

THE DONCASTER ANCESTOR

Journal of the Doncaster & District Family History Society

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Editor: Karen Walker

Editorial Team: Mr J Humberston, Mr K Crouter, Mrs C Wakefield, Mrs J Ellis

*Would you please send in any articles which are to be published
in the Autumn 2013 edition by 3 July 2013 at the latest*

Urgent Message *from the* Executive Committee

As you will know from reading previous issues of this magazine, a couple of long-standing Executive Committee (EC) members did not stand for re-election at the Annual General Meeting in February 2013. It was rather disappointing to discover that despite having almost one thousand members of this Society, no one was prepared to take on the essential role of Chairman. Our existing Secretary, Kate Raistrick, had also given notice that she would not be standing for the post of Society Secretary but as no one came forward to take on the role, Kate reluctantly agreed to continue for a few more months. We are very pleased to welcome Sandra Astbury to the Executive Committee who is helping Kate with some of the workload, but we still need a Society Secretary. I would also like to offer our sincere thanks to all those people who stepped forward at the last monthly meeting to help with some of the work.

The remaining members of the Executive Committee will try to cover the role of Chairman and Secretary between them, but this can only be a short term solution. It may mean that some services provided by the Society in the past may be reduced or withdrawn and the long term future of the Society is not secure.

Speaking from personal experience, I enjoy the work I undertake for the Society, as do my colleagues on the Executive Committee. We are a good bunch of enthusiastic volunteers who want to take the Society forward. Some of our existing volunteers have served for many years but are not able, or willing, to carry on doing jobs forever. We need people to help us. That help may only need to be occasional and not too onerous. The stark reality is that unless we get more people coming forward to help, we will have to consider whether or not the Society has a future.

If you have any free time and can help in any way, please get in touch with any of the current post-holders. We would be happy to co-opt anyone onto the Executive Committee to give them an opportunity to see if any of the roles are ones they would enjoy. Some of the work we need help with is listed on the following page, why not give it a go!

Karen Walker

What kind of Member are YOU?

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed?

Or are you just contented, your name upon a list?

Do you attend the meetings and mingle with the flock?

Or do you mostly stay at home and criticise the knock?

Do you take an active part and help the work along?

Or are you satisfied to be kind and just belong?

Do you push the cause along and make things really tick?

Or leave the work to just a few and talk about the "Clique"?

Think this over members, you know right from wrong.

Are you an active member – or do you JUST BELONG?



Help Wanted: Situations Vacant



Chairman of the Society

Minute Secretary for Executive Committee meetings

- meetings are once per month on a Thursday afternoon (1.00 - 4.00 pm) at the Palgrave Research Centre.

Society Secretary - act as focal point for DDFHS, answer emails and correspondence. Would not need to take on the full role until 2014.

Publicity Officer - develop contacts in media and issue press releases

Help on DDFHS Stall at Family History Fairs & local events - just have your name on a reserve list. You would be part of a team selling items and chatting about our Society. This is great fun & easy to do!

Monthly Meetings at the College for the Deaf - be on a reserve list to sit on the door to greet people and sell raffle tickets.

Help with Family History Day on 21st Sept 2013 - anything you can do: sell entrance tickets, sell books, give information, help or advice etc

Obituary: Dave Rollin

The Executive Committee were devastated to hear of the death of our great friend and colleague, Dave Rollin, in March of this year.



Dave became the Chairman of the Society in February 2010 and was instrumental in moving the Society forward and promoting it within the local community. Dave felt very strongly that the Society belongs to its members and that informing people about what the Society has to offer would bring benefits to both the Society and to the local community itself. Dave had a great enthusiasm for local history and worked on joint projects on behalf of the Society with a variety of organisations within the Doncaster area. Dave (along with his wife Carol) was always happy to assist in anyway that he could and was always present at Society meetings and the annual Family History Fair. He was always an asset to the Society.

Dave always brought humour, energy and diplomacy to everything he was involved with and you didn't have to speak to him for very long before it became obvious that he was a fair and compassionate man who supported a multitude of worthwhile causes. He has been an invaluable Chairman and Committee Member for the Society and has been a good friend and advisor to the Committee and Society members alike and we shall all miss him greatly. We have all lost a very good friend and our condolences go to his wife Carol, his family and friends.

DDFHS was also saddened to hear that we have lost another longstanding member of our Society. **Fred Stirland** passed away in March 2013 and we would like to pass on our condolences to his wife Gill, his family and friends.

From The Editor



Welcome to the Summer edition of the Doncaster Ancestor

These three months since our last magazine was published have brought mixed emotions for myself and the other members of the Executive Committee. We have all lost a wonderful friend in Dave Rollin but are trying to take the Society forward, albeit with a reduced number of volunteers.

On page 18 of this edition, you will find a brief review of one of the more recent family history publications on the topic of death records. The final chapter explores how our ancestors had to face very different struggles to those faced by bereaved people today. Losing a loved one is hard enough without having to consider an immediate re-marriage for the sole purpose of finding someone to look after the children or facing the workhouse because the wage-earner is gone. Whenever we look at our family history, we should always try to walk in our ancestor's shoes.

Karen Walker

NEW PUBLICATION BY DDFHS

Burghwallis Baptisms

St. Helen's Church, 1596-1651, 1661-1777, 1802-1937

The ancient parish of Burghwallis can be found about 6 miles NNW of Doncaster and 30 miles from York. There is one Anglican Church in the village dedicated to St Helen, but there is also St Helen's Chapel (Catholic) inside Burghwallis Hall which has its own set of records. This new publication in compact A5 booklet size contains almost 80 pages of Baptisms transcribed from the parish registers of **St. Helen's Church, Burghwallis**, and sorted alphabetically. Details include parent or parents, date of baptism (and birth where recorded), occupation of parent, their abode as well as any other information that appears in the records. In addition, the booklet includes a brief history of the village of Burghwallis. A real must have for anyone researching families or possible ancestors in the parish.

Price £2.20 + £1.60 p&p (add 125g weight if ordering with other items by post) Product Sales Reference Number 03501



**Society publications can be purchased by post (see inside back cover)
or through GenFair at www.genfair.com**

Please allow 21 days for delivery.

DONCASTER & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

PROGRAMME FOR 2013

26 June 2013	Our House & It's Contents If Only Stones Could Talk	Jackie Depelle
31 July 2013	Untangling Myths and Legends	Gillian Waters
28 Aug 2013	Lies, Damned Lies and Registration	Barbara Dixon
25 Sept 2013	History of the House	Pat McLaughlin
30 Oct 2013	How To Turn Your Family History Into A Book - and get it Published	Sylvia Atkinson
27 Nov 2013	Armami Nights	Joanne Brunt

No meeting in December

Meetings are held on the **last Wednesday** of each month **at the Doncaster College for the Deaf**, Leger Way, Doncaster (opposite the Racecourse)
7 pm for 7.30 pm

Occasionally, our speakers cancel at the last minute. If you are travelling to hear a particular talk, please check our website before you travel.

Forthcoming Courses (Contact Karen Walker, Editor)

DDFHS is currently offering members and non-members the opportunity to attend courses covering a comprehensive range of topics. These modules can help researchers of all abilities as they range from beginners through to those wanting help with advanced research. One course is run approx every 4-6 weeks and you will find the list of dates on our website with an on-line booking form. We offer the following topics:- **Family History for Beginners; A Good Look at Parish Records; Using the Internet** for your Family History Research; **Extending Your Search - Intermediate Course; Wills, Archive & Breaking Down Those Brick Walls - Advanced Research Course: Researching Military Ancestors and Poor Law & The Workhouse.**

Courses fill up quickly, so booking is essential!

Our Web Page: <http://www.doncasterfhs.co.uk>

PALGRAVE RESEARCH CENTRE

The Palgrave Research Room is situated at
King Edward Road, Balby, Doncaster, DN4 0NA
(sharing accommodation with Doncaster Archives)

All D&DFHS Publications and vast collection of resources
are available to view and copy.

Six computers & 12 microfiche readers can be booked for
use and printer facilities are available.

Free Access to
Ancestry.co.uk and
Findmypast.co.uk with printer facilities

Entrance: £1 for members, £2 for non-members

Monday	10.00 - 3.00*
Tuesday	10.00 - 3.00*
Wednesday	10.00 - 3.00*
Thursday	Closed
Friday	10.00 - 3.00*
Saturday	10.00 - 1.00*

* the closing time for the Centre may be extended to 4.00pm on
weekdays and 2.00 pm on Saturdays where advanced bookings
have been made.

