

Sheffield and District Family History Society

The Flowing Stream ~



Winter 1995

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THE FLOWING STREAM

Journal of Sheffield and District Family History Society

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CONTENTS	Page
Editorial	87
New Members	87
News and Notes	88
Federation Publications	92
Forthcoming Conferences	92
Through the Letter Box	93
Society Meetings	94
House of Lords Visit	95
Subscriptions - Important Notice	95
Other People's Problems	96
Additions to the Library	97
Call to Arms	98
Mirfins of South Yorkshire	101
How Accurate is Your Genealogical Data?	105
Somerset House	106
Howsam/Fletcher. To be or not to be - That is the question	107
Cutting off One's Sister-in-Law with Five Shillings	108
The Good Old Days	109
Book List	111
Useful Articles from Other Societies' Journals	112

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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 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. Gilloitt, 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 0114 266 9341

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, 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

As family historians we are always working towards the goal of writing up our findings or a definitive story of our family. Our Chairman has found another way of using the material she has discovered from researching her family. In the booklist section of this edition you will find details of Marjorie Dunn's new book. It is a work of fiction, a love story set in South Yorkshire in the period just after the Napoleonic wars. Although the story is fiction some of the characters, their occupations and addresses have been borrowed from Marjorie's own family tree.

On the back inside cover of this journal you will find a prize crossword with a family history bias. It has been compiled by my husband, who has produced a Christmas Crossword for the Sorby Natural History Society for many years. We hope you enjoy doing the puzzle and look forward to receiving lots of entries, complete and not-so-complete. A photocopy of the crossword can be sent - or even just a list of answers.

Many thanks to all who sent in copy for this edition. I am now rather short of material so please send me details of your latest genealogical finds.

A Happy Christmas to you all!

NEW MEMBERS

The Society welcomes the following new members

Mrs M. Bassindale, Eastfield Flat, East Hill, Braunton, Devon EX33 2LD

Mr H. Burdett, "Pine Cottage", Sheffield Road, South Anston, Sheffield
S31 7DT

Mr & Mrs L.H. Calderwood, Woodward, 14, Lansdowne Avenue, Orpington,
Kent BR6 8JU

Miss N. Cassidy, 14, Tanglewood, Alconbury, Weston, Cambs. PE17 5LB

Mrs A.M. Keys & Dr K.D. Walker, 8, Maple Close, The Fallows, Brigg,
N. Lincs. DN20 9JE

Mr J.A. & Mrs P.A. Liversidge, 63, Parkhead Road, Ecclesall, Sheffield S11 9RA

Mr I. McDonald, 18, Oxford Road, Ansdell, Lytham St. Annes, Lancs. FY8 4EG

Mr & Mrs D. Memmott, 32, Greenfield Road, Meadowhead, Sheffield S8 7RQ

Mrs M. Picksley, 103, Norwood Road, Sheffield S5 7BP

Mrs D. Rew, 120, Hammondstreet Road, Cheshunt, Herts EN7 6NX

Mrs J. Royston-Tonks, 28, Norris Road, Sheffield S6 4QS

Mr G. Soar, 53, Dunthorne Road, Colchester, Essex CO4 4HZ

Mrs D. Shearstone, 61, St. Winifred's Ave. West, Harrogate, N. Yorks. HG2 8LS

Mrs J. Swales, "Dencroft", 14, Lady Edith's Cres., Newby, Scarborough,
Yorks. YO12 5RD

Mr R.T. Ward, 9, Endsleigh Road, Merstham, Surrey RH1 3LX

Overseas Members

Mrs E.J. Thompson, PO Box 1037, Castletown, Hyde Park, Queensland 4812,
Australia

Mrs N.C. Walker, 2027, Seafare Drive, Oakville, Ontario, Canada L6L 1P5

Mrs E.M. Ward, 1422E, 81 St. N., Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401, USA

Change of Address

Mrs E. Cooke, 41, Hallamshire Close, Sheffield S10 4FJ

Resignations

Mr R.G. Corbett

Obituary

The death has occurred of Mr D. Millington. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his wife.

NEWS AND NOTES

British Ancestors in India Society

This has been started by Mr P.A. Rowland, 2, South Farm Avenue, Harthill, Sheffield S31 8WY. He plans to concentrate on the British who went to the East as servants of the East India Company. (Do not confuse this society with the Anglo-Indian Society.)

Is This a Photo of Members of Your Family?

Mr Milsom of Grimsby has sent us a photograph of four children. Their names appear to be Charlie, Frank (aged 11), Marjorie (aged 6) and Geoffrey (aged 3). The photograph was taken in 1917 by Van Ralty Studio. The address, 94 Andover Street, is also written on the back of the photo. Please contact the editor if this photograph is of your family.

