumen of partners, Richard Arkwright and Jedediah Strutt, although the partnership had been dissolved in 1781. By the early 1800s there were 11 mills in the valley at Cromford, Milford and Belper and according to Glover (1829), a hosier in Belper had 400 silk stocking frames and 2500 cotton hose frames outsourced to home workers. It is not beyond the realms of probability that Ralph was employed by one of these manufacturing concerns.

Another trip to Derbyshire Records Office to search the Mill records from the Strutts Belper Archive seems a good place to start!

Acknowledgements

Thank you to DFHS members: Valerie Jackson for suggesting further sources to investigate and also Allen Peterson CG, Co-editor of the National Genealogical Society Quarterly(USA), from Houston, Texas, who has researched the Cleworths extensively and has sought a veritable trove of information and documents with which to further this research. A comprehensive article on Ralph was published in the NGSQ 106 (December 2018): 279-92, entitled "The Secret Life of Ralph Cleworth in Derbyshire and Lancashire, England". Co-authors: Allen R Peterson, CG and Valerie S Brown.

***Valerie Brown [Mem 7868]
Email: vb161025@gmail.com***

Annie Stevens and the Great War

My mother's mother, Annie Stevens, nee Tatham, lived with us for the last few years of her life and died when I was fourteen. She was my last surviving grandparent and, like all of us who gather our family history together, there are so many questions I would like to have asked her had I known. The centenary of the First World War set our son researching family members who served in it. Drawing on some of his research and my own efforts I have been looking at that war through the eyes of my grandmother and her experience, beginning with her husband.

My Grandfather, Paul Hiden Stevens, was born in Nottingham in September 1873 and died in August 1941, just a few months before I was born. By that time he was in Kingsway Hospital, and a new disastrous war was raging around the world. Although his official record card lists him as being posted



in 1917 it is almost certain that he enlisted in 1916, at the same time as his eldest son, Ernest William Stevens ('Will' to his family), born in 1898. The family were then living in Cambridge Street, Derby, and his occupation is given as lace maker. The army believed he was born in 1876, which would still have made him 40 at the time, right on the limits. The cryptic notes of a record card seem to indicate that he may originally have been in the Durham Light Infantry. More certain is the fact that in March 1917 he was transferred to the Lincolnshire Regiment 9th Labour Infantry Company, 48th Division. When these Labour Companies were created, the soldiers were renumbered. His original number was changed and his new numbering fits with the allotted sequence given when the original Companies were created.

Formed in January 1917, the Corps grew to some 389,900 men (more than 10% of the total size of the Army) by the Armistice. Of this total, around 175,000 were working in the United Kingdom and the rest in the theatres of war. The Corps was manned by officers and other ranks who had been medically rated below the "A1" condition needed for front line service. Many were returned wounded. Labour Corps units were often deployed for work within range of the enemy guns, sometimes for lengthy periods.

In April 1917, a number of infantry battalions were transferred to the Corps. The Labour Corps absorbed the 28 ASC Labour Companies between February and June 1917. Labour Corps Area Employment Companies were formed in 1917 for salvage work, absorbing the Divisional Salvage Companies. In the crises of March and April 1918 on the Western Front, Labour Corps units were used as emergency infantry. The Corps always suffered from its treatment as something of a second class organisation: for example, the men who died are commemorated under their original regiment, with Labour Corps being secondary. Researching men of the Corps is made extra difficult by this, as is the fact that few records remain of the daily activities and locations of Corps units. [www.forces-war-records.co.uk > units > labour-corps]

Paul served in France from 29 March 1917, a period that covered the entirety of the 3rd Battle for Ypres/Passchendaele. At around the time he was in France, a number of his fellow 48th Division were killed, all in a town called Bailleul. (there are confusingly two) This one is approx 12 miles south-west of Ypres/Passchendaele and, interestingly in view of what he next did, where there were 3 aerodromes. Labour Infantry Company wore their original uniforms, or as they became available, new cap badges with the Royal Arms.

The pictures show a soldier wearing the cap badge and some members of the Labour Corps at Bailleul digging a Road.



After Paul transferred, a group of his division were killed whilst removing bodies from the battlefield; their camp fire set off an unexploded shell. That incident gives us an idea of the range of jobs these men were expected to do.

It would seem that Paul was either wounded or shell-shocked after his transfer to the Labour Corps, who often worked under fire, for in November 1917 he was admitted to the 7th Canadian General Hospital at Etaples and then transferred to Norwich. He never returned to France but was fit enough for transfer to the Royal Flying Corps, subsequently to the Royal Air Force as it became in April 1918. Family memory had him serving in Lincolnshire but his final discharge was from Blandford in Dorset, which was a RFC/RAF camp at this time. A branch line from the Somerset and Dorset Joint Railway was built to bring materials and personnel to the camp. There was a daily service for civilian workers from Bournemouth and intermediate stations. From Blandford Paul was discharged on 25 February 1919 with a general disability pension of 13/9 for 12 weeks. His character was described as very good and he was classified as a satisfactory labourer. With his discharge came a Kings Certificate and then a Silver Badge on 12 March 1919, as a sign that had been invalided out. He went back to work and enjoyed his membership of the Derby Opera Company in his leisure time. His heroic wife, Annie, bore 14 children, 9 of whom survived, before he went off to war, and one more was added when he came home.

A large family means that the oldest is many years adrift from the youngest. I have told the story in a previous magazine of how Paul and Annie's eldest son, Ernest William Stevens, went to Nottingham to join the Royal Flying Corps and, having enlisted, was sent back to Derby on the train and slept in his own bed before parading at Normanton Barracks the next day. Most of the men on that parade ground finished up in the trenches but Will, as he was known in the family, was detailed to join the Royal Horse Artillery. They were exposed to shelling but avoided the awful fate of so many who went over the top. He returned from the war and served as a guard on Midland goods trains out of Toton for most of his working life.

Three of Annie's brother also served in the army. The oldest, Percy, born in 1884 enlisted in September 1914 and served in the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment as a Private. He was discharged in April 1916, wounded, and came to Derby to work for the Midland Railway. His first child, a daughter, was born while he was in France, and he and his wife, Harriet, had two more children after he came back. There were three brothers older than Percy, none of whom served in the forces and two younger ones who did. Thomas Tatham joined the 7th Battalion of Sherwood Foresters, the 'Robin Hoods', when he was 18, on 24th August 1911. He was appointed Lance Corporal on 14 Aug 1914. His original commitment was for territorial service but on the outbreak of war, like many others, he signed for overseas service. He was posted to France on 28 Feb 1915. He was killed on the 13th October in the battle of Loos, and is buried at the Loos Memorial. This was a battle noted for all the usual unpleasant things, plus the first use of gas by the British, which then blew back onto the British lines. His few personal effects were returned to his parents and in 1922 his father signed for the receipt of his service medals.

Family tradition says that Thomas's younger brother, Frederick, served with him. This is confirmed by the military records which show that Frederick enlisted in the 7th Battalion Notts and Derbys on 5 Sep 1914. With his brother and the rest of the regiment he went out to France on 28 February 1915. He was hospitalised in 1917, with illnesses including ear trouble, but continued to serve, being promoted to Corporal in 1918 and transferring to the Leicestershire Regiment. He was awarded the Military Medal in the same year. He also married Molly Hilsdon, who family tradition says was one of his nurses. When he was discharged from the army as an invalid in February 1919 he joined the RAF and was stationed at the depot in Uxbridge. He retained the Nottingham family address in Hartley Road and was listed as living there in 1920. According to his nephew Ernest Stevens his widow lived with one of his older brothers after Frederick died in 1935.

So Annie Stevens had a husband, a son and three brothers to worry about during the war. That was not the end of it, for one of her husband's brothers, Walter Stevens, was also involved. He went from running a shoe shop in Nottingham to being a steward in the navy in 1917. It seems he was attached to a particular officer, because he transferred to the RAF as a driver and batman. In 1918 he was stationed at Bedford. The possible connection here is the development of airships; the huge hangars for them at Cardington, near Bedford, can still be seen east of the Midland mainline, just south of Bedford. Walter eventually left the army in 1920. He went back to managing boots for the Co-op in Stapleford and lived in Sandiacre with his wife Elsie. Their two sons, Leslie and Reginald, were managers in Marks and Spencer's in Derby. None of Paul's other brothers served in the war.

One of my cousins had a grandmother who was no relation to me but I remember her pressing it upon me that the food shortages in the 1914-18 war were far more severe than those after 1939, because the rationing system was invoked early on. As I said at the beginning, I never talked to my own grandmother about her wartime experiences. My memory is that in the late forties and fifties people were trying to forget the war as quickly as they could. There has been talk recently about the wartime spirit, but we do not know the half of it.

Stephen Orchard [with further research by Lewis Orchard]

HELP OFFERED

I am currently sorting through some old documents and wondered if any might be of interest. Many are from the 18th century. Names include Sleigh, Mellor, Hadfield, Topliss and Hayne. The Mellor ones mainly relate to the Quaker family of Whitehough, Staffs, who descend from the Mellors of Idridgehay. I have original wills of John Mellor (1740) and Mary Mellor who owned extensive property in Leek. John's granddaughter married Sir Brooke Boothby. Other Mellors include Sarah Mellor of Barleyford who married William Trafford of Swythamley. Sarah's stepfather was John Hayne of Ashbourne. Lots too re the Sleights, Greaves, and Hadfields. I would be happy to share info and my research and to make copies of documents available.

Audrey Fussell

E-mail: audie1834@gmail.com

JOHN WESLEY IN THE HIGH PEAK

Silver haired, efficient, decisively and quietly assured, John Wesley talked, or as he says “conversed”, with Rachel Norton in the post-chaise for Buxton. He had taken the chaise at Derby at three in the morning of a Saturday in May 1783 and soon after nine officiated at Rachel’s wedding in St Anne’s Church. A passer-by saw him cross the street from the robing-room to the church, white-haired in a white surplice – a memorable moment. After reading prayers and preaching on “*Seek ye the Lord while He may be found*” he left at eleven and at half past seven that evening was in Nottingham. He was eighty and the road through Taddington Dale had no tarmac surface.

It was his first visit to Buxton and the ride is typical of his energy, adventurous spirit and splendid physique. As he returned, with no companion to converse with, his thought may have reverted to his earlier journeys to the High Peak, some of which had a personal poignancy, for although he was not a frequent visitor he was not a stranger to its pack-horse lanes and dusty coach-roads.

His “Journal” records at least 21 visits. The first four, undertaken between the ages of 41 and 45, were centred on Chinley, the home of his friend and partner John Bennet, who became his rival for the love of Grace Murray. The next seven were excursions into or across the Pennines fulfilling his ministerial duties. The last ten, between the ages of 65 and 85, centred on New Mills, with two journeys to Buxton.

The first Methodist society in the Peak was at Chapel Milton. John Bennet, a student of law and theology, on a visit to Sheffield races had met one of the Countess of Huntingdon’s retainers, David Taylor, and had been so impressed by his preaching that he invited him to visit his father’s house at Chinley. Taylor preached at Chapel Milton late in 1741 and soon afterwards a society was formed.

Within a few years there were several societies in the neighbourhood at Taddington, Chelmorton, Monyash and The Bongs. These were organised by Bennet, an able administrator, but a wayward colleague, and became part of Bennet’s Round, or circuit, which extended as far west as Bolton and Altrincham. He had their general oversight and visited them regularly on horseback. It was to meet these societies that Wesley made his first excursion into the Peak.

On this first journey, in June 1744, he rode on horseback from Woodley in Cheshire and preached at Chinley Lane End, probably staying overnight at

Bennet's home. Next day he again preached "in the Peak", possibly at Taddington. Bennet rode with him and they went on to London for the first Methodist Conference. Bennet, one of four lay members, was responsible for the minutes.

His next visit was in the year of the Jacobite rebellion, when North Derbyshire was fearful of the passage of the Pretender on his way to London. Wesley was a staunch supporter of the House of Brunswick, as the number of Methodist chapels so named indicates. On this occasion he made his first visit to The Bongs, a group of stonebuilt cottages in Marple between Mellor and Brookbottom on the slopes of Cobden Edge. In local dialect the name means the Banks. Higher up the hill is Paradise Farm, said to be so named because Wesley considered that the view from here could not be bettered in Paradise. In Mellor is still preserved the high-backed preaching chair, initialled "D.S.", used by him and other preachers on their visits to The Bongs.

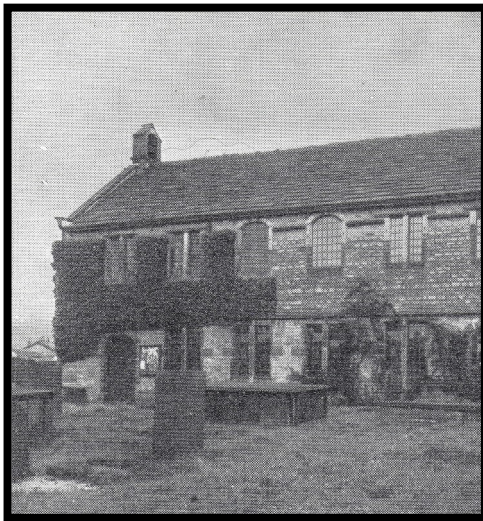
The Bongs on the slopes of Cobden Edge between Mellor and Brookbottom. Wesley preached from the angled doorway in the corner of the building



A later visit had a more personal interest for Wesley. The story of Wesley, Bennet and Grace Murray has often been told. The ability, charm and efficiency of the nurse in charge of his Newcastle Orphan House had attracted Wesley and he had declared his love for her. Later Bennet was a patient in the hospital for several weeks and he had also been attracted by her.

On August 31st 1748 Wesley, Bennet, Grace, and one Mackford, rode from Woodley over Compstall Bridge to The Bongs and on to Bennet's father's home at Chinley. Wesley soon left as he had business in London, Mackford proceeded north and Grace remained at John's home. She stayed about a week longer. They left for Leeds by way of Buxton and Taddington. Bennet urged his suit and, wrote Grace many years later "*I partly gave him my promise*". The next year they were married in Newcastle, but their later

history has a Derbyshire interest. Bennet left a permanent mark on Methodism with his idea of the Quarterly Meeting of his societies which Wesley asked him to explain to other organisers, yet within two years of his marriage he had left Methodism and before long set up an Independent chapel near Warrington. He died at the age of 45 in 1759. Mrs Bennet returned to Chapel with her five boys and lived there for forty-five years till she was nearly ninety. Both John and Grace are buried in Chinley Independent Chapel ground.



*Chinley Chapel
Founded in 1662*

Wesley did not visit Chinley again. During the next fifteen years he occasionally came to the Peak, especially to see the lead miners at Chelmorton. A Chelmorton man, George Marsden, was twice President of the Methodist Conference. Among other villages he preached in were Hayfield, Bradwell, Chapel-en-le-Frith [where there was some opposition to him] and one “*near Eyam*”, probably Grindleford, where the place of his preaching was known by tradition.

Of these the visit to Hayfield is noteworthy. The day before Wesley arrived by chaise from Ashbourne at the old vicarage [later the Royal Hotel], the vicar’s two year old daughter had died. Wesley went on to Manchester, but twice during the next week he rode out to Hayfield; on the Thursday to conduct the child’s burial – “*Who would have looked for such a congregation as this in the Peak of Derbyshire*” – and on the Sunday to preach in Hayfield Church.

New Mills at this time was a small stonebuilt village, attractively situated on

the steep wooded bank of the River Sett. A short distance to the west was the gorge of the Goyt through the millstone grit. The houses clustered on the north bank near two bridges and a street, now High Street, was developing up the hill towards the spring well, which would later be covered in.

The cotton spinners and weavers, miners and farmers of New Mills built a preaching house in this street; the date stone, inscribed 1766 was above the side door. These “*earnest, artless, loving*” people attracted Wesley. Eight times he came to visit them in this house, about fifty feet by thirty feet, with its bell that echoed up the valley, the only bell for worshippers between Disley and Hayfield. The pulpit from which he preached was later given to a new preaching house at Whitfield near Glossop. On these visits he stayed at the old Manor House, now replaced by Manor Bank.