**To Avoid Disappointment, Please Ring
And Book Your Session.**

Research Centre Bookings :
01302 311930



Access to the
PRC is by way
of 4 steps. It
may be possible
to arrange
wheelchair
access by prior
arrangement

The next closure dates
for the Palgrave Research Centre are:



August Bank Holiday
Closed Sat 24th & Mon 26th August 2013
Re-Opens Tues 27th August 2013

PALGRAVE RESEARCH CENTRE

Recent Acquisitions *(See page 6 for opening times)*

For the Members Lending library:-

- C/NTT07 Nottinghamshire Parish & Denominational Registers,
Nottingham Archives.
- D/111 Our Doncaster by Alison Morrish, (Curator of Cusworth Museum.)
- C/YKS135 All Saints Church, Darfield.
- C/YKS136 Yorkshire through the years by I.Dewhirst.
- C/YKS137 The T'alli Stone by M.P.Dunn.
- O/D04 History's Midwives by J.E.Grundy.
- O/D05 A Dictionary of Medical & Related Terms by J.E.Grundy.
- O/D06 Aunt J: Wartime Memories of a Lady YMCA Volunteer in France
1914-1918 by J.E.Duncan.

Acquisitions for the Research Centre (all books or booklets)

- Warmfield Marriage Index 1813 - 1837
- The South Yorkshire Historian 1973
- University of York: Medieval Latin Documents Series 1
- University of York: English Mediaeval Handwriting
- Yorkshire: Calendar of Register of Richard Scrope 1398 - 1405
- Nottingham Alehouse Recognizances 1756 - 1769
- Where to find Nottinghamshire Places Census 1841 - 1891
- Nottinghamshire Churches
- Newark Poll Books 1774 - 1795
- Yorkshire: Askham Bryan College York 1997
- Yorkshire: Doncaster People of +Ten Generation Ago
- Staffordshire: Brierley Hill St Michael Parish Registers 1813 - 1837
- Staffordshire: Rugeley St Augustine of Canterbury PR 1722 - 1854
- Staffordshire: Alrewas All Saints Parish Registers 1671 - 1795
- Staffordshire: Bramshall St Lawrence Parish Registers 1587 - 1900
- Staffordshire: Rolleston St Mary Parish Registers 1569 - 1644
- Staffordshire: Kingstone St John the Baptist Parish Records 1679 - 1873
- The Family & Local History Handbook 14



**A Big Thank You to
everyone who donated items**

If you have not yet used the Centre for your research, come along and have a look at what resources we have. There are always two volunteers on duty to provide help and advise. We have ample free car parking and a seating area for refreshments. We can provide tea or coffee at 50p a cup.

Entrance £1 for members, £2 for non-members.



Internet Section

SHARE YOUR FAVOURITE WEB SITES

New sites, improved sites and other members recommendations.

DDFHS Books:

www.genfair.co.uk

Where you can purchase our publications and pay DDFHS memberships on the Net.

Conisbrough and Denaby Main Local History

www.conisbroughlocalhistory.co.uk

This website is a treasure trove for anyone with ancestors from the Conisbrough or Denaby area, or an interest in these place today. It contains over 900 photographs, transcriptions of censuses, parish records, information about churches and chapels, an extensive First World War collection, coal mining history and the history of this area. There are also transcribed newspaper stories of particular interest to this area and so much more. It is one of the best websites of this type I have seen.

Sent by: **Alan Taylor, Member 3804**

Irish Army Census Records on Military Archives

www.militaryarchives.ie

This website gives you free access to the census returns for those serving in the National Army in November 1922. This collection consists of ten volumes of census returns that were originally arranged alphabetically by post. The records have now been digitised and can be searched by name.

The Lusitania Resource

www.rmsslusitania.info

This website is dedicated to the passenger ship RMS Lusitania, her passengers and crew. The ship was sunk on 7 May 1915 off the coast of Ireland by German a U-boat. There were known to be 1960 people on board but only 768 of them survived. This website details all the known passengers and explains whether or not they survived the disaster, plus lots of information about the ship itself.

John Humberston, Member 2212

Free Access To New Irish Records Online

www.proni.gov.uk

The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) recently placed online images of the Valuation Revision Books covering the counties of Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry and Tyrone for the period 1864-1933. These books follow on from the Primary Valuation, better known as Griffith's Valuation, which took place between 1848 and 1864. Each year the Valuers recorded any changes in the names of the occupiers and immediate tenants of each property as well as changes in dimensions, acreage, and value. The books have not been transcribed, but these digital images are searchable by place name or street.

Tips For Your Research



Historical Records of Criminals and Victims Added to Find My Past Website.

A two-year project to scan and transcribe original records from The National Archives has culminated in these fascinating records being available online for the first time. These crime, prison and punishment records can be crucial to your research as they contain information that is unlikely to be found in any other sources. The excellent search engine allows you to browse the records to see if any of your ancestors were criminals or victims and if you find a record for a member of your family you can expand your search by using the online newspaper collections on the same website. The online collection was launched with records from 1817 – 1931 but more records will be added over the coming months to bring the total number of records to over 2.5 million. Don't forget, the library version of the website is free to use at the Palgrave Research Centre.

Search For Living Relatives At Find My Past

It has been possible to search the current UK Electoral Register at Find My Past for many years but the cost of a search was never included in any of the subscription packages. Even if you paid for a subscription, you had to purchase credits to search the database. This dataset is now included in the cost of a Full or World subscription. You can search UK Electoral Registers 2002 – 2013. There is also a very useful guide about how to search for living relatives on the FMP website. Don't forget to read Jenny Ellis's article on page 26 for more tips on how to search for living relatives

Were Your Doncaster & District Ancestors Killed Or Wounded During The First World War?

Are you aware of the information readily available in the Local Studies Section of Doncaster Main Library? Volunteers have created an index to all servicemen featured in the local newspapers from 1914 - 1918. This includes all soldiers, sailors and airmen killed, wounded or missing in action, It gives names, regiment, dates, service numbers, and any medal details.

The newspapers which have been searched are Doncaster Gazette (completed), Doncaster Chronicle (completed) and Mexbro and Swinton Times (still in progress). There are some very interesting stories and events, some sad and all very moving. This index will save you a lot of work searching through the newspapers and is well worth a look. Why not visit the local studies library and see for yourself. The telephone number of the library to book or for more details is 01302 734307.



From the Postbag



What's In A Name?

On tracing my family history, I found that one of my great grandfather's brothers (there were five) married an **Eliza Ann Coxell Surthrell**, and her mother and grandmother were both christened **Hephzibah**.

Hephzibah, like many Christian names in the 1800's, is a biblical name. I have found two references to this name in the Bible. The first is mentioned in the Second Book of Kings: 21. King Hezekiah's wife was called Hephzibah, the king said "my delight is in her". The second mention is in Isaiah 62:4. God calls his people by that name "God will take away our rightful name 'Forsaken' and call us Hephzibah. 'Thou shalt no more be named Forsaken, neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate: but thou shalt be Hephzibah. My delight is in her.

They must have searched very hard to find that particular name to use!

Keith Crouter, Member 1623

More Money For Old Rope

I read with interest Pauline Seaton's explanation of the phrase 'money for old rope' (Ancestor Spring 2013) I would like to suggest an alternative source.



Oakum is a preparation of tarred fibre used in shipbuilding for caulking or packing the joints of timbers in wooden vessels and the deck planking of iron and steel ships, as well as cast iron pipe plumbing applications. Oakum was at one time recycled from tarry old ropes and cordage, which were painstakingly, and there was pain involved, unravelled and taken apart into fibre. Picking oakum was a common occupation in Victorian times in British prisons and workhouses. In 1862, at Tothill Fields Bridewell, London, a women's prison, girls under 16 had to pick 1 pound (450gms) a day, boys under 16 had to pick 1.5 pounds (675gms). Over the age of 16 girls and boys had to pick 1.5 pounds (675gms) and 2 pounds (900gms) per day respectively. At Coldbath Fields Prison, London, the men's counterpart to Tothill fields, prisoners had to pick 2 pounds (900gms) per day, unless sentenced to hard labour, in which case they had to pick between 3 pounds (1350gms) and 6 pounds (2,700gms) of oakum per day. The oakum was sold for £4.10s (£331 in modern money) per hundredweight (50.8 kg) Therefore "Money for Old Rope!"

