Belgian Refugees

Sheffield and District Family History Society

# The Flowing Stream

Autumn 1995

Volume 16
Number 3

## FUTURE PROGRAMME

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

**1995 Programme**

Mon. 18 Sep. **Roads in South Yorkshire** by Tony Smith
Mon. 16 Oct. **Victorian Sources** by Martin Olive
Mon. 20 Nov. **Family History Quiz** by Roy Bullen.

**1996 Programme**

Mon. 15 Jan. **Windmills and Waterwheels** by Eric Houlder
Mon. 19 Feb. **AGM and Short talks by Members**
Mon. 18 Mar. **Conserving Archive Material** by Teresa Januszonok
Mon. 15 Apr. **Chapels and Churches in S. Yorkshire** by Clive Binfield

**ROTHERHAM BRANCH MEETINGS**

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

**1995 Programme**

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

**Volume 16. No. 3. Autumn 1995**

ISSN 0140-6310

**CONTENTS**





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 and Exchange Journals Rep.** 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. 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, Midddle 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

This edition of our journal contains a variety of stories about members' families and the research they did to uncover the information given. It is hoped that, having read what others have written, you will be inspired to follow suit and send in a story from your researches. To maintain an interesting magazine requires a constant input of material from members. Now that the nights are becoming longer there should be more time for writing up your family history.

We also have a short account, written by our Secretary, of the early days of the Society and how it came into being. It seems incredible now to look back on the first editions of "The Flowing Stream". I edited them, my daughter, Susan Hammond, typed them on to stencils and Roy Bullen duplicated them on his office duplicating machine. Then Susan and I collated and stapled them. A number of people gave us used A4 envelopes and on to these we stuck hand written address labels. The envelopes were sealed with copious lengths of Sellotape before being posted. Wherever possible, the magazines were delivered by hand. There were only 50 copies of the first editions printed but soon we were producing first one and then two hundred copies. Now I edit and type on to a computer. Camera ready copy is produced on a laser printer and the printers return completed booklets to me. We have computer printed address labels and plastic self-seal envelopes and my husband helps me to prepare them for posting.

Thank you to all who have sent in copy for this edition.

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## NEW MEMBERS

The Society welcomes the following new members

Mr R.M. Anderson, 4, Pasture Road, Goole, Yorks. DN14 6EZ

Mr P.M. Angell, 37, Brooklands Avenue, Fulwood, Sheffield S10 4GB

Mrs I.D. Bottomley, 42, Sale Hill, Sheffield S10 5BX

Mr J.B. Brackenbury, 63, Paxton Road, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S41 0TL

Mr R. Butterfield, 116, Rockingham Road, Swinton, Mexbrough S64 8EB

F.G. Harris & E.M. Foster, 12, Teesdale Road, Wingfield, Kimberworth, Rotherham

Mr A. Hodgson, 25, Cliff Road, Maltby, Rotherham S66 8AU

Mr J.E. Hughes, White Lodge, Deanshill Close, Stafford ST16 1BW

Mr C. Rose, 142, Hangingwater Road, Nether Green, Sheffield S11 7ET

Mrs J. Skelton, 35, Barlow Drive, Sheffield S6 5HQ

Mr E. Taylor, 47, The Crescent, Flixton, Urmston, Manchester M41 5QR

Mrs V. Wheatley, 20, Thames Road, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 7SS
Mrs C.A. Wilkinson, 27, Ghyll Road, Scotby, Carlisle CA4 8BT
Mrs B.M.W. Youlton, 46, Court Road, Southport, Lancs. PR9 9EU
*Change of Address*
Mrs D. Little, (formerly Mrs D. Maillard of 171, Holmley Lane, Dronfield)
84, Abbey Brook Drive, Chancet Wood, Sheffield S8 7UT
Mrs J.E.Mansfield, 6,Milford House,198,Pampisford Rd., S.Croydon CR2 6DB
Mrs P. Moot-Craven, Flat 5, Richmond House, 27, Rambling Road,
Swanage, Dorset BH19 1ED
Mr J. Mumford, 103, Junction Road, Burgess Hill, W, Sussex RH15 0JL
Mr C. Towell, 8, Lodge Road, Long Eaton, Nottingham NE10 1AQ
*Overseas*
Mr J. Dawson, 2461 Wiltse Drive, Penticton, B.C., Canada V2A 7X7
Mrs A. Dennis, 76, Mambari Cres., Wanneroo, West Australia 6065
Mrs C.D. Tenney, 2772 West 7420 South, West Jordan, Utah 84084, USA

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## NEWS AND NOTES

**Public Record Office, Chancery Lane**

The Rolls Chapel Microfilm Reading Room is now open on Saturdays from 9.30 am - 5.00 pm. Documents available here *on microfilm* include PCC Wills before 1858, Death Duty Registers before 1858, Nonconformist Registers (RG4) and certain classes of State Papers.

The Census Room is already open on Saturdays with the same hours.

**Yorks. and Lancs. Regiment Research**

Andrew Grantham, The Old Granary, Abbey Court, Wroxham Road, Coltishall, Norfolk, NR12 7AH collects Boer War medals to the Yorks. and Lancs. Regiment, particularly those of men from Sheffield, and would be interested to hear from others with a similar interest or those with ancestors who served in that regiment. He may be able to help them with their research. He has a medal roll for the Yorks. and Lancs. and a copy of Sheffield at the Front which has photos of local men who served in S. Africa (not just Yorks. and Lancs.).

He is also carrying out a One-Name Study of the name Grantham and would welcome any information on this name whatever period or place.

**Saturday 28 Oct 1995 - Sheffield Local History Fair**

This will be held in the Town Hall from 10 am to 4 pm. Come and support us! Offers of help appreciated. Contact Marjorie Dunn for details.

**Important Notice - Answering Correspondence**

Members are reminded that it is very discourteous not to reply to letters particularly if the sender has been of help and has sent information. Failure to reply makes members unwilling to help again as they feel their assistance is not appreciated and also reflects badly on our Society.

**Wanted - Unwanted certificates**

Since the Society has recently been offered several unwanted certificates of birth, marrige and death it has been decided to make a collection of such certificates that members have no use for. Brief details of them will be published in "The Flowing Stream". Further information will be available to any member who writes enclosing a stamped addressed envelope or IRC. *Please note that we are not collecting photocopies of certificates - only the originals.*

Please send your certificates to The Editor, Mrs Denise Marsden, "Burnside", Low Bradfield, Sheffield S6 6LB

**Important Notice - The Society Library**

Exchange journals have now been removed from the reading room at Sheffield Archives. The post 1990 journals are now housed in two grey filing cabinets in the reception area. Pre 1990 journals can be viewed on application to the Assistant Librarian, Mr Frank Westwood.

**Yorkshire Consortium of Family History Societies**

The following meetings will be held at the Society of Genealogists, 14, Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London EC1 from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Members of our Society are entitled to attend.

2nd Sept. 1995 *Yorkshire Wills* by Gill Briscoe (after a short AGM)
21st Oct 1995 *West Yorkshire Archive Service* by Sylvia Thomas

**E. Surrey FHS 1995 Directory of Members' Interests**

This directory includes over 20,000 entries covering interests from all over the world. The Society covers that area now known as Intra-metropolitan Surrey which originally lay in the ancient county of Surrey but which now forms part of Greater London. This area was one of the melting pots of Europe and the 19th century censuses show that for each enumeration almost half the population were born outside the area. As well as a surname listing there is a separate listing arranged by place of interest. The directory is available for £4.00 plus p&p (UK 30p; Europe Air & Rest of World Surface 50p; Overseas Air 90p) A printout of the name interests for Yorkshire (no further details) has been sent to us and can be seen in our library.

**The Ingilby Archives** - *A West Yorkshire Archives Service Appeal*

The archives of the Ingilby family of Ripley Castle are one of the most important collections of family and estate papers in Yorkshire. On loan at the Leeds office of the WYAS since 1964, they have now been offered to the Service for purchase as an entity for £130,000. A substantial amount towards the purchase has already been promised but there is a shortfall of £40,000. Donations to Mr Walter Bentley, YAS, 23, Clarendon Rd., Leeds LS2 9NZ

**Suggestions by Members**

At a meeting earlier this year members attending were asked to make suggestions on anything they wished to see done by the society. The Committee wishes to thank those who responded to our request and made many interesting comments and suggestions all of which have been carefully considered by the Committee. Many of them will be acted upon; a few, although good ideas, are, for one reason or another, not possible.

* Ideas for talks will be used when suitable speakers have been found.
* A Society visit to the Borthwick Institute was suggested but this is not possible as the Borthwick is too small a place for a Society trip.
* Information was requested on what was at the Society of Genealogists. There is a booklet in our Society Library, published by the Society of Genealogists which gives details of the contents of their library. For out-of-town members this leaflet can be bought from the Society of Genealogists at the address given earlier.
* A comment was made about the difficulties experienced by those hard-of-hearing when they attended Society meetings and were unable to hear the speaker. Members are requested **not** to hold conversations during talks by invited guests.
* Members are invited to ask for items they wish to have included in the Agenda for the AGM
* Sharon Yeomans has volunteered to administer a "Buddy" scheme, suggested by her, in which existing members become a guiding light for new members at meetings. Anyone who would be willing to act as a Buddy and help a newcomer should contact a committee member at the next meeting.
* **We are always happy to consider new ideas and suggestions.**

**Mounteney One-Name Study**

Simon Martin, 21, Petticoat Lane, Higher Ince, Wigan WN2 2LH is researching the surname Mounteney and its variants. (The family owned land in the Ecclesfield area in medieval times.) He has a lot of information that may be helpful to others.

**A Message from Keith Blagdon**

Keith Blagdon wishes to inform members that he has ceased to do research work for a fee.

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE HON. SECRETARY

May I clarify what I said in the last part of my report to the 1995 AGM (quoted in "The Flowing Stream" Summer edition, page 33) about the formation of our Society, as it seems to have puzzled one or two members.

