

Sheffield and District Family History Society

The Flowing Stream



Summer 1995

Volume 16
Number 2

FUTURE PROGRAMME

1995 Programme

Meet 7.30 pm Baptist Church, Cemetery Road,
(entrance Napier Street) unless otherwise stated.

Mon. 24 Apr* **Minding Other People's Business** by Roy Young

* Please note change of date to avoid Easter

Mon. 15 May **Evening Visit to Totley.** (Includes some walking)
Meet at 7 pm at Cross Scythes bus terminus

Mon. 18 Sep. **Talk by Tony Smith** (Subject to be announced)

Mon. 16 Oct. **Victorian Sources** by Martin Olive

Mon. 20 Nov. **Family History Quiz** by Roy Bullen.

ROTHERHAM BRANCH MEETINGS

Meet 7 pm at the W.E.A. Rooms, Corporation St. Rotherham

Thurs. 1 Jun. **Family History** by Gill Briscoe

Thurs. 6 Jul. **Open discussion**

Thurs. 7 Sep. **Wheel Lane, Grenoside** by W. Blount of the Church of
Latter Day Saints

Thurs. 5 Oct. **Open discusson**

Thurs. 2 Nov. **History of Freemasonry in Rotherham**
by Chris Souter

Thurs. 7 Dec. **Open discussion and Christmas Meeting**

Thurs. 4 Jan. '96 **A.G.M.**

THE FLOWING STREAM

Journal of Sheffield and District Family History Society

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CONTENTS	Page
Editorial	27
New Members	27
News and Notes	28
Forthcoming Conferences	29
Through the Letter Box	29
Society Meetings	
The Gatty Family of Ecclesfield	30
Annual General Meeting - Minutes	30
Back to Basics - Marriage	35
England's Last Revolution	37
Other People's Problems	38
What Time of Day?	40
World Tour of the Sheffield Musical Union	41
Competition First Prize -	
John Crawshaw and Ellen Broomhead of Bradfield . Married 1589	42
From Gloucestershire Gaol Records	45
Dem Bones, Dem Bones	46
Useful Articles from Other Societies' Journals	47
A Love Letter	48
Dean and Chapter (Peculiar Marriage Bonds) - Lichfield	49
Baptism Register of St. John's, Chapeltown	50
A Question Answered	51
Important Notice	52
The Noah's Ark, Sheffield	53
Character Pubs within easy reach of London Record Offices	54
Not What He Seemed	55

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Copy days for the Society's Journals are 28 Feb., 31 May., 31 Aug., 30 Nov.

THE SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

The Society is open to anyone interested in the study of Genealogy and Family History. Monthly meetings are held at Cemetery Road Baptist Church, Cemetery Road, Sheffield (Napier Street entrance) on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7.30 p.m. during the winter months and excursions are arranged for the summer. The Society's library is held at Sheffield Archives, 52, Shoreham Street, Sheffield S1 4SP and is available during their normal opening hours. The Society caters for the Metropolitan Districts of Sheffield and Rotherham. The annual subscription is £8 (and £10 for joint membership-only one journal); £8 overseas surface mail and £10 overseas airmail.

The OFFICERS at present are;

President Professor David Hey.

Chairman Mrs Marjorie Dunn, 2, Summer Lane, Sheffield S17 4AJ

Secretary Mr Roy Bullen, 18, Furniss Avenue, Sheffield S17 3QL

Treasurer Mrs Eileen Allen, 25, Boston Castle Grove, Moorgate, Rotherham S60 2BA

Editor Mrs Denise Marsden, "Burnside", Low Bradfield, Sheffield S6 6LB

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Computer Group, Mr E. Cox, 90, Montgomery Road, Sheffield. S7 1LR

Programme Mr. D. Hogg, 11, The Lawn, Dronfield, Sheffield S18 6LT

Secretaries Mr. A. Jordan, 12, Garth Way, Dronfield, Sheffield S18 6RL

Librarian Mrs S.E. Hammond, 1, Storrs Green Cottages, Storrs, Sheffield S6 6GY

Assistant Librarian Mr F. Westwood, 11, Hail Mary Drive, Sheffield. S13 9XW

Membership Secretary & Rotherham Branch Rep. Miss A. Kendrick

3, Roughwood Road, Kimberworth Park, Rotherham S61 3RE

Bookstall Officer Mrs M.Hume, 41, Rushley Road, Dore, Sheffield S17 3EH

Project Co-ordinator Mr J. Webb, 68, Wollaton Road, Bradway, Sheffield S17 4LG

Other Committee Members

Mrs H. Gillott, 4, Bents Crescent, Dronfield, Sheffield S18 6EY

Miss S. Graves, 57A, Fircroft Avenue, Sheffield S5 0SR

Mrs J. King, 8, Elwood Road, Bradway, Sheffield S17 4 RH

Mrs G. Moffatt, 39, Strathtay Road, Ecclesall, Sheffield S11 7GU

Mr R.W. Topham, 92, Adrian Crescent, Sheffield S5 8DL

Non-Committee 1861 Census Project, Mrs M.W. Robson, "Rock House",

126, Bawtry Road, Bramley, Rotherham S66 0TS

Non-Committee Strays Coordinator Mr R.M. Bunting, "Firgrove",

Horseshoe Lane, Ash Vale, Nr. Aldershot, Hants. GU12 5LL

ROTHERHAM BRANCH

Meetings are held at the W.E.A. Rooms, Corporation St. Rotherham 7-9 p.m. on the 1st Thursday of each month except August. Speakers are engaged at alternate meetings; the other meetings are given to members' interests and discussion. Members of the Sheffield Society are welcome to attend meetings.

ROTHERHAM BRANCH OFFICERS.

Chairman Mr C. Ryder, 10, Hall Grove, Moorgate, Rotherham S60 2BS

Secretary Mr R. Bye, 12, Hall Grove, Moorgate, Rotherham S60 2BS

Treasurer Mrs P. Quail, 90, Middle Lane, Clifton, Rotherham S65 2TE

Librarian Mrs R. Bye, 12, Hall Grove, Moorgate, Rotherham S60 2BS

The Society is a member of the Federation of Family History Societies. Contributions and letters for publication should be sent to the Editor. All other correspondence on Society matters should be sent to the Secretary. Contributors are reminded that articles and material submitted for publication should not be subject to Copyright.

EDITORIAL

Many members may be puzzled by references in family history circles to "Strays". This is our jargon for people who are recorded in some way in a county other than that of their birth. It may be someone who marries a girl from a parish many miles from his birthplace, or some one found as a soldier in distant barracks. It may be someone recorded on a gravestone in an unexpected place or mentioned in a removal order far from home. We are all asked to collect these "stray" records and to pass them on to our Strays Co-ordinator. They are then sorted and passed to the county where the person was born. That county's co-ordinator will collect all the strays and eventually the National Strays Index is published on microfiche which we will receive for our library. It is, therefore, well worth while checking the strays (see library catalogue for details) to see if any of your ancestors are mentioned in them. Some years ago we published two sets of strays referring to this area. Copies of these are still available on our Society bookstall for a nominal sum and are well worth purchasing.

Members will also find it worthwhile to look at back copies of other societies' journals. They contain many items of interest to all family historians. Complete sets of other societies' magazines can be found at Sheffield Archives in our Society library.

Thank you to all those who contributed to this edition. Please keep sending in your articles, information and snippets.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society welcomes the following new members

Mr G. Davis, 33, Stradbroke Grove, Buckhurst Hill, Essex IG9 5PE

Mrs R. Eatock, 231 Hady Lane, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S41 0DA

Mr R. Graham, 30, Woodburn Road, Northenden, Manchester M22 4BZ

Mr V. Marson, 12, Hanover Court, Cambridge CB2 1JH

Ms B. Morgon, 378, Stannington Road, Sheffield S6 5FS

Mrs B. O'Neill, 84, Dulverton Drive, Park North, Swindon, Wilts. SN3 2NP

Mr M.C. Smith, 27, Thorngrove Road, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 1DE

Mr C. Walker, 254, Meadowhead, Sheffield S8 7UH.

Ms H. Wallder, 4, Ronald Road, Balby, Doncaster DN4 0PG

Mr D.F.K. Wells, The Mount, Commonside, Crowle, S. Humberside,
DN17 4EY

Mr S.E. Woodhouse, 87, Wollaton Road, Bradway, Sheffield S17 4LF

Overseas members

Mrs P. Fisher, 2/134, Norman Lesser Drive, St. Johns, Auckland,
New Zealand 1130

Mrs A. Hamilton, 18309, Quondal Court, Gaithersburg, MD 20877, USA
S. Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society, GPO Box 592, Adelaide,
S. Australia 5001

Change of Address

Mr R.C. Goodwin, 3, Devonshire Court, Staveley, Chesterfield S43 3PB
Mrs J. Robson, c/o WO1 Robson, SA G5 (HNS), HQ ARRC, BFPO 40
Mr C.W. Sorby, 5, Powderham Road, Hartley, Plymouth PL3 5SF

Resigned

Mr D. Phillips.

NEWS AND NOTES

Tenth Family History in Wales Course

This will be held over the week from Saturday 12 to Saturday 19 August 1995 at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth.

A weekend **Second Stages Course** on "Occupations and the records relating to them" will be held from Friday 15 to Tuesday 19 Sept 1995. These residential courses are accredited by the University and people are welcome to attend either to gain academic credits or for personal satisfaction. Brochures with full details of the programmes, accommodation and costs are available from the Course Directors (FH), The Dept. of Extra-Mural Studies, University of Wales, 10-11 Laura Place, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 2AU (Tel: 01970-622677)

Project Coordinator

Please will any members planning a project contact Jim Webb our Project Coordinator before beginning to check that the work has not already been done.

Accommodation Register

Members are reminded that the Federation has published an Accommodation Register giving details of people, themselves interested in Family History, who are willing to provide overnight accommodation for fellow researchers at a modest charge. There is a copy of the Register in our library or members can order their own copy from the Bookstall.