Alec Norton, Member 361

HELP WANTED

Information Required About Conisbrough Family

I was wondering if anyone could help with the following information.

We often say 'Isn't it a small world'. Well that's the reason for this request. I do feel someone out there may have even the smallest bit of info that maybe of help. Having been at this Family History for just a few years, I've now got some questions for anyone out there that might be able to fill in some blanks.

My Grandfather Tom (not Thomas) Taylor, b1881 in Conisborough, just after moving from Clayworth. His parents were a Thomas and Elizabeth Taylor (nee Bassindale) who lived at 30 Doncaster Rd, Conisbrough (Which is now the car park for Kennys Fish Restaurant) They then moved a bit further up to 64 Doncaster Road, which is still occupied. They then crossed the road to number 81, which I can vaguely remember as a child being a row of houses/cottages where they now wash cars. Tom joined the Royal Garrison Artillery in the First World War and was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. I found an entry from the London Gazette dated the 28 Mar 1918 which read:-

‘Gnr T.Taylor R.G.A (Conisboro) For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When the battery retired he stayed behind with another man to defend the Quartermasters store, and held up the advancing infantry for some time. When surrounded by seven of the enemy they killed two and captured five. They fought throughout the day and advanced with the attacking troops in the evening’

I've yet to find a location for this incident and who was the 'another man' ?

After the war the family lived at 149 Park Road, Conisbrough. It used to be a shop, but is now a residential property. Tom died in 1936, and is buried in Conisbrough Cemetery. I've been told the shop sold Groceries but other 'things' as well. Tom did become a baker after the war. There is a street named **Taylor Street**, near to the Castle Pub, which I thought could have been in his name (Long shot I know) but this may not be the case.

If anyone has any information about any part of this brief story, such as old photo's of the above addresses on Doncaster Rd, or any information about what was sold in the shop, please get in touch.

Alan Taylor, Member 3804

Contact me on

Whitgift Hall – A Complicated Affair

It was 1834 and somewhere in England, perhaps London. The Arctic explorer James Clark Ross was visiting the home of his sister Isabella Spence and her husband William, a solicitor who had been born in Leeds. Also visiting the house was William Spence's niece, Anne Coulman of Whitgift Hall in Yorkshire, and when Anne met James it was love at first sight!

Anne Coulman was the daughter of Thomas Coulman and his wife Mary (nee Gee). Thomas's mother Eleanor Spence was the sister of Simon Spence, a Leeds merchant, and it was Simon's son William who had married Isabella Ross in 1824, at Stanmore in Middlesex.



Whitgift Hall

Under the circumstances, the already cemented relationships between the Coulman and Ross families should have made James Clark Ross's quest for Anne's hand in marriage relatively simple. Very soon James was allowed to meet Anne's parents, both at Hull and at Wadworth Hall near Doncaster. William Spence's siblings lived in Hull and in 1825 Wadworth Hall was purchased by Thomas Coulman's brother Robert. Robert had married Judith Gee in 1820 in Leeds. She was the sister of Thomas's wife who had married in 1815. The girls were the daughters of John Gee of Haldenby Park near Eastoft, so family ties were even tighter. By 1801 John Gee had inherited Whitgift Hall and it was inherited by his daughter Mary in 1818.

One of the Hull siblings of William Spence was his sister Jane, who had married Thomas Thompson, an attorney of Welton, near Hull. In the March of 1835 Jane wrote an upsetting letter to Isabella Spence, who, on showing it to her brother, prompted James Clark Ross to reply to it himself. Jane had written of Thomas and Mary Coulman's inauspicious feelings towards James Clark Ross, while their daughter Anne still held James in high regard and affection. James replied that come what may, even if the odds were against him receiving Anne's hand with their blessing, then Cupid would ultimately win. James completed his letter by resolving to write to Anne's father and took Jane Thompson into his confidence, asking that as she had been such a good friend to both he and Anne, she keep James informed of any news from Anne.

James wrote to Mr and Mrs Coulman, alluding to their recent meeting and trusting that they had noticed how his sentiments for their daughter was more than just a casual acquaintance. He took the opportunity to refer to an earlier invitation he had received from them to visit Whitgift, and as he was soon to visit Hull with Isabella, perhaps he could now accept their kindness and take the opportunity to clarify his position regarding Anne.

Thomas Coulman replied immediately, inferring that when they had met James



in Hull, he and his wife had not had the slightest suspicion of such attentions on their daughter, whom he described as a mere schoolgirl. By now she was eighteen years old, the eldest of three sisters. Mary was sixteen and Elenor was fourteen in 1835. Thomas Coulman recalled that on their return home his wife had expressed surprise that James had acted in an odd manner during the last evening and morning they had been in his company. She had requested that if this behaviour towards their daughter came to mean anything serious, her husband should put an end to it. Their main concern was apparently Anne's age, being seventeen year's younger than James, but there was also the uncertain and hazardous nature of his profession to take into account. Under these circumstances Thomas requested that James did not visit Whitgift, and went on say further that they could not sanction his wishes and that was an end to the subject. They did wish him well in any further voyage he was thinking of undertaking.

To Thomas and Mary Coulman the matter was closed, but not so for their daughter Anne! Almost immediately James received another letter from Jane Thompson, assuring him of Anne's constant love for him. Jane expressed her relief at this news and told James that she had no problems with communicating with Anne. She had learned that Thomas' brother Robert Coulman and his wife Judith were more impressed with James and appeared more favourable therefore towards his feelings for their niece. Anne Coulman's parents would not allow her to write to James and an attempt in the latter part of 1835 by James to have a letter and package delivered to her by a Thompson nephew at Doncaster races failed miserably. A new desperate plan was hatched by James, and set out in a letter to Jane. She was to warn Anne that she was not to be alarmed by the sudden appearance of either himself or of a stranger delivering a letter to her. He would visit Whitgift one Wednesday. His sister Isabella had advised him of a copse near the river at Whitgift where he could anchor his boat opposite the Hall. On seeing some sign from the upper window and then from the garden where they could make their arrangements, even if it meant a confrontation with the 'old folks' he must set eyes on her before he sailed and be assured of her love for him.



**Portrait of
Sir James Clark Ross**

James sailed early 1836, and wrote from the Orkneys to Jane asking her to reassure Anne that it would hopefully not be too long before his return and they would find happiness. Anne's position was his only consideration. When he returned and then he was to sail away again, he would not risk Anne's parents being hostile to her in his absence, although there were indications that her mother was showing more signs of sympathy, and Robert and Judith Coulman were great friends with Anne.

James returned to Hull in 1838 and was invited to Wadworth Hall to meet Anne. Letters were also exchanged. Anne had also written to her father, a beautiful letter, which had affected James deeply. Anne's father's reply showed him to be hard,



severe, unkind and in no way considerate of Anne's happiness. How could a father treat his child so? James told Anne that without her father's consent to their marriage, they would need nothing else from him. James had found it hard to meet Anne at Wadworth without her father knowing, but through Jane, Anne's mother asked that James should not communicate any further with her husband.

James Clark Ross's next expedition was to the Antarctic. He left in 1839, not returning until 1843. He was hoping to marry Anne before setting out, but both she and Jane persuaded him to wait until his return. For four long years letters passed between the two. Eventually, Anne wrote of her father's apparent apathy to her correspondence which she described as a 'great improvement'.

Despite Thomas Coulman's coldness towards him, James named one of his discoveries in the Antarctic Coulman Island after him. He also named Cape Anne on Anne's birthday and Cape Wadsworth in honour of her Uncle Robert.

On Ross's return to England in early September 1843, he went immediately to London to report to the Admiralty. Six weeks later he and Anne married at Wadworth. His best man was his close friend Captain Francis Crozier. He was supported by more of the Arctic officers. The couple rented a house at Blackheath before settling permanently into Aston Mansion at Aston Abbots in Buckinghamshire. The year after his marriage, James received a knighthood.

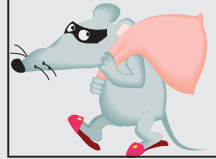
Anne's sister Elenor was married the following year to George S Lister of Ousefleet Grange, but it is thought she didn't survive long after her marriage. Anne's sister Mary married Henry Leathley Armitage, a curate, who was born in Norfolk in 1845. On her father's death Mary inherited and subsequently sold Whitgift Hall, while Wadworth Hall was inherited by James Coulman Ross, the eldest son of Anne and James Ross.