Wesley usually came to New Mills in the spring, about Easter. One year he records a rain beaten journey, another “*high wind, snow and rain*”, another a hard journey over the hills from Macclesfield. The local accounts give glimpses of these journeys; “*Paid turnpikes from Macclesfield for Mr Wesley and preachers 4/-*”. His last visit was in 1788. Three years later the Society mourned his death; “*Paid for black cloth, £2.17s.0d*” and “*Paid to Daniel Woolley and James Mason for fixing black on the pulpit, 2/6d*”.

Most of the later journeys into the Peak were primarily and often solely to New Mills. One year he called again at Hayfield to preach in the new preaching house, now named St John’s. A youth from this society, “*the farm boy from Kinder*”, John Barber, was twice President of the Methodist Conference and there is a fine monument to him in Bristol. Twice at this time Wesley went again to Chapel-en-le-Frith. He also made another visit to Buxton, preaching in Fairfield Church and at Middleton, probably Stoney Middleton.

Possibly no man in the eighteenth century knew the bridle ways and coach roads of England as did Wesley, and his Journal, vividly, but with restraint, takes us on his journeys with him. For 44 years his visits were events to Peak folk, particularly to the lead miners and coal miners who strongly evoked his sympathy. Now the dust of old controversies has settled, his creative contribution to the communal life of Derbyshire can more readily be assessed and appreciated. To him, as he travelled back from Buxton on that spring day in 1783, the recollection of his score of visits to the High Peak could have given many moments of deep pleasure for he seems to have come to this beautiful hilly corner of his world parish as readily as its people usually welcomed him.

WILLIAM WARD—MILL OWNER

Part Two

This continues the story of the family of William Ward, a mill owner of Belper, who died in 1833.

William Ward was the cousin of my four times great grandmother, Dorothy Bradley. Her husband, Edward Goodall, had a brother, Patricius, hosier, of Nottingham and London, and I suspect that that is how they came to meet.

When his brother, John Ward, who was running the family hosiery business, got into financial difficulties, William brought in George Brettle and renamed the firm Ward Brettle and Ward. With the death of William in 1833, and in accordance with the original partnership agreement, the company he had run with George Brettle became, subject to payment of his share to William's widow, the property of George Brettle and was renamed George Brettle and Co. Within a year the relationship between George Brettle and William's brother, Benjamin Bradley Ward, had deteriorated to the point where Benjamin had begun soliciting customers by claiming that he was the legitimate heir to the business. Despite the fact that George Brettle had been one of the witnesses to Benjamin's marriage to Elizabeth Kent in 1808, Benjamin made it clear that he did not intend to continue letting the factory site in Belper, which belonged to the Wards, to Brettle's, and in 1834 set up the company of Ward, Sturt, Sharp and Ward, comprising Benjamin Ward, his brother, John, Henry Sturt, and James Carter Sharp. Although Ward's now had to buy in new stocking frames, they fared better than the newly formed George Brettle and Co., which had relied on John and Benjamin Ward to deal with the manufacturing side of the business and now had to build new manufacturing premises. After John's death in Belper in 1841, the firm became Ward, Sturt and Sharp. By 1844, while Brettle's had little more than 2,000 frames, Ward's had nearer 4,000. They were both, however, still by far the two largest manufacturers of hosiery in the country.

James Carter Sharp (1762-1807) was the partner who joined the Ward firm in 1801 (then named Ward Sharp & Co.). Like Henry Sturt, he had also been an unknown figure in the partnership. However, the visit of his daughter, Susanna (1804-1871), to her cousin, Mary Ward, in Cheltenham in 1871 made all clear. He was William, John, and Benjamin's brother-in-law, having married their sister, Elizabeth. This was confirmed by his grandson, another James Carter Sharp, who referred to his second cousin, Frederick A. Ward, in his will of the 25th October, 1879. James Carter Sharp senior was born in Peterborough and died in Duffield. It was his son, also James Carter

(1798-1849), who in 1834 joined the newly formed Ward, Sturt, Sharp and Ward. The third James Carter Sharp, 1826-1879, appears to be the last member of the family who actually worked as a hosiery merchant in the company's London warehouse. It is noticeable that his will refers to the firm of Sturt & Sharp, which presumes that the Wards were no longer directly involved. He did leave Frederick A. Ward an annuity but for unknown reasons then cancelled it.

In the 1841 census Benjamin Ward was living in Cheltenham with his two daughters, Elizabeth and Mary; his brother John was visiting. In 1842 a William Ferris was convicted at the Old Bailey of stealing from him 24 shirts valued at £2 16s; a Henry May, aged 18, was also sentenced to six months for stealing 12 bags, value 24s., and 7 wrappers, value 6s. John Ward was clearly retired by 1841 but Benjamin still referred to himself as a merchant, until the 1851 census when he gave his employment as retired manufacturer. Benjamin died in Cheltenham in 1862.

Because the family were Dissenters, his first three children were registered at Dr. Williams' Library in Cripplegate, London, while Elizabeth was christened at Belper and Heage Independent, indicating that by 1819 Benjamin was back in Belper. His son, John Ward (b. 1813), married Rosetta Jackson, the daughter of a Nottinghamshire farmer, in Liverpool in 1847. So far neither is found after 1851 when they were living in Edge Hill, a mansion on the borders of Duffield and Little Eaton. His aunt, Thurza Ward, had been married from this address in 1801. John's occupation was given as Merchant Hosier. Mary Ward did not marry and died in Cheltenham in 1886.

In 1843 Benjamin's daughter, Elizabeth (1819-1911), married James Greethhead Strachan (1806-1893), manager of a joint stock bank. The family lived in Cheltenham. They had nine children, two of whom died young; another, Mary Catherine, was deaf and dumb. James Arthur (1850-1941) was a Colonel in the Oxfordshire Light Infantry. Horace Ward Strachan (1855-94) had a wife, Mabel, born in Madrid, in the 1891 census, but there is no sign of their marriage and she is not mentioned in his death notice. Edward Aubrey (1858-1953) was a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Northumberland Fusiliers. In 1893 he married Beatrice Strachan Causton (1874-1968), whose father was Managing Director of Sir Joseph Causton and Sons, a large printing firm, now owned by Bowater's. The birth of her grandfather, Sir Joseph Causton, had been registered at Dr. Williams' Library, Cripplegate, London, in 1815, the same year as that of Mary Ward, Elizabeth's sister. Beatrice's uncle was Richard Knight Causton, First Baron Southwark, who was Paymaster-General under Sir Henry Campbell-

Bannerman. Her mother, Julia Strachan (1844-1923), was her husband Edward's cousin. Their only son, Aubrey Causton Strachan, was killed in France early in 1918. None of the other children of Elizabeth Ward and James Greethhead Strachan married.

William Ward's son, Frederick Ward (1817-1901), and Elizabeth Ann Poole had three children while Frederick was still married to Jane Hedley. Only the son, Alfred John Ward (1867-1940), married and in 1939 was found still living in Gill Head, in Lancashire, with his wife, Lilian, and a few houses away from his sister, Margaret, who was living on private means. Alfred John was an engineer's fitter. His sister, Sarah, was living in an hotel in Reading, also on private means. Up until their father's death, Sarah had been a governess and Margaret was a domestic servant.

The children of Anne Jane Ward, Frederick's eldest daughter, and John Atkinson have been dealt with in Part I of this story.

Frederick's second daughter by his first wife Jane, Caroline Isabella, born in 1843, made the most prestigious marriage. She married John Nott Pyke Nott (1841-1923) in 1867. He was the son of the Reverend John Pyke of Swimbridge in Devon and his second wife, Elizabeth Nott; his first wife, Ellen Isabella Burnard, had died in 1834 at the age of 24. When Elizabeth's brother, John Nott, died, he left his estate to his nephew, who then added Nott to his surname, hence the double Nott in his name. According to contemporary newspaper reports on the marriage of the Lord of the Manor, the bride was dressed in white satin with Honiton lace flowers. The four bridesmaids wore clear white muslin over white glace silk trimmed with blue silk and Cluny lace, with white tulle bonnets and veils. The groom's father, the Reverend John Pyke, vicar of Parracombe, officiated and his brother, James, was best man. After the ceremony the couple left for Exeter *en route* for the Continent.

John Nott Pyke Nott had two brothers: George Nott Pyke, who died at the age of 15, and James Nott Pyke, his best man, who died at the age of 24 in 1869, 2 years after the marriage. He was accidentally shot in the groin by another member of the party while out rabbit shooting and died the following day, after doctors were unable to stop the bleeding. He had been about to take Holy Orders and take over the living of his father, who had died the previous year. His estate was left to his brother, John. John was educated at Winchester and then Exeter College, Oxford, and wrote poetry under the pen name of Pardio or Paradios. In 1879 he wrote "The White Africans", an epic poem. He also wrote "Aeonial: The Flood - Gehenna (Aurea's Visions)", published in 1887, and "Stapeldon: A Tragedy", published in 1892, a drama

about the life of Walter Stapeldon (1261-1326), one-time Bishop of Exeter and Lord High Treasurer of England. One resounding line in "The White Africans" is, "Be it hell, be it heaven, I cleave to my wife". This is particularly ironic since Caroline found herself following in her mother's footsteps as this family also fell prey to the curse of the young, attractive servant, and John had a relationship with the family governess, Lucy Shackson (nee Harding), 1849-1937, a widow with a young daughter, Lilly Evarelda.

The Pyke Nott family lived at Bydown House, Swimbridge, and by his wife, Caroline, John had five children, John Moeles Pyke-Nott (1868-1937), James Sherard Pyke-Nott (1869-1965), Caroline Evelyn Eunice Pyke-Nott (1870-1960), Edmund George Isaacke Pyke-Nott (1871-1956), and Isabella Codrington Pyke Nott (1873-1943). Lucy Shackson was still with the family in the 1881 census but in 1882 she gave birth to a daughter, Lucy Johan E Shackson in Marylebone, London, followed by Arthur Isaac Shackson, born 1883, also in Marylebone, and Edith Dorothy E Shackson, born 1885 in Sussex; on her baptism in 1888 John gave his and Lucy's address as Sunbury-on-Thames and his profession as clerk. Despite this, John was still living with his wife, Caroline, and his other children in the 1891 census in Hampstead, London. From this point, however, John Nott Pyke Nott disappears from the censuses. He was eventually tracked down through the efforts of another descendant of this family. The E in the names of his illegitimate family probably stands for Ellis because the family adopted the surname of Ellis and this is the name that Lucy and her children were using in the 1891 census, including her daughter by Richard Shackson. However, when Lily Evarelda married Alfred Albert Green in Paddington in 1899 she reverted to the name of Shackson. Witnesses were Lucy Ellis and Arthur Ellis. Caroline Isabella died in 1914 and the same year John married Lucy Shackson in Hastings, using the name, John Nott Pyke-Ellis. They lived in South Hill Park, Hampstead, where properties now sell for around four million pounds, and Lucy lived on there after John's death.

Of the Ellis children, Lucy Johan died at the age of 26 in 1918, Arthur Isaac became assistant librarian at the British Museum and, after serving in the Royal Fusiliers in the First World War, superintendent of the reading room, dying in 1963, and Edith Dorothy made a late marriage in her 60s with Arthur William Thompson (1882-1957), their neighbour in South Hill Park, where Edith and Arthur lived with the Greens.

Caroline Isabella's brother, Frederick A Ward, born 1846, joined the army and rose to become a Lieutenant-Colonel. He married Fanny Amelia Hunt in 1879 and had a daughter, May Ward (1879-1964), that same year. May

became an actress and was a friend of Ellen Terry (whose sister, Kate, also an actress, was the grandmother of John Gielgud). May too married late in life, Harold Salter Gouldsmith (1874-1953), a solicitor. In the 1939 census she was already living with Harold and his then wife, Clara, who died in 1942. Harold was the first cousin of her mother, Fanny Amelia Hunt. Her great grandfather, Jesse Gouldsmith, a woollen manufacturer, was Harold's grandfather. Yet another case of cross-generation cousin-marriage in this family.

The last sibling was Frances, born 1849 in Ulverstone, Lancashire. In 1881 she married Arthur George Pain, solicitor and notary public. In 1882 they had a son, Shafto George Henning Pain, who died within a few weeks. Two years later they had Francis George Henning Pain. Francis went to boarding school in Dorset, obtained a law degree, served in the First World War, and, in the family tradition, married Mabel Ellen Holder, the daughter of his cousin, Emma Gertrude Atkinson. Francis and Mabel had two children, Arthur George, named after Francis's father, born in 1922 and Annie C.F., born in 1923, both in Bridgwater, where his father had his home, Dampiet House. The house, now Grade II listed, dates from 1830, is stucco to the front, and red Flemish-bond brick to the rear. It is now sheltered housing accommodation.

To return to the children of John Nott Pyke Nott and Caroline Isabella Ward, the eldest, John Moeles, after a spell on the railways, became land agent to the Earl of Gainsborough in Gloucestershire. In 1894 he married Dora Florence Geraldine Langton, daughter of Bennet Rothes Langton, of Langton Hall, Langton, in Lincolnshire.

His eldest child was John Bennet Langton Pyke-Nott (1895-1920). During the Great War he served in the Gloucestershire Regiment and then became a manufacturer in Dumbleton, Gloucestershire, dying at the age of 24.

His second son was James Grenville Pyke-Nott (1897-1972). In 1911 he joined the Royal Naval College in Hampshire and served in the First World War. In the 1939 census, where he was found with his mother's family in Langton, Lincolnshire, he was described as Lieutenant-Commander RN Retired, Emergency List. He had also served the Colonial Administration in Nigeria and in 1948 he was made Chief Commissioner of the Eastern Region in Nigeria. In 1949 he was made a Commander of the order of St. Michael and St. George and in the same year married Joan Mary Lee Evans (1902-1992), the ex-wife of Charles Hanmer L. Evans, a fellow lieutenant-commander.

Their youngest brother, Richard de Moels Pyke-Nott (1906-1982), was born in Dumbleton, Gloucestershire. In 1938 he married Isabel Lorna Wood (1915-1994). The same year they moved to the Orange Free State where he became a farmer. They had a daughter, Geraldine Laura Isobel Pyke-Nott (1945-2013). She and her husband, Barry Page, lived in South Africa.

The third son of John Nott Pyke Nott, James Sherard Pyke-Nott (1869-1965), got married to Ann Herring (1869-1933) in 1925, when both were in their fifties. In the 1901 and 1911 censuses Ann Herring is working as a ladies' maid in his mother's home where James also lived and worked as a horse dealer. One is left wondering when their relationship had started. In 1939 James, by then a widower, is living at his home, Wistlers [sic] Steep, in Godstone, Surrey, with two of his wife's sisters, Elizabeth Herring, born 1855, and Mary Bowden (nee Herring), a widow, born 1865, both living on private means.

John's youngest son was Edmund George Izaacke Pyke Nott (1871-1956), born in Swimbridge, and also a horse dealer. In 1894, at the age of 22, he married Florence Hebden, in Middleton, Pickering, Yorkshire, the youngest daughter of Mrs. Hebden of Wrelton Hall. The bride was given away by her uncle, William Hebden of Throsenby Hall, near Scarborough. John Moeles was best man and his two sisters were among the bridesmaids. According to a contemporary report, the mother of the groom wore black and green *briche moire* with an underskirt of green silk trimmed with black lace. The wedding presents were "numerous and costly". The honeymoon was spent in Devon. They lived for a while in Yorkshire, where their daughter, Hyacinth Pyke Nott, was born in 1895. Clearly this marriage did not stand the test of time either. In the 1939 census Florence and Hyacinth were living together in Kirkby Moorside, in Yorkshire. Hyacinth died in 1964, unmarried, while Florence died in 1943. In the same census Edmund was living in Devon with Muriel Maud Crum (nee Macauley) who was described as his wife, although they did not marry until after Florence's death. Muriel's husband, John Ludovic Crum, having been divorced by his first wife in 1907 (the year before he married Muriel), had died in 1923. His son by his first wife had been killed in France.