1861 Census Index

Volumes 15-18 (Sheffield Park) are now available on one microfiche price £1 plus 20p postage UK and £1 postage airmail overseas. Volumes 1,2 and 3 which were out of print are also now available on microfiche price £2 plus postage as above. These microfiche as well as the other volumes in the series are available from Mrs J. King, 8, Elwood Road, Bradway, Sheffield S17 4RH.

If The Door Is Locked !

Members arriving after 7.30 pm for the monthly meetings may find the door to be locked. This is because the Church has been having problems with unauthorised people entering the premises. If you find the door to be locked please ring the bell and someone will let you in immediately.

A Thank You

The Society wishes to thank Lynne Howsam for the gift of a completed family history of the Rodger and Tomlinson families she has been researching.

"Empty Cradles"

The correct title of the book mentioned in Vol. 16 No.1 is "Lost Children of the Empire".

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

Weekend Conference in Reading 8-10 Sept. 1995

Federation Conference with the Title "Victorian Virtues, Vices and Virtuosity".
Details in Vol. 16 No. 1.

THROUGH THE LETTERBOX

From Mrs Helen Lomas, 26 Berrow Court, Gardens Walk, Upton-upon-Severn, Worcs. WR8 0JP

Cutting off one's children with a shilling

Re the shilling mentioned in wills, it could also be the sole amount given to a person. This person could not then dispute the will by saying his or her name had been omitted by mistake.

SOCIETY MEETINGS

Meeting on Mon. 16 Jan. 1995

The Gatty family of Ecclesfield

Cynthia Short, former S.Yorkshire Archivist and a member of our Society gave a most informative history of the famous Gatty family of Ecclesfield. Alfred Gatty, 1839-1903, although born in London, the son of a solicitor, was Vicar of Ecclesfield parish for the whole of his working life. In 1884 he published a description of the parish entitled "A Life At One Living". He also wrote further information in the second edition of Hunter's "Hallamshire".

His wife, Margaret, bore him eight children many of them very clever. She herself was a talented and well known writer of stories for children. Her daughter Juliana who married Major Alex Ewing, was also a famous writer, the author of Jackanapes and many other children's books. She carried on Aunt Judy's Magazine, her mother's creation, after the death of Margaret Gatty.

Annual General Meeting on 20 Feb. 1995 - Minutes

Held at Cemetery Road Baptist Church, Sheffield at 7.30 pm.

Present - 46 members with Mrs M.P. Dunn in the Chair. Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs Hammond, Mr Hogg and Mr Marshall.

Minutes of the last AGM These had already been published in "The Flowing Stream". They were approved and signed as being a true record following a proposition by Mrs Moffatt seconded by Mr Webb.

Matters arising The secretary reported on Any Other Business item (a) in last year's Minutes. Only two members had expressed support for Society AGMs being held on Saturdays therefore the Committee had decided not at this stage to take up Mr Adams' suggestion.

Chairman's Report.

I am pleased to report that 1994 was a year of quiet progress and the smooth running of the Society has been largely due to the efforts of your officers and committee. This is reflected in the pleasant and relaxed atmosphere which we have at our monthly meetings here in this room. Many other members work quietly in the background, on your behalf, and I would like to say how much this is appreciated. The work does not go unnoticed.

Happily our 1861 Census Indexing project for Sheffield is making excellent progress and the next few months will see the publication of several more volumes, albeit on microfiche.

The society competition provided a good selection of well written and researched articles, and it was not an easy task to narrow these down in order to select three winners. Well done and thank you to all entrants.

I have now been Chairman for several years and have enjoyed the task.

However, I wish to make it clear that I would not be offended or annoyed if at any time you felt that a change of Chairman would be a good idea for the Society. My main desire is to see the Society flourish, and often new faces are needed to bring fresh impetus to the scene.

In closing I would like to inform you that there will be another Local History Fair at the Town Hall, Sheffield, on Saturday October 28th, 1995. These fairs are showcases for the Society and give members an opportunity to display artifacts and the results of their research. If anyone has anything worthy of being displayed, or any fresh ideas, they will be welcomed by the display team. After all, the object of the Society, set out in our Constitution, is to promote, for the benefit and education of the public, the study of genealogy, family history and local history in the County of South Yorkshire. What better way to do this than in such elegant surroundings as the Town Hall. Indeed, why do your family history if it is never to see the light of day?

Treasurer's Report, Annual Accounts and Financial Matters.

In presenting the accounts for 1994 Mrs Allen said that financially it had been a fairly uneventful year. Expenses generally had risen resulting in a small loss over the year. As the society had, at the last AGM voted an increase in subscriptions to take effect from January 1st 1995, then this should correct itself in the future. There had been a few slip-ups in the system, due to the increase in subscriptions, but these were gradually being ironed out. Mrs Allen said she would like to thank Mrs Elaine Smith for her willing and good-humoured co-operation in the computer department. Also she offered her thanks to all the other members who had helped in any way with the financial work of the Society - particularly Mrs Dunn, the Chairwoman, Mr. Bullen, the secretary, Mrs Marsden, the editor, and Miss Kendrick, the membership secretary - with apologies for any omissions.

The accounts were approved and the treasurer's report received with thanks on a proposal from Mrs Linsley seconded by Mrs Robson.

Thanks were expressed to Mr G. Lyon, the auditor. It was pointed out that the Rotherham Branch Accounts were excluded from the Society figures. The Branch Accounts had been formally approved at the recent Branch AGM and showed a balance in hand of some £366.

Secretary's Report

I can confidently say that the Society has had a satisfactory twelve months. From my secretarial and administrative viewpoint our affairs seem to have progressed positively, with a growing membership of better-informed family historians and new people coming forward to take up voluntary work of various kinds.

The committee have, under Marjorie Dunn's encouraging leadership, had some very worthwhile meetings. There were five during the year with an average

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1994

	1994	1993
	£	£
Income		
Subscriptions	4191	4215
Journal Sales	42	55
Donations	33	48
Book Sales	638	894
Advertising	130	55
Cupboard	62	nil
Miscellaneous	18	13
Deposit Account Interest	153	156
Trips Account	nil	645
	<u>5267</u>	<u>6081</u>
Expenditure		
Stationery and Printing	290	227
Journal Production Costs	2105	1947
Photocopying and Duplicating	159	98
Postage and Telephone	1252	1071
Room Hire	212	198
Speakers Expenses	136	171
Books for resale	516	915
Census Project	42	16
Federation Fees	134	135
Books for Library	221	78
Insurance	58	51
Sundries	106	97
Trips Account	nil	724
Audit Fee	76	74
Computer Expenses	74	9
Deficit for year	-114	270
	<u>5267</u>	<u>6081</u>

SHEFFIELD & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET AT 31st DECEMBER 1994

	1994	1993
	£	£
Accumulated Fund		
Balance 1st January 1994	5034	4764
Deficit for 1994	-114	270
Creditor Audit Fee	76	74
Subscriptions in Advance	1328	173
	<u>6324</u>	<u>5281</u>
Assets		
Current Account-General	697	181
Cash and Bank Book Account	438	248
Bank Account-Trips	36	36
Deposit Account	4283	3831
Stock	870	985
	<u>6324</u>	<u>5281</u>

E M Allen (Treasurer)

Auditors Report to the Committee of Sheffield and District Family History Society

I have audited the financial statements in accordance with approved auditing standards. In my opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the Society's affairs at 31st December 1994.

G Lyon Certified Accountant

11th January 1995

attendance of 13 or 14 present out of a total of 16 members, plus numerous meetings of an informal kind to deal with specific matters such as the competition, lectures and difficult family history queries from the membership.

I must acknowledge the splendid help I have received from many of you when dealing with some of the 350 or so letters I have received during the year. There have been occasions when the willing assistance of fellow committee members and others has resulted in enquirers receiving replies earlier than would have otherwise been the case.

Readers of our informative journal will appreciate how many activities have taken place during 1994/5. We have had a varied programme of mainly high quality lectures in both Sheffield and Rotherham, excursions, outdoor visits and local History Fairs. Grateful thanks are offered to all those who put themselves about to organise or support the events and to our visiting speakers and tour guides. And I am pleased to report the significant progress now being made by both old and new members of the 1861 Census project team. After a rather quiet period at the start of the year the transcription work is forging ahead and more publications on microfiche should not be long delayed. Members visiting Sheffield Archives will have noted that our library there has been completely re-arranged and re-classified by our two librarians after many hours of labour.

The Rotherham Branch is an integral part of the Society and the more Sheffield and Rotherham residents attend each other's meetings the better. The Branch had, perhaps not unnaturally, a rather difficult period following the death of Rex Berry, but last month the officers and committee were reinforced by some able new people and already we see Rotherham going forward strongly again.

In conclusion I should like to look both backwards and forwards. On Monday 14th April 1975 the person who is now our President started the first family history class at Sheffield University. When the course ended several of us present here tonight, with other interested friends, formed the Sheffield University Family History Society. This soon attracted people who were not in the original class and so the name was later changed to Sheffield and District Family History Society - our present title.

So, in a historic sense we are almost 20 years old. And next year 21 - the traditional age at which many Sheffielders completed their apprenticeship and officially became "grown-ups". The important Birthday celebrations were often the occasion of what in our district was called a "Loozing" or a loosening of the bonds of apprenticeship. Perhaps in 1996 we should do something special for OUR Twenty-first? Think about it anyway.....

Editor's Report

It is always my pleasant task to thank the many people who work behind

the scenes producing material from which we all benefit. This year is no exception. We are now producing almost 800 copies of each edition of "The Flowing Stream". Each one needs an address label. Our thanks go to Elaine Smith for keeping our mailing list and producing those labels.

Thank you, too, to all contributors to "The Flowing Stream". It makes my task so much easier if I have as good a supply of interesting material as 1994 produced. Please keep on sending in your copy. As I have often said even two line snippets are valuable as I dislike leaving blank spaces, however small.

Turning to other productions I should like to express the Society's thanks to John Cooper who has just finished the enormous index to Burngreave Cemetery. It is the product of several years' work.

Frank Westwood also deserves our thanks for his work in indexing M.I.'s as well as a variety of military records. And this year we must also record our thanks to Mary Robson and her team of helpers who completed our part of the 1881 census index. Efforts have now been transferred to the on-going 1861 census index which I am sure everyone has already used.