The Gilberthorpe Family

Les Gilberthorpe, one of our members, is carrying out a One-Name study for the name Gilberthorpe. He would welcome all information and enquiries. He has all St. Catherine's Birth, Marriage and Death records.

1861 Census Index

It has been decided not to produce this index for sale on disk as we are unable to produce the whole index in this format.

Fulwood Cottage Homes

Sadly, on 11 February 1995, Mrs Hilda Hildreth, former matron of the above homes, died at the age of 101. She left four albums of photographs taken of the children at the homes, mainly of the period 1925-1951, in the care of Marjorie Dunn. These have now been deposited in the Local Studies Department, Sheffield City Library, Surrey Street, Sheffield and are to be entitled "The Hildreth Collection"

There are also already in the library other photographs of the children. It would be advisable to check on the availability of the albums before visiting Local Studies (Tel: 0114 273 4753)

A small book, "For the Love of Children" by Marjorie Dunn contains photographs, memories and a history of the homes. ISBN 0 - 9513824 -0 - 3. It is available from Mrs Marjorie Dunn, 2, Summer Lane, Sheffield S17 4AJ, price £3.50 inc. p&p UK.

The Society Committee

The Society AGM will be held at the beginning of the meeting on 19th February, 1996. As several committee members will be retiring anyone interested in serving on the Society committee is requested to contact Mrs Marjorie Dunn or any other committee member.

The Oriental and India Office Collections - family history days

The Oriental and India Office Collections propose to hold family history days for members of the public who are interested in tracing their ancestors and would like to know more about the sources that are available to family historians at this office. They will include talks on the various collections of interest to family historians and guided tours of the Reading Room. It is anticipated that we will be able to accommodate 20 persons at each session at a cost of £20 per head. Dates are to be confirmed subject to public response.

If you are interested please write to: Tim Thomas, Reader Services, Oriental and India Collections, 197, Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NG.

Yorkshire Consortium of FHSs - London Group

At the group's AGM the achievements of their first year were summarised: four meetings with excellent speakers and high attendances, over 120 persons currently on their mailing list, representing all 14 Yorkshire FHSs, the organisation of the Yorkshire stand at the SoG FH Fair last May, the setting up of a members' interest database and the start of a collection of pedigrees.

Meetings are planned next year for 9th March, 8th June, and 21st Sept. Any members are welcome at meetings.

Family History Society of Martin

A gathering of Martins (and its variants) will be held on Sat. 2 Dec. 1995 in Portsmouth commencing at 10.30am. For full information please send an SAE to the Membership Secretary, Matthew A. Martin, 202, Grangehill Road, Altham, London SE9 1ST.

Post Office London Directory 1846 (June edition)

This facsimile edition is available price £17.75 plus p&p UK £3.50, Europe and surface mail £4.00, Airmail £9.70 from Michael Winton, Eagle Cottage, 33A, Newmarket Road, Norwich NR2 2HN

It contains:

Preface and General Index to London

Post Office London Official Directory

Lords of the Privy Council: alphabetical listing of persons holding situations under the crown. Lords Lieutenant of England and Wales. Government and other Public Offices. Ambassadorial and Consular Lists. Passport Offices of foreign countries in London.

Post Office London Commercial and Professional Directory

Over 80,000 names arranged alphabetically

Post Office London Court Directory

Over 25,000 names arranged alphabetically

Parliamentary Directory

Members of the Second Parliament - Lords and Commons - of her Majesty Queen Victoria

Postal Directory

Full details of Post Office regulations and facilities, alphabetical list of Post Offices and Principal Places in England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland, together with the names of their Postmasters.

Public Record Office at Kew - Progress Report

The Public Record Office is currently constructing a major new building at Kew to house the records currently stored at Chancery Lane and new accessions from government departments up to 2010. This development will offer the following benefits to users:

- * From the end of 1996 the vast bulk of records which are used by readers will be available on the same site for the first time since the 1920s.
- * There will be expanded and improved facilities for reading the records there.
- * Opening hours will be extended.
- * Readers will have access to the extensive PRO library.
- * There will be a new shop selling a wider range of products.
- * Facilities will be provided in Central London for readers using Census records, non-parochial registers, wills and death duty registers.

Handover of the new building to the PRO is planned for 8 December 1995.

The PRO is on Internet

If you want to read the PRO pages the address is:
<http://www.open.gov.uk/pro/prohome.htm>

Day and Residential Courses 1996

Details of these at the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies are available in the Society Library.