Not only was John Nott Pyke Nott an amateur playwright but his wife, Caroline Isabella Ward, both wrote and painted. Their two daughters were likewise very artistic. The younger, Isabella Codrington Pyke Nott (1873-1943), attended St. John's Wood Art School in 1888, and in 1889 the Royal Academy Schools in London where she was awarded two medals. In 1901 she married Hungarian, Paul George Konody (1872-1933), an art critic, who was also editor of an art magazine. They had two daughters, Pauline Evelyn

Melissande Konody(1902-1976) and Margaret Elvira Louise Konody (b. 1906). Isabella continued to do well with her paintings and in 1907 as Isabel Codrington won a medal at an international art exhibition in Barcelona. Their social life revolved around people connected with the arts, and in 1909 Ezra Pound penned a poem about her that did not re-emerge until 2015, writing: “As such that pools as are your dearest eyes Have just one bather”. They travelled a lot in Europe, and Konody’s 1911 book, “Through the Alps to the Apennines”, describes one such journey by steam-driven landau. Isabel favoured painting scenes of peasant life although her 1919 work, *Cantine Franco-Britannique, Vitry-le-Francois*, is exhibited in the Imperial War Museum. In 1912 she and her husband were divorced and the following year she married Gustavus Dan Mayer (1873-1954), a partner in the Bond Street art dealer’s, Colnaghi & Co. In 1903 Mayer had married Angelica Maria Anna, nee Pierri, Countess Sponneck (Grevinde of Bagsvaerd), (Denmark 1870-1914), and in 1907 he petitioned for divorce. Co-respondent was one William Evans, whom Angelica married in 1909, and subsequently divorced. In all Angelica had five husbands. In 1927 Konody went on to marry Alexandra Muriel Goodman (1900-1980), who was half his age. Isabel’s marriage with Gustavus also broke up and in the September 1939 census she was living in Bruton Place, Westminster, with her daughter, Margaret, while her husband was living alone at Field House, Wistlers [sic] Wood, situated between Woldingham and Godstone, Surrey, a favourite area for the family. Two doors away at The Roost, Wistlers Wood, was Ruth Solvig Marianne Svenson, a 29-year-old Swedish student of gymnastic dancing. Two months later she gave birth to a daughter, Katharina (Asbjorg Katharina Angelika), and in 1945 a son, Martin Mayer. Gustavus and Ruth married in 1944 after Isabel’s death in 1943. “Tell me, 66-year-old Mr. Mayer, just what exactly attracted you to the 29-year-old Swedish student of gymnastic dancing?”

In 1929 Pauline Konody married Gilbert Cyril Gell, the son of a shoe and boot manufacturer living in Croydon. In the 1939 census they were living at Broome Park, a magnificent (17 mansion in Kent, which they were running as an hotel. They had two sons, James Gilbert, who died in Algeria in 1960, and Robert, who in 1979 purchased Coupland Castle in Wooler in Northumberland, from which he and his second wife, Fiona, run a business specialising in restored antique fireplaces and mirrors.

John Nott Pyke Nott’s elder daughter was Caroline Evelyn Eunice (1870-1960). Like her sister she also went to art schools and became a well-known artist. In 1899 she married John Byam Liston Shaw (known as Byam Shaw), the son of John Shaw of Wellington House, Ayr, who had been the Registrar of the High Court of Madras, India, where the younger John was born in

1872. His ancestors included the Reverends Shaw who were referred to in Burns' "Twa Herds". The family returned to England in 1878 and settled in Holland Row in Kensington. In 1887 his work was shown to the artist, John Everett Millais, who recommended that he be sent to art school. He joined St. John's Wood Art school at the age of 15 and there met his future wife. He also studied at the Royal Academy Schools where he won the Armitage Prize in 1892 for "The Judgement of Solomon". I have a 1905 copy of "Lamb's Tales from Shakespeare" for which Byam Shaw did the illustrations. His work was very much influenced by the pre-Raphaelites.

They married in 1899 and in the newspaper account the home of her father, John Nott Pyke Nott, was given as both Bydown, Swimbridge and St. Edmund's Terrace, Regent's Park, where the reception was later held. However, the bride was given away, not by her father, but by her brother, John Moeles Pyke Nott. An uncle of the groom, the Rev. Huddleston Stokes, officiated at the wedding. According to the "North Devon Journal", the bride's dress, of rich white satin embroidered with pearls, and brocade with court train from the shoulders, and also trimmed with old Honiton point lace given by her mother, was designed by the bridegroom. She wore a diamond and pearl necklet and carried a shower bouquet, the gifts of the groom. Three little pages, dressed in Tudor costumes of white satin and velvet, embroidered with silver, carried the train. Her sister was one of the bridesmaids as was her 20-year-old cousin, May Ward. The four bridesmaids' costumes consisted of white embroidered muslin over silk, and pink chiffon sashes, with white Trelawney hats trimmed with white plumes and pink roses. Each wore a diamond slide and carried bouquets of pink and white roses, the gifts of the groom, while the bride presented pearl and turquoise pins to the pages. Later that day they left for their honeymoon in the Highlands of Scotland. The bride's going away outfit consisted of a jacket made of Violette de Parme face cloth, with revers of velvet richly braided with silver, as was the skirt; she wore a picture hat of black crinoline straw trimmed with black plumes, mauve trills and pink roses. Once again, the presents were very handsome and numbered over 300. The witnesses were her brothers, James and John, her uncle Frederick Ward, and her mother.

Byam Shaw exhibited his work frequently at Dowdeswell and Dowdeswell's gallery in New Bond Street where he held at least five solo exhibitions between 1896 and 1916. As his work became less popular, however, he turned to teaching and, in 1910, after teaching at King's College for six years, he founded, with Rex Vicat Cole, a landscape painter who also exhibited at Dowdeswells' Gallery, The Byam Shaw and Vicat Cole School of Art in Camden Street, Kensington. His wife, Evelyn, as she was better known, also

taught at the school, specialising in miniatures. Both Cole and Shaw enlisted in the Artists' Rifles in the First World War although Shaw then transferred to the Special Constabulary. John Byam Shaw sadly died in 1919, at the age of 46, a victim of the influenza epidemic which arose after the war. In the 1939 census, Evelyn is found living at Hollybush Corner on the Ham and Petersham Estate, with her occupation still given as artist. Living with her was Muriel Pearson-Gee, the divorced sister of her daughter-in-law, Angela Baddeley.

John Byam Liston Shaw and Caroline Evelyn Eunice Pyke Nott had five children. George Byam Shaw was born in 1900, he served in the Royal Scots during the Second World War and was killed at Dunkirk in May, 1940. Another son, David Byam Shaw, was born in Kensington in 1906. He became a lieutenant commander in the Royal Navy and also worked as a broker on the Stock Exchange. He served in the navy during the Second World War as a destroyer captain and was killed at sea in December 1941 while in charge of *HMS Stanley*. He had married Clarita Pamela Clarke (1909-1995) in 1930. They had a son, Nicholas Glencairn Byam Shaw, in 1934. By his first wife, Joan Elliott, Nicholas had two sons. The elder, Justin David Elliott Byam Shaw, born 1960, is currently deputy chairman of the London "*Evening Standard*" and founded a charity, The Felix Project, which delivers unused food to charities and schools, in memory of his son, Felix, who died in France of septicaemia at the age of 14 in 2014. Justin's brother, Matthew J Byam Shaw, born 1963, married Melanie Jane Thaw (born Ross in 1964), the daughter of Sheila Cameron Hancock, the actress, born 1933, and her first husband, Alec Ross, who died of oesophageal cancer in 1971. When Sheila Hancock married the actor John Edward Thaw in 1973, he adopted Melanie and she took his surname. He and Sheila Hancock subsequently had a daughter, Joanna, in 1974, while Thaw already had a daughter, Abigail, born 1965, by Sally Alexander. Tragically, John Thaw also died of oesophageal cancer in 2002, aged 60.

John Byam and Caroline Evelyn's only daughter was Barbara Byam Shaw (1901-1989). In 1931 she married Anthony Follett Pugsley, a Commander in the Royal Navy and later Rear-Admiral. During the 1920s he served on a gunboat on the River Yangtze, rescuing several British seamen and saving a British cantonment from a Chinese mob when the only weapons he and his men had were unloaded rifles and a cane. During the Second World War he was a destroyer captain and landed the 3rd Canadian Division on D-Day. His vessel *Javelin* was also at Dunkirk, evacuating 1400 troops, and he was subsequently under the direct command of Lord Louis Mountbatten; allegedly he did not think much of Mountbatten's strategic skills. He played an important part in the battle to obtain control of the Island of Walcheren at

the mouth of the River Scheldt in 1944 and was made a Companion of the Order of the Bath. He was promoted to Rear Admiral in 1951 and was Flag Officer, Malayan Area, during the Malayan Emergency. In 1933 he and Barbara had a son, John Anthony Follett Pugsley, who married Edwina Little in 1966 and had two sons.

John James Byam Shaw was born in Kensington in 1903 and died in 1992. He was educated at Westminster school and Christ Church, Oxford. He was a well known art historian, working as an art dealer and a director of Colnaghi's, along with his aunt Isabel Codrington's husband, Gustavus Dan Mayer. In 1929 he married Evelyn Margaret Grose Dodgson (1900-1995); they were divorced in 1938, a year after Evelyn gave birth to a daughter, Virginia Eveline. In 1939 Evelyn married William Wilberforce Winkworth (1897-1991), known as Billy, a collector and dealer in ceramics and one-time employee of the British Museum. He was almost certainly Virginia's father, and a son, Arthur Stephen Winkworth, followed the same year. In the 1939 census Evelyn was living with her new husband and his mother, and her daughter, Virginia Eveline Byam Shaw, was now called Virginia E. Winkworth. Virginia died in 1951 at the age of 13. Arthur Stephen married Hazel Jennifer Linz in 1984 but she appears to have re-married five years later. William Wilberforce Winkworth attended Winchester College and served in the Royal Field Artillery in the First World War, where he gained the Military Cross. His father was a founding member of the Oriental Ceramics Society. In 1980 William sued Christie's and an Italian collector for the return of a large amount of valuable art works stolen from his home. The judge ruled that the Italian seller had bought them in good faith and Winkworth lost the case. His grandmother was Anna Maria Denman (1848-1938), daughter of the second Lord Denman, and William was a great great grandson of Thomas Denman (later Baron Denman of Dovedale) who defended the rebels arrested after the Pentrich Revolution in Derbyshire in 1817 and later acted for Queen Caroline in her divorce from George IV.

In 1945 John James Byam Shaw married Adeline Margaret Saunders in Saugor, India, under the aegis of British Nationals' Armed Forces' Marriages. She died in 1965 and in 1967 he married Christina Pamela Gibson (nee Ogilvy) (1914-2005).

The last son was Glencairn Alexander Byam Shaw (1904-1986). The name Glencairn came into the family with his great grandmother, Glencairn Dalrymple Armstrong. Like his brother, James, he was educated at Westminster School, and chose to go into acting, as Glen Byam Shaw, perhaps taking his cue from his mother's cousin, May Ward. He made his first appearance in August, 1923, in Torquay, with apparently no prior

training. His first London appearance was in 1925 as Yasha in “The Cherry Orchard”, with John Gielgud as Trofimov. *The Times* described him as “tall, gentle and graceful in movement, he was valuable in any cast, particularly in Classics and in the Russian plays.” His New York debut was in 1927 as Pelham Humphrey in “And So to Bed” (a play about Samuel Pepys). Early photographs show a brooding, sensitive face.

The actress Constance Collier directed him and Ivor Novello in “Down Hill” in 1927 and through Novello he got to know Siegfried Sassoon, one of the leading poets of the First World War, with whom he had a homosexual relationship. He and Sassoon each also had a relationship with Ivor Novello. When Siegfried Sassoon got married in 1931, Glen Byam Shaw was best man and they remained friends until Sassoon died in 1967. In 1935 Glen appeared as Benvolio in “Romeo and Juliet” at the Old Vic, with Peggy Ashcroft, John Gielgud, and Laurence Olivier. In the meantime he fell in love with the actress, Angela Baddeley, born Madeleine Angela Clinton-Baddeley (1904-1976), and they married in 1929. Angela’s sisters were Muriel (see above) and the famous Hermione Baddeley (Hermione Youlanda Ruby Clinton-Baddeley) (1906-1986). Hermione’s first husband was the Hon. David Pax Francis Tennant, founder of the Gargoyle Club. Siegfried Sassoon had also had a relationship with Tennant’s brother, Stephen.

Angela Baddeley had originally been married to Stephen Kerr Thomas (1897-1961) and had a daughter, Jane S. Thomas, born in 1924. With Glen she had two children, George David Byam Shaw, born 1930 and died in 2017, and Julia Lavinia Byam Shaw, born in 1934. Angela Baddeley is probably best known for her role as Mrs. Bridges in the television series, “Upstairs Downstairs”.

During the Second World War, Glen Byam Shaw served in Burma with the Royal Scots and after the war made training films in India with the rank of Major. From then on he chose to concentrate on directing and from 1947 until 1951 he was Director of the Old Vic Theatre School. When Anthony Quayle became Director of the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre in 1952 he invited Glen to join him, and while Quayle toured the Queen’s Dominions, Glen Byam Shaw made Stratford one of the leading theatre centres in England, attracting such directors as Gielgud, Peter Hall and Peter Brook. In addition, after spending the weekend at their country house, he persuaded Laurence Olivier and his wife, Vivienne Leigh, to appear in three plays. Olivier treated John Gielgud badly and Angela Baddeley is quoted as saying, “Larry was a bad boy about it. He was very waspish and overbearing with Johnny and Johnny became intimidated and lost his authority”. Upon Quayle’s return in 1954 he made Glen Byam Shaw joint director.

In 1957 the Queen and Prince Philip attended a showing of “As you like it” and lunched with the Byam Shaws and John Profumo MP (4 years before he was introduced to Christine Keeler) and his wife, the actress Valerie Hobson (probably best known for playing Edith d’Ascoyne in “Kind Hearts and Coronets”). In 1959, his last year, he attracted Paul Robeson and Charles Laughton from America for the parts of Othello and King Lear respectively. From 1962 he was Director of Productions at Sadler’s Wells Opera, despite claiming to be tone deaf. His most celebrated productions, in conjunction with the conductor, Reginald Goodall, were his last production at Sadler’s Wells, “The Mastersingers”, and Wagner’s Ring Cycle when they moved to the Coliseum.

Despite having a very successful and loving marriage with his wife, Angela, he also had a 20-year long affair with the actress, Rachel Kempson, and, it is believed, with her husband, Michael Redgrave, as well. He died of Alzheimer’s Disease in 1986.

His son, George David Byam Shaw, married twice. By his first wife, Margery C Huxley, he had two children, Rosalind A Byam Shaw and James G Byam Shaw.

Glen’s daughter, Juliet Lavinia, married George W Hart in 1956, and had a son, Charles C W Hart, born 1961. He was educated at the Guildhall School of Music and was the lyricist for “The Phantom of the Opera” and “Aspects of Love”, as well as the musical of “Bend it Like Beckham”.

It is interesting to see the changes through the generations, from the yeoman farmers, through the rich manufacturers, to gentlemen and ladies of leisure, turning eventually to successful careers in the arts. Other members of the family took up occupations in trade, or simply emigrated and experienced completely different life-styles, all far away from the family’s origins in Derbyshire.

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B. Vaughn-Skinner

Kathleen Garner

E-mail: kathleen22@hotmail.com

What's That All About?