Finally, I should like to mention all those who entered our competition. It has given us many fascinating articles that will appear in future editions of "The Flowing Stream". My thanks to all the entrants and congratulations to the winners.

Results of the Society Competition

The chairman thanked all those who had entered the first Competition run by the Society and complimented all those involved. The standard of articles submitted had been high. The three prize-winners were announced.

First Prize	-	Mrs R.C. Pearson of Bracknell
Second Prize	-	Miss M. Platts of Sheffield
Third Prize	-	Mrs K. Watson of Winchester

The winning articles and some other entries will be printed in our journal in due course.

Election of Officers and Committee

The present 1994/5 Officers and Committee were nominated for re-election by Miss Hubbard, seconded by Mrs Furey and then formally appointed.

In addition, a further member, Mr R. Topham, was elected as a Committee member after nomination by Mrs Furey, seconded by Roy Bullen.

Any Other Business

Mrs Pitchforth asked if members would like to have the 1861 Census of Sheffield information available in computer disc in addition to fiche. Discussion followed and some ten members showed interest. It was agreed a query on this be put to readers of the Journal. Mrs Dunn pointed out that computer disc information for the 1861 Census was not available for some of the earlier volumes.

There was no further business and the AGM concluded at 7.55 pm.

Meeting on 20 Feb. 1995

Back to Basics - Marriage

Marjorie Dunn gave a most instructive short talk after the AGM. She began by looking at the reasons why a marriage may not be found where one is expected.

1. Before 1929 a girl could marry at 12 years of age and a boy at 14 with parental consent so always check for an early marriage.
2. Tradesmen, craftsmen and apprentices had to establish themselves before they married so many probably did not marry until their late 20's or early 30's.
3. Sometimes people were so poor that they could not afford to get married. When the girl became pregnant they just moved on and did not say they were not married.
4. Divorce was rare, because it was very expensive and also a disgrace. Consequently a man would run away, probably live with someone else and maybe even marry them bigamously.
5. Some widowers, often needing someone to look after their children, would take a housekeeper and then, later, marry her.

From the twelfth century betrothal followed by a pregnancy, or even consummation, was accepted as a valid marriage although a formal declaration of marriage was expected. Espousal Books recording official betrothals do survive for a few places. Many men must have died in battle, of accidents or disease before the marriage could take place.

Marriages took place in the bride's parish. Where two parishes are involved in 90% of cases the partner not from that parish came from within 15 miles.

In 1215 the reading of Banns was ordered. This required that a proclamation of intention to marry should be read out in the parish churches of both bride and groom three times at weekly intervals. It could only be dispensed with if a marriage licence was obtained. Marriage registers began in Sept. 1858. but Banns Registers were not kept until after the passing of Hardwicke's Marriage Act in 1754. The reading of Banns was not popular in all circles. Dissenters disliked it. The well-to-do felt it was undignified. It could be inconvenient and it certainly delayed the marriage. The recording of Banns is no guarantee that a marriage took place. In many cases the Banns book was disposed of when it was full but in cases where they do exist they sometimes fill gaps in the records.

In 1654 an Act took marriage out of the hands of the Clergy and it became a civil contract made by a Justice of the Peace. Banns had to be published three times on consecutive Sundays or on three consecutive market days in the market place. The banns were recorded either in a separate book or in the marriage

register. In the latter case a letter M was sometimes written after the marriage entry instead of a full record of the reading of the Banns being made. Civil marriage was very unpopular especially with devout people and some were remarried before a priest. The ceremony would not be recorded. Registration at this time was very laxly carried out. With the Restoration marriage once more became a sacrament of the Church. Civil marriages contracted after Market Place banns were legalised and the children of such unions were legitimised.

Between 1698 and 1703 a tax levied on registration of marriage meant that the very poor were unrecorded. The Stamp Act of 1783 charging 3 pence on all registrations had a similar effect. It was repealed a year later but until 1820 there are many gaps in parochial registration.

Lord Hardwicke's Marriage Act of 1754 "for the better preventing of clandestine marriage" regulated the ceremony of marriage. Before it, a marriage by affirmation before witnesses but without benefit of clergy or registration was accepted as legal. After the Act banns or licences had to be issued. Proper and separate registers of Banns and Marriage had to be kept. Marriages had to be performed in licensed premises i.e. churches and chapels of the Church of England. Only Jews and Quakers were exempt from this ruling. Clandestine marriages i.e. those made before clergy but without banns or licences made before 1754 were legalised.

George Rose's Act of 1813 introduced new columnar forms for registration. This ensured that all the information required was recorded but allowed less scope for the incumbent to make his own comments.

In 1837 civil registration began. Marriages could take place in non-conformist places of worship as well as Parish Churches provided that a registrar was present. Marriage could also take place in a Register Office.

To summarise, the following sources may provide the record you are seeking.

- 1 Espousal books - very few in existence.
- 2 Bann Registers - at Church or Record office. Worth checking for an illegitimate birth.
- 3 Marriage licenses - Diocesan record office - Borthwick Institute in York for our area.
- 4 Church Registers of marriage.
- 5 Bishop's Transcripts. These are the copies of Parish registers that had to be sent to the Bishop each year. They may contain records not found in Parish Registers.
- 6 St. Catherine's House Index to Births, Marriages and Deaths for the whole country may enable you to locate a marriage in an unexpected area.
- 7 Newspaper announcements may save the purchase of a certificate and may also give extra detail.

8 Marriages after 1837 could take place in a Register Office.
Finally, remember that records keep turning up, so don't give up!

The following books were recommended by Marjorie as a mine of information for all family historians:

The Dictionary of Genealogy A guide to British ancestry research by Terrick V.H. FitzHugh. ISBN 906670 38 1. Published by Alphabooks.

The Family Historians Enquire Within by F.C. Markwell and Pauline Saul. ISBN 0 907099 41 6. Published by the Federation of Family History Societies.

Reported by Denise Marsden

Rotherham Branch Meeting 2 Feb 1995

England's Last Revolution

The speaker for this meeting was one of our own members. The subject came from a visit that Mrs Longden made to Pentrich, Derbyshire, in search of her forebears. She had heard talk of a 'revolution' that occurred nearly 200 years ago in Pentrich and the story that follows came from the visit.

Owing to the failed harvest of 1816 and the lack of work the local population found life unbearable. Advances were made to the government about the workers' plight without success.

Some workers met in secret and decided to overthrow the government. Sixty four year old Thomas Bacon was the leader. Arms were secreted in various places to be collected when the signal was given. Jeremiah Brandreth, who was the leader in the field, threatened others with death if they did not join him. It appears that the 'revolutionists' made several stops along the way to demand free food and ale saying they would settle the bill when they came to power.

When faced with the authorities the revolutionists dispersed and went into hiding. Jeremiah Brandreth evaded capture for some time but was caught trying to find a ship that would take him out of the country. In September 1817 he was executed with two others and eleven were sentenced to fourteen years hard labour in Australia. The rest were 'acquitted' but nevertheless lost their homes and jobs, leaving them in an even worse situation than at the outset of their campaign.

Reported by B.L. Jervis

INDEXES ON COMPUTER DISC?

Members who would be interested in obtaining copies of the 1861 Census index on computer disc are asked to contact Marjorie Dunn or Roy Bullen to record their interest.

OTHER PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS

Mrs M. Hackett, 5, Crawley Street, Merrylands 2160 N.S.W. Australia writes, "I am having problems tracing my grandmother's birth in Bradford, 9 Aug 1866. Her name was **Elizabeth Sheridan**. Mother's name **Mary Kelly**. She married **John Powell** about 1886. Their children were **Lillian, Helena** and **John**. They lived in Attercliffe and Darnall, Sheffield and emigrated to Australia in 1912 following their daughter's earlier departure. Any ancestor or information would be much appreciated". (I.R.C.s sent)

Mrs C. Farris, 5971, Dorset Street, Riverside, California 92509, USA writes "I am looking for somebody who might be a relative of a **Lovina J (Littlewood) Rigby**. She has done a lot of sealing for the Littlewood family. She did the sealing in the 1930's. She has also done some of the Fenton family. Any information of a **Joseph Littlewood** who married a **Mary Fenton** on 18 Jan. 1835 in Rotherham would be helpful. Any ancestors or information would be much appreciated."

Mrs R. Hawker, 60, Lloyd Road, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham B20 2NE writes "Anyone researching Hay(e)s in Greasborough? My 3x great grandfther, **John Hayes**, was buried there in 1858, aged 43. The 1851 census says he was born in Greasbrough but I can find no record of baptism. In 1835 he married **Ellen Parks** (b. Penistone) in Darfield. His first three children were born in Wilson Place, Barnsley and four more in Oil Mill Fold, Rotherham. I have researched a **John Hayes** baptised in Wentworth in 1815 but that family seems to move around Elsecar not Greasbrough. Why should a young widow with seven children, living in Rotherham, bury her husband in Greasbrough unless there was a very strong family connection? Any suggestions?"

Beryl M. Mawson, 25, Kendal Way, Eastwood, Leigh-on Sea SS9 5QS is researching the names **Mawson, Greenwood, Jepson** and **Tye** in the Sheffield area. She is particularly seeking information about **Elizabeth Mawson** (née **Jepson**) who, after being widowed, remarried and later moved to Oxford with both families. Three generations were born in that area then they moved to Leigh-on-Sea in the late 70's. it is possible that an earlier generation could have come from Barlow in Derbyshire.

Mrs Roma Roberts, 235a, Queensbury sSreet, Christchurch 8006, New Zealand writes " **Sarah Roebuck** born c1790, married **Jonathan James** on 13 May 1811 in Rotherham. Sarah was buried on 9 April 1863 in Rotherham. I should like to trace her parents or siblings or have any information of her prior to her marriage to Jonathan."

Mr R. Bloomfield, 31, Jardine Close, Wincobank, Sheffield S9 1PS writes "I have recently discovered that both my paternal grandfather and maternal grandfather at one time had thoughts of studying for the priesthood but did not complete their training. Does any member know how I can find out where they may have started their training as one was born and lived in Sheffield and the other was born in Greenock, Scotland ?