Indexes and Collections

Details of these at the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies are available in the Society Library. Postal enquiries for searches of the indexes and collections are welcomed. See the leaflet for details.

Making the Most of Derbyshire Record Office

The following series of short talks is designed to help researchers to find out what Derbyshire archives there are in Derbyshire Record Office and how to use them to greatest effect. Admission to the talks is free. No advance booking is necessary but space is limited so arrive early. Talks are from 2 to 2.30 pm.

9 Jan 1996 *What you need to know about early handwriting and Latin phrases*

13 Feb 1996 *Using Derbyshire Record Office Search Room equipment*

12 Mar 1996 *Improving your skills*

Further details from Derbyshire Record Office Tel 01629 580000 ext. 35207

Hague, Schwarer and Barnes documents

The Society wishes to thank Mr and Mrs J.E. Phillips for the gift of material relating to the family names Hague, Barnes and Schwarer.

1861 Census Index

Lists of the streets covered by the microfiches of this index Vols 15-18 and 19-24 were unfortunately omitted from the microfiches. Anyone who would like a copy of the lists should contact Mrs J. King, 8, Elwood Road, Bradway, Sheffield S17 4RH enclosing an A5 SAE.

West Yorkshire Archive Service opening hours.

Wakefield RO and Deeds Registry.

Mon. 9.30am-8pm. Tues. & Wed 9.30am-5pm. Closed Thurs & Fri.

Leeds Sheepscar

Closed Mon. Tues.-Fri.9.30am-5pm. (restricted service noon -2pm)

Leeds Yorkshire Archaeological Society

Closed Mon. Tues. & Wed. 2pm-8.30pm. Thurs. & Fri. 9.30am-5pm.

Sat. 9.30am-5pm. (documents must be ordered in advance)

FEDERATION PUBLICATIONS

1. The new 'Basic' series provides quick, easy-to-read booklets at £1.25 each

Family History in the Home

Heraldry for Family Historians

Latin for Family Historians

Keeping your Family Records

Family History Research in Yorkshire

2. To the Raymond series of County Genealogical Biographies has been added *CHESHIRE* in two parts *Sources* at £9.50 and *Family Histories* at £7.00.

16 counties are now covered

3. *Oral History*, a new publication price £3.95

4. New editions of *Was Your Grandfather a Railwayman* £4.95

Dating Old Photographs £4.95

Quarter Session Records for Family historians £2.50

5. *The Protestation Returns 1641-42 and other contemporary listings*

This is a new Gibson Guide. It opens up a whole range of mid-17th century records of enormous local importance but, because they are in the House of Lords Record Office and the PRO are much under-used by historians of all sorts. For the first time since 1876 all the places with Protestation Returns - the nearest to a census of adult males before 1841 - are listed. The places for which closely associated lists in the Collection in Aid of Distressed Protestants in Ireland survive are also named. All the Subsidy and Assessment lists of taxpayers in 1641 and 1642 have been examined, with approximations of numbers of names and condition of document shown. Outline maps of each English county show hundreds, wapentakes, wards, division, rapes and lathes, the first such countrywide survey, making the guide worth having if for nothing else.

FFHS Education Newsletter contains details of many courses in Family History and allied subjects that are being run in London, Canterbury, Cardiff and Winchester during 1996. It can be consulted in our Society library.

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

Weekend Conference at Roehampton, Surrey. 12-14 April 1996

Families at War! is the theme of East Surrey's Spring Conference held in conjunction with the Federation at the Froebel Institute College, Roehampton. War. Nothing has affected the lives of our ancestors more: the families to which they belonged, the communities in which they lived or the structure of the society of which they were part. How and why did war, whether civil or

national, have such a great impact? What did it really mean to those who were touched by it? From the Crimea to the Blitz, the Civil to the Great War, speakers will look at: the role of women, and the families who went with their men to battle; war's effect on medicine and nursing; those who suffered or were interned; businesses and families that were divided or united by war and its consequences; and much else.

On the Saturday night a very special event is being organised with food, entertainment and surprises galore.

Full conference fee is £148.00 all in. For full details including programme and booking form please send an SAE to Mrs Jean Dungate, 6, Birch Way, Warlingham, Surrey CR6 9DA

Society of Genealogists Family History Fair 4 - 5 May 1996

The venue will be the Royal Horticultural Society New Hall and Conference Centre, Grey Coat Street, Westminster.

Yorkshire Family History Fair 29 & 30 June 1996

To be held on York Racecourse. 10am to 5pm. Admission £1.