Family history research can be difficult and sometimes no more so than when delving into the ever greater number of newspapers online. However it brings the joy of finding little gems that expand the basic story of who was who in lineage terms. One has to temper the information gained with the fact that, as today, not all stories were probably accurate, so pinches of salt need occasional application.

Stories are not always helpful, they can be funny, gruesome or quite often sad, but stories around the lives of real people must be valuable to our understanding of what it was like back in the years when newspapers actually reported the goings on of the local populus. Will social media be as useful in 50 years? I bet reporters and those reported on in these eight column broadsheets never thought their moment of fame would re-emerge as it has done today.

Searching can also be a major time waster as there are always quite irrelevant distractions in the next column that enable one to pass happy hours lost in someone else's problem.

My own track record has a mix of the happy, sad, amusing, or even enlightening but also the annoyance of getting only a partial clarification of the purpose of a search.

In an earlier edition of the DFHS I remarked on a young family member at Bretton who had been accused of fire raising at a neighbour's haystack. The case went past the local court to Bakewell Assizes which suggests something was going on, however the judge ensured the case was never called and he even said it should never have been raised. What was that all about?

My father was reported in 1937 on a Saturday night whilst out with his co accused in Ilkeston. Not knowing what the offence actually meant, fortunately a barrister friend suggested that for a fine of £1 each (£60 today) it was probably no more than the outcome of excess alcohol and a lack of shall we say immediately available public facilities. This story though confirmed exactly where father was living at the time, confirmed many family stories of his apprentice days, and distracted me to read about his mate's marriage to a local lass and more besides. More of that later.

Of course newspapers help us fill some of those gaps created by only having the 1911 and 1939 records for recent relatives easily to hand. I find getting

clever with limited Electoral rolls etc tries my abilities on occasions but the fact that recently Derbyshire Record Office have released lots of digitised data is a great help for those of us miles away from Matlock.

Being a Derby born lad, educated partially around Etwall, brings me to an old article whereby those long established yeoman farmer surnames that are still present today appear centuries ago in the same parishes. Stretton, Archer, Woolley and more. All recorded as Jurymen in one of the last High Treason trials and this one in 1817 in Derby leading to three hangings/beheadings at Derby Gaol. This time my man, Wagstaff of Atlow, was on one of the juries.

The newspapers made much copy of all the events surrounding this, with later history even suggesting that the Home Secretary of the time was up to no good setting up the “Brandreth” or “Derby Conspirators” as an example to the politically disaffected that insurrection was not to be tolerated. Hard times and hard punishment for the families left behind by the hangman. Ironically I found the jury list for 1817 published in the history section of the August 1878 editions of the Derby Advertiser and Journal. No doubt some hack had to do some serious back copy research work getting the story together again before the advent of Google.

As Wagstaff features large in my paternal ancestry their presence in and around Atlow and Hognaston becomes a great source of newspaper stories. Mind you have to be careful that you have the right man or woman. There were a lot of Wagstaffs in other parishes that could and do confuse some researchers. Presumably even further back they may have been related but I cannot prove it.

As in local rags today, court cases filled column inches but often with much more detail. Take our happy haulier John Wagstaff of Hognaston. (Common name that with at least 4 generations of John in a row proveable. Oh for a few more Archelaus but that’s another story.) John in 1860 going home after a good day at the market in Derby, is found by an unsympathetic plod, asleep and intoxicated in charge of his horse and van being taken home by the horse. Fine £5 and costs which today would be £120 plus. You then realise that driverless cars are nothing new they have just been a long time actually fully replacing the good old horse.

Unsympathetic plods also featured in my article about the Barrel Inn at Bretton in 1866. My publican ancestor was fined 5 shillings (ie 25p or £6 at today’s values) for serving drink after hours. He took the option of the fine, as clearly the option of a week in jail would have disrupted his business. Maybe he also knew the food was not as good.

Maybe my family just have a criminal streak in amongst the undetected crime as my father often said of his war record, who knows?

Coming more up to date my great uncle Albert (long lost until recently, well more like never heard of until 2019) was a Derby Corporation conductor on a trolley bus which in June 1938 ran into the back of a Police Car ! Solicitor Mr A R Flint stated in court that *“someone must be to blame if a police car is damaged. It is unthinkable it could be the police driver, and you cannot prosecute a pedestrian, however foolish he may be. So there is only one man to blame - in this case the trolley bus driver, Mr Stanley Pountain”*

Some 15 column inches later, with the help of my relative on behalf of his mate Mr Pountain, Case Dismissed. It did not help the case when the Policeman admitted he had said to the bus driver *“I am sorry old chap, I did not have time to give you any signal”* immediately after the collision.

Having relatives born in a workhouse (1917) and yet others (1780) who had vast sums of money and jewellery stolen gets you thinking about how times change. John Wagstaff (yes another one) offers a 5 guinea reward to any information leading to the conviction of the offender who stole £64 in cash and 3 silver spoons marked “J S W “ which we think may have been his father and mother’s wedding spoons (John and Sarah). Now for a farmer in Atlow it seems like he was very rich to have sort of money lying around. In today’s cash that is £12000 and the reward is £1000. Somewhere the inheritance withered away as my paternal grandmother was in service before she married. In my family tree ag labs and servant girls play a large but interesting part.

A recently discovered great aunt appears in the Derby Daily Telegraph throughout December 1930 in very sad circumstances as she fell 20 ft from a Shottle farm house bedroom window whilst trying to remove leaves from a blocked gutter. Having been a maid in the household for some 17 years, so not inexperienced in matters of service, the coroner decided after much evidence that it was “ an error of judgement” and “a story of an unheeded warning from her mistress.” For me not only did I see a photo of her for the first time but also had chapter and verse about her relatives giving evidence, attending the funeral and more.

Accidents often cause newspaper notoriety and hence valued sources of information. Non more so for me than the Magpie /Red Soil Mine disaster in September 1833 and the subsequent trial. It’s a long read and a terrible case of poor technology, greed?, and long standing grievance. Eventually at the initial inquest the verdict was wilful murder of three men against some 20

miners in the adjacent but connected mine. Then after nearly 6 months George Maltby and all were found Not Guilty. Now it has me wondering about the fact that they were in Derby gaol for nearly six months awaiting the Assizes. On a capital charge, what did their families do in the meantime. No benefits then of course.

George Maltby comes out of the trial with at least the mention that he should not have been there and least responsible for what happened but still he had the six months awaiting that verdict.

Equally as a George Maltby is then a mine manager much later in the century is it the same man, ages are right but? By then as lead mining was in serious decline you could, according to the papers, buy groups of mines previously earning small and large fortunes for a pittance. It seems nothing changes, as oil wells have just undergone a similar loss of favour.

Another John Wagstaff haulier from Hognaston (April 1859) had boots stolen off his cart when at Shakespeare Yard Derby. The guilty party, George Turner, was committed for one month with hard labour.

Finally back to happier matters but amusing to say the least.

What was the aforementioned Percy Crooks of Horsley Woodhouse up to in 1944 when he was stopped by another of my favourite local plods. He was fined under wartime regulations for "*using hydrocarbon oils without reasonable economy*" by not using the most direct route home. He pleaded that he was returning home after delivering meat for his brother. PC Sutherland said that the route taken was a detour of 2.5 miles from the direct route. In and around Horsley Woodhouse nowhere is very far from anywhere else so What Was It All About? Now I do not know but in the course of reading other newspapers I find that some years later he married a lady from exactly the village (not on his direct route) in which his misdemeanour was committed. Was it just a bit of courting that offended a rival? If so, it must have eventually been worth the fine of 20 shillings at Ripley Police Court.

*David Marshall [Mem 8143]
email: dmatcc@btinternet.com*

Welsh Ramblings

– A Bit More on the Hallams and a Bit on the Moores

No doubt the lockdown has resulted in gardens receiving levels of attention rarely given to them before, all those little jobs around the house that had previously been overlooked being done (my front gate doesn't squeak on its hinges anymore!) – and a lot of progress in family history research.

Since early in the year I have added almost 130 people to my family tree (by which I include my wife's family) and I have even responded to a request from my eldest son's fiancée to look into her family's history – although as one side of her family hails from Scotland, that has presented me with problems I have not come across before and which, at the time of writing, I haven't overcome.

On my family, my research has focused on that "Family Calendar" I wrote about before. I now have 337 separate births, marriages and deaths – and I think I am calling time on that (for now!). As it progressed, I realised that there were branches of the family that I hadn't really looked into and as a result I was some way short of identifying all 62 of my forebears back to my 3 x great-grandparents - as well as the 62 of my wife. I have, therefore, been spending quite a bit of time looking into the Beasley family who come from Over Whitacre in Warwickshire and the Forrester family who were at one time in Uttoxeter. On my wife's side I have found her forebears in various locations, including Silverdale in Staffordshire, Ellesmere in Shropshire, Wrexham, Manchester and Bath.

Unfortunately, there are still some gaps in our grand-parentages, caused by not being able to find any information about certain individuals. There is my great-great-grandfather John Allen who we know absolutely nothing about – not even if he actually married my great-great-grandmother Eliza Jennison. There is my great-great-grandfather George Baker whose baptism transcript from 1815 only gives his mother's name (and whose marriage I cannot trace, thereby ruling out another chance of knowing who my 3x great grandfather was). On my wife's side there is her great-grandfather Thomas Allison who, it appears, was never talked about to subsequent generations of the family and of whom the only thing I can find was that he was a ship's steward in the merchant navy ("a girl in every port" comes to mind!).

The General Register Office's new search facility has been a great help in furthering my research because, unlike the FreeBMD site, it gives mother's maiden names for births before 1911 (I have consequently – and with some

prompting from our esteemed secretary - found some family members that I had missed before, as they were born and then died in between two censuses). It seems that my great-great grandparents George Baker and Mary (nee Barber) actually had seven children – the two that I had missed were Catherine who was born on March 8th 1845 but died less than a year later, on February 15th 1846 from measles, and Thomas who was born May 29th 1855 but died aged 4 on June 25th 1859 from “renal dropsy”. Catherine’s birth certificate is interesting in that it gives the address as 15, John’s (sic) Street in Derby. Presumably this was John Street (where the family were living in 1841), but the actual house number was not often given on many of the other certificates that I have from around that time. Also, my great-great-grandparents Charles Hallam and Charlotte (nee Collins) had Rose, who was born c1862 and died c1866 (more on the Hallams later).

Of course, as with Catherine and Thomas, I have had to obtain copies of some certificates (thankfully before lockdown impacted on the GRO’s normal speedy service) in order to ascertain exact dates and this has also helped to confirm that I have the right person. However, even with the information given on the certificates, is it always the case that you can be 100% certain that you have the right person? And, as copies of certificated cost £11 a piece, just how certain can you be without one?

Take the case of my great-great-great-grandfather Joseph Barber. His wife Mary (nee Winfield) died in 1856 - I have a copy of her death certificate and it states her to be the wife of a Joseph Barber, but apart from that, her age being about right and the place of death being “Woodhouses, Melbourne” (where their granddaughter was born back in 1838) I can only make an educated guess that it is my 3x-great-grandmother – perhaps a 90% certainty.

As for Joseph, in the 1861 census a Joseph Barber of the right age and place was living (in Stanton-by-Bridge) with his wife Mary Ann (from London) and their daughter Catherine (aged 2 months). Is this my 3x-great-grandfather? Initially I was very unsure and even their marriage certificate didn’t raise my level certainty a great deal. I think I have mentioned before that Joseph’s age was given as 70 and Mary Ann Whitehead’s at 26 (the old rogue!). Joseph’s father is named as Joseph (which tallies) but Joseph senior’s occupation is given as “Malster” (which does not). Interestingly, Mary Ann’s father is not given. They were married on 30th December 1860, but just a few months later in the census, Mary Ann’s age was given as 37. I have not obtained a copy of Catherine’s birth certificate and so could not be absolutely certain that she was their child (given that the census has been known to be misleading when it comes to relationships). However, in the

1871 census “Kate” Barber, aged 10, was recorded as the sister of Henry Barber (Joseph’s son from his first marriage) so that made me pretty much 100% certain. Joseph, now aged 80, was living with another of his sons, Francis, and his family, and was a widower. A Mary A Barber, aged 37, died in Shardlow district in 1862. Again, I have not obtained a copy of the death certificate, but it must be Joseph’s young wife.

Joseph died in 1877 – his son Francis registered the death so I can be 100% certain that I have the right person here. Kate was still living with her brother Henry and his family in the 1881 census (in Grange Street in Litchurch, Derby) and in the 1882 she married James Darnell (80% sure that it is the right person here). However, a Kate Barber, aged 23, died in Derby in 1884. A Sarah Elizabeth Darnell (mother’s maiden name Barber) had been born in 1883 and in the 1891 census she was living with her father James and his new family in Park Street. By the 1901 census the family had moved out of town to Commons Lane in Alvaston & Boulton – Sarah was a dressmaker. In the 1911 census Sarah was still living at home, now 313, Baker Street in Alvaston, with her father and his wife. A Sarah E Darnell married Thomas Shelton in 1932. In the 1939 Register they were living in St. Thomas’s Road in Derby. They do not appear to have had any children. So, even without the relevant certificates I am sure that this is the right Kate and her descendants (it always helps where there is an uncommon surname – less possibilities).

Of course, any information on copies of certificates post-1837 is much better than what is available on pre-1837 parish records. Baptisms tend not give mother’s maiden names, marriages may not give father’s names and burials tend to give no information whatsoever. All this makes research with anything close to 100% certainty very difficult. Mind you; it does pay to keep close attention to what is written in the parish records because, even if it is not relevant to who you are searching for, it can certainly make your searching worthwhile. On just one page I found an 1808 baptism of “Amy. Bastard Daughter Of Anne Lane by Thomas Storer”, “Elizabeth. Bastard Daughter of Jane Wilson a notorious Whore” and “John Hall. Son of William Cantrell our drunken Schoolmaster and Sarah his Wife”. You don’t find that sort of information on post-1837 certificates!

In my last article I wrote about the Hallams; specifically the siblings of my great-grandmother Elizabeth Hallam. In respect of the oldest of the siblings, Thomas, I had discovered that he was a soldier and that he died in 1887. I have subsequently found two newspaper articles relating to his death; both in “*The Wellington Journal and Shrewsbury News*” of Saturday 12 November 1887. Firstly, the notice of his death:

“HALLAM - 5th inst., aged 39, at the Barracks, Shrewsbury, Thomas Hallam, colour-sergeant 2nd Battalion King's (Shropshire) Light Infantry.”

And then under “*Local Military Gossip*”:

“The English nation is renowned for its philanthropy all the world over; but I cannot admit we take good care of our brave defenders and their dependents when we have had all the services out of them we can get. When a man has served in the British Army the requisite amount of time to qualify for a pension, he can take his discharge, and with a little extra employment keep himself and family comfortably for the remainder of his life. On the other hand, should he die prematurely, the family are at once deprived of the pension and thrown on the mercy of the world. A case of this description has just come under my notice at Shrewsbury. I refer to Colour-Sergeant Thomas Hallam, whose remains were interred with military honours at the cemetery on Tuesday. Sergeant Hallam belonged to the 85th Regiment, now the 2nd Battalion King's Shropshire Light Infantry, in which he had just completed 21 years' service, entitling him to a pension of 2s. 6d. a day. He has left behind him a widow and six children, the eldest of whom is under seven and the youngest four months, and it is very sad to state that as the pension cannot be claimed they are left totally unprovided for. I hear, however, that Quartermaster Newman (Cophthorne Barracks) and other of deceased's comrades intend collecting a sum of money by subscription and other means, and have already initiated the movement themselves in a practical form.”

The latter sheds an interesting light on things; I wonder when this awful pension policy ended? Perhaps it explains why in the 1891 Census, while his widow Elizabeth had returned to Weymouth (where she was from) and had five of their children living with her – Charlotte, Charles, Clara, George and Thomas – the oldest child, Ellen Mary, was a scholar at the Soldiers' Daughters Home in Hampstead. In the 1901 census only Charlotte, George and Thomas were at home with Elizabeth. Ellen was a servant to an Optician in Finchley. An Ellen M Hallam married Herbert Hopkins in London (Pancras RD) in 1901 but the 1911 census shows that this is not the right Ellen. There was however an Ellen Mary Hallam (incorrectly transcribed as Hallaren) who was a domestic cook in the household of Butler Humphreys in Finchley – she was born c1880 in Salisbury, so surely the right Ellen.