Mr D. Wells, The Mount, Commonsides, Crowle, S. Humberside DN17 4EY writes "I would like any information on the name **Satterfitt**, which is a variation of **Satterthwaite**. The name appears in the IGI in the 1550's in Ecclesfield and Rotherham (Masbrough). In the 1750's their trade was shown as cutler.

My 4 x great grandfather **George Satterfitt**, born 1753 in Ecclesfield, moved to Braithwell, married **Sarah Thompson** and thus began the Satterfitt family in that village. Most of them were Ag. Labs. One was a maltster. The last of the family died in the 1890's."

Pauline C. Bell, 12, Church Close, Louth, Lincs. LN11 9LR writes "I am interested in collecting novels which have a regional setting. Do any fellow members know of any novels set in the Sheffield area particularly focussing on the steel industry? I should be pleased to buy any such that are for sale and shall of course pay postage. in addition to the above I am looking for a first edition of **Phyllis Bentley's "Inheritance"**. I have a large collection of regional novels, many in duplicate, set mostly in Yorkshire and Derbyshire with a few set elsewhere in Britain. I should be pleased to send a list to anyone who writes to me enclosing an SAE."

Mrs R. Eatock, 231, Hady Lane, Chesterfield, Derbys. S41 0DA is seeking information on the following people

1. **Henry Brookes** and **Ann Jarvis**. married 3 Feb 1859. Henry was a silver spoon and fork stamper and died at Carrfield Ave. Norton Lees 30 Jan 1892. Children - **Ebenezer, Kate, Sarah, Caroline** and **J. Henry**.

2 **James Brookes**. Shoemaker. Sheffield. Mid 1800's. Married **Frances Noble** possibly in 1823.

3 **William Eaton**. Miner, Hollinsend born 1860? Married **Annie Maria Marsh**. Ten children inc. **Esther, Charlotte, Hilda** (direct relative), **Albert, William Henry** and **Ernest**. **Annie Maria** was daughter of **Henry Marsh** whose father **John** is said to have been a cutler living in 1860 in Park area of Sheffield.

4 **Caroline Eliza Gyte**. Lived in Mosborough and Hackenthorpe. Married

to **John Henry Brookes** until his death. As Mrs Gyte she raised two children by the name of **Harold and Doris James**. Doris married **Jim Searston** and lived at Dronfield The two children of her marriage to John Henry were **George Ebenezer** and **Harry** (died after accident at Hadfield's). Both were raised at Mosborough.

Any details or location of family pictures would be appreciated.

Mrs S. Brown, "Battle", 451, D'Aguilar H'way, Moodlu, via Caboolture, Qld. 4510 Australia writes "I am trying to find connections with the following: **Joseph Brown** married **Annie Maria Flower** at Handsworth 9-11-1897. They had a daughter **Alice** and three or four sons, the youngest being my father-in-law **Victor** b. 22-2-1905. Alice had a son **Alf** who married **Molly**. I don't know Alice's married name. Alf and Molly had three sons of whom one was named **David** (He would now be about 40 years of age and may be in the Intake area.) Victor married and lived in Portsmouth, Hants. Could somebody please help?" (Postage and costs refunded - initial postage sent)

Reciprocal Help

Ann Godley, 91, Whitley View Road, Rotherham S61 2HJ is willing to do research at Sheffield and Rotherham Archives for any member who in exchange would be able to do research for her at record offices covering Brighton, Worthing and Brookwater in Sussex.

WHAT TIME OF DAY?

Whilst most of us struggle to ascertain the particular year of the ancestor's birth, let alone the exact date, spare a thought for the lucky person who has one of these on their "tree". From Miscellaneous Document No, 6900/4 in Sheffield Archives I noted down:

John Greaves and Ann Shepherd married 23 June 1743 at Sheffield. Children:-

JOHN 6 April @ 4 o'clock in the morning 1744

SARA 13 Nov 32 minutes past 1 o'clock in the day 1745

EDWARD 20th Jan 1746 about 50 minutes past 7 o'clock in the morning. Died the 7th of Nov 1748

ANN 1st Nov 1748 about 10 o'clock forenoon

CATHERINE 30th Jan 1749/50 about 7 minutes past 3 afternoon and died 12th July 1757

ELIZABETH 17 Aug 1754 about ½ an hour past 12 in the morning. Died 5th Dec 1768

MARY 27th Jan 1753 about 38 minutes past 5 in the morning

JANE 2nd Jan about 6 o'clock in the morning 1756

Geoff Levesley, 5, Hayes Court, Halfway, Sheffield S19 5TS

NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Summer 1995

Vol. 16. No. 2

The following abbreviations have been used in compiling this list.

c	=	about the following date
C	=	century
+	=	any time after the date given
pre	=	any time before the date given
E	=	Early
M	=	Mid
L	=	Late

1289 T.L. Morgan, 19, The Grove, Ickenham, Uxbridge UB10 8QH

BAMBROUGH	Belper DBY	L19C
BELLAMY	Sculcoates ERY	L19C
BURKITT	Huddersfield YKS	L18C
GAGEN	Sheffield YKS	L19C
HASSELL	Leeds YKS	1750+
HAWTHORNE	Sheffield YKS	L19C
QUINN	Belper DBY	1840+
QUINN	Sheffield YKS	1840+
SCHOFIELD	Aughton YKS	1780+
SHAW	All CUL	1700+
WING	All YKS	1700+

R82 Mr P.R. Clements, Meadow View, St. Amory's Holt Way, Maltby, Rotherham

		<u>S66 8RF</u>
BARBER	Sheffield YKS	pre 1940
CHAPMAN	LIN	pre 1878
CLEMENTS	LIN	pre 1878
CLEMENTS	Army in India	Pre 1890
DASHPER	Birmingham WAR	pre 1940
LAWSON	NTT	pre 1900
THOMPSON	Sheffield YKS	pre 1900
TROUGHTON	Sheffield YKS	pre 1940
RICHER	Anywhere	pre 1894
ROBINSON	Sheffield YKS	pre 1940
WALLACE	SCT	pre 1900
WILSON	Sheffield YKS	pre 1940

Mrs A. Quinn, 24, Sandstone Avenue, Wincobank, Sheffield S9 1AL

DUFFIN	Nottingham NTT	pre 1890
MILNES	Laneham-LIN	pre 1880
PINCHES	Wellington SAL	pre 1890
WINFROW	Maltby SYK	pre 1900

1288 G.P. Phillipson, 1, Westbourne, Honeybourn, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 5PT

MARRIOTT	All WRY	pre 1700
MICKLETHWAITE	All	All

O/S 147 Mrs M. Gleadall, P.O.Box 162, St. John's, Antigua, West Indies.

BARNES	North Walsham NFK	19C
CRESWELL	Canterbury KEN	pre 1850
FLOWERS	Sheffield WRY	19C
GLEADALL	Sheffield WRY	19C
GOLDING	Romney Marsh KEN	pre 1850
GOULD	North Walsham NFK	19C
JEFFERY	Chrishall ESS	19C
LININGTON	Portsea Island HAM	18C
NEWLYN	London MDX	19C
ROWE	North Walsham NFK	19C
RUMBLE	Saffron Waldron ESS	19C
SOANE	Finchampstead BRK	18C

Mrs D. Anderson, 13, Pinewood Avenue, Brookhouse, Lancaster, Lancs. LA2 9NU

ANDERSON	Rochdale LAN	pre 1850
BOOTH	Rochdale LAN	pre 1880
FIRTH	Brightside, Sheffield YKS	pre 1870
GLADWELL	Newchurch, Haslingden LAN	pre 1870
McLAUGHLIN	Newchurch, Haslingden LAN	pre 1870
MAGSON	Erringden, Hebden Bridge YKS	pre 1840
MARSDEN	Rochdale LAN	pre 1850
PAYNE	Rochdale LAN	pre 1870
PICKUP	Bradford YKS	pre 1860
ROE	Ecclesall, Sheffield YKS	pre 1890
WELLS	Brightside, Sheffield YKS	pre 1890
WOOD	Rochdale LAN	pre 1860

1300 Mr P. Jennings, Fairacre, Murcott, Malmesbury SN16 9EX

BRIDGES	Norwich NFK	19C
CHAPMAN	Sheffield YKS	19C
FLAXMAN	Norwich NFK	19C
GUTHRIE	Fulham MDX	19C
JENNINGS	Chiswick MDX	18-20C
PETERS	Chiswick MDX	18C
RICHARDSON	Norwich NFK	19C
SPACKMAN	Chiswick MDX	19C
SWIFT	Sheffield YKS	19C
WARD	Sheffield YKS	19C
WILDER	Fulham MDX	19C
WOOLHOUSE	Sheffield YKS	19C

1297 Mr W.G. Mead, 2, Albemarle Road, Chaddesden, Derby DE21 6UG

BEATSON	Sheffield YKS	18-19C
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1304 Mrs B.M. Mawson, 25, Kendal Way, Eastwood, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 5QS

GREENWOOD	Sheffield YKS	1821-1841
JEPSON	Sheffield YKS	1839-1851
MAWSON	Sheffield YKS	1823 to date
TYE	Sheffield YKS	1839-1851
WEBB	Oxford OXF	19C

O/S 150 Mrs A.M. Lee, 10, Munday Way, Medina, West Australia 6167

ATTWOOD	Portsea HAM	pre 1850
FULLER	Sheffield YKS	1850+
FULLER	Soham CAM	pre 1850
JONES	Lambourn BKS	pre 1850
JUSTICE	Newbury BKS	pre 1850
NORTH	Newbury BKS	All
PRINCE	Stainbro' YKS	1800s
REED	Ceylon	1870's
SMITH Malcolm	Sheffield YKS	pre 1900
SOLOMON	Truro CON	pre 1900
WAGSTAFF	Darton, Sheffield YKS	pre 1900
WINGFIELD	Hastings SSX	All