The origins were, as I said, in April 1975 when David Hey started his evening class. Following this there was a short period when we were called "Sheffield University Family History Society" but new members joining and the expansion of our activities caused us to change that name.

Margaret Furey's Society Minute Book records that the Inaugural Meeting of Sheffield and District Family History Society was held at her home on 10th February 1977. Thus in a historical sense we can claim we are 21 years old next year, whilst in a strictly formal and legal sense we have to wait until 1998 to consider ourselves 'properly grown up'. So in deciding our starting date, "You pays yer money and takes yer choice", as they say!

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## FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

**East Midlands Family History Conference Sat. 7 Oct 1995**

With a title "A Right Royal Day" there are talks entitled "Descended from Queen Victoria", "Face Values: Inherited Features in Royal Pictures" and "Royal Funerals from the Tudors to the Hanoverians". The conference will be held at the Lincoln Suite, The Lawn, Union Road, Lincoln. Details from Mrs E.B.Robson, 135, Balderton Gate, Newark, Notts.

**Cornwall FHS Weekend Conference & AGM 11-12 Nov. 1995**

To be held at the Riviera Hotel, Newquay, there will be a series of interesting talks including one on dating old photographs, various stands and access to their computer database of names. There will be traditional Cornish entertainment and hospitality and excellent food. Details from David Holman, 3, Harbour Court, North Parade, Portscatho, Truro, Cornwall TR2 5HH

## THROUGH THE LETTERBOX

*From Prof. R.A. Shooter, c/o The Jenner Museum, High Street, Berkeley, Glos. GL13 9BH*

I am writing to ask for your help. As a member of the Jenner Educational Trust I am secretary for things related to Smallpox - a disease unique in that it is the only infectious disease that has been eradicated by deliberate action.

The Jenner Trust is based in Jenner's House in Berkeley, Gloucestershire where he carried out his first vaccinations against Smallpox. I would like to think that future visitors to the Jenner museum will be able to learn about Smallpox and how it was eradicated, and perhaps take something away that helps in the eradication of another disease.

I would be grateful if your members could spare the time to consult their records and to let me know of any references to Smallpox and to vaccinations that they find.

**Ed's Note:** The museum is just west of the M5 between junctions 13 and 14. It is open from April to September.

Tues - Sat & Bank Holiday Mondays 12.30 - 5.30: Sunday 1.00 - 5.30

Closed on Mondays (except Bank holidays)

Sundays only in Oct. 1.00 - 5.30.

The museum is within walking distance of the lovely Norman church and Berkeley Castle and a short drive from Slimbridge Wildfowl and Wetlands Centre if you wish to plan a day out.

*From Mrs S. Stark, 9, Blairmore Gardens, Eaglescliffe, Cleveland, TS16 9HX*

I am writing to say thank you to Mrs F. Badger for her article on Extracts from Reports of The Commission on Children's Employment 1865-6. I discovered how my Gt. Grandfather Henry Bolland lost his arm when he was only 11 years old. While working for the cutlery manufacturers Unwin & Rodgers he caught his arm in the machinery. It was broken in two places and his arm had to he amputated.

He married Rose Ellen Roper in 1881 and they lived in Gleadless Road. He earned his living as a carter. He wore a hoop in place of his arm, and he was able to deliver sacks of coal from his cart at 1/- a bag. He was well known in the area as Hoopy Bolland. He lived to be 80 years old, dying in 1931.

My Gt. Gt. Gt Grandfather was Thomas Bolland, a shoemaker living in Shude Hill, Sheffield in 1841. While reading an article in the Family Tree Magazine (Oct 93) about the old occupation of shoemaking it mentions an area around the centre of Manchester called Shude Hill where shoes were sold. I was wondering if this was a common name given to areas of shoemakers or was this just a coincidence. Would any of your members have any ideas regarding this?

*From Geoff Levesley, 5, Hayes Court, Halfway, Sheffield S19 5TS.*

**List of Cutlers' Apprentices**

Members whose families were resident in Sheffield at sometime during the period 1624 to 1814 might care to consult the list of apprentices contained in "History of the Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire in the County of York" by Robert Eadon Leader. (two volumes 1905-6)

This list includes such information as date of entry into apprenticeship, date apprentice became a freeman, name of master, name of father and father's trade. The later dates cover other metal working trades apart from cutlery.

A copy of this book is in Sheffield Local Studies Library but 'country members' not able to travel to Sheffield easily are welcome to write to me direct. I am prepared to search on their behalf provided they include an SAE.

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## SOCIETY MEETINGS

*Meeting on Monday 20 March 1995*

Mr Leonard Widdowson gave an illustrated talk which for older members brought back memories of the beautiful old villages of Derwent and Ashopton, now lost underneath the reservoirs. Younger viewers were given a detailed view of villages they will never see. The show linked together old and recent photographs with stories of what happened to various items from the villages.

*Meeting on Monday 24 April 1995*

Mr Roy Young gave a fascinating and most amusing talk based around old letters he has amongst his memorabilia. We were given the background to a collection of letters written by children in the 19 th century.

*Summer Meeting on Monday 15 May 1995*

**The History and Records of Totley**

The outing to Totley on the outskirts of Sheffield was blessed by a bright, mild evening, although alternative accommodation had been arranged in case the weather turned nasty. As a result we were able to explore the village at its springtime best, and once away from the main road, Totley was seen to remain a village of old buildings, farms and country walks. The whereabouts of its records, however, serve as a guide to family historians who ignore local history at their peril.

Although the hamlet has its roots in Saxon times there is evidence that Bronze Age man existed on the nearby moors. Totley is divided roughly into three sections, Totley village, Totley Bents and Totley Rise, all originally in the County of Derbyshire until 1935 when it, along with Dore, was absorbed into the city of Sheffield, in Yorkshire. These factors, together with the

parochial history of Dore and Totley add to the confusion where records are concerned.

The original population of the area tended the sheep on Strawberry Lee for the monks of Beauchief Abbey. They worked the water mills built on the two streams of Old Hay Brook and Totley Brook, and after the dissolution of the monasteries in 1536 continued to farm, smelt lead, grind corn, make scythes and mine coal in the area.

Prior to 1530 both Totley and Dore belonged to the Parish of Dronfield in Derbyshire but, about 1530 a chapel-of-ease was built in Dore for the use of both villages. There was no local graveyard until the chapel was demolished and Christ Church, Dore, built in 1828. Up to this time all coffins had to be taken to Dronfield via Totley using the deep, and in the past, heavily rutted track, now known as Hillfoot Road. This crossed the present Baslow Road and passed to Holmesfield. It was only with the coming of the turnpike road to Baslow in 1818 that the main axis of the village changed by 90° and the track to Holmesfield became merely a footpath. Villagers with family graves in Dronfield no doubt 'topped up' there even after 1828.

By 1919 Church services began to be held in Totley schoolroom but William Milner of Totley Hall gave a piece of land and £2,000 to establish a Church in the village, the chancel to be a memorial to his son who was killed in World War One. The Church of All Saints was finished in 1924, thus saving the villagers a long walk to church, but it remained in the Diocese of Derby until 1974 when it was transferred to Sheffield.

In 1993 the Church was listed as a Grade 2 building by English Heritage - "a little jewel of 1920's Church architecture".

In 1893 Totley Railway Tunnel was completed, being 3 miles and 950 yards in length. It was the construction of the tunnel which caused the village to expand as homes were built to house the influx of 'navvies'.

The result of the County and Parochial Boundary changes is that **records are now back at the Derbyshire Record Office in Matlock, Dore and Totley Churches and Sheffield Archive Services. Wills pre 1858 and Bishop's Transcripts are to be found at Lichfield Diocesan Record Office,** and, because much of the land originally belonged to Lord Middleton of Wollaton Hall, many documents are to be found amongst his papers in Nottingham University Library. It is possible from the 1826 Tithe maps, the 1829 Enclosure maps and the 1865 amd 1875 Rates and Valuations (Sheffield Archives) to establish exactly who lived in, and who owned each property.

*Meeting led and report written by Marjorie Dunn, 2, Summer Lane, Totley, Sheffield S17 4AJ*

Two books of recommended reading on the history of Totley are:
*Brian Edward's Drawings of Historic Totley* 1979 and *Totley and the Tunnel* also by Brian Edwards. Sorry, no ISBN numbers but both are published by Shape Design Shop.

*Rotherham Branch Meeting 6 April 1995*

**Travel by Road in the Georgian Period**

The speaker, Mr Howard Smith dealt with the selective images with which we are all familiar - the rosy cheeked driver helpling a crinolined lady from the coach, none the worse for her journey. The reality of coach travel differed very much from the Christmas card image.

The first coaches, in Roman times, had no suspension and were unable to swivel the front axle. The shape of the coach as we know it comes from the Hungarian design which was brought to England by the Dutch.

The large vehicle caused chaos in the narrow overcrowded streets and was disliked by the Thames watermen because it was a threat to their livelihood. The factors which limited the use of the coach were the surface on which it travelled and its motive power, the horse. Before the time of Telford and McAdam the average speed was incredibly slow, necessitating many changes of horse. With the advent of better roads the speed increased until the time of the Royal Mail which travelled at an average speed of 12 mph - the express of its time. The owners had worked out the maximum speed the horse could travel between inns. To increase the horse's speed would have meant more stops and time would have been lost owing to the increase in horse changing. Some indication of the progress made in the time it took to travel from Sheffield to London can be seen in the recorded figures. In 1760 it took 3½ days. This time was reduced by the year 1786 and in 1830 was a mere 16 hours. When the locomotive came on the scene its ability to sustain a constant speed in excess of the horse's soon put the coaches out of business.

One wonders what family historians would feel like today after 16 hours ride in a coach to St Catherine's, reading the fine print and then making the return journey to Sheffield. Mr Smith's talk made us think how much we take our travelling in the 20th century for granted.