After that I thought I had lost the trail, but I then found an Ellen M Hallam married William Lowe in Winchester RD in 1914. There were two Lowe/Hallam births in Winchester (George E in 1915) and Margaret E (in 1919) and in the 1939 Register William, Ellen Mary and Margaret E were living in Winchester – Ellen’s date of birth being 23rd December 1880 which tallied with her birth registration. So, I am pretty certain that this is the right Ellen. The record helpfully states that Margaret married an Edwards (Ernest Edwards in 1942) while a George E Lowe married Muriel Hawkins in 1946. An Ellen Mary Lowe, with the same birth date as above, died in Leicestershire in 1972. So, a few more to add to the Family Tree.

Back in Issue 157 (June 2016) in my article “Matters of Life and Death” I mentioned that my grandfather’s sister Mary Elizabeth Baker married Harry Moore. From their marriage certificate I know that Harry was born c1880, was living in Sacheverel Street and that his late father Samuel had been a publican. I knew nothing else about the Moores until I found on www.findagrave.com a gravestone in Nottingham Road Cemetery in Derby which includes Harry Moore, born 1880 and died December 7th 1947 aged 67. His mother was Charlotte Jane (nee Smithard) who was born in 1847 and died at 102, Green Lane on August 10th 1891 aged 44. His father Samuel died at his residence in Wilson Street on June 13th 1904 aged 64. Also on the memorial is Frederick John Moore who died at the Tailor’s Arms, Green Lane on July 21st 1882 aged four. Some of this tallied with what little I knew about Harry Moore and so that was my starting point.

The notice of Samuel’s death appeared in several local newspapers, including “*The Derbyshire Courier*” of 25th June 1904:

“MOORE. – On June 13th, at his residence, 35 Wilson-street, Derby, Samuel Moore, aged 64 years.”

While in the “*Derby Evening Telegraph*” of 8th December 1947:

“MOORE. – On Dec. 7, 1947, at 57. Bramfield-avenue, Derby, Harry, the beloved husband of Charlotte Moore, aged 67 years. Funeral, Wednesday, service in Christ Church at 10.45 a.m., prior to interment in Nottingham-road Cemetery.”

In the 1901 census the widowed Samuel and Harry, with Florence (c1881) and Samuel (c1884) were living at 43, Sacheverel Street – Samuel was an inn keeper. There is no clue as to which inn – not even if it was located at number 43, but The Globe and The Sitwell Arms were both situated on Sacheverel Street. However, In “*The Derby Daily Telegraph*” of 14 June 1904 (the day after his death!) under “*The Derby Borough Transfer Sessions*”:

*“...the Globe, Sacheverel-street, from Samuel Moore (deceased)
to Ernest Rogers;”*

Earlier, in the 1891 census Samuel and Charlotte, with Helen (c1869), Harry, Florence and Samuel were living at 102, Green Lane – Samuel was a publican but, again, there is no clue as to the name of the establishment. However, from the gravestone, presumably The Tailor’s Arms. (Is there a difference between “inn keeper” and “publican” or do they mean the same thing?). In the 1881 census Samuel, Charlotte, Elizabeth (c1865), Caroline (c1867), Helen, Frederick (c1877) and Harry were living in the Green Man Inn at 1, St Peter’s Church Yard. (Now, Samuel is a “licensed victualler” – another variation of the same thing?). In the 1871 census Samuel was married to Helen and they were living at the Mason’s Arms at 9, Albion Street with Caroline and Helen (Samuel was a “carpenter and Publican” then). Elizabeth was with her grandmother Elizabeth (an “Inn Keeper”) at the Green Man Inn (on the “south side” of St. Peter’s Church Yard). Samuel and Charlotte had married in 1876 – had he married Helen Childs in 1865? An “Ellen” Moore died in 1873 aged 24. From “*The Derby Mercury*” of July 26th 1876:

*“MOORE - SMITHARD. – July 23, at St. Peter’s Church, by the
Rev. W. Hope, vicar, Samuel Moore, Green Man Inn, to
Charlotte Jane, youngest daughter of John Smithard, St. Peter’s
-street.”*

In the 1861 census the 21-year-old Samuel was living with his parents Frederick (a “Malster and Inn Keeper”) and Elizabeth at the Green Man Inn (on the “left side” of St. Peter’s Church Yard) with Esther (c1843), Jane (c1845), Caroline (c1847), Frederick (c1849), John (c1851) and William (c1854). Also there was Elizabeth’s father, Samuel Sherwin. (Frederick died in 1864 and in the 1871 census Elizabeth was still the inn keeper of the Green Man. In the 1881 census Elizabeth was living at 27, Normanton Road and in the 1891 census at 63, Normanton Road. Elizabeth died in 1895).

In the 1851 census Samuel was with his grandfather Samuel Sherwin on Kedleston Road while Frederick, Elizabeth and five children were at 22, St. Peter’s Churchyard – Frederick was an inn keeper. In the 1841 census Frederick, Elizabeth and Samuel were on Kedleston Road with Elizabeth’s parents Samuel (a farmer) and Esther. Frederick and Elizabeth had married in 1839.

Of Harry’s siblings:

Elizabeth married Charles Smith in 1887 and in the 1891 census they were living at 11, Friar Gate - where Charles was publican of the Fox & Goose –

with Charlotte (c1891). In the 1901 census they were living at 8, Agard Street – Charles was a “maltster”. Elizabeth died in 1907 and Charles died in 1908. In the 1911 census Charlotte was with her uncle and aunt in Wheeldon Avenue. She married Thomas Tagg in 1921 and they had Trevor (c1921).

Caroline married Whenman Shaw in 1893. (In the 1891 census she had been a servant at West Leigh in Woodland Road). In the 1901 census they were living at 114, Cobden Street with Ethel (c1894) and Ernest (c1897). They were at the same address in the 1911 census when they also had Lily (c1899), Whenman (c1903), Herbert (c1908) and Edith (c1910). The census return stated they had another two children who had died. Did they also have Frances (c1913)? Caroline died in 1957 and Whenman died in 1940.

Helen married James Ballington in 1897. In the 1901 census they were living at 20, Haarlem Street with Arthur (c1898). They were at the same address in the 1911 census. Helen died in 1936 and James died in 1940; Arthur had died in 1924.

Florence married Ralph Brewster in 1904 and in the 1911 census they were living at 100, Madeley Street with Frederick (c1905), Phyllis (c1906), Florence (c1908) and Ralph (c1910). They also had Donald (c1927). Florence died in 1941 and Ralph died in 1950. From the “*Derby Evening Telegraph*” of 21st April 1941:

“The funeral of Mrs. Florence Brewster (59), of 100, Madeley-street, took place at Nottingham-road Cemetery. There was a large congregation present at St. James’s Church and the Rev. G. H. Mallen conducted the service.

Mourners were: Mr. R. A. Brewster (husband), Mr. and Mrs. F. Brewster (son and daughter-in-law), Mr. Donald Brewster (son), Mr. and Mrs. E. Woolley and Mr. and Mrs. J. Buxton (sons-in-law and daughters), Mr. Harry Moore and Mr. S. Moore (brothers), Mrs. Haslam. Mrs. Porter.”

Frederick married Beatrice Cash in 1935, Phyllis married Ernest Woolley in 1935, Florence married John Buxton in 1934, Ralph married Margaret Lee in 1932 and Donald married Joyce Childs in 1950.

Samuel married Florence Bull in 1908 (the Bulls had lived next door to the Moores at 45, Sacheverel Street). In the 1911 census they were living at 45, Netherclose Street. They later had Irene (c1911), Lynda (c1913) and Eileen (c1920, died 1922). Samuel died in 1957 and Florence died in 1973. Lynda married William Buxton in 1938.

Of Harry’s father Samuel’s siblings:

Esther married Richard Smith in 1867 and in the 1871 census they were living with Esther's mother with Margaret (c1868) and Frederick (c1870). In the 1881 census they were living at 12, Strutt Street and also had Annie (c1874), Elizabeth (c1876), Richard (c1879) and Susan (c1881). *In the 1891 census they* were living at 23, Loudon Street and also had William (c1889). In the 1901 census they were living at 41, Dairyhouse Road. Richard died in 1909 and in the 1911 census Esther was at the same address. Esther died in 1926.

Jane married Thomas Steer in 1867 but died in 1870 and Thomas died in 1874.

Caroline married Thomas Greensmith in 1872 and in both the 1881 and 1891 census they were living with Caroline's mother with Mary (c1873). In the 1901 census they were still at 63, Normanton Road. Caroline died in 1905 and in the 1911 census Thomas was living at 55, Wilmot Street with Mary, her husband Frank Harper and family. Thomas died in 1931.

Frederick married Ann Jones and in the 1881 census they were living at 26, Normanton Road with Elizabeth (c1876), Emily (c1878) and Gertrude (c1880). Frederick died in 1882.

John married Emma Tattershaw in 1874 and in the 1881 census they were living at 29, Peel Street. In the 1891 census they were at 17, Gordon Street with Emily (c1882), Margaret (c1884), Ann (c1886), John (c1889) and Thomas (c1890). Emma died in 1893 and in the 1901 census John, Ann, John, Thomas and Ethel (c1892) were at 46, Yates Street. In the 1911 census John, Thomas and Ethel together with Margaret, her husband Walter Fox and family were at 40, Norman Street. John died in 1925.

William married Emily Hyde in 1878 and in the 1891 census they were living at 61, Normanton Road with William (c1879), Samuel (c1880), Ellen (c1881), Alice (1883), Frederick (c1884), Tom (c1885), Frank (c1886), Arthur (c1887), Margaret (c1888) and Carrie (c1889). In the 1901 census they were living at the same address. In the 1911 census they were at 86, Normanton Road and with them was their granddaughter Alice Luckett – Ellen having married Jesse Luckett. William died later that year and Emily died in 1913.

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UPDATE: Wendy, who lives in the Netherlands, has contacted me regarding my "*Warners of Mickleover and Beyond*" articles. Her connection is,

loosely, through my 3x great-grandparents' son Charles' daughter Emily who was born c1871. Emily's mother Harriet (nee Page) died in 1881 and in the census shortly afterwards the young Emily was living with her grandmother Fanny McConnell in Chain Lane, Littleover in a household which contained Fanny's unmarried daughter Emily Page, another two of Fanny's grandchildren with the surname Page, and three nurse children. Emily Warner married John Williams in 1894 – one of John's two surviving children from his previous marriage to Edith Foster was Edith (born 1886) who was Wendy's grandmother. Edith married Johan Smit from Amsterdam in April 1914 in Walsall.

According to Wendy, Fanny McConnell was born Frances Preston in 1810 in Newhall, Derbyshire, and married William Page in Derby in 1836 (Harriet – who married Charles Warner – was born in 1847). After William died, Fanny remarried to Richard McConnell in 1860, but he died in 1862. Fanny died in January 1907, aged 96, having looked after her own children, grandchildren, stepchildren, nurse children and boarders into very old age, and working as a laundress. Wendy is keen to find out more about Frances (Fanny) Preston/Page/McConnell – can anyone help her?

So that is it for this time. As always, do please get in touch if any of the above has any interest to you.

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

On 11 October 1893 Mary Jackson of Derby was caught on a train with a ticket she wasn't entitled to. She claimed her sister at Wolverhampton was dying and as her husband was out of work they had very little money and no food. She purchased the ticket from Henry Upton, who got it from John Henry Collins, a labourer in the Carriage and Wagon Department. Collins had obtained the privileged ticket the previous day, selling it to Upton for 2s, but the deception was found out when Jackson changed trains. Jackson was summoned to the Derby Borough Police Court for fraud. Along with Upton and Collins she was to be made an example of, as this was a case representative of hundreds of others. Upton and Collins stated that they had only got her the ticket out of charity. Jackson was fined 10s and costs or fourteen days in prison, and Upton and Collins were fined £1 and costs or a month in prison. Both men went to prison but Jackson was allowed one month to pay her fine.

THE TALBOT PAPERS

Found in the above papers at the National Archives:-

Sir John Hercy to the Earl of Shrewsbury, Privy Councillor, from Grove 30 October, n.a. [temp.Henry VIII], sending a present of fat cygnets. Scarsdale is infested with Egyptians who refuse to serve in the wars and he desires orders concerning them from the Privy Council.

The Earl of Shrewsbury to Sir Richard Sacheverell, no place, no date [1516], declining the offer of [Edward Stafford, third] Duke of Buckingham for marriages between the Earl's son [Francis] and the Duke's daughter and between the Earl's daughter [Lady Mary Talbot] and the Duke's son [Henry]; the dowry requested is too high—he had hoped to marry all his daughters for that sum.

The Lords of the Council to the Earl of Shrewsbury, Lieutenant of Derbyshire, from Greenwich, 26 June 1600, giving instructions for the levying of fifty men from the county for service in Ireland, and complaining of the choice of 'lewd and dissolute persons' in the past.

Valerie Jackson [Mem no 56]

E-mail: valjackson500@gmail.com

ALEXANDER OLLERENSHAW OR 'OWD ALICK'

I am researching my family tree and discovered we had quite a character in the family. Alexander Ollerenshaw (1753-1841) my 4xGreat Grandad, was Landlord of the Blacksmith's Arms, (later to become the Church Inn) Chelmorton during the 1800s. He was apparently obsessed in creating a Perpetual Motion Machine, (as well as being a blacksmith and a musician) which, when he died, was apparently dismantled and the residents of Chelmorton all took a piece. I have no pictures of him or his family and, if my research is correct, his son Michael Ollerenshaw also went on to be Landlord. From reading various articles, apparently when the pub became the Church Inn documents were found. I have written to the present owners of the pub, but under the current circumstances, I will probably not receive a reply for a while as the property will be closed. I am wondering if anyone knows any more information, if any of their ancestors told stories of 'Alick'. It would be wonderful to have a picture of him. I believe his son Michael married into the Percival family of Chelmorton, again I have no pictures.

Wendy Crookston

E-mail: dcs mum58@gmail.com

Life and Times of Revd. J. R. Luxmoore

Revd. John Reddaway Luxmoore became Curate of Ashford-in-the-Water in 1861, and Vicar of Ashford with Sheldon in 1872. When he retired in 1912 he had been the incumbent at Ashford for 52 years.

(COVID-19 Update: We had planned to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Revd. Luxmoore's most lasting and most visible legacy – his transformational restoration of Holy Trinity church, Ashford – during Ashford's 2020 Well Dressing and Flower Festival week. Maybe later ... ! In the meantime, here are some notes on his 'Life and Times' as serialised in the Ashford & Sheldon Parish Magazine, January-June 2020).

John Reddaway Luxmoore ('our John') was born in 1829 in Jacobstowe in West Devon to Samuel Luxmoore, a yeoman (landowning) farmer, and Patience Luxmoore, née Reddaway. His maternal grandfather and great-grandfather were also farmers, but his paternal grandfather and great-grandfather were blacksmiths.

The Luxmoores and the Reddaways

In the 13th century our John's father's ancestor Jordan de Lukesmore was living near Lydford on the western edge of what is now Dartmoor National Park, whilst his mother's ancestors were living 15 miles to the northeast at Radeweie Farm in Sampford Courtenay.

John's father, Samuel, was born in Jacobstowe in 1805, the same year that his mother Patience was born in nearby Inwardleigh. Some of Patience's male relatives were to become significant landowners: her younger brother James had inherited Bradley Farm in Buckland Filleigh from their father, and he subsequently purchased the historic Burdon Manor estate. Her elder brother John owned Curworthy, one of the Domesday manors of Inwardleigh. The Burdon and Curworthy estates and the Bradley Farm lands ultimately all passed to Patience's nephew, also a John Reddaway, who amassed even more property when he purchased Okehampton Castle.