1312 Mr M.C. Smith, 27, Thorngrove Road, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 1DE

BREWIN	Thorpe Acre LEI	pre 1800
JOHNSON	Norton Disney LIN	pre 1800
MACKAY	Storrs Loxley ERY	1861+
MACKIE	Storrs Loxley ERY	1861+
McKIE	Storrs Loxley ERY	1861+
MACKAY	Mélbourne DBY	pre 1800
MACKIE	Melbourne DBY	pre 1800
McKIE	Melbourne DBY	pre 1800
SHUCKSMITH	Alvingham LIN	pre 1800
SMITH	Loughboro' LEI	pre 1750

Mrs J.P. Groves, 3, Lilac Crescent, Hoyland, Barnsley, S. Yorks. S74 9PN

BEATSON	Sheffield SYK	1800+
BEATSON	Rotherham SYK	1900+
HALLAS	Sheffield SYK	1800+
WEBSTER	Hackenthorpe DBY	E 1800

Ms J.M. Hardcastle, 16, Portland Grove, Heaton Moor, Stockport SK4 4AA

BROCKSOPP	Sheffield YKS	pre 1896
BROCKSOPP	LIN	pre 1896
CUSACK	Workington CUL	pre 1875
GOLLAND	Sheffield YKS	pre 1896
JOHNSTON	Workington CUL	pre 1875
MOORE	Workington CUL	pre 1875
STEWART	Workington CUL	pre 1875

Mr D. Wells, The Mount, Commonsides, Crowle, S. Humberside DN17 4EY

BOYD	Rawmarsh SYK	pre 1800
BOYD	Rotherham SYK	pre 1800
COCK	Rotherham SYK	pre 1800
MALEHAM	Ravensfield SYK	1750+
MALEHAM	Wath SYK	1750+
SATTERFITT	Sheffield SYK	1600+
SATTERFITT	Rotherham SYK	1600+
SATTERFITT	Braithwell SYK	1700+
THOMPSON	Braithwell SYK	1700+
WARDINGLEY	Conisbrough SYK	pre 1800
WOLFINDALE	Conisbrough SYK	1700+
WOLFINDALE	Doncaster SYK	1700+

1307 Mrs B.N. Kelso, "Al Mafrak", George Hill Road, Kingsgate, Broadstairs, Kent

CT10 3JT

CLARK	Kirkby cum Osgodby LIN	1750-1855
KENNINGTON	Liverpool LAN	1850-1857
KENNINGTON	North Owersby LIN	1860-1880
KENNINGTON	Sculcoates YKS	1880-1930
QUIBELL	Ragnall NTT	1700-1880
QUIBELL	Sheffield YKS	1880-1920
UNWIN	Sheffield YKS	1884-1930
WILLIAMSON	Ragnall NTT	1800-1850

1311 Mr C. Walker, 254, Meadowhead, Sheffield S8 7UH

HARVEY	Sheffield YKS	pre 1940
WALKER	Sheffield YKS	pre 1935
YOULE	Sheffield YKS	pre 1930

1261 Mrs R. Hawker, 60, Lloyd Road, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham B20 2NE

FOSTER	Clay Cross DBY	19C
HAY(E)	Greasbrough WRY	pre 1820
HAY(E)	Rotherham WRY	1850+
HUNTER	Clay Cross DBY	19C
MOVERLEY	All LIN	pre 1800
MOVERLEY	All WRY	pre 1800
NEWSUN	Rotherham WRY	pre 1850
TANKERSLEY	Isle of Axholme LIN	pre 1800
TANKERSLEY	Thorne WRY	pre 1800
WEBSTER	Isle of Axholme LIN	pre 1800
WRATHMAL	Isle of Axholme LIN	pre 1800

1287 Mrs M. Bazalik, 12, Meirion Gardens, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd LL29 7PR

BACKHOUSE	Grange Moor WRY	pre 1850
BURNSIDE	Stillington NRY	c 1816
PASHLEY	Hoyland WRY	pre 1850
RAFFERTY	Sheffield WRY	pre 1850

WORLD TOUR OF THE SHEFFIELD MUSICAL UNION

(Continued from Volume 16 No. 1)

Farrar, May	Humberstone, Ethel
Ferguson, Thomas (1 wk) (Scotland)	Hunter, Margaret
Fletcher, Percy	Husband, Neary (1908 - 2 wks)
Froggatt, Frank	Husband, Hilda
Furniss, William (For holiday only)	Jagger, Alice
Furniss, Mary (For holiday only)	Johnson, Alan
Furze, Bessie	Jones, Alice
Gaskell, Evina	Jones, Annie
Genders, Ethel (1908 - 2 wks)	Jones, Albert (1908 - 2 wks)
George, Edith	Jowett, Isabel
Gibson, Alice	Kilver, Alick
Green, Florence (1908)	King, Isabella (1908-1 mth)(Scotland)
Haigh, Fred	Kershaw, Frank (1908 - 2 wks)
Hamilton, Florrie	Knowles, Frederick
Hamilton, John	Lawton, Annie (1908 - 2 wks)
Hanson, Ethel	Levick, Lilly (1908 - 2 wks)
Hardy, Lilian	Leybourne, Elliot
Harris, Nellie (1908 - 2 wks)	Lonsdale, Gertrude
Harrison, Alice (USA)	Lumb, Arthur
Harrison, Horace	Marsh, Ralph
Haygarth, Frank	Martin, May (1909 - 2 wks)
Healy, Mary	Maudsley, Thomas (1909 - 3 wks)
Helliwell, Henry (1908)	Midgley, Henrietta
Hemingway, James	Miller, Jean (Scotland)
Henderson, Amy	Moore, William
Heppleston, Robert	Moore, Pansy
Hinchcliffe, Amy	Mortimer, Margaret
Hirst, Joel (Various)	Moxon, Charles
Hodgson, John	Myhill, Arthur
Hodgson, Gertrude	Nadin, Edith (2 wks)
Holtzman, Paula (Jena, Germany)	Netherwood, Katie
Horton, Gertrude	Nicolson, Nettie (Scotland)
Howard, Oliver (1909 - 2 wks)	Parkinson, Mary
Howard, Emeline	Philpot, Louisa (1909 - 1 mth)
Howe, Phyllis	Pickerill, John
Howorth, William	Pigott, Eileen (India - Irish)
Howson, Margaret	Pinkney, Hilda (1903-4-5)
Hudspith, Margaret	<i>Transcribed by Mrs M. Wilcox</i>
Humberstone, Charles	<i>(to be continued)</i>

COMPETITION FIRST PRIZE

JOHN CRAWSHAW AND ELLEN BROOMHEAD OF BRADFIELD: MARRIED 1589

I have traced the lives of my Crawshaw ancestors over 400 years, chasing the family back across the centuries to 1589. This was the year after the Spanish Armada had been defeated off our shores and when beacon fires were lit all over the country in celebration, including one locally at Silkstone Common. England was well into the Elizabethan age by this time, "Good Queen Bess" having reigned for thirty years.

My story begins when one John Crawshaw married his bride Ellen Broomhead in the moorland church at Bradfield on the 5th March 1588/9. Their descendants went on to live and farm the same valleys and hills around Bradfield for centuries to come, and Crawshaws still living here can trace their ancestry back to these two people. Ellen descended from a family who lived on the edge of Broomhead Moor, one of the wildest and bleakest stretches of moorland in this district, and their roots can be traced back to at least the year 1290. Although Ellen was a local lass, John was a "foreigner" whose origins lay "over r'hil" at Silkstone. However, he chose to make his home in Bradfield, living and farming at Fairest, now Fair Hurst.

Bradfield Dale is a remote and beautiful valley bordered on the west by the high gritstone moors which form Derwent Edge, and on the east by what is now the industrial sprawl of Sheffield. It stands on the very edge of the Broomhead and Bradfield moors, and between here and Glossop, as the crow flies, there is not even a hamlet, only mile upon mile of bleak, barren and windswept land. The village of High Bradfield with its church of Saint Nicholas affords magnificent views down into the valley, to Lower or Nether Bradfield, with the River Loxley gently passing through. The church served a vast area, and had chapels-of-ease at Bolsterstone and Midhope. Bolsterstone was an ancient manor and in earlier times it was probably the seat of government.

This area was sparsely populated and the settlements isolated. John Speed's map of Yorkshire for 1610 mentions only *Bowsterston, Bradfeild, Worral, Waddesley, Oulerton, Stanyngton and Sheaffeld*. What we now know as Deepcar and Stocksbridge, which today completely dominate the area, did not even exist. Granted, Sheffield was a town but a small one. In 1615 it had a population of 2,207 (1) and was still essentially rural.

The hamlets and farms remain isolated even today, linked by a maze of narrow lanes bounded with dry-stone walls. The landscape of patchwork fields is man-made, resulting from the clearing of woodlands and the reclamation of the "Blackmoors". The terrain is hilly and the fields slope - this is "uneasy land" -

making farming difficult, but many families made a living at it until the Enclosure Act and the industrial revolution brought about the changes which were to drastically alter life as it had been.

But what would life have been like for John and Ellen, living on their lonely farm and making a living from the land ?

Their home would have been simple and plain. Early inventories show us that furniture was sparse. Rushes were strewn on the floor, even in wealthy households. When newly laid and mixed with herbs such as woodruff, they formed a sweet-smelling carpet. They had to be changed regularly, and in later years were replaced by rush-mats. There would have been a table and some stools or benches, probably of oak. The beds would have had straw-stuffed mattresses, and there would have been chests for the linen. Many of the Crawshaw wills of this date and earlier mention bequests of coverlets, blankets and sheets.

In the 16th century, meat and bread were the staple food. Vegetables were cooked with the meat rather than being served as accompaniments. The main drink was beer, home-brewed. Water was considered "*not wholesome by itself for an Englishman*" (2) and even children drank beer. Wine would be made from local ingredients in season. Coffee was not to be known in England until about 1630, but it was not widely drunk until the 1660's. Tea was not introduced here until 1658, and was much dearer than coffee. Prior to Elizabeth's reign, ale, made from fermented malt, was brewed, but the introduction of hops enabled beer to be made, fermented with yeast. It would have been Ellen's job to malt the barley and brew the ale.