*Reported by B.L. Jervis.*

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## OTHER PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS

*Mrs S.C. Ward, 187, Stewart Road, Bournemouth BH8 8PB* writes "My great grandfather, **George Brocklesby** (b. 1814 Melton Ross, Lincs.) joined the Sheffield Police Force in 1852 at the age of 38. This seems to me quite old (!) for a recruiut. The Sheffield Archives have been very helpful and sent me lots of details but I do wonder why Sheffield when he was born in Lincolnshire? And how can I find out where he was in-between times?"

*Mrs S. James, P.O. Box 150, Bayswater, 6053, Western Australia* writes, "Information is sought on the descendants of the following; **Thomas and Jessie Chamberlain (née Garratt)** married Masborough. Known issue: **Gertrude** b. 1885; **Ethel** b. 1886; **Henry** b. 1888 and **Blanche** b. 1890. Also **Elias and Mary Ann Swift** married 1864 Greasborough. Known issue: **Agnes** b. 1871 and **Lillie A.** b. 1889 Greasborough. Any details will be gratefully received and all letters acknowledged and postage reimbursed."

*Mrs C.A. Wilkinson, 27, Ghyll Road, Scotby, Carlisle, CA4 8BT* writes, "I am trying to find out about my Great Great Grandfather **Thomas Tate**, his work and his family. He was an Artist, Photographer and Writer. He was born in York in 1831 but was at Artisan Street, Sheffield in 1871; and 74, Penistone Road, Sheffield in 1881. Names of children known (there could have been other girls) **Sarah** - my great grandmother - **Eliza, Mary Jane, Annie**, (who was blind from the age of three) **Margaret, Matilda** and **John William** (who could also have been an artist). Two of the daughters were possibly on the stage. I am also trying to find out about the area of Sheffield that he lived in.
Does anyone know if a company called **The London and Yorkshire Tea Co.**, proprietor **William Scratchard**, existed in Sheffield (or any other town in Yorkshire) around 1870 to 1890? "

*Mrs A. Quinn, 24, Sandstone Avenue, Wincobank, Sheffield S9 1AL* would like to contact anyone who has done research in the Shiregreen area. Her great grandparents **Francis and Clara Duffin** had a draper's shop at 300, Bellhouse Road from 1907 to my Great Grandmother's death in 1925. My Great Grandfather left home in the wake of a scandal so none of the family have any idea of what he looked like. They would very much like a photograph of him.

*Mrs Audrey Hamilton, 18309, Quondal Ct., Gaithersburg, MD, 20877, USA* would like to hear from anyone with information on **William Foulstone** and his wife **Sarah Blackshaw** and their fathers, **George Foulstone** (bricklayer) and **William Blackshaw** (cutter).

William Foulstone (bricklayer, age 22) married Sarah Blackshaw (age 19) on 3 Oct. 1847, both from Attercliffe. The 1851 Census shows they had 2 sons **Thomas** (direct line of descent) 3 yrs. and **Albert** 1 yr. born in Sheffield. Mrs Hamilton would like to know where she can find birth and marriage details for the Foulstones and Blackshaws from Attercliffe/Sheffield between 1790 and 1830.

*Mr Malcolm Collier Smith, 27, Thorngrove Road, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 1DE* is seeking any information concerning his great grandfather's time in Storrs, Loxley and his association with **Wraggs Pottery. William Joseph Mackie**, born Kings Newton in Derbyshire, moved to work in the potteries at Swadlincote prior to 1861. In the 1871 Census William was living in Storrs Loxley with his wife and three children and his elder brother **James** was his lodger. A younger brother **Thomas** is also shown as living in Storrs with his wife and family. A third son **Joseph** was born to William and Mary in Storrs that same year.

By 1877 all had returned to Derbyshire. The reason for this migration to Loxley has not been established but my great grandfather's subsequent life was closely bound up with the Wragg family who established their pottery at Swadlincote in 1872. **Thomas Wragg** of Storrs Hall farm had been making firebricks for some time, and I have thus far assumed that he recruited locals in Swadlincote and then took them up to Storrs to learn the craft.

My great grandfather obviously made good use of his time in Yorks., for by his death in 1898 he was a man of some substance and his obituary in the Burton Chronicle referred to his involvement with the development of the sanitary pipe trade. His funeral was attended by Mr **R.B. Wragg** representing Wragg & Sons. William Joseph's second son **John William** eventually succeeded him as manager at Wragg's until his death in 1923. Expenses will be reimbursed for help given.

*Ms J. Crellin, The Laurels, 15, Infirmary Road, Workington, Cumbria CA14 2UG* is seeking the birthplace in Sheffield in 1836 of **Henry Haigh.** His daughter **Ada** married **Jim Mellor** and they lived at Shirecliffe House, Shirecliffe, Pitsmoor, Sheffield. They had two sons, **Harry** and **Frank.**

*Mr J. Mumford, 103, Junction Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex RH15 0JL* writes, "I am having trouble tracing the birth date of my grandmother **Alice Ellis née Bickerstaff.** She died 6 May 1921 at 154, Canklow Road, Rotherham aged 45. Burial Record 1166 Rotherham Cemetery says she was born in Shropshire. I can only find an entry at Sheffield for 1875 at St. Catherine's House. Her father was **James Bickerstaff** and her mother was

also Alice. She married **Joseph Ellis** on 26 July 1903 at Mexborough Parish Church. Any postage will be reimbursed to anyone who can help.

*Mr R.E. Hobson, 31129 Kingfisher Place, Clearbrook, B.C. V2T 5J2 Canada* is trying to locate the descendents of **William Walshaw** who moved to Criggleston from Stannington in 1740. Later his grandson Joseph, born 1762, changed his name to **Joseph Walshaw Hobson.**

**Offers of Help**

*Mrs B.M.W. Youlton, 46, Court Road, Southport PR9 9EU* is willing to help anyone with interests in **Southport North Meas** in return for help with her surname interests of **Marsden** and **Heane.**

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## AN ASSEMBLAGE

This is the story of my mother's extended family - the Drabbles, Holroyds and Heatons of Sheffield, the Grabadunkel(German) and Clearmont (French?) refugees who married in Sheffield Parish Church in 1792 and the Dovers who came from Norwich, Norfolk.

My great grandparents, James Ed. Drabble 1820-1901 and Martha Laura Holroyd 1819-1893 married in 1840. These families came from the same industrial district of Sheffield, he from Siddal Street and she from Jerico.

Father Wm. Holroyd was a haft and scale presser, and James Ed. Drabble started his working life as a silversmith (as was his father) after which he became a surgeon dentist at 55, The Wicker. Their children were successful in their endeavours.

1. Robert Charles - a licentiate in Dental Surgery.
2. Luther Heaton - a registered Dentist.
3. James Ed. - a Bank Manager.

4, 5 & 6. Mary Jane, Wilhelmina, Martha Matilda - all married professional gentlemen.

7. Sidney - the only member of the family who had little achievement. He was "a charming gambling man" who had various ways of making a living and who had been "sent out" to South Africa at the expence of his father "to make good". (He soon worked his passage home!) He died on 19 Oct. 1922 aged 50, a penniless dissolute (at 31, Eyre Lane).

This spoilt youngest son, lover of the Good Life, was *my grandfather* ! Is anyone in the Society tracing these names? They are certainly conspicuous by their absence in "The Flowing Stream".

*Sheila Mitchell, 4, Ellis Court, Village St., Norwood Green, Halifax HX3 8QG*

## ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

| | |
|---|---|
| 1/21 | Index of Funeral Cards (Mar. 1994) |
| 3/28 | 1881 Census for the Royal Navy at Sea or in Ports Abroad - Yorkshire and Durham |
| 9/1 | The Family Historian's Enquire Within. Pauline Saul 5th Edn. |
| 9/11 | Beginning Your Family History. George Pelling 6th Edn. |
| 13/6 | Tudor Taxation Records: a Guide for users (PRO Readers' Guide No. 5) |
| 13/7 | Bradford Tithe Returns 1638 (1995) |
| 14/2 | Basic facts about Heraldry. Iain Swinnerton |
| 19/3 | Manorial Records by Denis Stuart |
| 19/4 | Using Manorial Records by Mary Ellis (PRO Readers' Guide No. 6) |
| 21/11 | My Ancestors came with the Conqueror. A.J. Camp (1990) |
| 22/20 | See also M22/1 |
| 23/27 | Monumental Inscriptions Burngreave Cemetery |
| /1 | General Section Part 1 |
| /2 | General Section Part 2 |
| /3 | General Section Index |
| 23/28/1 | Consecrated Section Part 1 |
| /2 | Consecrated Section Part 2 |
| /3 | Consecrated Section Part 3 |
| /4 | Consecrated Section Index |
| 23/29 | Zion United Reformed Church Oughtibridge M.I.s |
| 26/1 | Parish Register copies in the library of the Society of Genealogists (1992) |
| 26/15 | A Guide to the Parish Records in the Borthwick Institute of Historical Research. C.C. Webb (1987) |
| 27/4 | A Directory of London Photographers 1841-1908 by Michael Pritchard |
| 28/63/4 | The Great Sheffield Flood 1864. A Collection of Lantern Slides and Accompanying Text. E.G. Draper 1995 |
| 28/68 | Mexborough Scrap Book (1995) Barrie Chambers |
| 35/38/3 | A Guide to the Genealogical Sources in the Borthwick Institute of Historical Research. C.C. Webb (1988) |
| 35/40 | Leeds Archives 1938-1988 |
| 35/41 | Kirklees Archives 1959-1989 |
| 36/14 | My Ancestors were Methodists. William Leary (S.of G.) 1993 |
| 37/12 | See also M37/4 |
| 37/16/1 | Cleveland Strays Collection Book 2 |

| | |
|---|---|
| 37/16/2 | Cleveland Strays Collection Book 3 |
| 37/16/3 | Cleveland Strays Collection Book 4 |
| 37/16/4 | Cleveland Strays Collection Book 5 |
| 37/16/5 | Cleveland Strays Collection Book 6 |
| 39/24 | Exactly Fitzackerley by Ruth M. Wilson-Fitzackerley |
| 39/56 | The Genealogy of John Ainley Bagshaw 1894-1957 (with James Bagshawe Ltd.) by Roy Newton |
| 39/58 | A Consolidated Bagshaw(e) Genealogy. Roy Newton |
| 39/59 | Caradoc's Kin. The Craddock Family of Canford and Kettering in Northamptonshire and Sheffield in Yorkshire by John Peter Craddock (See aalso 34/5 and 34/6) |
| 41/3 | Transport History Source guide (Dec. 1994) Chester City Council Record Office |
| 46/27 | Index of Indexers 2nd Edn. |