Lady Anne Ross died in 1857, five years after her father and eleven years before her mother. She and Sir James Clark Ross had four children but James died in 1862. He had been promoted to Rear Admiral of the Red the previous year.

Sir James Clarke Ross's work in both the Arctic and Antarctic is well documented. As well as his knighthood he was awarded Royal Geographical Society medals for his scientific explorations. It was he who discovered the North Magnetic Pole and planted the British flag, he sailed to Baffin's Bay to relieve the frozen whalers there and he searched for Sir John Franklyn's expedition in the Arctic on which his good friend Crozier had sailed. He also commanded the expedition to Antarctica, attaining the highest latitude ever then reached. Today the Ross family name is remembered across the Polar regions by the names of many geographic features, including the Ross Sea in the Antarctic.

Wendy Wales, Member 844

Early Criminals In Doncaster



I thought that other members would be interested to see what sort of a crime would bring your ancestors before the courts. Here are a few excerpts from the Court Records taken from the Court Rolls of Doncaster, Rossington, Hexthorpe and Long Sandall.

Court held Doncaster 5th October 1456

The jury were presented with **John Muntane** for putting 'le Whicsall' on the public road leading to Lathagate, to the public well in 'le Hawgate'; **William Langthwate**, **William Bladesmyth**, **John Totehill** and **Thomas Lilly** for blocking up a water course leading from St George's Street; **Robert Brone**, **Margaret Fellys**, **William Brone**, **William Hill**, **William Fyssher**, and **Alice Bell** for making dung hills in the high and public roads in Doncaster, to wit to Marketstede, Bakstergate and elsewhere and **Alice Podynger** for putting a swine trough in the public road.

Court held at Exthorpe 20th October 1495

The wives of **William Birne** and **Thomas Nayle** for Brewing. **Christopher Smyth** 15th Centruy Downing for assaulting **Willima Birne** at Balbe.

Court 7th June 1497 - Thomas Nayle for cutting branches of oak.

Court 4 June 1497 - Thomas Watson for cutting Whins on Balbe more and selling them outside the lordship. **Henry Plumber** and his servants for cutting braches of oak on Balbemore.

Court 27 April 1499 - William White, Mayor, and **Richard Harnes** and **Thomas Smyth** for fishing with nets in the King's several waters.

Court 16 April 1507 - John Hatton, vicar, is presented to court for obstructing the water of Dun with a great beam so that vessels cannot carry as far as the pit. The obstruction is to be removed under penalty of 6s.8d.

John Humberston has made a dung heap and keeps his wagon in the high road to the nuisance of all who pass along the road.

The Prior of the Carmelites and **John Vyncent** have not repaired the pavement in Backstergayt.

Richard Woodruff, knight, the Prior of the Carmelites, **John Birkes** and **Nicholas Fitzwilliam** have not repaired the Pavements . The said Prior and **Edward Kylett** have not repaired the pavements in Sepulcargate. **John Humberston** and **John Boyll** have broken 'le cawsay' opposite 'le grayfreres'.

Court Michaelmas 1507 - John Humberston, John Boill and **William Stray** have put too many cattle on the common.

Pattie Birch Member 3232

1837: Transition From Parish Records to the Civil Registration.

Background To The Changes

Civil Registration of births, marriages and deaths in England and Wales began on 1st July 1837. Although this is a very important date for family historians, it was not regarded as a great event by the ordinary people living at that time. To put the change into context, Queen Victoria had just come to the throne following the death of King William IV two weeks earlier and voting was about to take place in a general election.




Queen Victoria receiving news of her accession the throne on 20 June 1837

Civil Registration had first been proposed by Oliver Cromwell in the 1650's but as the Church in England was such a powerful entity at that time, it was successful in persuading the government that it should take responsibility for keeping records of baptisms and marriages in parish registers. The Church of England had effectively been given a monopoly in the business of legal registration and for centuries the Church continued to be responsible for compiling records of baptisms, marriages and burials. However, this system began to become less effective over time.

There were a number of reasons for this. The increase in the number of non-conformist churches and the persistence of clandestine marriages made it difficult to keep track of a growing number of people. There was also a gradual increase in the numbers of un-baptised children, making it difficult for the wealthy to prove inheritance and ownership. This led to a House of Commons Committee recommending that a national system of registration be introduced.

The Position Of The Church Of England

By the early nineteenth century, the established church was also facing the problem of decreasing congregations but clergymen were reasonably secure in the knowledge that they had a captive audience for marriages and to a lesser extent, baptisms and burials. Each of these events brought in a guaranteed income for the local clergymen so the Church was strongly opposed to the introduction of a civil system which was likely to have an adverse effect on their income.

There was widespread publicity about the new rules and most people complied with them but there were places where the new system was actively opposed. Some people refused to register the births of their children, claiming that a baptism at their local church was sufficient. Other people supplied the information to the Registrar but refused to sign the register. Most clergymen complied with the changes and a few also undertook the new role of Registrar in addition to their existing church duties. 

However, other clergymen were far from happy to comply with the changes. Some went as far as to organise local opposition to the rules and supported those amongst their parishioners who failed to comply.

Did Your Ancestor Fail To Register Their Birth, Marriage Or Death?

Apart from deliberate acts of non-compliance, there were other reasons why your ancestor may not have complied with the new rules and registered their families' birth, marriage or death.

When the announcement was made that Civil Registration was to be introduced in 1837, there was a great deal of confusion about what that would mean for ordinary people. Some people thought this meant that their child or children had to be baptised instead of, or in addition to, formal registration through the civil process. Many families had not bothered to have their children baptised but now thought they could fall on the wrong side of the law if they did not rectify the omission. Consequently, there was a great rush of people bringing their children to be baptised at their local church. Although their understanding that their children had to be baptised was incorrect, I doubt that the clergymen would risk losing their business by giving them the correct information. Some clergymen may have actively promoted this incorrect information for reasons of their own.

Mass Baptisms

As a team of volunteers are currently transcribing the parish records for **St George's church in Doncaster**, we have come across a great example of a last minute rush to baptise people before the GRO system was introduced. On 30th June 1837 (the day before the system was introduced), 50 baptisms took place at the church. The 30th June 1837 was a Friday, so was not a day that was normally popular for baptisms because most ordinary people would be working. The ages of those baptised varied from a few months to twenty years old. Three of the mothers were now described as widows as it had been such a long time since their offspring were born.

The first 43 baptisms were carried out by John Loxley, the curate. Perhaps the curate was exhausted after all these baptisms because the vicar, James Sharpe, baptised the last seven. This must have been a "baptism of fire" for the curate! It must have also been the most lucrative day they had had for a long time.

If you are unable to find a baptism for your ancestor who was born in the years preceding the introduction of Civil Registration, it is always worth check the period in time immediately before the GRO system was introduced as the events at St George's church were not unusual and were replicated all over the country.

Problems With The New System

Don't be surprised if you cannot find your ancestor's birth, marriage or death in the early months and years after the civil system was introduced. The people



appointed to the newly created role of Registrar did not have an easy job and many of them hit real difficulties. They had to introduce a new and untried system and used the geographic areas allocated to the recently created Poor Law Unions as the basis for dividing up the country. Some of these areas proved to be too small and were soon added to larger adjacent ones. This caused particular problems in parts of Yorkshire because there had been local opposition to the setting up of the Poor Law Unions and at the time of the introduction of civil registration, negotiations into the areas were still continuing. This meant they had to organise temporary districts until PLU negotiations were complete.

There are some registration districts in England where there are no entries in the first one or two quarters following introduction of the system and almost half of them are in Yorkshire. This was almost certainly caused by the late formation of the Poor Law Unions. Here a few examples of the total numbers of entries for the first two quarters of the new system.

Yorkshire Registration Districts With Missing Records in 1837

Huddersfield - no births or deaths for Sep or Dec 1837

Rotherham - 1 birth and no deaths for Sep 1837

Sculcoates - no births or deaths for Sep or Dec 1837

Thorne - 2 births and 10 deaths for Sep 1837

York - no births or deaths for Sep 1837

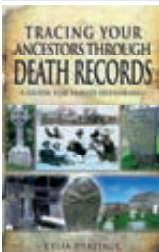


In contrast, the introduction of the civil system created few new problems with records of marriages as most people found the new system looked the same as the old one. People still married at their local church, gave the same information as before and signed the register inside the church as part of the ceremony.

Always try looking for records in both the parish registers and the GRO indexes.