Their bread would have been made of rye or barley, and on occasions Ellen would have made bread with beans, peason, oats and may even sometimes have used some acorns. Wheaten bread was generally eaten by the upper classes. The potato had been introduced into England by the second half of the 16th century and was being grown in kitchen gardens, but it was not yet considered by farmers to be a commercial crop. Hard cheese, which had been a food of the more wealthy now became a common food amongst the poorer classes. Most farmers kept a cow, if only for their own use, so they had a cheap supply of butter and cheese. In 1609 John was left a cow by the will of another John Crawshaw, who lived at Thurgoland, then in the parish of Silkstone; he bequeathed, "*to John Crashaw in ffrearhirst in the p'ish of Bradfelde and countie of yorke one black cow.*" (3) There would be food from the countryside to supplement their diet; rabbits for example, and fruit in season; bilberries are very prolific here.

Food was generally eaten with the fingers, everyone having a knife for meat and bread, and a spoon for soup. There were no forks in general use; these were very much a novelty until they became more popular about 1750. Farming

families such as John and Ellen's would probably still have been using wooden trenchers, although in the more wealthy households, pewter and silver were being used for plates. Dinner was eaten early, at about 11 o'clock, and supper at 5 o'clock or earlier.

During the early period of John and Ellen's married life, there were bad harvests, severe epidemics (human and animal), and there had already been some enclosure of common land. Wool prices, which had been rising since 1510 later fell, and sheep were not so profitable. In Yorkshire in 1593, common labourers were paid 1d a day in winter for farm work, and 2d a day in summer, which would include meat and drink. The work would have been tasks such as ditching, hedging and threshing. At harvest time a mower could earn 10p a day without food. (4)

In the early 1600's the economic situation improved in the country as a whole, but this was probably more obvious in London than in the isolated villages and hamlets, where life still depended much on the soil and the weather. The gentry and yeomen who could save money did quite well, but the husbandmen and agricultural labourers were much less secure. The Crawshaws seem to have been fairly prosperous yeomen farmers, and healthy ones too: many lived into their 70's and 80's. Life would not have been easy.....but it could have been much worse.

Sheep have been reared here for many centuries, the moorlands and bleak hillsides yielding the short sweet herbage they like. Vast sheepwalks covered the area and holly was grown to feed them in winter. From inventories and wills of the 17th century we see that oxen were used to draw the wooden ploughs; they could be fattened for meat when they were old, unlike horses which could not. The moorland heather provided an excellent food for bees. Locally, crops included wheat, oats, barley and rye. John Crawshaw of Silkstone grew all these, and John and Ellen would have taken their crops to the mill at Bradfield to be ground.

In about 1630 in a presentation to Lord Pembroke, it was noted that, "*the inhabitants of those parts [Bolsterstone and Midhope] had lived most brutishly in strange ignorance and blindness within remembrance of man*". Given the isolation of the area, it is perhaps not surprising that this opinion was formed by those more travelled and worldly-wise. The people would have had little need to travel much further than the nearest market; indeed it was often dangerous, if not impossible to do so. All sorts of hazards awaited the traveller; robbers and murderers and roads that were often no more than rough tracks, deeply rutted and impassable after heavy rain. Places could be cut off for weeks in the winter months after prolonged rain or snow. The farmers and villagers would have had some contact with a wider world when the pedlars called, with their fantastic tales and stories. In fact even if they had a desire to see more of the world

beyond the confines of the valley, there would probably not have been the time to spare from their work...

John and his sons would have been kept hard at work on their lands; hedging and walling, making shelters for livestock, ploughing and sowing and harvesting, making and repairing their own tools and so on. Ellen worked just as hard, and all the family had to help outdoors and in. In addition to helping on the land the women made the ale and wine, fetched the water, made rush lights, made and mended clothes and linen, tended the hens, cooked and baked, cured the meat, did weaving and spinning...all this in addition to bringing up an ever-growing family.

Work started with the sunrise and finished with the dusk. Tallow candles were made by the cottagers, but beeswax candles were used by the gentry. Ellen would have made rush lights, a free source of illumination; she would have gathered rushes from the rivers and streams and used the skimmings from the bacon pot. These gave a much steadier and brighter light than tallow candles, usually made from beef or mutton fat.

John and Ellen raised six children, all of whom lived into adulthood, and their descendants continued to farm at Fair Hurst until 1704/5. Down through the centuries the Crawshaws continued to farm these hills and valleys until well into the industrial revolution. It was my 3x great grandfather who took a job in Fox's steelworks in the 1850's at what had become Stocksbridge and my branch of the family left farming for good, after generations making a living off the land.

- (1) Survey of the town of Sheffield 2 January 1615/6
- (2) Andrew Boorde, a 16th century physician
- (3) Will of John Crashaw of Thurgoland; 16 Jan 1608/9. Borthwick Institute: Probate 08 Aug 1609: Vol. 31, Folio 120
- (4) Byrne, M. St. Clare: Elizabethan life in Town and Country (Methuen:1925)

*Ms R.C. Pearson, 2, Little Ringdale, Harmans Water, Bracknell, Berkshire
RG12 3JH*

FROM GLOUCESTERSHIRE GAOL RECORDS

Convicted 18 Apr. 1859. Catherine Wise (with Charles Wise, 26, of Sheffield, a Costermonger) of Shrewsbury, public singer. Aged 22, 5 ft. 4 ins., black hair, grey eyes, round visage, fresh complexion. Mole right cheek, scar lower lip. Stealing a quantity of wearing apparel the property of Emmanuel Bansford at Cheltenham on 15 Apr. 1855.

DEM BONES, DEM BONES
or "It's surprising who you are connected to"

I started tracing my Levesley family history nearly two years ago, after receiving a letter from a member of the SHFS who is doing a one-name study of it. After identifying my grandfather and great-grandfather on the 1871 Census my interest waned as there did not appear to be any connection with the Levesleys on the other census or those listed on the International Genealogical Index (IGI).

By chance I came across "The Flowing Stream". One edition contained a reference to my mother's maiden name Greaves, so I started researching that name instead. My two sisters had already established a direct line back to a George Greaves of Ecclesfield who married a Martha Bailey on 14 May 1767. My own research greatly expanded the lineage of this couple and that of the other Greaves in the Ecclesfield area. I have now identified most of the fifteen families on the 1851 census, quoted by David Hey in his book on Ecclesfield, together with their relationship to each other and their lineage going back into the eighteenth century.

George Greaves of Ecclesfield, however, remained an enigma. He was a widower when he married Martha Bailey so he may be the same George Greaves who married a Mary Lister in 1761, which means he may be the George Greaves born in 1738 whose father was William Greaves. In turn this could mean he is the half-brother of William Greaves of Ecclesfield Hall, about whom I have discovered quite a lot.

Searching for inspiration I turned up a reference to a dispute over a pew in St. Mary's Church Ecclesfield. This was in a volume of "Notes and Queries", a collection of newspaper cuttings from the "Sheffield Independent", published and owned by Robert Eadon Leader. In the same volume were lists of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials for the surname Bailey of Grenoside. Were any of them connected to my own ancestor Martha Bailey, whose father was Matthew Bailey who married an Elizabeth Wood?

Consulting the Local Studies Library catalogue I saw several references to a Samuel Bailey, which meant nothing to me at the time, but then I saw "The Baileys of Grenoside" contained in a book called "Sheffield Pedigrees" compiled by T. Walter Hall in 1912. This not only confirmed my sisters' research on the family of George Greaves and Martha Bailey but it also gave the Bailey 'tree' back to 1600! In addition the same book gave other related family trees which revealed that R.E. Leader was the great-grandson of Hannah Bailey, Martha's sister. Another sister was Sarah Bailey, the mother of Ebenezer Rhodes, the author of "Peak Scenery" and the brother of all three sisters was a Joseph Bailey. He turned out to be a successful scissor-smith and ironmonger who built

Burngreave House. He was one of the first Sheffield businessmen to visit America, became master cutler in 1801 and was also the father of the Samuel Bailey I had come across.

Samuel was a philosopher, author of several books on philosophy and economics, a founder and director of Sheffield Savings Bank and a Trustee, for many years, of Sheffield Town Trust which governed Sheffield before the introduction of local government. When he died in 1870 he left his £90,000 fortune to the Town Trust. His brother, John, who died in 1840, left £12,500 to the Town Trust.

Discovering all this information stimulated my interest in Levesley and I believe I have now established a line back to a Samuel Levesley, the youngest of three brothers mentioned in the Cutlers' Company of Hallamshire List of Apprentices. The fourth, and only other Levesley, was a John who may have been their uncle as Samuel was John's apprentice.

The eldest brother, another John, was the ancestor of Brigadier Arthur Levesley who was awarded the OBE for his services in connection with the D-Day landings in 1944. During the First World War he was awarded the Military Cross for leading a daring attack on German positions. His great-grandmother was a Maria Clive who was either a niece or great-niece of Robert Clive, known as "Clive of India", since his victory over the French at the battle of Plassey in India in 1756.

My ancestor Matthew Bailey, was a close associate of Samuel Walker, the Rotherham Ironmaster, and moved with him in 1749 from Grenoside to Masbro' in Rotherham. I have discovered that Samuel Walker's grandmother was called Mary Wood, the daughter of Joseph Wood of Ecclesfield. It is just possible, therefore, that Samuel Walker and Elizabeth Wood, the wife of Matthew Bailey were second cousins.

I would be pleased to hear from any reader who has any information on any of the persons mentioned above and am willing to correspond with anyone researching any surname which has an Ecclesfield origin.

Geoff Levesley, 5, Hayes Court, Halfway, Sheffield S19 5TS

USEFUL ARTICLES IN OTHER SOCIETIES' JOURNALS

Records of other ranks in the British Army - account of a talk by Christopher Watts.

"Origins". Buckinghamshire FHS. Sept. 93. Vol. 17. No.3

Mistresses and Maids: Domestic Service in Berks 1840-1914 by Pamela Horn
Berkshire Family Historian Vol.18. No.1 Sept 1994

A LOVE LETTER

James Saville was born in 1816, son of Richard and Jane Saville, Earthenware Dealer of Barnsley. This love letter from James to his cousin Lois Hawley was written in 1843 when he was 27 years old. Lois lived in Longton, Staffordshire and her parents had a pottery business in that town. Thus the connection between Barnsley and Longton. The Mrs Harris referred to in the letter is Adra, Lois' elder sister. James and Lois, eventually married three years later. We have the original letter, carefully preserved of course.