Tragically, Samuel died in 1832 aged only 27, possibly of cholera, which had broken out in Devon that year. His untimely death left his wife a young widowed mother with two small children: our John, aged three, and his sister – named Patience after her mother – one year younger. A second tragedy befell the family fourteen years later when the young Patience died aged only 16; it is possible that she could have succumbed to the serious 1846 typhoid outbreak.

The ‘other’ Luxmoores

At the age of 20 our John would have heard that John Nicholl Luxmoore, one year his junior, had been killed in a horse riding accident. The story was widely reported because of the fame and, in the view of some, the notoriety of certain members of John Nicholl’s family. A number of Luxmoores in this branch of the ancestral tree were major landowners in the Okehampton Union, and many were clergymen in Devon and beyond.

John Nicholl’s grandfather, Bishop John Luxmoore of St. Asaph in North Wales, his father Revd. Charles Scott Luxmoore, and his uncle Revd. John Henry Montagu Luxmoore, were among the most infamous ‘pluralists’ of the time, holding multiple income-generating ecclesiastical positions simultaneously. It has been estimated that the Bishop and his family collected as much as £2.1 million a year in today’s money from cathedrals and churches within the dioceses of St Asaph and Hereford; their avarice was such that St. Asaph Cathedral eventually felt compelled to dismantle its massive memorial to the Luxmoore family.

Our John’s branch of the Luxmoore family tree, and the ‘other’ Luxmoores’ branch, meet eight generations earlier with their common ancestor, William Luxmoore, who was born midway through the reign of Elizabeth I. The future vicar of Ashford-in-the-Water was descended from William’s younger son, John Luxmoore (1614-1680), whilst the branch of his contemporary, John Nicholl, was descended from William’s elder son, Thomas (1610-1636).

The entwining of the Luxmoore and Yeo families

Our John’s paternal grandfather James Luxmoore – let’s call him ‘Grandpa Luxmoore’ – was born in 1776 at Germansweek. Nine years earlier, one John Andrew Yeo – ‘Grandpa Yeo’ – had been born in Inwardleigh. If the two grandpas did not know each other at the time they were each married, they certainly did by the time their children had grown up: Grandpa Luxmoore’s two daughters (our John’s aunts), Alice and Elizabeth, married two of Grandpa Yeo’s sons: John and Isaac. Around the time of his marriage to Elizabeth Luxmoore, Isaac was tenant of the East Wortha Farm in Germansweek that was owned by Thomas Bridgman Luxmoore, brother of Bishop Luxmoore of St. Asaph.

March 30th 1851

On the day of the 1851 census Grandpa Yeo’s other son, John Yeo, and his wife Alice, were living in their middle age with their six children at Orchard Farm in Lewtrenchard. They had the help of six farm labourers, two servants, and those of their children who were old enough to lend a hand. John Yeo had also welcomed into his home on a permanent basis Grandpa

and Grandma Luxmoore, who by this time were both invalids. Also at the Yeo's farm were Alice's brother 43 year-old Charles Luxmoore (our John's uncle) and two other Luxmoores: Alice's 8 year-old orphaned nephew Samuel Rison Luxmoore; and her 5 year-old niece Agness Luxmoore who was visiting from Plymouth. Another visitor that day was Elizabeth Davy, a family friend from Jacobstowe.

With 22 inhabitants – 8 Yeos, 4 Luxmoores, 8 servants and labourers, and two visitors – this would be a very full farmhouse.

On that same day, our John's mother was living comfortably in her middle age in a cottage on Bridge Street in Hatherleigh, next door to her retired father and her elder sister, Elizabeth. Our John had left the family home two years earlier. The objective and dispassionate listings in the census returns provide no clue that, within weeks of the information being collected, the Yeo – Luxmoore farmhouse in Lewtrenchard was to become the epicentre of a dramatic and very public spectacle when John Yeo was indicted for the unlawful assault of our John's uncle, Charles Luxmoore.

The case, tried at Exeter Crown Court on July 29th 1851, 'excited great interest, and occupied the Court the greater part of the day' for 'few such cases have ever been brought before the public.' Indeed, the story competed successfully for column inches in both the local and national press, against stories of the 75% eclipse of the sun in England that had occurred the previous day, and the ongoing attractions of the Great Exhibition and Sir Joseph Paxton's Crystal Palace.

The trial of John Yeo

In March 1851 our John's Uncle Charles, his Aunt Alice, and their bed-ridden parents (John's grandparents) were all living with John Yeo, Alice's husband, in Orchard Farm in Lewtrenchard, when John Yeo was indicted for 'unlawfully assaulting Charles Luxmoore, knowing him to be a destitute person of unsound mind'. Charles was summarily removed from the farmhouse by order of a magistrate, and admitted to the County Lunatic Asylum. Uncle Charles had been of 'weak intellect' since childhood. His mental capacity had deteriorated significantly by the time he was 25 and there were many alleged instances of violent behaviour, even including attempts to kill his mother.

Through little fault of their own, the mentally ill in the first half of the 19th century had become the most vulnerable class of British society: to their families, they could bring insurmountable financial hardship, and socially they were hidden away from public view because of the stigma of mental

illness. They were likely to end up in workhouses or prisons, often chained to the wall and kept in appallingly squalid conditions.

Charles' parents – our John's Grandpa and Grandma Luxmoore – were unable to afford private care and presumably did not wish to send Charles 'away'. But concerned about the danger he posed to others, John Yeo as head of the household had felt it necessary to confine him in a locked 'cell' for the four years they had all lived together at Orchard Farm. Charles was frequently chained by the leg, as had been the case for many years previously when he had been living with his parents in their prior family home.

Extensive testimony was given about the alleged conditions in which Charles had been kept, and the care which had (or had not) been provided to him. The conditions in which he lived certainly were very bad but, with no financial help available, and servants too afraid to enter the 'cell' to feed and care for him properly, and with him destroying new clothing and bedding to the extent that his parents, already with only a small income, were 'impoverished from the quantity of linen he destroyed', the situation was desperate. In John Yeo's defence the local clergyman, Revd. Charles Carpenter, testified 'I do not think he could have been kept in any other mode in his own house, from the general terror there was of him in the neighbourhood ... I never saw a more affectionate mother in my life, and I may say the same of all the family, particularly as regards [Charles]. The defendant is a humane, kind man.'

The judge and jury struggled with the moral dilemma and legal issues of the case. On the one hand, John Yeo did not wish to harm Charles but, on the other, keeping a human being in this state was illegal – notwithstanding the fact that his conditions may have been little different in a prison or workhouse.

A verdict of Guilty was returned, but the jury 'very strongly recommended the defendant to mercy.' In sentencing, the judge declared: 'This has been to me really a difficulty ... I am glad that they have so expressed their earnest desire that, now the verdict is pronounced and the law made clear, your case should be dealt with mercifully by the court. ... I don't mean to subject you, a respectable man, to the punishment of hard labour. The sentence therefore is, that you be imprisoned in the common gaol for six months.'

Grandpa Luxmoore had prepared a new will five days before the date of his son-in-law's trial. It was written with this event at the forefront of his mind, as it provided that: 'all the expenses of the trial at Exeter concerning my son

Charles Luxmoore shall be paid out of my property to John Yeo, my son-in-law, for ignorantly breaking the law.’ The proceeds from the sale of his property would have been very modest, and his other bequests were small token gestures to his survivors.

Grandpa Luxmoore died a few weeks later as the newspapers carried the story of the trial across the country. On his deathbed, and with no little compassion, he had done the only thing he could to support his convicted son-in-law who had taken him and his wife into his home, as well as his mentally-ill son for whom there had been no possibility of affordable independent care.

Grandpa Luxmoore’s modest properties were purchased before the year was out by one of the ‘other’ Luxmoores who was one of the greatest landowners of Devon, Revd. Charles Thomas Coryndon Luxmoore, whose father was a cousin of Bishop Luxmoore of St. Asaph.

17 years after the trial – in the same year Revd. John Luxmoore embarked on the great restoration of his church in Ashford-in-the-Water – Mary Rosalie Carpenter, the eldest daughter of the Revd. Charles Carpenter who testified in John Yeo’s defence, married Revd. Charles Thomas Coryndon Luxmoore’s son, another Charles Luxmoore. As inheritor of his father’s great estates, this Charles would have found no difficulty in paying for the very best care available, should he have ever needed it.

The start of a life in the church

Rather than following in the footsteps of many generations of both his mother’s and father’s ancestors by continuing the tradition of farming or an allied trade, our John was to inherit two farms that enabled him to choose a different path.

The lands were a 185-acre farm which John’s father Samuel had earlier inherited from his maternal grandfather; and a 273-acre farm which John had inherited directly from his great granduncle (yet another Charles Luxmoore). Each of average size for the time, they would together have potentially generated a decent income of up to around £40,000 a year in today’s money after statutory taxes assuming, of course, that they were continuously occupied and efficiently managed by his tenants. We know, however, that this was not the case. Moreover, there were many expenses to be paid including fees for local professional representatives that he engaged after he had moved away from Devon. As a 22 year-old ‘gent’ our John started his training for an ecclesiastical career by enrolling in a private college in the vicarage of St. John the Baptist at Hatherleigh where the incumbent and

teacher was the Revd. Samuel Feild, an evangelical Anglican.

He would not know this until later, but his timing was fortuitous: had he continued to follow in the farming tradition of his forbears he would have been thrust, twenty years later and at the peak of his working life, into the hardship and misery of a great depression of British agriculture. He did not escape the effects entirely, however: by 1895 wheat prices were at their lowest levels in 150 years which, one way or another, would certainly have dented or even eliminated the income from his farming tenants. He also did not escape the effects of an event that occurred in the same year that he entered Revd. Feild's college that was to horrify the established Anglican church, and give greater urgency to reforms that would have a direct influence on his future restoration of Ashford Parish Church.

The trauma of the 1851 Religious Census

On Sunday March 30th in the year our John commenced his studies with Revd. Feild at Hatherleigh and his Uncle Charles was admitted to the Devon County Asylum, every person attending a place of worship in England and Wales was counted. This Religious Census determined that fewer than 61% of the population were attending church services. Although in John's county of Devon the number was higher at 71%, the Anglican church was stunned to discover that 30% of the people there were attending nonconformist (dissenting) chapels.

The number of Wesleyan Methodist, Baptist and Congregational chapels alone had increased by more than 600% during the first half of the 19th century and the Victorian established church had become a target for some hostility: the middle- and working classes saw no reason to support a body that seemed to provide them with little in return. These alarming figures cemented the uncomfortable truth that the Anglican church could no longer claim to be the church of the great majority of people, and its entitlement to privileged treatment could therefore be legitimately questioned.

The avarice of wealthy prominent clergymen did not help the Anglican cause: we have already heard of the infamous family of Bishop Luxmoore of St. Asaph. In our John's own diocese of Exeter, Bishop Henry Phillpotts enjoyed a stipend which today would be worth £300,000 a year, plus an additional £400,000 a year from a lifetime canonry at Durham. The turmoil was felt in the Anglican church of Devon not least because of the growing appeal of the Plymouth Brethren. One of the Brethren's more notable figures, James George Deck, had been educated by Revd. Feild some 22 years before John Luxmoore's arrival there. Although James had found his time at Hatherleigh Vicarage to his liking initially (to the extent that he

married Revd. Feild's daughter Alicia!) he later found himself in conflict with Revd. Feild over the doctrine of baptism. Moreover, he became 'a victim of the vindictiveness' of Bishop Phillpotts, 'who made the lives of evangelicals and low churchmen in the diocese extremely uncomfortable.' James therefore abandoned thoughts of an Anglican ordination, concentrating instead in lay evangelism with the Brethren.

There was plenty of discord within the Anglican church itself. At the time our John was studying with Revd. Samuel Feild, the latter's cousin, Rt. Revd. Edward Feild, was Bishop of Newfoundland. There was an ocean separating the Bishop, a very conservative high Anglican, and the evangelical Revd. Samuel Feild – both metaphorically (with respect to their churchmanship) as well as literally. And Bishop Feild was clearly of the same mind as Bishop Phillpott with respect to dissenters: it was said in Edward Feild's obituary that 'the one flaw in his character was the want of Christian charity which he displayed towards the ministers of other denominations.'

The shock of the Religious Census gave greater urgency to reforms designed to reinstate the primacy of the Anglican church over nonconformism; we will see in our 150th anniversary celebrations how such reforms directly affected the great 1870 restoration of Ashford Church. And we will also see how the relationships between Anglicans and nonconformists could become strained even in the small village of Ashford.

College

Our John had neither the social standing, nor the influential ecclesiastical connections, nor the wealth, that were enjoyed by the 'other' Luxmoores. Should we need any further evidence of this, after a few years of study with Revd. Feild he was admitted in 1855 to St. Bees Theological College on the Cumbrian coast, a few miles south of Whitehaven. St. Bees was established specifically to train clergy for whom the cost of a traditional university degree course would have been prohibitive. One commentator stated in 1872, 'A St. Bees man has little chance of becoming Archbishop of Canterbury, but for more than half a century the quaint Cumberland College has turned out a very useful supply of hard-working clergy for the North of England and the Colonies'. Some 2,600 clergy are believed to have trained at the college during the course of its 79-year history.

First Curacy

John was ordained in 1857. His first clerical appointment at the age of 28 was as curate of St. John the Baptist, Smalley, Derbyshire. He will have made some useful connections to clergy in other local Derbyshire parishes,

Smalley being only 30 miles southeast of what was to become his long-term home, Ashford-in-the-Water. He was to remain at Smalley for a little over two years, leaving in the autumn of 1859. On the occasion of his departure he was 'very much affected' by a rather gushing address given in his honour, after which he was presented with a pocket-sized communion service 'of very beautiful design and workmanship.'

His next appointment was a brief curacy at St. Mary the Virgin in Ross-on-Wye. Here he was to fulfill an important non-clerical assignment before taking up his position in Ashford: to meet and marry the woman who would support him throughout his new life as a rural priest.

Rosalie

Although neither she nor her father could be called wealthy (they never managed to find themselves in the lines of inheritance) Rosalie Stonhouse-Vigor was surrounded by wealthy relatives, and by numerous family members who were priests.

Seven years younger than our John, she was born in Clifton, near Bristol, and christened there in 1836. Her great-grandfather was a baronet, and her father was cousin to two successors to the baronetcy. No fewer than three of her uncles were clergymen, as was her father, Revd. Arthur Stonhouse-Vigor. Her aunt, Clara Rosalie, was the wife of Revd. Gilbert Wall Heathcote, Archdeacon of Winchester, who was himself the grandson of another baronet.

John Reddaway Luxmoore met Rosalie at the time her father was Vicar of Walford in Herefordshire – just two miles distant from his church at Ross-on-Wye. And so it came to pass that Rosalie and John were married in her father's church on 17th January 1861.

In a pleasing symmetry, John and Rosalie were married in Walford – the village named after 'Wales Ford' where the old turnpike road to Wales crossed the River Wye that runs through Herefordshire; and were to reside for most of their married life thereafter in Ashford – the village named after the 'Ford of the Ash', their vicarage lying just a few hundred yards uphill from the 'other River Wye' that runs through Derbyshire.

Honeymoon

In the April following their marriage, with some time to spare before our John was to take up his new appointment at Ashford, Rosalie had an opportunity to show her new husband the area around Bristol where both she and her mother Sophia were born.