**FFHS Miscellaneous**

| | |
|---|---|
| 7/10 | Lincolnshire (Occupational Sources for Genealogists. A bibliography) |
| 7/11 | Hampshire (Occupational Sources for Genealogists. A bibliography) |
| 24 | How to Tackle Your Family history. A Preliminary Guide for the Beginner |

**An Introduction to ..... Series**

| | |
|---|---|
| 8 | An Intro. to Using Computers for Genealogy. David Hawgood |
| 9 | An Introduction to Civil Registration. Tom Wood |

**Microfiche**

| | |
|---|---|
| M7/5 | Pigot's Directory 1830 Yorkshire (4 fiche) |
| M12/1/2 | IGI Instructions and Regions 0001 (1 fiche) |
| M37/1 | Lincolnshire Strays. Vol. 7 |
| M37/4 | Leics. FHS Strays (see also 37/12) |
| 4/1 | Index No. 1 (1 fiche) |
| 4/2 | Index No. 2 (2 fiche) |
| 4/3 | Index No. 5 (3 fiche) |
| 4/4 | Index No. 6 (2 fiche) |
| 4/5 | Index No. 7 (2 fiche) |
| 4/6 | Index No. 8 (2 fiche) |
| M22/1 | Leics Military Index Vol. 3 Chelsea Pensioners 1832-1855 (See also 22/20) |
| M43/1/1 | Index to Wills proved PCC 1750-1800 Vol. 2 (8 fiche) |
| M43/1/2 | Index to Wills proved PCC 1750-1800 Vol. 3 (7 fiche) *See also Ref. 43/2* |

## NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Autumn 1995
Vol. 16. No. 3

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

O/S 152 Mrs G.C. Collins, 33, Acredale Drive, Carlisle, Ontario, Canada L0R 1H2

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| BOSHER | Sheffield YKS | |
| BRITTAIN | Sheffield YKS | 1700s+ |
| EBBAGE | Sheffield YKS | 1800s+ |
| FORBES | Sheffield YKS | 1600s+ |
| JONES | Sheffield YKS | 1700s+ |
| LUDLUM | Sheffield YKS | 1600s+ |
| PADLEY | Sheffield YKS | 1700s+ |
| SWANN | Sheffield YKS | 1700s+ |

R864 Mrs E.M. Foster, 5, Percy Close, Leconfield, Beverley HU17 7NZ

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| BROWN | South Anston WRY | pre 1830 |
| FOSTER | Leeds WRY | pre 1880 |
| GARNER | Sheffield WRY | pre 1866 |
| GOODISON | Rotherham WRY | pre 1800 |
| HOLMES | Waddingham LIN | c.1840 |
| JACQUES | Wakefield WRY | pre 1880 |
| KENT | Rotherham WRY | pre 1815 |
| LEE | Bethnal Green MDX | pre 1930 |
| LITTLEWOOD | Ecclesfield WRY | pre 1815 |
| LITTLEWOOD | Rotherham WRY | pre 1840 |
| PARKIN | Rotherham WRY | pre 1810 |
| PORTER | Finchley/Edmonton MDX | pre 1830 |

O/S 148 Mrs M. Hackett, 5, Crawley Street, Merrylands, 2160, NSW, Australia

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| BROWN | Headingley YKS | c 1856-1914 |
| BROWN | Leeds YKS | 1858-1908 |
| KELLY | Bradford YKS | c.1830 |
| POWELL | Aberystwyth CGN | 1840+ |
| POWELL | Attercliffe YKS | 1886+ |
| SEELS | Hull YKS | pre 1950 |
| SHERIDAN | Bradford YKS | 1866+ |
| WALLS | YKS | c 1840 |
| WALLS | Sharow NRY | c 1861 |
| WHITNALL | Aberystwyth CGN | c 1830 |

1326 Mr P.M. Angell, 37, Brooklands Avenue, Fulwood, Sheffield S10 4GB

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ANGELL | Sheffield SYK | 1880+ |
| ANGELL | Woodhouse SYK | 1880+ |

1306 Miss M. Christian, 118, Charlton Road, Charlton, London SE7 7EY

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| HUNSLEY | Sheffield YKS | 19C |
| HUNSLEY | Doncaster YKS | E19C |
| LATTIN | Sheffield YKS | 1851+ |

1325 Mr E. Hughes, White Lodge, Deanshill Close, Stafford ST16 1BW

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| BROOMHEAD | Bradfield YKS | pre 1650 |
| CHARLESWORTH | Rotherham YKS | 18C |
| CHARLESWORTH | Wakefield YKS | c 1700 |
| LOXLEY | Bradfield YKS | pre 1700 |
| LOXLEY | Ecclesfield YKS | pre 1800 |
| MICKLETHWAITE | Wakefield YKS | pre 1750 |
| OLIVE | Shoreditch MDX | 18C |

O /S155 Mrs A. Hamilton, 18309 Quondal Ct. Gaithersburg, MD.20877, USA

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| BATES | Huddersfield YKS | pre 1850 |
| BLACKSHAW | Sheffield YKS | pre 1840 |
| BROOK | Huddersfield YKS | pre 1870 |
| FOULSTONE | Sheffield YKS | Pre 1850 |
| FULTON | South Shields /Anywhere DUR | Pre 1880 |
| HILL | Almondbury YKS | pre 1850 |
| SCOTT | South Shields /Anywhere DUR | pre 1890 |
| SUTER | Anywhere LEI | pre 1880 |
| SYKES | Huddersfield YKS | pre 1860 |
| THOMPSON | South Shields /Anywhere DUR | pre 1880 |
| WALKER | Huddersfield YKS | pre 1840 |
| WHITWAM | Golcar YKS | pre 1860 |

1328 Mrs C.A. Wilkinson, 27, Ghyll Road, Scotby, Carlisle, Cumbria CA4 8BT

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| SCATCHARD | Moorgreene NTT | pre 16C & + |
| SCATCHARD | Greasley NTT | pre 1650 & + |
| SCATCHARD | Norwell NTT | 1680+ |
| SCATCHARD | Oakworth WRY | 1850+ |
| SCATCHARD | Sheffield YKS | 1850+ |
| SCATCHARD | Bradford WRY | 1850+ |
| SCATCHARD | Keighley WRY | 1850+ |
| TATE | Sheffield YKS | 1800+ |
| TATE | York ERY | 1850+ |
| WIDDOWSON | Ossington NTT | pre 1680 |

Mr R. Bowers, 88, Richmond Park Avenue, Kimberworth, Rotherham S61 2JG

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| BARBER | Hanley / Stoke on Trent | Early 1900's |
| PARRY | Hanley / Stoke on Trent | Early 1900's |

1274 Mrs K.M. Sleight, 17, Bond Street, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 1HR

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| BENSON | Sheffield SYK | pre 19C |
| BIGGIN | Sheffield SYK | pre 19C |
| BUTLER | Manchester LAN | 19C |
| BUTLER | Kilkenny? IRL? | pre 19C |
| HARDY | Sheffield SYK | pre 19C |
| HAMILTON | Sheffield SYK | pre 19C |
| HOATES | Sheffield SYK | pre 19C |
| LLEWELLYN | Sheffield SYK | pre 19C |
| MALLINSON | Sheffield SYK | pre 19C |
| PINDER | Sheffield SYK | pre 19C |
| SELLARS | Sheffield SYK | pre 19C |
| SMEDLEY | Sheffield SYK | pre 19C |

1317 Mrs R. Eatock, 231, Hady Lane, Chesterfield Derbyshire S41 0DA

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| BROOKES | Sheffield SYK | pre 1875 |
| EATOCK | Wigan LAN | pre 1810 |
| EATON | Sheffield SYK | pre 1905 |
| KERR | Belfast ANT | pre 1867 |
| MARSH | Sheffield SYK | pre 1900 |
| McNEIL | Carnlough ANT | pre 1900 |
| PERFITT | Woolwich KEN | pre 1885 |

1325 Mr E. Hughes, White Lodge, Deanshill Close, Stafford ST16 1BW

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| BROOMHEAD | Bradfield YKS | pre 1650 |
| CHARLESWORTH | Rotherham YKS | 18C |
| CHARLESWORTH | Wakefield YKS | c 1700 |
| LOXLEY | Bradfield YKS | pre 1700 |
| LOXLEY | Ecclesfield YKS | pre 1800 |
| MICKLETHWAITE | Wakefield YKS | pre 1750 |
| OLIVE | Shoreditch MDX | 18C |

1222 Mr P.Wilkinson, 17, Rowdale Crescent, Sheffield S12 4SJ

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| EVANS | Bradwell DBY | 1760+ |
| EVANS | Stocksbridge WRY | 1890+ |
| WILKINSON | Great Fransham NFK | pre 1840 |
| WILKINSON | Hull ERY | 1850+ |
| WILKINSON | Sheffield WRY | 1870+ |

1321 Mr R. Graham, 30 Woodburn Road, Northenden, Manchester M22 4BZ

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ARKWRIGHT | Preston LAN | 1600-1880 |
| GRAHAM | Manchester LAN | 1870-1926 |
| GRAHAM | Nottinghamshire NTT | 1860-1880 |
| GRAHAM | Preston LAN | pre 1860 |
| JEFFCOCK | Sheffield YKS | pre 1850 |
| JEFFCOCK | Manchester LAN | 1830+ |
| MALTBY | Anywhere | Anytime |
| MALTBY | Nottinghamshire NTT | pre 1900 |