Barnsley, July 1, 1843

Saturday

Dear Miss Hawley,

It is high time I wrote lest you should suppose that not being in your presence my attachment has suffered diminution. My desire to correspond with you is so great that it induces me to transgress your command intimated in the note to my mother and I intend so to write that I shall not care if your father open the letter.

It is with considerable agitation that I tell you I cherish my affection for you as the best and purist sentiment which I am capable of entertaining. I do deeply and sincerely love you. On the throne of my heart you reign paramount. I feel as if your Spirit hovered about me and took cognizance of all my thoughts and actions, and the fancy impels me to virtuous conduct. In the innermost recess of my mind by contemplation I enjoy your company and conversation. When I tell of my love I have you speak and see you smile approvingly, and these are my happiest moments. I continually look forward with great anxiety to the time when with all your beauty and excellence and amiability of mind I shall have the right to call you my own.

However I may be counting too fast. I know not how you may now be affected. Be kind enough to write me. You will receive this letter on Sunday. If you can write by return it will be peculiarly acceptable as it will prove you are not entirely occupied with the attentions of another person who shall be nameless.

In your reply I wish you would tell me what your Mother says about this matter - what Mrs Harris says if she knows - whether the importunities of a certain individual have been very great since you left Barnsley - and more than that - whether you have received graciously those importunities - whether your separation from me has enhanced or depreciated me in your esteem and affection - whether you receive this letter with pleasure - and if it be a grateful employment to reply to it, and tell me if your father open it.

These questions answered will constitute a love letter, and I shall be honoured by being the recipient of your first love letter.

Oh! how impatient I shall be for Monday to bring some confirmation of my flattening hopes. In the meantime I shall ruminare and speculate upon your thoughts, I shall imagine you reading this and what you will say and then I shall suppose you spoiling a sheet of paper before you can quite suit yourself with a reply, as I have spoiled two or three sheets and am obliged now to send one that will require all your charity to enable you to forebear laughing.

In you are my brightest hopes and prospects centred.

I remain My Very Dear Lois

Yours Truly

Jas Saville

DEAN AND CHAPTER (PECULIAR MARRIAGE BONDS) - LICHFIELD

- 1722 John Greaves of Bradfield Co. York aged 36 or thereabouts and Rachel Greaves of Rowlee Po Hope age 23 or thereabouts.
To be married at Hope.
- 1750 Joseph Hally p of Ecclesfield Co. York and Joseph Booth of Alsop Husbandman
Jos. Hall of Outtybrigs Po Ecclesfield Co. York, Yeoman. Bach. aged 24 yrs. & Ann Hattersly of Woodland Po Hope spin aged 30yrs.
To be married in P Church of Hope.
- 1752 James Mitchell of Penistone parish Co. of York Farmer & John Pashley in ye same Farmer.
John Pashley of ye Po Penistone in ye Co. of York and Ann Mitchell of Woodland in Hope Parish
To be married in P Church of Hope.
- 1759 Edward Holdgate par. Chapel en le Frith Shoemaker & Robert Bagshawe Po Chapel en le Frith Husbandman
Henry Bagshawe Po Chapel en le Frith Husbandman Bach. aged 29 yrs. & Ann Reworth Po Peniston Co. of York spinster aged about 30 yrs.
To be married in par Church of Penniston Co. Yorks.
- 1764 Thomas Hall Bach. Po Silkstone Co. Yorks Gent. & Rebecca Senior Po Glossop spinster.
- 1774 George Bramall Po Peniston Co. York Jurisdiction of Wakefield Farmer & Robert Middleton Po Hope Miner
George Bramall Po Peniston Co. of York Bach. age 34 yrs & up & Mary Middleton spinster age 26 yrs. or more Po Hope Co. Derby
To be married in P Church of Hope.

- 1780 *Could be Penistone*
Constantine Rushforth a sojourner Bach. age 24 yrs & up and Mary Jackson spin. Po Tideswell a Minor with consent of her father Edward Jackson Senr.
To be married in P Church of Tideswell.
- 1783 George Roebuck of Town & Po Sheffield Cordwainer & William Burgon Town & Po Hope Cordwainer
George Roebuck Po Sheffield Bach. 26 yrs. & up & Grace Burgon Po Hope Spin. 22 yrs or more
To be married in P Church of Hope.
- 1794 Jacob Hobson Cutler of Ecclesfield Co. York & George Smith of Ashford Po Bakewell Mason.
Jacob Hobson of Ecclesfield Cutler Bach aged 21 and up and Martha Bolsover of Ashford Po Bakewell spin. aged 21 yrs & up.
- 1796 Samuel Bagshaw Po Sheffield Bach. & Jemima Ashton Spin. of Smaldale Po Hope.
To be married in P Church of Hope.
- 1822 Thos. Creswick Hallam Po Sheffield Farmer & John Bright(man?) of Highlow Po Hope Farmer.
Thos. Creswick Widower aged 48 & up of Hallam Po Sheffield Farmer and Ann Slack Po Hope spinster age 42 yrs & up
- 1825 John Dunn Po Rotherham Co. York Forgerman a Widower of the full age of 21 yrs & up to be married in the P Church of Cannock Co. of Stafford to Sarah Webb Po Cannock of the full age of 21 yrs & up spinster.

*Contributed by Geoffrey Milnes, 25, Morley Rd., Chase Terrace, Nr. Walsall
Staffs W57 8DE*

Baptism Register of St. John's, Chapeltown.

30 July 1862. Born Mar 4th. Frank Chapman - mother Sarah Chapman, spinster, Chapeltown.

mem.

Sarah Chapman was married to Thos. Bellamy June 30 1862 so that the child born May 4 was baptised one month after the marr. I enter this remark because the friends expected the child would be called Frank Chapman Bellamy.

Wm. M.

A QUESTION ANSWERED

Why did John Sayers, who was born in London, and his wife Susan, who was born and married on the Isle of Wight, decide to settle in Sheffield after John's discharge from the army?

This was the first question we asked ourselves when beginning the search for the ancestors of my husband's grandfather.

By the time we started our search, there was only one of John's children, Beattie, still alive. The information she could remember was rather sketchy, her father having died in 1930. She knew that her parents had married on the Isle of Wight, in 1890, whilst John was stationed at Parkhurst Barracks and that the following year they had gone from there to Peshawar in India with his regiment, the 4th Battalion Rifle Brigade. Their first two children died, one on the voyage and the other in Peshawar. Sometime later John was reduced to the ranks and finally discharged from the army for drunkenness, after which they came to live in Sheffield.

Beattie also told us that she understood that her father John and his brothers and sisters had at some time become orphaned, and that John had then joined the army whilst the rest of the family were put into Dr. Barnado's in London and later sent to Canada. The other children's names were Henry, Jonathan, Lizzie and Eunice. Beattie remembered these because, during the First World War, Henry, serving in the Canadian Army, had visited them in Sheffield whilst being billeted in England. Afterwards she had corresponded with his children for a few years, but then lost touch. During the Second World War, a son of Lizzie had visited them, but once again contact was lost.

Although the plight of the orphans was most intriguing, we decided to try and find out about their parents first. John's birth certificate stated that he was born in May 1865 in Brewer's Row, Westminster and that his parents were Thomas George (journeyman-joiner) and Eliza née Parker. We searched the records at St. Catherine's over and over and over again for their marriage but with no success. We had no better luck with the Census returns as the relevant page was missing in the 1861 returns and by 1871 Brewer's Row had been demolished.

Although we knew the names of the other children we didn't know their ages, so trying to find their births was almost impossible. I also wrote to Dr. Barnado's asking if they had any records of children with those names, but as we could only guess at dates there was no success there, either.

Over the next few years we gradually acquired various pieces of information. We discovered details of John's court-martials in India, from the Army records at Kew, and through a contact in Canada found out a little more about his brothers and sisters in Canada, but we were still no nearer to finding the answer to our initial question of "Why Sheffield?"

Then, one day last year, out of the blue, we discovered the answer. I was searching through the City Road Cemetery registers of 1877, in connection with a different family, when my eye caught the name Thomas George Sayers. As this name, which was the same as John's father, was etched in my memory, having spent years searching for the marriage, I casually read the rest of the entry.

'Thomas George Sayers aged 7 son of Thomas George Sayers, joiner'
Could this be our Sayers, living in Sheffield?

From the address given, we quickly searched the 1871 and 1881 Census returns and, there they were, together with the answer to our question. Although John was born in London in 1865, the rest of the children were all born in Sheffield, between 1868 and 1883, meaning that John had lived in Sheffield for at least fifteen years! Sometime before 1887 the family returned to London and in the April of that year Thomas George died, followed two months later by his wife Eliza, leaving the children orphaned.

With this information we contacted Dr. Barnado's again, and found out that the family were all split up, the ten year old boy being put in the Marchmont Homes and the eight year old girl in the Maria Rye Homes, both later being taken to Canada, whilst the four year old was sent to live with an Aunt. We think that Henry aged fifteen must have joined his brother John in the army. So, at last we know why Grandfather came to live in Sheffield. He was just coming back home. Yet, until now, none of his descendants ever knew that.

Incidentally, whilst tracing the family back to the 1790's in Brigg, we discovered that the name Sayers used to be spelt Sayes and before that Says, with Humphrey having been born in Wales about 1760.

Heather Gillott, 4, Bents Crescent, Dronfield, Sheffield S18 6EY

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Members are reminded **not** to try to contact committee members by telephone. They are, after all, volunteers who do a great deal of work for the Society, and they appreciate a little privacy. Telephone calls are often at an inconvenient time and in any case it is quite difficult to produce Family History facts and information at the drop of a hat - or the ring of a telephone. You will, I am sure, receive a much more considered and helpful answer to your queries if you put pen to paper and write a letter describing your problem. Please try to send your query to the member it concerns, or to the Secretary who will pass it on to the person most able to help you.