Karen Walker, Member 2062

Book Review by Karen Walker



Tracing Your Ancestors Through Death Records

by **Celia Heritage** £12.99 Pen & Sword publication.

This book explores all the available records covering deaths, including less obvious ones. You can learn how to locate records and how to interpret the information they contain. The main importance of this book is the final chapter, which explores the repercussions of death on the surviving family members and will lead to further avenues for your research. Another excellent title in this series.

My Childhood Memories

Record your own family history for future generations and share your childhood memories with other members.



Thanking The Children

We were sorting through some papers when we came across a letter that my wife had been given as a schoolgirl. Each child was given one of these letters which had a facsimile of the signature of King George at the bottom.

The letters were given out at school as part of the celebration to mark the first anniversary of end of World War II in Europe in 1946. The letter also includes a list of all the important war dates and had a section for the child to record their own family's war record.

We have no idea how widely these letters were circulated but our own copy is a treasured reminder of those times.



8th June, 1946

TO-DAY, AS WE CELEBRATE VICTORY, I send this personal message to you and all other boys and girls at school. For you have shared in the hardships and dangers of a total war and you have shared no less in the triumph of the Allied Nations.

I know you will always feel proud to belong to a country which was capable of such supreme effort; proud, too, of parents and elder brothers and sisters who by their courage, endurance and enterprise brought victory. May these qualities be yours as you grow up and join in the common effort to establish among the nations of the world unity and peace.

Keith Crouter, Member 1623

DDFHS Day Out To Southall 8th July 2013

DDFHS is hoping to organise a day out to visit **South Minster** and **Southall Workhouse** (subject to minimum numbers). The day will include a guided tour and film show at the Minster, followed by lunch at the refectory (not included). The visit to the Minster will be followed by a private tour of Southall Workhouse on a day when it is not open to the public.

The cost for the day is expected to be around £22 per person and will include return coach travel from Waterdale Doncaster.

If you would like to express an interest, please contact June Staniforth on 01302 367257

An Ancestor's Faith

My husband's three times great grandfather, William Walker, was born to parents Thomas Walker and Jane Turner on 6th March 1805 in Bilston, Staffordshire. A Bundler by trade, he married Elizabeth Russell on 27th March 1826 in Wolverhampton. Elizabeth was the daughter of William Russell and Hannah Sims and she was born on the 25th October 1807 in Palsall. This is their story.

William and Elizabeth had nine known children. Mary Ann (born 1827 in Bilston, Staffs), Thomas (christened 1829 at St Leonard's in Bilston but died young), Absalom (born 1831 in Bilston), William (born 1834 in Bilston), Jane (born 1836 in West Bromwich), Elizabeth (born 1839 in West Bromwich), Sarah (born 1844 in West Bromwich), Lorenzo (born 1844 but died young) and Joseph (born 1848 in West Bromwich (died young)).

The 1841 census shows William & Elizabeth living with their children Mary Ann, William, Jane and Elizabeth at "Road from Union Cross to Bridge" in West Bromwich. Ten year old Absalom is living with Thomas and Jane Turner in Bilston – presumably a relative of his paternal grandmother.

Ten years later the 1851 census shows William and Elizabeth living in the Christchurch district of West Bromwich along with William, Elizabeth, Sarah and Joseph. Absalom is now married to Louisa and they are living in the village of Brierley in Wolverhampton with their son Joseph who is aged 8 months.

On the 30th March 1860, William and Elizabeth set sail on the Latter Day Saints Ship the "Underwriter" for New York on their way to a new life in Utah. On the ship were 594 passengers, mostly from Britain, but some were from Switzerland. Along with William and Elizabeth were their two unmarried daughters Elizabeth and Sarah and their married daughter Jane, her husband Charles Webb and their two children, Emily (age 3) and Charles Moroni (age 3 months). William and Elizabeth's daughter Mary Ann and their sons Absalom and William remained in England. The ship arrived in New York on 1st May 1860. During the voyage there had been four marriages and thankfully, only four deaths. From New York they went by train to Florence (now Omaha) in Nebraska, arriving there on May 12th. There they prepared for their overland trek to the "Home of the Saints" in Salt Lake City, Utah, setting off on 6th June and arriving in Utah on 27th August.



From what we had found regarding the overland journeys to Utah, we know that some of them were horrendous. One in 1856 ran into great difficulties. They ran out of food and the freezing conditions meant they were unable to bury their dead. The bodies were left lying in the snow and ice. The group walked more than one thousand miles pulling their meagre belongings in hand carts. They had to contend with



the danger from Indians and wolves in addition to the bad weather.

Jane Webb died on Friday 3rd January 1913 at 7.00 am at her home in West Court, Ogden after suffering a paralytic stroke five years earlier. Her obituary gives us details of the Walker crossing and thankfully, all of the family survived and arrived safely in Utah.

Their journey to Utah was made with Captain Daniel Robinson's hand cart company and consisted of 233 souls, 43 hand carts, 6 wagons, 38 oxen and 10 tents. As Jane's husband Charles was the Chaplain for the company, he and his family were privileged to occupy one of the wagons. The family arrives safely at Salt Lake City on August 27th 1860 and on 31st August 1860, Sarah married Ben Chadwick. Ben was the "pilot" for the hand cart group and we presume this is how they met.



Handcart Pioneer Monument in Salt Lake City

Charles Webb had been foreman at a large iron works in West Bromwich and soon after their arrival in Salt Lake City he was selected to take charge of the iron works there. At this time the company made the nails that were used in the construction of the Salt Lake Theatre building and also constructed the first cast iron stove made in Utah, which was used by the Webb family for many years. After about five years in Salt Lake City, Charles and his family moved to Slaterville, Utah. They added to their family to make a total of 13 children and became farmers. Sarah and Ben Chadwick went on to have 10 children and they also moved to Slaterville. Sarah died in Slaterville when she was 86 years old.

Ben Chadwick was mentioned in publications of the period. The "Latest From the Emigration Weekly" dated 25th August 1860 stated that the following message was sent from Brigham Young to Captain Robinson (leader of the hand cart company) on that day.

"Brethren, Brother Benjamin Chadwick has just brought word you are in want of flour. I have ordered one thousand pounds to be sent to you. My son Joseph A Young and Brother Andrew Moffatt will meet you at the foot of the mountain tonight. You had better get over the big mountain and come along as quick as you can."



Brigham Young - led the LDS from 1844 until his death in 1877

Another piece can be found in "An Early History Of Franklin"

In 1864 Chief Washakie, a more friendly Indian, with about 1000 of his men, camped in the river bottom near Franklin. This band was just returning from a



battle with other Indians on the Platte River in Wyoming, and were en-route to Bear Lake on a migrating and hunting trip. A few of the young warriors came into town and some of the Franklin settlers sold them some “fire water” which of course was asking for trouble. At around 4pm the bucks became drunk and provided a wild demonstration of riding up and down the streets through the town.

One of the Indians started to break the windows of the home of Mr & Mrs George Alder. (Some of the settlers had begun moving out of the fort at this time.) Mr Alder was away from home and so his wife Mary Ann came out to stop the destruction. The Indian began to whip Mrs Alder with a willow stake, hitting her again whenever she tried to get up and then not satisfied with this, he attempted to trample her with his horse’s hooves. When she screamed for help, a group of men including John Doney, Edward Kingsford, Samuel Handy and Ben Chadwick, who were threshing grain in a nearby field, came running to her rescue. They were held off momentarily by the Indian as he brandished his club. The men had brought their farm implements with them including a rake, pitch fork and a knife. Ben Chadwick ran at the Indian with his knife after the Indian had knocked Ben’s father down with his club. Mr Handy arrived



with a pistol and the men shouted for him to shoot, shoot, shoot him. Mr Handy hesitated, so Ben Chadwick grabbed the pistol and shot the Indian through the neck and he dropped from his horse to the ground. Ben’s father urged Ben to leave the town for safety reasons so he took William Davis’s horse and road to John Lard’s home on High Creek.

Ben disguised himself by cutting his long hair and shaving off his beard. He changed horses and rode back to Franklin about 12 midnight accompanied by some Minute Men. The Indians of course were outraged and began their war dances in preparation to invade the settlement. Riders sped off in all directions to alert the Minute Men of the neighbouring settlements. The Minute Men assembled in Franklin as soon as possible. What a sight, fathers, cousins, uncles and brothers all leaving to go to Franklin. When the Indians came into town the next morning, they were aghast to find 400 men on the town square. They had come from Mapleton, Richmond, Smithfield, Wellsville and elsewhere to quell the expected uprising. Even after considerable peace talks the Indians were not satisfied and demanded retribution, part of which was the surrender of Ben Chadwick to them.