1292 Mr A. Grantham,The Old Granary, Abbey Court, Wroxham Road, Coltishall, Norfolk NR12 7AH

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| DYER | Huddersfield | 19 / 20C |
| GRANTHAM | Any | Any |
| HOBSON | Sheffield | 19 / 20C |
| MELVILLE | Sheffield | 1850-1900 |
| PERRINS | Pontefract | 1870-1900 |
| RAYNOR | Sheffield | 19 / 20C |
| ROLLINSON | YKS | 19 / 20C |
| STANDIDGE | Sheffield | 1868-19 / 20C |
| TAYLOR | Pontefract | 19 / 20C |
| TURTLE | Any | |
| WARREN | Sheffield | 19 / 20C |
| WHINCUP | Sheffield | 19 / 20C |

1322 Mr J.B. Brackenbury, 63, Paxton Road, Chesterfield S41 0TL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| BARTON | Sheffield YKS | E 19C |
| BRACKENBURY | Boston LIN | E 19C |
| BRACKENBURY | Sheffield YKS | pre 1874 |
| CONGREAVE | Sheffield YKS | L 19C |
| HERRING | Sheffield YKS | L 19C |
| RHODES | Beeston NTT | M 19C |
| RINGROSE | Sawtry NTH | pre 1840 |
| SKELTON | Sheffield YKS | pre 1885 |
| SKELTON | Plymouth DEV | M 19C |
| TRUSWELL | Sheffield YKS | pre 1856 |

1303 Mrs M.J. Linden, 32,Priors Road, Windsor, Berks. SL4 4PD

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| WHITHAM | Sheffield YKS | pre 1860 |

R865 Mr A.D. Hodgson, 25, Cliff Hill, Maltby, Rotherham S66 8AU

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| CLARKE | Beighton DBY | 1870+ |
| CLARKE | Manthorpe LIN | c 1930 |
| HODGSON | Hunslet YKS | c 1830 |
| HODGSON | Brighton SSX | c 1850 |
| HODGSON | Dartford KEN | c 1860 |
| MORRIS | Chard SOM | c 1840 |
| MORRIS | Crewkerne SOM | c 1865 |
| NUTLEY | Brighton SSX | c 1830 |
| TAYLOR | Rotherham SYK | c 1860 |

1331 Mrs M. McGregor, 60A, Tower Drive, Gourock, Renfrewshire PA19 1TB

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| BARGH | Dronfield YKS | pre 1767 |
| BARGH | Barlow YKS | c 1687 |
| HILL | Whittington YKS | pre 1787 |

## BELGIAN REFUGEES IN THE 1914 - 1918 WAR

*This story was told after the AGM in February 1995 by the author Eileen Allen*

The Belgian Monarchy was established in 1831 when Leopold of Saxe-Cobourg became the first King of the Belgians. This able young aristocrat had been the husband of Princess Charlotte, the heiress presumptive to the British throne. It was a sad day for England and for Leopold when she died giving birth to their still-born son. It was necessary for some provision to be made for the succession and Leopold was instrumental in arranging the marriage of his widowed sister to the Duke of Kent. From this union the future Queen Victoria was born. So, instead of being the British royal consort, Leopold eventually became uncle to the British monarch and as such had great influence upon Victoria and on Great Britain. The connection between the Royal houses of Belgium and Great Britain was to continue for many years.

In 1831 Leopold became King of the Belgians, married Louise Marie of France and founded the Belgian Royal dynasty. He was succeeded in 1865, by his son, Leopold 11, and he, in turn was succeeded by his nephew, Albert 1. Albert was King of the Belgians in 1914, when war broke out in Europe.

Despite the Belgian declaration of neutrality, the German armies advanced across Belgium to reach their objective - France. In the ensuing chaos many Belgian civilians fled in terror in advance of the Germman invasion, desperate to escape. They crossed over the Channel to England in their hundreds, in any kind of craft available, taking with them whatever of their possessions they could carry. In England it was necessary for some speedy provision to be made for these homeless people. A reception and distribution centre was rapidly organised at the Crystal Palace from where refugees were sent out in smaller groups all over the country. A great wave of sympathy was aroused and the British people rallied round with willing offers of help - housing, food, fuel, entertainment. Local committees were set up in towns and villages and the refugees were met with welcoming speeches, prayers and civic receptions. They were accommodated in large communal buildings, schools and private houses. There are records of them living at Ecclesfield, Middlewood, Abbey Lane, Thrybergh, Kimberworth and many other places where they were welcomed as honoured guests. Employment was found for those who were able and the children were enrolled at local schools.

Unfortunately the first euphoria did not last long. Some of the refugees found employment hard to find. Many had seafaring skills useless in an inland town and others could not cope with the language problem. There were reports of lack of co-operation, and even of drunkenness. At Eastwood House in Rotherham all the wooden fittings - door and window frames - were removed and used as fuel. The house was left in such a state it had to be demolished. As the

war progressed the British people became engrossed in their own problems, the refugees were forgotten, and sympathy waned. By the end of the war many of the refugees were only too glad to return home and their hosts were relieved to wave goodbye to them. Only a minority stayed and settled in England.

But it did not all turn sour. Among a party of refugees who were lodged initially in the large house in Rosehill Park at Parkgate were two teenage boys. They are mentioned in an article on the arrival of refugees in the 'Rotherham Advertiser' of October 1914. One of the boys, Maurice, was billetted on a local family, and took up work at the Parkgate Iron and Steel Works. He struck up a close friendship with his hostess's young teenage sister, Ivy. Soon afterwards he was drafted into the Belgian army and fought in France. He spent his leaves in Parkgate and continued to woo Ivy with many gifts. At the end of the war he returned to his family in Belgium with the parting promise that he would return to marry Ivy.

However, this was not to be. Circumstances came between them - the obstacles were too great. They both eventually married in their own countries and lost touch - but only for a short time. In the 1920's when both Maurice and Ivy had families of their own the friendship was renewed, and the happy outcome is that the two families, Maurice's in Belgium, and Ivy's in England, are still in regular contact, are still the best of friends, even to the fourth generation, and long after the two 'lovers' are dead. It is a fine example of how family, local, national and international history are inextricably connected.

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

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## USEFUL ARTICLES IN OTHER SOCIETIES' JOURNALS

*Records for a family history* by Norman Holding
Bedfordshire FHS. Vol. 10 No. 1 March 1995
Suggestions for ways of filling out the bones of a family so one can write an interesting history.

*Not in front of the servants. A Reading list.*
FHS of Cheshire Vol. 25. No. 2. Dec 1994

*Conference reports from "Not in Front of the Servants".*
FHS of Cheshire Vol. 25. No. 2. Dec 1994

*A warning about the new IGI*
NW Kent Vol. 7. No. 1. Apr. 1995

## WORLD TOUR OF THE SHEFFIELD MUSICAL UNION

(Continued from Volume 16 No. 2)

Poole, Harry
Pringle, Bertram
Pringle, Lucy (2 wks)
Pullon, Helen
Radcliffe, Thomas
Robinson, John
Robson, Mary
Runcie, Adam
Scott, Frank (1909- 1 wk)
Seager, Evelyn (1908 - 2 mths)
Shackleton, Ada
Sharpe, Emily
Shaw, Harriet
Shields, Frederic (1908 - 2 wks)
Shiner, Annie (1908 - 2 wks)
Simpson, Robert
Skinner, Christine
Skinner, Grace (1908 - 2 wks)
Smith, Frederick
Smith, Jenny
Smith, Muriel,
Smith, Elsie
Smith. Maggie
Sopwith, Mary
Squire, Bertha
Stephenson, Mabel
Stewart, Louisa
Sutton, Mary
Swales,Lillie
Taggart, Jane (Scotland)
Taylor, Hannah
Terry, Jean
Terry, Harold
Thorn, Marion (Scotland)
Thornton, Hilda
Turner, Jonathan (Scotland)
Turnpenny, Henry
Twigg, Rose (1908 - 2 wks)
Urlon, Sidney (1908 - 2 wks)
Urwin, John
Vinycomb, Eliza (1908 - 2 wks)
Virgo, William (1903 - 7 wks)
Walker, Watson
Wallington, Raleigh
Wallington, Digby
Wallington, Muriel
Ward, Thomas (2 wks)
Wareing, Sara
Waugh, John
Waugh, bertha
Webster, Joseph
Whitehead, Lilian (1908)
Whitham, Ernest
Wilberforce, Emily (1908 - 2 wks)
Wildgoose, Frederick
Wiles, Edith (1908 - 2 wks)
Wilford, George
Wilford,Caroline(1908-2wks)(Scotl'd)
Willby, Maude
Williams, Robert
Williams, Ralph
Wilson, Bertha
Wilson, Helen
Winterbottom, John (1908 - 2 wks)
Woods, Thomas (1908 - 2 wks)
Wooding, Arnold
Wright, Edith
Young, Robert
Young, Edith

*Transcribed by Mrs Muriel Wilcox,*
*3, Hilary Drive,*
*Merry Hill,*
*Wolverhampton*
*WU3 7NJ*

## COMPETITION SECOND PRIZE
## TO CATCH A THIEF

I have studied the Allcard family for many years and have, I think, a complete tree. However, I had long been puzzled by one Charles, born in Sheffield in 1827 who was living with his parents at the 1841 census. I found no reference in St. Catherine's records or elsewhere to his marriage or death. I made some inexpert and unsuccessful sttempts to find out whether he had emigrated but light dawned when I obtained his mother's death certificate. Ann Allcard, "aged about 50 years" died in Sheffield on 19 /12/1845 of "excessive grief caused by having a son transported, not certified".

I then visited the West Yorkshire Archive Service headquarters in Wakefield and found in their conveniently indexed indictment books that Charles had indeed been caught, charged and punished three times. On the first occasion, in 1841 when he was fourteen, he had pleaded guilty to stealing a silver watch value one pound, one metal chain value 6d, one metal seal value 1d and one metal key value 1d. Copies of the depositions of the witnesses were also easily found at Wakefield.