If you need a reply please don't forget to **enclose an SAE** with your query.

THE NOAH'S ARK, SHEFFIELD

My father, Harold Richardson Godfrey, born in 1895 and later headmaster of Owlter Lane School told us how his grandmother read the Bible to him and his sisters and how strict she was in the observance of the Sabbath. Not at all unusual in Victorian England except that this grandmother also ran the Public House in which she was then living. We later discovered that the pub was the Noah's Ark in Intake in Sheffield which bears the same name and is largely unchanged today.

My sister wrote to John Smith's Tadcaster Brewery to seek any information and we were delighted with the treasure chest of documents that their Company Secretary, Mr Rea, copied and sent to us.

The first document was the Lease between Messrs R. & S Swinnerton and Mr Thomas Godfrey for the tenancy of the Noah's Ark for seven years from 29th September 1886 at a rent of £55 per annum. This was signed by my great grandfather. The Swinnertons, the lessors, came from Surrey and Middlesex.

Tom Godfrey died on 14th July 1890 and the next document is the copy of his will which he had made on 15th October 1885 leaving everything to his wife Elizabeth and at her death to his four daughters and six sons all of whom are named in the will. The value of the estate was £263.3.6 as proved at the District Registry Office at Wakefield but as Tom's heir it meant Elizabeth inherited the tenancy of the Noah's Ark.

The next set of documents was the Notice to Brewers and Investors for the sale by auction of a freehold public house, farm cottages and building land on 15th July 1890 in East Parade, Sheffield. The Noah's Ark was Lot 3: "All that old established fully licensed freehold public House known as the NOAH'S ARK with the Stable, Garden and Outbuildings thereto, siuate at Four Lane Ends, at Intake aforesaid, let to Mr. Tom Godfrey, on a lease which expires on the 29th September 1893 at a yearly rent of £55, the tenant paying all the rates. The House which adjoins the Sheffield and Eckington Turnpike Road, is the oldest established public house in Intake, is close to Birley Colliery and had attached to it a good and remunerative business." It is a coincidence that this auction was the day after Tom Godfrey died.

The final document is the Indenture made 2nd February 1891 as the Noah's Ark passed to its new owners. This is signed by the Swinnertons, the new owners Harry Budd, Frank Budd and Arthur Staniforth all of the Strong Arm Brewery Sheffield, a Charles Haslehurst Greaves who sold the lease of the property so that it was freehold and finally by Elizabeth Godfrey as tenant. The property had been part of the Duke of Norfolk's Sheffield estate.

The Company Secretary of John Smith's Brewery delved further and found that Elizabeth Godfrey continued the tenancy until 1906 some fifteen

years after the death of her husband. The old ledgers in the basement of the brewery were written in shorthand and had to be interpreted. An item in the ledger read:-

“April 27/06 Godfrey was summoned for permitting drunkenness. The case was dismissed on condition that we removed the tenant and paid the costs. Flint, the person charged with being drunk, was also dismissed on payment of costs.”

On 28 April 1906 the tenancy was granted to a Mr. Copley.

Mr. Rea wrote that at the turn of the century the Temperance Movement was very much to the fore because of the amount of drunkenness and unhappiness caused by it and that Elizabeth Godfrey was a casualty of the hard line taken by Magistrates at the time. However Elizabeth was by then 73 years old and was able to move in with her son for the last five years of her life.

We found John Smith's Brewery exceptionally helpful (this was in 1987). From my father I inherited two sturdy stools, three rush bottomed chairs and a similar nursing chair all of which had been in the Noah's Ark. The chairs would have been made about 1825 by a bodger possibly in Sherwood Forest.

This story illustrates how an interest in family history, local history and antiques all meet together.

Janet Frost (née Godfrey), 99, Maidenhall, Highnam, Gloucester GL2 8DJ

CHARACTER PUBS 2 - The Edgar Wallace in Essex Street

This pub is close to St. Catherine's and Somerset House. From St. Cath.'s bear left down Aldwych into the Strand sighting the statue of Dr. Johnson clutching his dictionary in front of the RAF's Church, St. Clement Dane's. Continue along the Strand to the main entrance of the Royal Courts of Justice. Amble across the safest pedestrian crossing in London and pop down Essex Street. If leaving Somerset House, travel east along the south side of the Strand and look out for the right side turning into Essex Street.

The pub was the 18th century home of Lady Primrose who in 1747 gave shelter here to Flora MacDonald. In 1750 Bonnie Prince Charlie came here and secretly attended services at the nearby Church of St. Mary le Strand. The king eventually discovered his whereabouts but decided to ignore him saying, "When he gets tired of England he will soon leave it." A few years later the building became a public house named the Essex Head, run by a servant of Dr. Johnson's friend Mr Thrale. Dr. Johnson founded Sam's Club here - which boosted trade considerably.

In 1976 the pub was renamed the 'Edgar Wallace'. The famous writer's daughter attended the opening ceremony. She was too tactful to reveal that her father was the illegitimate son of a dancer and that he was a teetotaler! In the

saloon bar can be found copies of all Wallace's books together with paintings, drawings, photographs and newspaper cuttings.

Sandwiches are served in the saloon bar and a modest restaurant is housed upstairs.

Stuart Foulds, 90, Southlands Avenue, Orpington, Kent BR6 9ND

NOT WHAT HE SEEMED

Today's kids think *they* invented it. Everyone knows *my* generation invented it - and that's what I thought, until I got caught up in this Family History business. *Surely* our fine, upstanding Victoria /Edwardian grandparents didn't invent it? Well, as it turns out, it would appear that if they didn't, they have as much of a claim as any subsequent generation. Mrs. Whitehouse, cover your ears up! A tale I have to tell.

My wife's grandfather, Thomas Varty Wakefield (paternal roots from Cheshire; maternal roots Halifax) was born in Warrington on 1st December 1884, and married Annie Yarwood on 16th July 1905. Their first child - obviously premature - was born 6 months or so later. By 1911, their little brood numbered three - one having died in infancy - and it came to pass that, in the following year, they emigrated to Canada, where another child was born in 1913.

Black clouds gathered across Europe in 1914, the Great War duly started, and Britain needed Thomas Varty. In accordance with his duty, he returned to his motherland and joined up to play his part, in 1915, around the time that another daughter was born. Annie and her five surviving children, anxiously waited at home in Warrington throughout the long war years, and, in the fulness of time, Thomas Varty came home. But it wasn't long before he made it known that he wished to return to his life in Canada. Annie, however, didn't want to know; so without further ado, Thomas Varty packed his bags, bade farewell to his wife and young family - and went off alone, no less.

Annie never spoke about him to the family after that; and none of his Lancastrian descendants appeared to know what became of him. Then, having married his granddaughter, I came along. "You'll never trace him", they said. Wrong. I DID.

Having traced the descendants of his two brothers and sister, it seemed that Thomas Varty had gone back to Ontario - quite possibly to London once more. And that, really, is just about all I had to go on, save for the vague notion that he may have married again in Canada; though no one could be sure it wasn't just rumour. Appreciating the value of reciprocal work, I made contact

with a lady in the Ontario Geanealogical Society, and whilst I did the 'business' for her over here, she did a very efficient job for me in Canada.

Grandad, who had not divorced Annie, had died on 18th October 1967, not realising he was great grandfather to five, and was buried in the Maple Leaf cemetery at Chatham, Ontario. End of story? Not on your life!

He had married twice more whilst in Canada for the second time - bigamously. He had "three" more children (yes, there was a bit of a twist there too) and had grandchildren out there as well. I made contact with one of his grandsons in Canada, who was quite obviously stunned to realise that fine upstanding grandad already had a family in England before all of them came to exist. Thomas Varty had never mentioned 'our lot' to his family out there.

Arthur waited until Christmas 1993 before making the announcement to his siblings and their families at the annual Canadian Christmas gathering. Apparently, the shocked silence was deafening! Arthur's sister, Darlene, then took over the correspondence, and the full story began to unfold at both ends of the line.

First of all she corrected me about the "three" children I had heard about from my Society contact in Ontario. There were, in fact, only two by Tom's first Canadian wife; there were no children by his second Canadian wife, as I had been led to believe. So who was this Nancy Hilton Wakefield that I had heard about? Ruth Rendell, eat your heart out!

Thomas Varty's first Canadian wife, Lilian May (née Hilton) died suddenly on 27th October 1930, leaving him with son Keith and daughter Lilian Patricia. Tom then married his second Canadian wife, circa mid 1930s - Margaret Edna (née Hetherington) and I was given to understand, initially, that they had a daughter, Nancy Hilton Wakefield. The puzzling thing was, however, 'Why give the daughter of your third 'marriage' (counting Annie again) the middle name that corresponds to the maiden surname of your second wife?' It did seem very odd.

Darlene came up with the answer. Nancy Hilton Wakefield wasn't a Wakefield at all. It would appear that Lilian May had a brother, George, who had 'so many children he didn't know what to do' and he asked Tom if he and his third wife would look after the infant Nancy for a short while. The arrangement was agreed - but no one ever called to re-collect Nancy, and plain Nancy Hilton was co-opted into the Wakefield family as Nancy Hilton Wakefield, apparently!

To cut a longer story short, I now know that my wife has eight Canadian cousins, and I am building their tree very nicely, thank you. Everyone, on both sides of the Atlantic, appears to be happy with the situation; if not a little amused that, if Grandad didn't actually invent it, he sure found a use for it! Who says family history isn't fun?

Alan J. Bibby, Hillview Cottage, Tynron, Thornhill, Dumfriesshire, DG3 4DU

BRADFIELD POOR LAW DOCUMENTS

A cross-referenced index

Transcribed by Denise Marsden
Edited by Roy G. Newton

Bradfield's extensive collection of documents relating to poor people has been transcribed in detail and a cross-referenced index of them has been compiled. Over 1,500 documents, many with several names on them, have been included in the index which covers Settlement Examinations, Settlement Certificates, Bastardy Bonds and Removal Orders to and from Bradfield. A few miscellaneous documents relating to the poor have also been included. The archive covers the period 1705 to 1850.

The index is published as a set of two microfiche.

Price £2.00 per set inc. postage U.K.
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