Some of the community was in favour of doing this and met with Bishop Hatch to express their feelings. John Corbridge was strictly opposed to surrendering Ben to the Indians and emphatically stated “No, I will fight to my knees in blood before I give up a man who saved the life one of our women.” The intensity of the issue continued to rage which prompted the intervention of Bishop Peter Maughn and Ezra Taff Benson who were the presiding authorities of the LDS Church for all of Cache Valley. A meeting was called which was held in the Franklin Bowery. Chief Washakie and some of his braves were called to attend and were given seats in the front. Bishop Maughn was presiding and asked Chief Washakie “What would you do if some of our men



went to your camp and started whipping and killing one of your women?" The Chief answered "We kill him". Bishop Maughn then responded "That is exactly what we have done". Chief Washakie then addressed the congregation saying "Until the white man come there was no fire water and the Indian was sober. Your people sold fire water to my people and made my warrior crazy. If my people had sold fire water to your braves and made them drunk, how would you feel about it? Would you like to see him shot down like a dog because he had made a fool of himself? Will the white father put himself in Washakie's place?"



Chief Washakie

Bishop Maughn continued with comments made toward the white attendees regarding the surrender of Ben Chadwick to the Indians. "Talk about giving up a man that would save a woman's life! If you want to give up anyone to the Indians give up the men who sold the liquor to them." In his speech Bishop Maughn had agreed to some extent with the Chief. After a while the Indians agreed to peace. They were given flour, cheese and other food plus two yokes of oxen, each yoke from the men (reputed to be S R Parkinson and N W Packer) who had sold the liquor to the braves.

Slaterville, Utah

This town was originally settled by a few Mormon pioneer families. They drew lots to decide the name of the town and it was named after Richard Slater & family

Sarah and Ben went on to have ten children, all born in Slaterville. We have been unable to find many details regarding Elizabeth but we understand that she did marry in Utah but died shortly after her marriage.

Of the family left behind in England, Absalom moved from Staffordshire to Scotland and then moved down to Rotherham, where he died in 1899. He had six children with his wife Louisa. Mary Ann married twice. The first time in Staffordshire to Joseph Walters prior to her parent's emigration, and the second time in Rotherham to Joseph Bacon in 1867. We do not know what became of William Jnr.

William Walker died in Slaterville on the 1st of September 1882. He had lived in Utah for 22 years. His wife Elizabeth died in 1872.

Overall, this information gives an insight into the lives of William and Elizabeth and their children, putting into perspective the enormity of the journey they embarked upon and perhaps the sadness of the ones left in England who would have known that they would never see their parents and sisters again. At the time of his death, William had had 44 grandchildren and great grandchildren, some of whom he would never have seen. What a tremendous belief they must have had in their religion.

Anne Walker, Member 1805

Memories Of Active Service: Attack On The German Submarine Pens At Bergen

A submarine pen is a type of bunker that was designed to protect submarines from air attack during WWII in Germany and the occupied countries. Sub-pens were built in Bergen and Trondheim in occupied Norway.

On 12th January 1945, the Sub-pen at Bergen was attacked by the RAF. A local report said that Tallboy bombs penetrated the 3.5 metre thick roof of the pens and caused major damage to workshops, offices and stores. German propaganda declared that eleven Allied planes had been shot down in the raid.



Surrendered German U-Boats at Trondheim Sub-pen 1945

One of our members has written an eye-witness account of the raid.

January 12th 1945

The crews of two squadrons of Lancaster bombers were briefed for their next mission which was to attack the submarine pens in Bergen. These were the German U-boat bases in occupied Norway. Each plane would be carrying the 12,000 pound bombs that were commonly called “Tallboys” and had been designed by Barnes Wallace (the man who also designed the famous “bouncing bombs” of Mohne Dam fame. The mission was to take place in daylight and would entail a long flight in excess of seven hours. This mission was going to be dangerous and challenging but the one consolation was that we were to be escorted by two squadrons of Mustang fighter planes. These planes had extra wing tanks enabling them to cover a greater distance than Spitfires etc.

Each Lancaster was fitted with a bomb sight, an early form of computer. The bomb-aimer could enter most of the information he would need before the plane took off. The exception was the wind speed and direction which could only be found when the target was reached. Six of the aircraft were designated as wind-finders. Each of them had to select an aim-point on the ground and, as they were flying over it, they had to switch on the equipment. The next step was to fly around for a given time and then return to the aim-point and take the required readings. These readings were then signalled to all the other aircraft.

The plane I was in was designated as the number one wind-finder. Our bomb-aimer chose an airfield where the runways crossed as the aim point. Our intelligence told us that the airfield had been abandoned but on our return pass, the bomb-



aimer began counting German fighters coming to attack us. We carried on to the target and successfully dropped our bomb.

Suddenly, the sky was full of German fighters. They chose to attack five to one. Immediately behind us, one of our aircraft in the 9th Squadron began to take evasive action in an attempt to shake off his tormentors. As the plane began diving towards the sea, the two gunners managed to shoot down one of the five German planes. Unfortunately, he was out-gunned and our plane disintegrated at it hit the waves. One of the four remaining German planes changed course and headed towards us. We were preparing for all four to begin attacking us but the other three German planes were too intent on shooting at the wreckage floating on the sea. When our lone attacker realised what his colleagues were doing, he left us and went off to join them. No one could have survived that crash but they continued strafing the wreckage until they had used up all of their ammunition. Although this was a very sad sight, it gave us a chance to make our escape. This mission lost us one plane from 9th Squadron and three planes from 617 Squadron.

On our return to base we asked what had happened to our Mustang escort as we had not seen any of them during the entire encounter. Apparently, just before our battle they had seen a JU52 cargo plane flying past. They chased it and shot it down but in doing so they forgot the task they should have been doing and left us to fend for ourselves. This caused 28 men to lose their lives, which was a bitter pill to swallow.

This raid came after the two squadrons had sunk the Tirpitz. On that occasion each plane's mid-upper turret was removed and a Wellington wing tank fitted in, providing the extra fuel needed to reach the target and return. The 9th Squadron revered this modification when they returned to base but the 617 Squadron still had only one turret on the pens raid. This may explain why they lost three aircraft compared with one from the 9th Squadron. In addition, Squadron leader Iverson was so badly shot up that some members of his crew baled out and he and the rest of the crew had to land in the Shetland Islands.

Ken Johnson, Member 3717

Duty Calls: Brodsworth Hall In Time Of War

If you have a family history connection to either the First or Second World Wars, you may be interested in this exhibition currently on display at Brodsworth Hall throughout 2013. The exhibition explores the impact both World Wars had on Brodsworth Hall and those who lived at the Hall and on the Estate. Some of our members have contributed material for this project. Similar exhibitions are currently taking place at other country houses in Yorkshire including Nostell priory, Fairfax House and many more. For full details visit www.ychp.org.uk



My Long Lost Family

No, this has nothing to do with the television series of the same name and I can assure you that you won't be seeing me on the television! I must admit that I was surprised at how many people had relatives that they didn't know anything about but it's amazing what you can find when you start researching your family history. This is my story.

My Dad, **Walter Hudson** was born in Conisbrough, Doncaster in 1916, son of Walter Hudson Senior and it was whilst I was looking at the Electoral Registers for my Granddad, that I found records of a **Thomas E. Hudson** living with him in Wheatley, Doncaster. He was living with my Granddad for a few years and then his name disappeared and I was intrigued to say the least, as his name hadn't appeared on any of my previous searches when Granddad lived in Conisbrough. The reason for this was probably due to his young age at that time, as I was told by staff in the Local Studies Library that from 1918 men over 21 years were allowed to vote but women had to be 30 years old.



I managed to trace a Thomas Eric Hudson who was born in 1921 in Conisbrough and sent for his birth certificate, which confirmed that he was actually my Dad's brother. I started to wonder why my Dad had never mentioned that he had a brother, so I looked again and managed to find a death record that I thought was for Thomas. I sent off for the certificate and this confirmed that I had the right person and that his wife was called Marion. Next I sent off for their marriage certificate thinking that I would then be able to find out if there were any children from the marriage. When I received the certificate, it said that his previous marriage had been dissolved, so then I didn't know whether or not he had children from either marriage and didn't know the name of his first wife. Who said that this would be easy?