The owner of the stolen goods was the next door neighbour of Charles who still lived with his father. The watch and chain had been left on the bed post but they had disappeared when their owner returned later. His wife had also gone out and left the key of the house with the Allcards. Charles had a receiver accomplice who had obtained five shillings for the watch and there are depositions from the man who lent money on the watch and from the policeman who found the watch.

Charles was put to hard labour for six months in the house of correction at Wakefield where he appears in the calendar of prisoners which is in the Wakefield record office. It gives name, age, indictment, duration of sentence and degree of education. Charles is recorded as being able to read. Unfortuntely this imprisonment did not reform Charles for the following year he was again convicted of stealing two watches worth ten shillings each, a watch chain worth a shilling and a key valued at 6d. He was sentenced to six months hard labour and "to be privily whipped".

Finally Charles was found guilty of stealing a bridle worth two shillings, a martingale (part of harness) worth three shillings, a comb worth 6d and a brush worth 6d. He had taken these articles in February 1845 from a stable in East Bank, Sheffield but had evidently found them difficult to dispose of. The witnesses' depositions tell us that in March he had asked a friend if he would like to buy the bridle and he had replied "I would if I had any money". About a week later Charles tried again - "Does thou mean to buy the bridle?". Charles wanted 18d for it but only got 6d.

He was tried in Sheffield and found guilty in June 1845 and sentenced at the age of 18 to 10 years transportation.

I then continued my search in the Public Record Office at Kew. Here there are lists of prisoners in hulks awaiting transportation (HO8) but I could not find Charles there. However, in lists of prisoners transported (HO11) I found him again on the Pestingee Bomonjee, a troop ship hired as a convict transporter, setting sail for Van Diemen's Land (V.D.L.) in September 1845. Charles therefore escaped the long and debilitating wait on a hulk which many prisoners endured before transportation. The captain's log of the voyage is not in the record office but I found the ship's surgeon's fascinating account of the voyage. On 3/9/1845 the guard consisted of a captain of Her Majesty's 11th Regiment of Foot and one lieutenant, 4 N.C.O.s and 46 rank and file of Her Majesty's 65th Regiment of Foot accompanied by six females and 6 children embarked at Woolwich. All were healthy apart from one infant. On 4/9/1845 300 male convicts, of whom 272 were from Millbank Prison, embarked and they sailed from Woolwich on 9/9/1845.

During the passage down the Channel there were gales and many of the prisoners had diarrhoea which the surgeon put down to cold and wet, change of diet and excitement. The guard remained healthy. In 18/9/1845, because of the continuous gales the ship put in at Plymouth where she stayed for four days. During October the tendency to diarrhoea disappeared but there were digestive upsets and many men had swollen legs and general debility. Because of their poor condition the surgeon prevailed on the captain to put in at the Cape of Good Hope in order to provide the prisoners with a more nutritious diet. They remained there for four days and took on board bullocks and sufficient fresh meat and vegetables for 12 days.They arrived in Hobart on 30/12/1845 and all disembarked by 12/1/1846.

During the voyage two prisoners died and two babies were born. One death was due to paralysis resulting from a spinal condition and another to pericarditis. Both were treated assiduously by venesection.The doctor's notes are meticulous with a daily account of the sick parade and daily, detailed clinical notes on his more serious cases admitted to the 'hospital'. The Allcard name does not appear in this journal so presumably Charles remained reasonably fit during the voyage.

To understand what happened to Charles in V.D.L. it is necessary to digress in order to explain the system which governed the convicts at the time. The Victorian British Government was very high minded about the pumnishment and the reform of its transportees. Elaborate plans were drawn up in London by men who had never been outside England and issued as orders to the officials in V.D.L. It took approximately six months to receive a reply to a letter.

Ian Brand's book (see reference) describes the probation system which commenced in 1842 and was abandoned in 1848. In theory each new prisoner was, on arrival, ascribed to a probation gang where he performed hard labour (not in chains) for 18 months. During this period he was housed in a specially built station with cookhouse, chapel, school and different accommodation huts. He was well fed and reasonably clothed being issued with four pairs of boots or shoes. He was to be closely watched and within reach of 'moral and religious influences' and he had to attend school and church. Discipline was strict but not harsh. There was very little flogging. If a prisoner misbehaved he was to be treatred firmly and if necessary tried by a magistrate. If he was a persistent misbehaver the period in the probation gang could be prolonged indefinitely; on the other hand the well-behaved prisoner knew that after the 18 months he would get a probationary pass with which he could be hired out, receiving a proportion of his wages, the rest being banked until about half way through his sentence when he got his 'ticket of leave'. With this he could work anywhere in V.D.L. and only had to let his whereabouts be known to the authorities. Meticulous records were to be kept about the progress of each convict.

Unfortunately the plan did not work because there were not enough suitably qualified people to supervise the convicts and therefore other convicts were often put in positions of authority. Money was short and the Lieutenant Governor at the time that Charles landed was incompetent.

A problem supremely distasteful to the Victorian mind was the prevalence of homosexuality, known as 'unnatural crime', amongst these exclusively male groups of prisoners. This was felt to degrade the men both physically and mentally.

During Charles' first year in his probation gang at Rocky Hills a conscientious inspection was made of all the probation station and the report on Rocky hills was damning (quoted in reference).

"The huts for the accommodation of the first class prisoners contain thirty men each. Those for the second class fourteen each and are built of wood; they are good but rather small for that number"--

"The fireplace in the hospital was knocked to pieces from chopping wood upon it, and no man's case written above his head.'-- "The prisoners were noisy in the extreme and exhibited a most disorderly appearance. They were badly clothed, their hair long, and about one half of them bare-footed, though the latter circumstances was not attributable to the neglect of the officers in charge,"

However the prisoners were reported to be healthy and the food good and there was little if any evidence of 'unnatural crime'. The prisoners were mainly employed in clearing and fencing land and farming. Most of the officials of the station were sacked leaving the unit without any discipline officer for a week in January 1847.

British Governmental red tape had also ensured that triennial lists of prisoners in V.D.L. are also preseerved (HO 10). These contain references to Charles in 1846 when he was in the probation gang and also a notice to the effect that "Charles Allcard having served 6 years and 9 months and having had a ticket of leave for one year an application was made to the Queen for a conditional pardon".

I then continued my researches while on holiday in the antipodes. In the archive department in Hobart it was easy to find Charles' convict record on the alphabetically arranged microfilm. This record gives, in addition to offence, date and place of trial, sentence and age (19) a physical description and occupation (carter).. Charles was five feet three inches tall and had light brown hair, no whiskers, an oval face, brown eyebrows, hazel eyes and medium nose, mouth and chin. He had a scar on the right elbow and a slight scar on the right cheek.

Then follows a fairly detailed account of his passage through the system. During his period of probation at Rocky Hills he was found to be 'trafficking with their government boots' for which he received a sentence of two months hard labour out of chains. This illicit sale of boots was presumably the reason why so many prisoners were barefooted. In 1850 he was in solitary confinement for seven days because he had been absent without leave. There is also a list of seven people in the Launceston district to whom Charles was hired out between 1847 and 1850. In December 1851 he received his conditional pardon. With this he could travel and work anywhere in Australia but he could not return to England.

After this I drew a complete blank. There is no record of Charles' marriage or death on his prisoner record. I could not find Charles' name in civil registration lists of V.D.L. or on ships leaving Hobart or Launceston. He may have crossed to mainland Australia because there was much unemployment in V.D.L. and a goldrush was in full swing in Victoria. Carters were much in demand there. Enquiries in Sydney and Melbourne have been unproductive and a professsional searcher, (Mr. McFie), in Tasmania has had no more luck.

So I still do not know how this artful dodger ended his days or whether he ever knew that his mother had died of grief. I think he may have changed his name or escaped and died in the bush so that his demise remained unrecorded.

**Reference:**

A Convict Probation System, Van Diemen's Land, 1839-1854 by Ian Brand, 1990, Blubber Head Press.

*Miss Margaret Platts, 47, Coldwell Lane, Sheffield S10 5TJ*

## IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME

A family history usually starts at the end and works back to the beginning, so my back to front story starts with my grandmother.

Amy Blackwell was a short bow-legged lady with black tipped grey hair, and black shoes fastened by a single strap and button, which she wore all the years that I knew her. She was kind, quiet and I remember she frequently unravelled my bad attempts at knitting with the patience of a saint, on Sundays when she always came to dinner. I can see her now at our sink doing the after dinner pots. It was while she stood there I asked her the seemingly innocent question, "Who were your Mum and Dad, Grandma?" Odd, even now after all these years, I feel the silence and the unanswered question.

One Sunday we watched her come. She staggered, falling for a moment against the window. The saying 'old habits die hard' comes to mind. She had found her way to our house as usual for dinner after suffering a stroke. Grandma died, and my embryonic enquiries into her history ended there, at least for many years.

Amy was illegitimate, and it took me some time to unravel the story she was ashamed to tell. Sarah Ann Blackwell, Amy's mother, had four illegitimate children, Amy being the first in 1898, Frederick in 1900, followed by Violet in 1903 and William in 1906. Amy was baptised at St. George's, Portobello Street, Sheffield and, as for the other children, no father was given. They all took their mother's name of Blackwell.

One can only guess at the relationship which produced all these children. We can only be kind and presume they all had the same father. Word of mouth says it was one Herbert or Harry Lauder (who played the cornet in the band at the Empire Theatre, Sheffield). I even investigated Sir Harry Lauder, a long shot you will concede. In my lurid imagination I worked out the scenario that the great man after a rendition of 'Annie Laurie' nipped out in the intermission complete with greasepaint, to clandestinely visit Sarah Ann, and father four children. All nonsense of course! The real culprit was probably the aforementioned cornet player at the Empire Theatre who may or may not have been a Harry or Herbert Lauder. What is known, and does ring true is that Amy collected money from the stage door at the Empire and when Amy found work as a human donkey, shoving tubs of coal for the Sheffield Gas and Light Company at Neepsend, William, her youngest brother, took over the 'collections'. I have often wondered if Grandma's bow legs were a consequence of the donkey work, or rickets, or a combination of both.