They stayed in an elegant terraced Georgian house in Clifton Village, the home of Rosalie's aunt Isabella and uncle Charles Bennett. Charles had established an import and export business in St. John's, Newfoundland and was eventually to become Premier of the province and one of its wealthiest citizens. He was a great friend and follower of Edward Feild, the Bishop of Newfoundland, cousin of our John's former teacher in Hatherleigh. Charles happened to be in England at the time of the newly-weds' visit. He would have talked to them about crossing the Atlantic on Isambard Kingdom Brunel's great steam ships that had made possible his highly successful business, and Rosalie and John would likely have passed through Brunel's railway station at Temple Meads. They would also have taken the 15 minute stroll from their lodgings to the site of one of Brunel's – and, indeed, the Victorian era's – most daring civil engineering projects: the Clifton Suspension Bridge. But here they would have witnessed a very sorry scene. For many political, financial and engineering reasons the construction had been all but abandoned before the suspended crossing itself had been constructed; Brunel had died 2½ years earlier, and the towers each side of the Avon Gorge were derided as 'monuments of failure'. But in the year of their visit a new Act of Parliament would be passed to enable the resurrection of the project by Brunel's engineering colleagues, and this 'wonder of the age' was at last opened to great acclaim in 1864.

The Living of Holy Trinity Ashford

John commenced his appointment at Holy Trinity church on Whit Sunday 1861. Until well into the 20th century, there were vast and anomalous differences in clergy income, depending on the historic endowments of each parish. At £102 a year, the 'living' (salary) at Ashford was modest, but was topped up with around £100 a year from income deriving from the Queen Anne's Bounty – a 1714 Act of Parliament that provided money 'for the augmentation of the maintenance of the poor clergy' – and from a 'private benefaction' given by a Mrs. S. Archer. Revd. Luxmoore's total annual income could therefore have been up to around £13,000 in today's money. He may not have felt this to be especially generous when compared to that of the 'other' Luxmoore clergy he had come to know, or to Bishop Phillpotts' stipends equivalent to a salary today of around £650,000 a year. Nevertheless, compared to the average wages of the time, his living conferred upon him a prestige economic status as one of the top earners in the village.

Once agricultural prosperity had returned at the beginning of the 20th century, he would also have received income from his properties in Devon, and when he became vicar of Ashford with Sheldon in 1872, he would have received at least a portion of the living that had previously accrued to the

assistant curate of Sheldon. He could also rely on additional income from wedding and funeral fees from both parishes.

The early years in Ashford and Sheldon

Revd. Luxmoore arrived in the middle of a Victorian building boom and, for him, three local projects were to hold special significance: the construction of St. Michael and All Angels in Sheldon, which was consecrated in 1864; his own restoration of Holy Trinity Ashford between 1868 and 1870 (the 150th anniversary of which we celebrate in June 2020); and a new village school in Sheldon that opened its doors in 1878.

He did not become the vicar of Sheldon until eight years after St. Michael and All Angels had been built, and was therefore probably not heavily involved with its construction. But as soon as his renovations at Ashford Church were complete, he became deeply absorbed in the planning of the new school, acting as the chief liaison between the Education Department, the Local Authority and – Sheldon being a ‘Chatsworth Village’ – the Duke of Devonshire.

The main building contractor for both the new school and the new church in Sheldon was the master carpenter Anthony Gyte. He was the father of Elizabeth Gyte; she was 14 years old at the time Sheldon church was completed, and by the time the school was opened she was working as a domestic servant for Revd. and Mrs. Luxmoore. Maria Brassington was the new school’s first mistress. She would subsequently marry Elizabeth Gyte’s brother, Anthony Gyte (Jr.), and become author of the Diaries of Maria Gyte that were edited by one of Revd. Luxmoore’s successors, the Venerable Gerald Phizackerley, who was Priest-in-Charge of Ashford with Sheldon from 1978 to 1991.

In addition to his ecclesiastical duties (and construction and renovation projects!) Revd. Luxmoore would also be called upon as vicar to support (with his wife whenever possible) all manner of local community events. One such an occasion for which we have a lasting legacy was the marriage on March 10th 1863 of the Prince of Wales, the eldest son of Queen Victoria and the future King Edward VII, to Princess Alexandra of Denmark. There were celebrations throughout the land: at Ashford, Lady George Cavendish, sister-in-law of the 7th Duke of Devonshire, planted two lime trees in the Hall Orchard which have grown into very large and splendid specimens.

Revd. Luxmoore and the Nadaulds and Brushfields

The origin of the rare Brushfield surname is the tiny hilltop hamlet of Brushfield that overlooks Monsal Dale, opposite the ancient hill fort, Fin

Cop. The Nadauld family name arrived in Ashford with the Huguenot protestant refugee and sculptor, Henri Nadauld (1653-1723), who, aged 32, had fled persecution by the French Catholic government. He found employment at Chatsworth, one of his projects being the stone carvings on the house of the Cascade waterworks. He was by that time 'already at the top of the tree, and [his] legacy at Chatsworth is magnificent'. The two families became linked in 1795 when George Brushfield (1772-1825) married Ann Nadauld (1774-1855), Henri's greatgranddaughter.

Richard Nadauld Brushfield, George and Ann's eldest son, was a bachelor living with his parents until the age of 63 when he married 36-year old Elizabeth Hawley, previously a servant in the family household. He would have been dismayed to know that, three years after his death in 1871, a very public and emotionally charged dispute erupted between Revd. Luxmoore and the villagers of Ashford regarding a stipulation in his will.

Richard Nadauld Brushfield's younger brother, Thomas Brushfield, was also no stranger to controversy. He left Ashford for London at the age of 17 and, in his youthful naïveté, his passion to engage with different world views got him into difficulties when he was brought before the court charged with conspiracy to blasphemy.

Dissenting perspectives

By the time of Revd. Luxmoore's incumbency there was a Wesleyan Methodist Chapel and a Unitarian (previously Presbyterian) Chapel in Ashford, and a Primitive Methodist Chapel in Sheldon. But, according to the 1851 Religious Census, the Baptist Chapel north of Ashford on the road to Monsal Head had closed some 14 years before his arrival.

The 1851 religious census showed that about 17 per cent of Derbyshire's population attended Anglican services, and 25 per cent attended various Nonconformist places of worship. In Ashford, the percentage of residents attending the parish church on the day of the census was higher than the county average, with 192 people (25 per cent) attending the morning service and 217 (28 per cent) attending the evening service. 11 per cent of the villagers attended either the Unitarian Chapel (20) or the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel (64). This lower-than-average number of Dissenters in Ashford does not mean that they did not make their views heard!

Richard Nadauld Brushfield (1796-1871)

A grocer and a farmer, Richard Nadauld Brushfield provided in his will a generous bequest for the support of the 'most needy and deserving' inhabitants of Ashford. But after his death there was a heated public

controversy when Revd. Luxmoore declined to implement Richard's wish that a memorial tablet be placed in the church detailing his bequest. *A Lover of Truth* wrote in 1874 to a local newspaper,

'This curate, or vicar, or whatever he calls himself, cannot have much of his master's spirit in him to refuse so reasonable a request ... it strikes me forcibly that some petty, spiteful feeling, which should never have a place in the breast of a minister of Christ, has caused the unholy, unchristian and unjust deed to be done'.

In a letter written the same year in dialect from Tommy of Sheldon to Sammy of Ashford, Tommy seems to be attempting to pour oil on troubled waters as he writes diplomatically,

'A deed loik ar owd friend Brushfild's conna be smuthert ... ber moind-lad we munna be hard on parsons – they're only flesh and blood loik ourselves ... en however weak they are or stupid they seemen, su as they downe theor best – accordin to their powers – pay them always proper respect'.

The controversy was still resonating a decade later when, in an announcement of the funeral of Benjamin Bretnor – 'a strong supporter of Dissent' in Ashford – it was said that,

'on more than one occasion [Benjamin Bretnor] found himself in direct opposition to the clergyman of the village, especially in the opposition of the latter to the erection of a monument in the church in memoriam of Mr. Brushfield, who was a large donor to the local charities, &c.'

Could Revd. Luxmoore's refusal to install the memorial be due to its explicit requirement, stated in large typeface, that the income from his bequest should be distributed to the villagers 'without reference to their religious sentiments and opinions'?

Thomas Brushfield (1798-1875)

Richard Nadauld Brushfield's younger brother, Thomas Brushfield, was also born in Ashford. Thomas, and his son Thomas Nadauld Brushfield, were both antiquarians in their spare time, and their voluminous writings embrace many subjects of local interest. Thomas Brushfield left Ashford as a teenager for London's East End. A century earlier, tens of thousands of Huguenot refugees had introduced new fashions and highly advanced silk weaving and patterning skills to the Spitalfields district. Thomas found work with a tradesman in the oils and pigments business in Covent Garden, and six years later he had established his own business on Spitalfields' Union Street.

By this time the silk industry was in severe decline and the East End had become synonymous with urban deprivation. Thomas would have witnessed waves of immigrants from many nations constantly flowing into the area through the docks, bringing with them different languages, ideas, religions, and politics. Living as a young man in this melting pot, he found a fertile hotbed within which to exercise his innate passion for discovering the ‘truth’ – including discussing and debating religious belief systems and dogmas publicly with ‘The Devil’s Chaplain’, Revd. Robert Taylor. An Anglican priest who had lost his faith, Taylor now espoused extreme religious views and, following one particular public meeting, Taylor, Thomas and others were brought before the court charged with blasphemy and conspiracy to blasphemy. Taylor (alone) was found guilty and imprisoned. After his perhaps somewhat gullible youth, Thomas became comfortable working within the ‘establishment’, becoming a Churchwarden of Christ Church, Spitalfields at the age of 37; a director of the Commercial Gas Company at 44; a magistrate of Tower Hamlets at 61; a Director of the East London Bank at 65; and a Trustee of the London Dispensary – a charitable organisation that provided health services for the residents of East London. He also worked for nine years as Chairman of the Whitechapel Board of Guardians which managed that Union’s workhouses. He had an uncompromising view regarding the ‘undeserving’ poor, although (uniquely) he reached his views not by hearsay or blind dogma, but by dint of a great deal of first hand personal research. He documented numerous instances of what we would now call ‘benefit fraud’ and, partly as a result of his meticulous administration, Whitechapel became known as a ‘model Union’.

When he was 72 years old the Metropolitan Board of Works, together with the owners and occupiers of property in Union Street and Union Street East in Spitalfields, unanimously passed an order to rename those streets ‘Brushfield Street’ in his honour. Some 150 years later, today’s Spitalfields Society still regards his legacy very positively: ‘Thomas Brushfield ... was responsible for a long period of excellent local governance and many local works in the 19th century which raised the area’s profile and improved the lives of its poorest inhabitants.’

Thomas Brushfield died in 1875 aged 77, one year following the controversy regarding his brother’s memorial tablet. In his will, he makes a generous bequest to the Ashford Men’s Friendly Society – but only on the condition that the Society would ensure that ‘the tablet prepared under the direction contained in my late brother Richard’s will has been permitted to be permanently affixed in the Parish Church of Ashford in the Water.’ As a final controversial act, Thomas requested in a codicil to his will that the Order for the Burial of the Dead in the Book of Common Prayer not be used

at his burial, just six months before Parliament voted to enshrine this option in law.

Revd. Luxmoore did not officiate at Thomas' funeral, but his brother's memorial tablet now sits prominently on the west wall of the vestry. An obituary written by a friend comments that, 'Mr. Brushfield ever, to the latest moment of his long, useful, and successful life, entertained a love, an undying and fervent love, for his native village and its surroundings.'

Thomas Nadauld Brushfield (1828-1910)

The son of Thomas Brushfield and nephew of Richard Nadauld Brushfield, Thomas Nadauld Brushfield was a polymath. Like his father, he was a renowned antiquarian. Indeed, Revd. Luxmoore invited him in 1899 to present a history of Ashford church, in the church itself, to the British Archaeological Association. He also became a noted authority on the life of Sir Walter Raleigh. But his career was as a distinguished medical doctor devoted to the study and treatment of mental diseases. He was the Medical Superintendent at Chester County Asylum and, subsequently, at Brookwood Asylum, Surrey, and he was at the vanguard of enormous advancements in the treatment, care and comfort of the mentally ill.

Dr. T. N. Brushfield and Revd. Luxmoore were born less than a year apart; they shared deep personal connections with both rural Derbyshire and rural Devon (Dr. Brushfield retired to Devon where he became a founder of the Devon and Cornwall Record Society); their lives spanned the entire 63-year reign of Queen Victoria; and they both had a deep interest in ecclesiastical architecture and history. And they had both been intimately involved with mental illness, albeit from dramatically contrasting perspectives. Revd. Luxmoore's Uncle Charles died in the Devon County Asylum on April 13th 1880 at the age of 72, two years before Dr. Brushfield was to retire to Budleigh Salterton, just 15 miles distant. I wonder, therefore, whether Revd. Luxmoore felt able to discuss with Dr. Brushfield the tragedy of his Uncle's life?

The Luxmoore descendants

Rosalie bore six children in Ashford vicarage in the space of nine years. All three of their daughters Mary Luxmoore (1862-1952), Edith Rosalie Luxmoore (1865-1942) and Margaret Sophia Patience Luxmoore (1869-1927), remained unmarried.

Their eldest son, John Stonhouse Luxmoore (1863-1940) was ordained in 1900 and was licensed to St. Peter's Rock Ferry on the Wirral. He was then Curate of Tarvin, Cheshire for 11 years before being appointed Vicar of

Edale in 1916, resigning in 1924 'owing to considerations of health', after which he became Diocesan Chaplain to the Bishop of Sheffield.

Arthur Samuel Luxmoore was born in March 1870 and christened on June 17th 1870 at Holy Trinity Ashford by the Bishop of Lichfield, who that same day formally re-opened the church for public worship following Revd. Luxmoore's extensive renovations. Tragically, he died very soon afterwards aged just 4 months and 18 days, and Revd. Edward Balston of Bakewell Parish Church officiated at his funeral on August 13th 1870.

Their youngest son, William Cyril Luxmoore (1871-1967) was ordained in 1899 and became an assistant clergyman at several parishes in the Midlands. He was appointed Vicar of St. James Boroughbridge, Yorkshire in 1923, and in 1938 became Private Chaplain to the Marquess of Zetland at Aske Hall, Yorkshire. At the age of 50 he married 29 year-old Constance Evelyn Shoemith in Harrogate. Their elder son, Christopher Charles Luxmoore (1926-2014), was ordained priest in 1953, and served (among other places) at Headingley, near Leeds; as Bishop of Bermuda; and, in retirement, as Assistant Bishop in Chichester. Their younger son, Robin Stonhouse Luxmoore (b. 1928), emigrated in 1949 to live in Canada and Mexico.

Jubilee and Retirement

In 1911 Revd. Luxmoore celebrated two major anniversaries: fifty years as priest of Holy Trinity, Ashford-in-the-Water; and the golden anniversary of his marriage to Rosalie.

The former celebration was reported in great detail in the June 3rd edition of the *Derbyshire Times* where it was said that 'there is not the slightest doubt he has endeared himself to everyone in the parish, of whatever creed.' If this sentiment seems somewhat over-embellished given the controversies of the memorial of Richard Nadauld Brushfield, the article does further justify the assertion:

'No more striking illustration of this can be obtained than from the fact that Churchpeople and Nonconformists were present at [a] meeting held on March 28th, all denominations being agreed that the village should be asked to subscribe towards a token of esteem for one who had worked so long amongst them, and who had always been backed up in his good work by Mrs. Luxmoore, who, like her husband, is highly respected by all.'

The gift was 'a beautifully designed album 12 inches by 10 inches, and bound in full levant morocco' that contained the names of the approximately 250 subscribers and 'a purse containing £360 for himself and Mrs. Luxmoore'.

This sum would be worth around £36,000 today – a truly remarkable donation that attests to the high regard in which the village community held Revd. John Reddaway Luxmoore, their longest-serving vicar, and his wife Rosalie.

Retirement and Death

On September 29th 1912 Revd. Luxmoore preached his farewell sermon at Ashford, and visited for the last time the school that he had established in Sheldon. He retired to live in Buxton, with a church pension of £50 per annum.