I wondered what I should do next, as by this time I was determined to find out if I had any other relatives. As both the marriage and death took place in Leeds, I contacted Leeds City Council to see if they would check the Electoral Registers for me. That was the last known address for Thomas and his wife, even though it was over ten years since he had died. Apparently Marion had stayed in the house for a few years after Thomas had died and then her name disappeared, so obviously I didn't know whether she had moved or had passed away. I was told that there was another family with the Hudson surname in the same street but this drew a blank. I then thought that I would look for all the Hudson's who lived in this vicinity and ring them up to see if I could find any further information. This was a bit nerve racking trying to quickly explain who I was and what I was trying to achieve. Some people tried to be helpful and understanding, but it's not something that I would recommend to do, so not one of my better ideas!



My next brain wave was to check driving schools in Leeds, as it stated on Thomas's death certificate that he was a retired driving instructor. I thought that perhaps his business might have passed



down to a son, if he had one but I think that some of the people who I spoke to thought that I was a bit mad. This also drew a blank, surprise surprise! I was clutching at straws.

I then bought a copy of the Yorkshire Post as I had thought about putting an advertisement in there to see if anyone responded and I looked on their website a few times and continued to toy with the idea but eventually decided that it wasn't a very good one either. Another thought was to look in the missing and found column in one of the newspapers but I still didn't know if there was anyone to find. By this time I was beginning to think that I was never going to find anyone and left it alone for awhile.

Not one to be deterred, I started looking again and was determined that this wasn't going to beat me. I found a marriage for a **Thomas Hudson and Florrie Dunwell** in Leeds in 1951 and thought that this could be feasible as it was a few years after I had found him on the electoral roll. I had even found three children from this marriage and I decided to send off for the certificate. When I received it, I opened the envelope convinced that this was going to be right, as it was the one that I had come up with on numerous occasions during my search. How disappointed I was to read that the Fathers name wasn't Walter Hudson but Thomas Hudson. This was in September 2012. By now I was running out of ideas.

Whilst I was using Ancestry in November 2012 I suddenly noticed a message sent to me. It said: "Amazing, after all this time I have found my father's family. My dad always said he had no family and we had to believe him. He had 3 children following a short marriage to Florence Dunwell 1951 - 1963. It would be good to contact you on email if possible."

My Husband said that I screamed as I was reading it out as I couldn't actually believe it. I composed myself and replied to the e-mail and then sat and watched the inbox until a reply came back. At first I thought that I was communicating with a person called Thompson, so I couldn't understand why he didn't have the Hudson surname if we were supposed to be related. It turned out that his wife was using his details and she was my actual cousin. Once we had confirmed that we were who we thought we were, we exchanged phone numbers. Apparently they only lived near Leeds, so not a million miles away and after some e-mails and a phone call we arranged to meet up. When we finally met, Jean said that it had only taken nearly sixty years for us to find each other and this is something that I find very sad. It was only with the recent death of her Mother and writing the eulogy that the family realised that they didn't know very much about either of their parents. Apparently her Dad had always said that he didn't have any family and it was just accepted. Jean had googled her Dad's name and as they say "the rest is history". We had lots of questions and also photographs to view. Jean had wondered if we would look alike but there is only a slight resemblance. There is more of a resemblance between me and her Brother Michael.



We phone each other and have met up a few times.

We will never know what happened to split our family but we do know that up until the 1948 Electoral Register, Thomas was living with his Dad and had moved out prior to 1949. Why did Thomas lie about his Father when he married Florrie in 1951? (I did have the right certificate). I have just noticed on the Long Lost Family website that they are requesting people to write in for interviews for the next series. I never actually thought about contacting them, I wonder what they would have come up with. This is a link on their website that has further websites of organisations for people who are trying to trace family.

www.walltowall.co.uk/helpfulinfo.aspx

Jenny Ellis, Member 2901

Dewponds in East Yorkshire

After reading the article “A Focus on Agricultural Labourers” in the Spring 2013 Journal I decided to add to the snippet regarding the ponds that were made on the Yorkshire Wolds. In the past water was very scarce on the Wolds, the land was chalky and did not retain the water, so the crops grown in the vast fields were corn, and swedes for animal feed. Any livestock had to be driven down to village ponds daily.

Francis and Robert Gardiner of Drifffield, East Yorkshire, well diggers and fish pond makers are the first names I can find in this trade and I am certain that my family followed them, possibly working with them and learning from them. All the way through the ages it seems to have been very much a family business.

Some of the earliest references to pond makers in East Yorkshire come from the account books and rentals of the landed estates, **Sir Christopher Sykes** Estate Accounts record several payments ranging from £10 to £25. This suggests that Sykes had now started a programme of pond making on his Sledmere Estate; £10 seems to be about the normal price per pond.

I know from family lore that “Pondy” and his sons either made or repaired ponds on Sledmere Estate. Any history about this trade is very sparse, most of them having been constructed before the mid 1800’s. Some are still used today, having been repaired and relined. This needed the expertise of the skilled pond makers and this was where three generations of my family were involved. Their main profession was pond making, but during slack times they worked as day labour on farms. There is no written testimony to their family occupation save for a billhead and an advertisement in the Yorkshire Gazette in 1931. John “Pondy” Welburn, like his father Joseph and grandfather William were all entered on Fridaythorpe burial register as ‘labourer’.



My paternal grandfather John (Pondy) Welburn was the last of the pond makers in the Yorkshire Wolds, he was born in Fridaythorpe in 1876. He was mostly classed as an agricultural worker on censuses, but odd times it was “lime burner” which is probably one of the main components of the ponds mixed with a lot of hard labour. He was an extremely hard man to work with and he expected his sons to work as hard as himself. All his sons worked with him at various times making ponds, though none continued the work after their fathers retirement shortly before his death in 1947. At one time he had a pony and cart to move his tools around, but in later years he used a wheelbarrow. He would set out in the very early hours to walk to his place of work. A lady in the village recorded him leaving his home at 4am. There was a close kept secret about the sealing of the ponds to stop them drying out and this part of the job Pondy did himself, very often in the early hours when he was alone. He never revealed the secret, so now very little is really known about the subject.

A detailed description of Dew pond making by William Strickland in 1786 is not only the earliest for the Yorkshire Wolds, but one of the earliest discovered so far. A hole dug to the correct size, upon which a layer of moistened clay is beaten and trod down until compact and solid to about a foot thick. Then a layer of quick lime of one inch or more, next another layer of clay one foot thick, which is to be trod and rammed down as before, upon this are spread stones or coarse gravel. The two layers of puddle clay was not universal, but the layer of lime was typical of all clay lined ponds. It prevented worms and other insects from burrowing through the clay and breaking the waterproof seal.

I am given to believe that during WW1 Pondy was possibly employed by the army to make ponds for the war horses at Newmarket. I have made enquiries, but there may not be any records as he was not actually in the army. I still have irons in the fire and hope that something will come up.



John “Pondy” Welburn

My grandfather is very well recorded locally in East Yorkshire and is known as quite a character. He was finally found dead in the woods where he had been gathering firewood, and he was brought home on his wheelbarrow.

Wyn Bulmer, Member 3851

Information in this article has been taken from Dewponds and Pondmakers of the Yorkshire Wolds by Colin Hayfield & Marie Brough and reproduced with the kind permission of the authors.

A Life Told In Postcards & Newspapers

When my husband asked me to research his family, he didn't have much information to give me. His Grandparents died in their thirties and forties but what he did have were postcard albums belonging to his Grandmother Lily Goodlad, nee Carr, and her three sisters Annie, Elizabeth and Beatrice. Lily's birth certificate showed us that her father was William Henry Carr and her mother was Annie Carr, nee Theaker. Lily was born in 1890 so I looked on the 1891 census and found the family living on Harvest Lane, Brightside Bierlow, Sheffield. I couldn't find the family on the 1901 census so I decided to look for Lily. I found her living in the Ecclesall Union Workhouse in Sheffield along with her sister Beatrice, two brothers and her mother. I found her two elder sisters living in a Children's Home in Sheffield



I went to Sheffield Archives to try and find out more about the Children's Home. I was able to see a register that stated Annie Elizabeth and Edith had been admitted to the Home on the 28th May 1900 and discharged on 24th October 1901 when they went to live in a Servants Home. I believe that this Servants Home was at 139 Gell Street, Sheffield because the girls mention it on some of the postcards. The register also mentioned that their father was in prison for one month and their mother in prison for three months. Although this was rather shocking, I was unable to discover any more details about the family at that time.