Sarah Ann eventually married a George Beet in 1912, but not before she had two children to George. Old habits again? Rose was born in 1910, George in 1912, and Albert born 1914, the only one on the right side of the blanket!

I am sure we have all come across the dis-information factor and in this way Amy herself did not help. On a copy of her birth certificate, issued when she began work, in the gap left blank where Father should be, she wrote in her own hand Harry Blackwell, a combination of her real father's Christian name? and her own surname. Dear Grandma Amy, too proud to leave a blank!

It took a while to establish dates to work on. Sarah Ann, it was found, was born in Dronfield in 1876. I had to wait for the 1881 census but eventually found Sarah Ann with her now known parents Peter and Ann (née Lomas) Blackwell living at Middle Handly, a hamlet outside Dronfield. Peter's birthplace was given as Eyam. Sarah now had brothers and sisters, Thomas, Hannah, Mary and Margaret. At Matlock Record Office I found Peter with his father and mother and grandfather, Peter with his wife newly married. The IGI filled in the Blackwell clan, children, relationships and marriages back to the 1770's. The occupations of the Blackwells were given as farmer or leadminer, and often both.

Lead had been mined in Eyam and the surrounding area since Roman times. Prosperity was at its height when the rich Edgeside vein was discovered but by the 1850's the prospects of a living from leadmining must have been bleak as the seam became deeper and wetter. Left with farming as a sole income, and brothers to share in any land that James, his father had, Peter left his native village for Sheffield. It would be hard to imagine a greater contrast than a Derbyshire hamlet and industrialised Sheffield in the middle of the 19th century, with all the horrors of housing and disease.

Peter and Ann I found via the Burgess Rolls in 1871, living on New Street, (off West Bar) at No. 2, with the notorious Scargill Croft just a few yards away. I was sad to find Peter's death from uremia due to amputation of the arm. He died at 23, Granville Street, at the back of the Midland Station in 1885. A mining accident perhaps?

With the damp-stained face of the Reverend Mompesson, hero of Eyam, looking down at me from his portrait, I sat in the vestry of St. Lawrence's Church, Eyam. The years came and went with the turning of parish registers. Blackwells and Blacows rediscovered and recorded. I found my Samuel baptised in 1773, Robert 1729, James 1690 and Francis 1639. I found my Anthony and his wife Margaret, their children, brothers and sisters to Francis, Joan, Ann, Anthony and Margaret, I found that I had **plague ancestors!** The title should read "In the right place at the right time" from my point of view. I'm sure my ancestors would have cursed their fate and agreed with my title!

Anthony Blackwell and Margaret Merrill were married on the 2nd December 1638, with mercifully no inkling of their fate. Anthony died of the plague on 24th December 1665 - the grim reaper in lieu of Father Christmas! - Anthony, their son aged 10, on 21st February, followed by Margaret (Anthony's

wife), Ann and Joan in March and April. But all was not lost. Two members of the family survived, Francis and his sister, Margaret (of hot fat fame).

***A Miraculous Recovery***

*Recovery from the plague was rare, but Margaret Blackwell, a girl of eighteen, was the exception. She had lost most of her family - her father, mother, sisters and brother dying as the plague raged during the early months of 1666. Dreadfully sick, and tortured by an unquenchable thirst, she drank the contents of a small wooden vessel, (a piggin), which contained the liquid fat from bacon, cooked earlier by the only brother left to her. Margaret's brother had gone to find firewood, and on his return was amazed to find her not only alive but somewhat recovered. She attributed her subsequent full recovery to the greasy contents of the wooden piggin. (Information from Eyam Histories)*

One obviously doubts the story, but the parish registers confirm that Margaret Blackwell's burial took place in Eyam on 9th May, 1699, thirty-three years later. Francis goes on to marry twice. He is recorded in the Hearth Tax Rolls for 1670. I have Anthony's probate granted 1667, applied for by his son Francis, the goods and chattels amounting to £44.2s. 6d. and Francis adds to the proof by his will of 1713, naming his sons, and married daughters.

A historic name in Eyam's history is signatory to Anthony's probate, Thomas Stanley, one time vicar of Eyam, who in 1662 on St. Bartholomew's Day, resigned his position rather than recognise Charles II's authority in ecclesiastical matters.

There is a spectre at the Blackwell feast, that I'm honour bound to admit. I realised early on in my research that I had no baptism for Peter, my great, great grandfather. This didn't worry me unduly, as I had all the census data showing Peter as son of James and Hannah Blackwell. Peter was eventually found under his mother's maiden name of Bennison, baptised 26th May, 1833, *illegitimate* son. I was, to say the least, crestfallen. James and Hannah were married at St. Lawrence's, Eyam, on 6th April, 1833, pre Peter's baptism. After much thought, and bearing in mind the importance, pre-registration, of parish registers as evidence in legal disputes, I came to the conclusion that Peter was born pre-mariage, and, to the letter of the law, illegitimate. But, James had a brother named Peter (not a common name then), who died aged eight. I contacted Eve McLaughlin, who wrote a book on "Illegitimacy", with my problem. She concluded: "In view of the census entries, and Peter's marriage lines which state James as father, plus the use of Peter with family connections, I think you are safe in tracing back your Blackwell line to your 'plague' ancestors."

Rosemary Lockie,(a female wonder), found through the interest section of "The Flowing Stream" was working on the same line. We calculated that our Anthony, of plague fame, would have been born circa 1614. Alas, we couldn't find his baptism. However, undismayed by our loss Rosemary and I decided to

pursue Margaret Merrill, Anthony's wife. We found the will of Henry Merrill of Eyam dated 1617. There at the bottom of the will were the names **Humphrey**, Rowland, Alice, John and **Margaret** and in the will he says *"My full mind is that if any wante be amongst them, that my brother Anthony shall have some decent little place in the house to lie in"* The inventory taken of Henry's goods on October 7th, 1617, amounted to £69. 3s. 6d.

In Eyam village is an old farm house known as Hollin House. The date stone is not a reliable indication of age. More likely it refers to reconstruction or enlargement. Humphrey Merrill was the unfortunate occupant. He vacated his home on 9th September, 1666, a plague victim, to reside beneath his lonely tomb in a field at the back of the farmhouse once his home. This much photographed resting place, complete with attendant cows, bears the simple initials H.M. 1666. (Humphrey was **our** Margaret's brother.)

We have many wills for the Blackwell family, some which speak of a great ancestry. Were the Eyam Blackwells descended from Sir Richard Blackwell of Blackwell in Derbyshire who lies with his wife Agnes in Taddington Church? One of his sons Ralph married one Dorothy Stafford of Eyam. David Blackwell, an American friend researching the Blackwells, concluded that the Eyam family may be descended from Ralph and Dorothy. This is far from certain but interestingly Ralph called one of his daughters Amy and a son Anthony - and five hundred years later Amy Blackwell's granddaughter wonders!

In 1867 a Sheffield lawyer passing through Eyam paused to see the renovation work going on in the parish church. He was horrified to find in the vaults a desecrated casket, from which protruded the fragment of a shroud. The coffin contained the remains of Sir Humphrey Stafford, last male heir of an old and wealthy Eyam family. The Stafford pedigree is so incomplete it is hard to draw any firm conclusions about the origins of the *Eyam branch* of the ducal house but a pedigree exists starting in 1066. Staffords were in Eyam from the 13th century and when Sir Humphrey died in 1560 he left £1,000,000.

Ralph Blackwell married one Dorothy Stafford, not a daughter of *the* Sir Humphrey but maybe of an earlier Sir Humphrey on the time scale? Ralph, Dorothy's husband , mentions a Godfrey de Stafford of Eyam in his will. So, if we descend from Ralph we also descend from Sir Humphrey!

The career of the last senior representative of the Stafford family is a theme fit for a novelist. His claims to the peerage of Stafford were admitted by the House of Lords, but his coronet was refused by Charles I because the poor fellow was a labourer. He died broken hearted. Truth *is* stranger than fiction!

I end my story with Sir Humphrey Stafford of Eyam - millionaire - which began with my illegitimate grandmother, Amy Blackwell, who 'charred' for half-a -crown a week.

I wish I could say to her today, as I couldn't, aged fifteen, when she stood

at our kitchen sink all those years ago: "Grandma, don't be ashamed - I've filled in your 'blanks' - we're proud of your Blackwell name."

**Footnote:** From an article in the Star newspaper I learned that one Brian Johnson has written a book "The Seven Blunders of the Peak". It appears that he sets out to show that the Eyam Plague was not the plague as in the Black Death, but measles or some similar infection. He stated in the Star that he intended to dig up the remains of a plague victim buried in a lonely tomb at the back of a farmhouse. It could only be **my** Humphrey! I rang him to claim next of kin! The remains, if found, are to be sent to Portland Down Research Institute to try to determine cause of death. While interested in the truth, and as family researchers we should always try to find it, I can't help but feel we all need our legends, and hope he can't prove measles!

*Mrs Carole L. Burgess, 30, Markbrook Drive, High Green, Sheffield S30 4FP*

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## BOOK LIST

*My ancestors were Baptists: how can I find out more about them?* by the Revd. Geoffrey Breed (3rd edition, 1995, £4.99).

This updted and extensively revised edition of the main guide to sources of biographical information about Baptist ancestors includes lists of Baptist registers at the Public Record office, at the Gospel Standard Baptist Library and at the Strict Baptist Historical Society's Library, as well as of the copies at the Society of Genealogists.Ther book provides a survey of the history and background of the Baptist movement and a handy means of reference to the main genealogical sources available.

*General Register Office One-Name Lists in the Library of the Society of Genealogists.* (1995, £1.65).

This is a list of the one-name studies which have been extracted from the indexes at the General Register Office, showing the periods covered and their location in the Library. Anyone contemplating a lengthy search in the indexes either at St. Catherine's House or on microfilm or microfiche should check from this list that the work has not already been done. Additional extractions from the indexes are always very welcome in the Library.