He died in Buxton on May 11th 1917 aged 88, three years after the start of the First World War. Maria Gyte wrote in her diary four days later of his funeral,

‘There were many present, eight clergymen, The Bishop of Derby and many local people. Anthony [Gyte] and Thos Wm Brockley joined and led the procession with Ashford Church Wardens. The Ashford choir walked and the hymn ‘Abide with me’ was sung.’

Armistice Day 1918 came 18 months after Revd. Luxmoore’s death, by which time 24 young sons from the villages of Ashford and Sheldon where he had served as vicar, including three nephews of his one-time domestic servant Elizabeth Naylor (née Gyte), had been killed.

Rosalie died four years later aged 84, within a day of their 60th wedding anniversary. A cross standing outside the vestry door memorialises both husband and wife.

Ian Pykett. 2020

A complete and comprehensively-referenced version, with an detailed description of Revd. Luxmoore’s restoration of Ashford Church and some accounts of families and events from that time, is being published in about July 2020. For further details, please contact Ian Pykett at 07985 042 392 or i.pykett@btinternet.com



CHURCHES OF DERBYSHIRE

60. Clowne St John the Baptist

The earliest spelling of the name Clowne is probably Clun, which is thought to be a Celtic word meaning 'Spring', relating to the abundance of life giving natural springs located in and around the town. It has also been known as Clune, which is how it appears in the Domesday Survey.



An ancient settlement, it was given to Burton Abbey two generations before the Norman Conquest. The 11th century abbots, not above wheeling and dealing, probably exchanged Clowne for a manor closer to Burton, because by 1086 it was split into two separate small manors.

In 1829 Glover reported that the parish was partly situated in Bolsover and partly in Barlborough. He further describes it as 'a pleasant village' whose 616 inhabitants, in the 1821 census, were mainly employed in agriculture with the exception of a few employed in a mill for the manufacture of candlewick, sacking and sailcloth. Population grew by less than 400 in the half century after the 1821, then more than doubled in the next 20 years and doubled again in the following decade, so that in 1901 it had almost 4000 inhabitants, a population explosion caused mainly by the arrival of railways and collieries.

The church was built during the 12th century, although the exact date is unknown and, along with a medieval cross, is Clowne's oldest building by several centuries although it seems to be in the wrong place, nearly a mile south of the village itself. It stands close to what was an ancient ridgeway, crossing close by a Roman road running towards Mansfield. It is believed that the church was built mainly to serve travellers on the ridgeway, probably about 1130, for this church is essentially Norman, with a fine south doorway

and chancel arch of the period. It's original dedication was All Saints, although it was soon changed to John the Baptist. The first rector was John Leyaster, who was recorded in 1299 and throughout the church's history there has been a total of 50 rectors, the current incumbent being the first woman to hold office here.

The church is built in local limestone, but its embattled tower is Perpendicular in style and dates back to the 15th century, with the bells added at various times since 1591, the last being installed in 1812. The porch is Victorian, the door 16th century and the modern lychgate is conical in wrought iron.

During 1955 new choir stalls, sanctuary and organ were installed while the Norman chancel was rebuilt and enlarged by adding two side chapels. One is a miners' chapel, dedicated to those who lost their lives in the coal mines and which includes some from Clowne who were among the 80 killed in the Creswell Colliery disaster in 1950. A fine modern window features a pit headgear and other facets of mining.

The second chapel is for children and contains a crib. Nearby is a fine modern font of wrought iron with a brass bowl. This is in regular use, though sometimes the Norman font is requested by parents who were themselves baptised in it.

The chancel arch has what looks like a series of scratches on it, but has been translated as "Clune", an inscription probably made by a mason working offsite more than 900 years ago, well before the first named rector took up his duties in 1299.

The church also features some lovely stained glass windows and there are two painting by Jean Baptiste Butatte, namely 'The Ten Commandments' and 'The Ascension'.

Original registers date from 1558 and can be consulted at the Derbyshire Record Office, Matlock. Certain ones are on Ancestry, but are rather difficult to read so that consulting the original might be better. Your Society has several books and pamphlets on the church which you are welcome to have a look at.

What's New on the Derbyshire Family History Society Facebook Page?

Nick Higton

The Society's Facebook Page continues to increase in popularity, and currently has over 500 followers. It is available to members and non-members and, if you "Like" the Page, you will receive each new post as an email link.

The Page is regularly updated, usually weekly, and includes posts on a wide range of family history topics, both local to Derbyshire, and more widely. It also includes occasional posts from folk wanting help with their research, including recently with the Derby Silk Mills.

You can scroll back through all the previous posts, or use the search facility, to access any of the items on the Page which include, since October 2019:

- 17 Jul. Free online genealogy course from FutureLearn
- 16 Jul. Request for help with a study into recruitment in the First World War
- 13 Jul. Request for help with ANNABLE family research
- 06 Jul. A small App to make adding text to family history programs simpler
- 28 Jun. "What do you plan to do during isolation?"
- 14 Jun. A simple sound can bring back memories
- 01 Jun. Saving you research for posterity
- 27 May. Derbyshire Record Office Online Resources
- 18 May. Inquests
- 12 May. 1851 Census article in the Derby Mercury
- 04 May. Free Access to Ancestry for VE Day
- 04 May. DFHS Cemetery Records
- 28 Apr. Derbyshire Church Records
- 22 Apr. Beginners Latin & Palaeography Courses
- 19 Apr. Be suspicious of supposed facts, particularly of those in newspapers

13 Apr. Tim Brooke-Taylor's death (native of Buxton)
 07 Apr. Researching ancestors in the British Empire and the USA.
 24 Mar. My Heritage Colorizing Photos free offer
 14 Mar. Old histories of Derbyshire free online
 01 Mar. Bakewell and District Historical Society
 23 Feb. Tithes
 11 Feb. Walking Britain's Lost Railways: Matlock – Buxton
 05 Feb. "From medieval priory to Tudor mansion - a tour of Calke Abbey".
 29 Jan. Derby Old or 'General Cemetery' opened in March 1843
 21 Jan. Dating old family photos
 14 Jan. The Derbyshire Archaeological Society
 27 Dec. Ancestry half price offer
 24 Dec. "In the Workhouse: Christmas Day" – Terry Wogan
 14 Dec. Talk to your elderly relatives
 30 Nov. Wirksworth at Christmas
 23 Nov. British Newspaper Archive
 12 Nov. American Ancestors free week
 11 Nov. The Victorians and The Christmas Season
 09 Nov. Remembrance Day
 07 Nov. Free weekends on Ancestry & Find My Past
 01 Nov. The bubonic plague in Eyam.
 28 Oct. FurureLearn course on reading old handwriting
 24 Oct. Ripley Heritage Day

TWO JAPANESE HEADSTONES

During lockdown, we have continued to do research from home, using just the Internet. Most of our research nowadays usually involves a brick wall and the request is for help in breaking it down. This request was more unusual than normal.

A gentleman called Dan, originally from Yorkshire and now living in the Kyoto area of Japan, had been walking in the mountains there and come across a deserted Christian cemetery. There were headstones carved mostly in Japanese but in a corner there were two with English inscriptions. One was for an Elizabeth Sowter of Derbyshire with a date of 14 March 1913 and the other for an Edith Sowter died 13 Nov 1921. Dan thought they might be sisters and was intrigued as to why they were buried there. He didn't know how to go about finding out about them and so he emailed us.

Was there any chance of finding them just from two names and two dates? I like a challenge.

My first thought was that they would be in the 1911 census and looked for Edith Sowter, thinking that this name was more unusual and perhaps easier to find. After finding several Ediths and eliminating them, I began to think that I wasn't going to find them.

I remembered the GRO Overseas Death register but did it cover deaths in Japan? I looked and found deaths registered through the British Consulate in Kobe for an Elizabeth Sowter age 69 between 1911-1915 and an Emily E Sowter age 41 between 1921-1925. I felt sure that these had to be them and I now had approximate birth dates to work with.

As Elizabeth was specifically the one from Derbyshire, I looked for her and found one in Duffield. Her birth was registered in the Belper RD in 1839 with mother's maiden name Hukin. She was baptised in Duffield in 1839, the daughter of George and Hannah. George was a baker. Elizabeth had two siblings, Ann 1831 and George 1833 both baptised in Duffield.

They appear in the 1841 census in Duffield with George as a baker. By 1851 George and Hannah have only Elizabeth living with them. George jnr. is living in Sadler Gate in Derby and apprenticed to a druggist. I have been unable to find Ann. George snr. died in 1855 age 69 and was buried in Duffield.

By 1861 Hannah and Elizabeth have moved in to Derby and started a school

for young ladies. Also living at the address in St Helen's Street are two assistant teachers, five boarding scholars and two servants. The situation has stayed similar in 1871. They decide to enlarge the school and move to new premises in Osmaston St. with an increased number of scholars. In 1881, two of the scholars were Annie E Sowter age 13 and Emily E Sowter age 11. They were born in London and described as nieces of Hannah Sowter. Frederick Sowter, a nephew was visiting. Who were these three children? Hannah died in 1887 age 84 and I found no further evidence of Elizabeth in England after this.

In 1861, George Sowter, brother of Elizabeth is living in Cheapside, London and is an assistant chemist. He married in 1865 in Islington to Emily Sarah Drower. They had six children, George William 1866, Annie Elsie 1868, Emily Edith Jane 1869, Godfrey Dennis 1872, Frederick Guy 1874 and Lily Agnes 1876.

In 1871 the couple are living in Lewisham with three children. George died in 1881 age 48 and in the census Emily, a widow is living in Blackheath with three children and as seen above the other three children were in Derby. In 1891 Emily has four children with her. Annie and Emily Edith are absent and do not show in any census. Mother, Emily died in 1899 age 62.

Having now found Elizabeth and Emily Edith as aunt and niece not sisters I sent this information to Dan and he offered to take photographs at the cemetery for us and to look for further information in Japan.

I continued to look in to the family in England. Going back to the family in Duffield, I was able to go further back. Elizabeth's parents George and Hannah nee Hukin married in Duffield in 1830. George was a widower and he had been married to Elizabeth Tomlinson in 1828. Hannah Hukin was a witness. Elizabeth died in 1829 and buried at Duffield hence the marriage one year later.

George was baptised in 1785, son of George and Elizabeth with older siblings Mary 177, Anne 1780 and Elizabeth 1782.

George Sowter married Elizabeth Sowter in Duffield in 1776 by licence. George baptised 1749, son of George and Ann, and Elizabeth baptised in 1754, daughter of James and Lydia were first cousins.

George was baptised in 1719 and James in 1723, sons of William and Alice nee Cooper. William and Alice married in Duffield in 1712 and they had eleven children. William died in 1758 and left a will with his oldest son,

John as executor. There was no baptism for William in Duffield or Derbyshire

Having gone back as far as possible, I looked back at the family of George and Emily in London. George William 1866 emigrated to South Africa and died there in 1915.

Godfrey Dennis married Amy Lizzie Freestone in 1899. In 1901 he was a printer. They moved to South Africa before 1911. He joined the Freemasons in 1918. There were several passenger lists for Godfrey travelling between South Africa and England and America. He is alone except for one occasion when Amy travelled to England with him. He is described as a Managing Director. After his death in 1935 in Johannesburg, Amy continued to travel around the world with her on passenger lists to California, Jamaica, Australia and Indonesia. On one journey from Indonesia in 1936 she disembarked at Kobe. I like to think that she promised her husband that she would visit his sister, Emily Edith's grave. She finally settled in Monterey, California and died there in 1954 age 83. She and Godfrey had no children that I have been able to find.

A Lily Agnes Sowter married in 1903 to a Frank Mouse but nothing further has been found.

Of the six children only Frederick Guy had issue. He married in 1895 to Alice Wetherill. They had five children, Frederick Horace Victor 1896, Alice Ada Pauline 1897-1897, Alice Ada Pauline 1899-1899, William Alec Reginald Douglas 1904 and Francis Godfrey 1912. The three surviving sons all married but only the oldest Frederick had issue. He married twice and a son was born to his first wife. This son emigrated to Australia where he married and had a child and a grandson.

From all these generations from George in 1833 and all the children born, there are only two people in Australia that are linked to them.

A further instalment with information from Japan will follow in the next issue.

Ruth Barber

RESEARCH CENTRE AND LIBRARY



**BRIDGE CHAPEL
HOUSE
DERBY**

Acquisitions at 1 Jul 2020

Bakewell: Holme Hall
Baslow: Over End
Nether End
Buxton: Normanton School
Castleton: New Hall
Codnor: Thomas Farnsworth—Apprentice Indenture 1851
Thomas Farnsworth—Registration as a Pharmaceutical
Chemist in 1865
Percy Harrison Farnsworth—Apprentice Indenture 1877
Darley Abbey: Elizabeth Evans
Derby: Bill and Correspondence relating to A Smith, Builder and
Contractor of 19 Bateman Street—1875
Matlock: Allen Hill House
Stanedge: North Lees & Richard Fenton
Stanton in the Peak:
Stanton Woodhouse

Famous People: Caroline Ann Smedley [of Matlock]

LIBRARY ADDITIONS

Some months ago the Society were given the family history material collected by the late William Mayes. He was a former Civil Servant, who kept detailed and extensive family records in the years before computers became the research method of choice. We have been sorting the various books of slips, family trees and copies of documents such as wills, in order to make them accessible to members. Wills have all been entered onto the wills database on the Society website. This database goes beyond the testators to list every person mentioned in a will. The basic family data from the slip index has been entered into GEDCOM format, giving over 3,000 individuals and 601 unique surnames. The families are scattered through the north of England, with the Derbyshire names largely in the Codnor/Belper area. Many of the slips have additional personal information which would best be seen on a visit to the library. The principal families concerned are:

Agard
Banks
Bateman/Branston
Bromby/Dixon/Peck
Brown
Collins
Crawford
Cresswell
Eccles
Farnsworth
Hostead
Martindale
Mayes
Mitchell
Parkin
Oldham
Severn
Webster
Wheatcroft
Yates

We have a limited number of volunteers available at present so any enquiries concerning this material may take time to answer. At the time of writing we are not able to open the library to visitors.

KEITH HOLFORD

1935-2020

Keith was not only a member of our Society but served on the Executive as well as helping out in various ways whenever he could. A resident of Bugsworth – he never adopted the official name of Buxworth - he was a cartographic surveyor for the Ordnance Survey for 40 years before taking early retirement. In his younger days he played football and cricket and in the sixties was heavily involved in local protests over the dumping of highly toxic asbestos waste.

In later years he became a parish, rural district and later a borough councillor. He also served as a Justice of the Peace for a number of years. He and his wife, Margaret, raised thousands of pounds for the National Trust. As well as family history he was very enthusiastic about local history, writing for local publications about the area and giving talks to various groups, including our own Society. He was a keen photographer and many of his pictures were published in the local papers, he also collected postcards to do with his area. He also helped to start a Well Dressing again at Buxworth and was involved for many years.

Keith was heavily involved in running the now defunct Glossop branch of the DFHS, finding speakers, organising the meetings and organising trips to the Record Office and to the Moravian Settlement at Droylsden. He ran the DFHS stall at Northwich family history fair several times and also took a stall to Buxton, drumming up support for the Society. He was also involved in the nearby Tameside group.

For many years he painstakingly recorded the births, marriages and deaths at Chinley Register Office with a small band of volunteers, producing databases that have been invaluable. His knowledge and enthusiasm was legendary and, as editor, I was often grateful for the many articles that he sent me, often with very diverse and surprising topics, but always interesting. He was always willing to help any of our members who had queries in the north of the county, many of whom owe him a debt of gratitude.

Keith will be sadly missed by all of us at the DFHS and our condolences go to his family.

Derbyshire Family History Society

Sep Quarter 2020



The Congregational Church in Victoria Street, Derby, in the process of being demolished in 1962 to make way for a shopping centre.

The new church that was built and the shopping centre is now also being demolished and will be replaced by shops, flats etc. Another grand scheme by the council that will no doubt also disappear in the future when it doesn't make money.