Annie Elizabeth

The postcard did reveal a lot of information about what happened to some of the family members. They told me that Edith emigrated to America in 1919 and Annie Elizabeth followed her in 1921. They both became American citizens and died in America.

I have since discovered that their brother Charles Henry Carr also emigrated to America in 1910. He was drafted into the Navy in 1917. He married a lady called Claudia and as far as I know, he never returned to England.

In 1911, their brother Fred was living in a Home for the Feeble Minded at Alderley Edge in Cheshire. Edith and Annie Elizabeth came to England for six weeks and went to visit Fred. They sent a postcard to Lily saying they had taken him to Manchester for the day and he enjoyed it. It also said that he sent his love.



Beatrice, the youngest sister, married William Wagstaff in 1916 and she died in 1971 in Yarmouth, where she ran a boarding house with her daughter.

A few weeks ago I decided to look at the newspaper collections that have been added to the Find my past website (as advised by Karen Walker, our Editor) I wasn't really expecting to find anything but I typed in William Henry Carr and found an article in the Sheffield Evening Telegraph dated Wednesday 30th May 1900. I knew the children had gone into care on the 21st May 1900 so I clicked on it and found it was a report of their court case. It made very sad reading.

Sheffield Evening Telegraph Wednesday 30th May 1900

William Henry Carr, edge tool grinder, 47 Martin Lane, and his wife Annie were charged before Mr N K Howell and Ald. Carter with neglecting their six children. The case was brought forward by The National Society For The Prevention of Cruelty to children. Mr Neal prosecuted for the Society and said the children included in the charge ranged in age from three years to fourteen and a half years. The house in Martin Lane consisted of three rooms, two upstairs and one down, but the room upstairs did not seem to have been used. The place downstairs therefore seemed to have served both living and sleeping rooms for eight people. It was in a horrible condition, the only bedding being two halves of a mattress but no bedclothes.



Police Constable Barlthorpe spoke to finding the children wandering about the streets at night. When he took them home he found the father drunk. The house was in a disgusting condition. Neighbours also spoke to the children wandering the streets late at night.

Inspector Stephens also spoke to the neglected condition of both the children and the house. Since the case was first investigated no improvement in their condition had been noticed. On the 22nd inst. the children were in such a condition that he felt compelled to remove them. He went to get the aid of a constable, and during his absence the mother removed two of the girls, and their present whereabouts were unknown.

The defendants had no defence to offer. The mother was sentenced to three months hard labour without the option of a fine, and the father was fined £2 or one months hard labour.

Those children had a very sad start in life but they all made a better life for themselves.

Jean Jones, Member 1201

Unusual Entries Found In Some North Yorkshire Parish Registers

Entries in the parish records of North Yorkshire include:

- Essabell, daughter Bartholomew Scaife of Crosby Garret, Westmorland ... by traveling over the moores by the tempestuousnes of the wethere was perished and dyed (Burial, Muker, 1641)
- Eleanor Hill of Sessay, unmarried aged 20 years. Died of a profligate life (Burial, Sessay, 1804)
- Ellen; no other name known - born of some foolish girl of Baldersby (Christening, Topcliffe, 1579)
- John, son of John Rawling of Barton le Street; born under the Northfield hedge at Asenby (Christening, Topcliffe, 1612)
- John Carr, shot by a king's cutter on board a smuggler (Burial, Hinderwell, 1769)
- Thos Cassildine, a soldier of the 1st Regiment of Dragoon Guards cruelly murdered at Runswick in attempting to seize some smuggled goods (Burial, Hinderwell, 1776)
- Richard Sturdy, John Cartman and Richard Sturdy; all poisoned by neglect of a servant girl in making a pudding (Burials, Kirkby Wiske, 1791)
- Thos, son of Thos Lee. Died with drinking gin, aged 13 (Burial, Thirsk, 1789)
- Thos Hill (son of Edward Hill who was infected by the dogma of those commonly called Quakers) (Christening, Kilburn, 1702)

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More Gems from the Records

When transcribing the Parish records I often come across unusual or amusing names and wonder what these people were called on a daily basis by those who were close to them. Here are a few from Doncaster St George Parish Church.

Cooling Faircloth was the son of **Benjamin Salkeld** and **Amma Juble** the daughter of **George Howson**. **Hephizaback** was the daughter of **Samuel** and **Hephizaback Moore** whilst **Morthwaite Thompson** was a surgeon.

Derwentwater Radclyffe was a gentleman of the town and **Hapilina Wright** was married in 1793.

Pattie Birch, Member 3232



**The Yorkshire Group of Family History Societies and
Doncaster FHS is arranging a**

**Family & Local History Extravaganza on
Saturday 21st September 2013 at
Doncaster college for the Deaf, Leger Way, Doncaster
10.00 - 4.00 Admission £2**

Learn more about tracing your family history

Talks: Early Civil Registration by Audrey Collins for The National Archives
Beyond Births, Marriages & Deaths by Ian Marson
DNA For Family History by Colin Pomery

A Date For Your Diary

NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Detailed below are new or revised members' interests. At the end of each line is the membership number of the person who is researching that name.

The names and contact details for each member are available from:

- a) New members' page in this or previous journals
- b) Mrs J Saxby who keeps Members' Interest records. (see inside back page)

Please note: Chapman Codes have been used for counties - a copy of the Chapman Codes can be found on our website. If you are a member and do not have internet access but would like a copy, please get in touch with the Editor.

Surname	County		Period	Mem No
Neale	DBY		1600	102
Lievesley	DBY		1600	102
Davidson	DBY		1750	102
Walker	NRY		1750	102
Gregson	WRY		1750	102
Gregory	DBY		1800	102
Buxton	NFK		1750	102
Howlett	NFK		1800	102
Baxton	NFK		1750	102
Whittaker Florence	WRY	Conisborough	1896-1959	3992
Wood Fred	WRY	Conisborough	1895-1980	3992
Wood Vera	WRY	Conisborough	1916 onwards	3992
Purdy Rose	WRY	Conisborough	1898-1975	3992
Guest	YKS			3838
Guest	SAL			3838
Lawton	NTT			3838
Lawton	YKS	Dinnington		3838
Lawton	DBY	Whitwell		3838
Guirdham	DBY	Whitwell		3838
Camm	LEI	Quorn / Quorndon		3838
Camm	NTT			3838
Dearman	NTT			3838
Deas	WLS	South Wales		3838
Deas	SCT			3838

Disclaimer

The Editor reserves the right to amend items sent for inclusion in this magazine. Views expressed in this publication are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Society.



Sheffield & District Family History Fair

Saturday 1 June 2013

Sheffield Wednesday Football Club

Admission £1

Yorkshire Family History Fair

Saturday 29th June 2013 10.00 - 4.00

York Racecourse

Admission £4.50

Buckinghamshire Family History Society Open Day

Saturday 27th July 2013, 10am - 4pm

The Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury, HP21 7NH.

Free Admission & Free Parking

Ryedale Family History Fair

Saturday 17 August 2013 10.00am - 4.00pm

Lady Lumley's School, Pickering

Admission £1 & Free Parking

Family & Local History Extravaganza (Doncaster)

Saturday 21st September 2013 10.00 - 4.00

Doncaster College for the Deaf, Leger Way, Doncaster

The National Family History Fair (Newcastle)

Saturday 7th September 2013 10.00am - 4.00pm

Newcastle Central Premier Inn

Admission £3.50 (inc raffle ticket)

A Family History Conference: Migration To, From & Within The British Isles

6 - 8 Sept 2013

Hinckley Island Hotel, Watling St, Hinckley, LE10 3JA

Charges apply www.exodus2013.co.uk

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MEMBERS RESEARCH SERVICE

Research is defined as a “look-up” service (see form for full details) and is limited to items held in the D&DFHS Palgrave Research Centre. (including the D&DFHS publications and CDs)

All applications must be made on the prescribed form - download a form off the website www.doncasterfhs.co.uk or contact :

Cost for members:

UK applications £5, Overseas applications £7

(one event, one record)

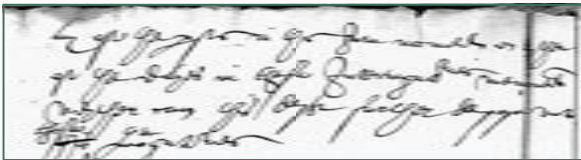
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