## UNCLE JIM

*This story was written by my cousin, Mr W.E.S. Robinson of Falmouth in Cornwall, for an exhibition of Charles Pennington's prints and old telescope in the Falmouth Maritime Museum. He would like to express his thanks to the Sheffield Morning Telegraph for their help in finding cuttings in their old files.*

James Skinner was the only, and younger brother of five adoring sisters who thoroughly spoilt him in the modestly wealthy family of a Sheffield steel manufacturer. Consequently he grew up to be a thoroughly self-centred and intractible youth, the bane of his parents who, after sending him to a Quaker boarding school in a vain attempt to teach him obedience and self-discipline, resorted to the traditional Victorian method of bringing the headstrong to heel: he was packed off to sea as an apprentice in sail.

Jim sailed in 1904 in the *Bidston Hill*, a four masted barque of 2149 tons. She was square rigged on all masts with skysails above double topgallant yards. Mate of the vessel was Charles Pennington, who subsequently achieved a reputation as a fine marine artist, whose prints depicting the hard life of "iron men in wooden ships" were deemed authentic. One such print, "Lee-fore-brace", according to family tradition, shows Jim as second from the end of a haulaway team struggling in the flooded waist.

But his family could never have envisaged the ordeal he was to suffer when they sent him off to sea. Let Basil Lubbock continue the story in his monumental work "The Last of the Windjammers".

The *Bidston Hill*, he records, left Hamburg on May 19, 1905 with a cargo of cement for San Francisco. It was Captain Kendall's first passage in command of the ship, and on arriving South he boldly attempted to beat through Le Maire Straits (near Cape Horn) in a light wind. On making the New Year's Island light, the ship was put round on to the port tack so as to give Staten Island an offing.

But Captain Kendall must have been much closer than he imagined, and what with the swell, the inset and the light wind, it was soon clear that the ship was not drawing off, but setting down on the Staten Island shore. Soon the wind fell altogether and soon it was evident that the ship was doomed. Nor was there time to do anything except sling the two lifeboats overboard, before the ship was in under the cliffs, the water being deep right up to the precipitous rock face.

The Captain had previously been injured in a fall from the deckhouse. He was hurriedly lowered into the starboard lifeboat, which dropped astern with the four junior apprentices, four A.B.'s and an ordinary seaman in her. Apparently the mate and steward also dropped into the boat as she drifted under the counter.

Meanwhile the second mate and the rest of the ship's company were making strenuous efforts to get the port lifeboat into the water. What exactly happened to the boat and her occupants was never discovered, but apparently the boat was stove, and the men were killed when the ship struck; she had drifted in right under a perpendicular cliff and, as the swell lifted her, the masts and yards ground and crashed against the overhanging rocks until the heavy tophamper began to rain down on to the decks and into the water alongside.

According to the enquiry, held afterwards in Buenos Ayres, the captain's boat made some attempt at rescue, which seems to have been frustrated by the rapid sinking of the Bidston Hill. This caused the boat to pull clear of the suction and to make for the shore. On the following day a search was made, but the port boat, the men and the ship herself had all disappeared.

In due course the Bidston Hill was reported missing at Lloyd's feared lost with all hands. It was not until August 28th, 1905 that the following appeared in the Sheffield Telegraph:-

*THE BIDSTON HILL DISASTER*

*Sheffield Boy Saved*

*There is good news to report this morning with regard to the fate of the crew of the Bidston Hill. On Saturday night Mr W.E. Skinner received a telegram from the owners saying: "Pleased to advise your son is safe."*

*Mr and Mrs Skinner and family, who had passed through a period of intense anxiety and suspense, and who had begun to mourn the boy as lost, were naturally overjoyed on receipt of the news, and yesterday they had the congratulations of a great number of friends*

It was not until many weeks later that Jim finally reached home, ragged, unkempt and destitute, never to go to sea again. His own story of an experience which must have been horrifying beyond imagination to the young lad were never revealed, and he never spoke of the matter in later life. But his daughter recalls that he harboured a lifelong and implacable hatred of missionaries as a consequence of the heartless treatment of the shipwrecked mariners by the missionaries of Staten Island.

*Sent by Monica Nicholson, 18, Menhyr Drive, Carbis Bay, St. Ives, Cornwall TR26 2QR*

**Extra information from Mrs Nicholson**

Mrs Nicholson's uncle, Bill Cheetham, was a member of Sir Henry Coward's Choir world tour in 1911. He married one of the two Skinner sisters who also went on the tour.

## THE DOPPEL-GÄNGER?

In the Winter 1993 edition of "The Flowing Stream" I told the story of my search for Samuel Tyzack. I described the strange party at No. 103 Edmund Street, Ecclesall on the Census night in 1851. All the persons present were born Tyzacks. It seemed that any wife who married a Tyzack had been sent off. Three of the men, Henry, Joseph and Samuel junior, were married. The only women present were Samuel senior's unmarried daughters Christina and Sarah. So where was the mother of the one year old Frederick Tyzack?

Henry the eldest son was there by himself. He had left Sheffield in 1843 and moved, with his wife, to Curtain Road, Shoreditch in London. Curtain Road, Shoreditch was the home of the furniture industry and Henry, a sawmaker, had not been able to resist the lure of such a good market for his saws. For Census night he had made a special journey, to Sheffield, to be at his father's house. This all seemed a bit mysterious but at least I had the information - or had I ?

Just to complete the story I decided to also get a copy of the 1851 census for Henry's home in Curtain Road. I wanted to know whether Louisa, Henry's wife, was by herself that night! Alas, as I said in my original article, every answer is just another question in disguise.

Louisa was not alone and maybe you have guessed whom she had keeping her company, husband Henry!

Fortunately I have a duplicate copy of an authorised birth certificate for Henry showing that he was definitely the right one. Otherwise I would have begun to believe that there were two Henry Tyzacks born in 1809 in Ecclesall.

So what I have to conclude is that Samuel senior, the head of the house, perhaps could not read and did not understand the instructions for completing his return. One wonders how many other false records we unknowingly have.

The mystery of the absent mother of young Frederick was also explained. His birth certificate revealed the mother as Sarah Tyzack!

The 1851 census was at least one overstated.

*Don Tyzack, 14, Meadowcroft, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire SL9 9DH*

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## IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR AMERICAN MEMBERS

Our Treasurer has been having problems recently with some cheques sent from America. Will American members please make sure that any cheques they send to the Society have a SORT CODE on them as English banks are refusing to handle any cheques without a sort code.

**CHARACTER PUBS 3 - The Lord Raglan, Aldersgate Street.**

This pub is handy for those visiting:-

1 The Guildhall Library, Gresham Street, which has the I>.G.I., records of thousands who have lived and worked in the City, Lloyd's registers of Ships and their Captains, City Parish Church Registers, and amazing collection of town directories, indexed volumes of the Times newspaper from 1789 and an ample supply of microfiche and microfilm readers, photocopiers and computers together with a book and map shop.

2 The Corporation of London City Business Library - a few yards from the Guildhall. This new building, open to all, has every telephone directory in the world on open shelves!

3 The post Office Museum and Library - just behind St. Martin le Grand.

4 The Society of Genealogists Library, Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road. Half a mile due north.

5 The London Museum and Bookshop, The Barbican, Aldersgate Street.

6 The Corporation of London City Record Office - rear of the Guildhall. They have detailed records of all the City Guilds and their members. The ancient Guildhall building is open to the public most afternoons.

The Lord Raglan Pub has been serving beer and food since 1540. Sheffielders may be interested to know that the London bound stage coach from the Tontine Inn in Sheffield used to terminate at St. Martin le Grand which is close by this pub. William Shakespeare and Samuel Johnson are known to have patronised the Lord Raglan which was originally named 'The Bush'. After the execution of Charles 1 the Loyalist landlord here renamed the pub 'The Mourning Bush' and ringed the pub sign in black! Later the pub was renamed 'The Lord Raglan' after the famous general (1788-1855) who lost an arm in the Crimean War.

Visitors will be surprised to see trees growing in the middle of this building which has a weird Victorian atmosphere. A reasonable amount of seating accommodation is available for 'early birds' and hot and cold food is served.

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

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## CAN YOU HELP?

Mr Michael Southwick, 21, Meldon Way, Hanover Estate, Winlaton, Tyne & Wear NE21 6HJ is asking for help in the compilation of *Ancestral Anomalies* - a miscellany of the witty, the sad, the unusual (and the downright erroneous!) from the annals of the world of genealogy. Due for publication in Spring 1996, he is currently in the process of collecting snippets from anybody on any facet of our fascinating hobby. Family yarns, startling coincidences and unearthed skeltons are all welcome; as well as the usual witty P.R. extracts and M.I.s. Any donation, large or small, would be greatly appreciated. All those who contribute will receive a discount on the final price. If anyone can help, or would like further details, send a SAE to the above address.

He also promises to sent the Society a complimentary copy of the finished product if someone will unearth for him a few anecdotes from our own journals. Is there a reader who will volunteer to look through back copies to help him? You may even find something of special interest to you as you are doing it!

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## BRADFIELD POOR LAW RECORDS

A cross-referenced index

Have you lost an ancestor?
Did any of your family leave from the parish where they were born?
Did one of your ancestors have a child with an unknown father?

You may find the answer to your problem in this new publication.
Places and people from many parts of the country can be found in this new index.

Settlement Certificates, Settlement Examinations and Bastardy Bonds, together with a variety of other records of the ordinary people of Bradfield have been indexed to provide a rich and varied source of information about the poor during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Although close to Sheffield, Bradfield is a very large moorland parish in South Yorkshire. It has an extensive set of poor law records. These have been transcribed by Denise Marsden, edited by Roy Newton and are now published on a set of two microfiches price £2.00 including postage UK and £3.50 including airmail postage overseas. They are available from our Society bookstall officer Mrs M. Hume, 41, Rushley Road, Sheffield S17 3EH

Printed by Sheffield Women's Printing Co-op (TU) Ltd. (0114) 275 3180