THROUGH THE LETTERBOX

*From Ellen Jewhurst, Chameleon Television Ltd., The Magistretti Building,
Harcourt Place, Leeds, Yorks. LS1 4RB*

Life Lines

Chameleon is an independent television production company which produces programmes for BBC, ITV and Channel Four Television. We are developing a series entitled Life Lines (working title) which is an exploration of the world of family history and genealogy with an emphasis on individual stories which have emerged from people delving into their ancestry. We would like to appeal to your members for their individual stories - what they have uncovered and how? We are looking for the unusual and unexpected whether the story relates to ancient ancestors or to more recent history. We intend to feature the most interesting stories (with the permission of the person concerned). Please send us an outline of your story. It need not be more than a couple of A4 sides. We will treat all stories in confidence and shall certainly not publish anything without permission.

Send your stories to The Lifelines Production Office at the above address or call us on 0113-242 9531 or fax on 0113- 243 1267

*From Brian Jones, 32, Myers Avenue, Bolton, Bradford, West Yorkshire,
BD2 4ET*

WANTED: SCHOOLMISTRESSES!

And Schoolmasters, for that matter. And why not Teachers, Governors and Governesses, Pupil Teachers, Instructors and Instructresses, Preceptors and Preceptresses? In fact, anyone involved with education in any of these capacities and who was resident and working in Yorkshire prior to 1881.

As your researches take you through various censuses and Parish Registers, you may come across entries relating to individuals with one of the above occupations. If you do, would you be kind enough to note down the information (with source reference) and send it to me, at the above address, for inclusion in my Index of Schoolmasters and Schoolmistresses? I can assure you that your efforts will be greatly appreciated.

I can see you all rushing out to gather entries for my Index so, to save duplication, I should point out that I have already searched the Yorkshire Archaeological Society 1851 Leeds and District Census Index as well as the 1841 Bradford and Huddersfield Censuses. I have also extracted details from the Halifax and Tong Parish Registers as well as Pigot's 1834 Directory of Yorkshire and White's 1853 Directory of Leeds and Clothing Districts of Yorkshire.

Any help you can give me would be welcomed and, with this in mind, I look forward to a bulging postbag of contributions in the not-too-distant future!

From Rosemary Green, 15, Beechwood Court, Queen's Road, Harrogate, N. Yorks. HG2 0HD.

I have in my possession a shell - a present from Honolulu - that my mother told me had been given to her by her Aunt May after travelling the world with a choir. I was interested to see that May Martin was in the list of the World Tour of the Sheffield Musical Union. I now know which choir and when. Thank you.

SOCIETY MEETINGS

Rotherham Branch Meeting 1 June 1995

This month's speaker was Mrs Gill Briscoe from the **Doncaster Family History Society**. Mrs Briscoe's talk was based on her own family tree. Each step of the way was carefully explained and where the information was obtained. Eventually the family tree was complete. The talk was of great help to new members and Mrs Briscoe's enthusiasm made the talk particularly enjoyable.

Reported by B.L. Jervis.

HOUSE OF LORDS VISIT

The Federation of Family History Societies celebrated its 21st Anniversary with Lord Teviot very generously arranging a reception at the House of Lords at Westminster on Friday 22nd September 1995.

Three commoners, Pauline Litton, Pauline Saul and Brenda Smith set the wheels in motion for all the member societies of the Federation to receive just two tickets and to have the opportunity of additional tours to the Society of Genealogists, the cabinet Underground War Rooms and Apsley House. Being a member of the SoG and having taken an American cousin to see the War Rooms last February and having experienced the conditions in which military and Civil Service personnel worked I chose to take fellow Sheffield member, Christine Grayson-Toms, to see the Duke of Wellington's house at No.1 London. Our knowledgeable guide took us through the many rooms, recently redecorated, which were full of colourful dinner services, furniture of the period and masses of paintings. The Duke's personal memorabilia were displayed in the basement of the house.

The reception at the House of Lords in the Cholmondley Room and promenade adjacent to the balcony overlooking the river Thames was blessed with warm evening sunshine. There we proudly displayed our enamelled teaspoon mementos and presentation booklets and chatted to other representatives from all-over the world.

A member of the Serjeant at Arms staff conducted us on a guided walk through the Houses of Parliament. I hadn't remembered about the Wartime damage to the House of Commons and the subsequent gifts from members of the Commonwealth replacing many of the damaged woodwork items. Australia provided the Speaker's chair. Standing at the Prime Minister's despatch box I wondered if that other Sheffield City Grammar boy, Roy Hattersley, had experienced the sense of awe that I did. From the comparative drabness of the Commons the guide ushered us into the resplendent, red leather seating and gold leaf painted, carved woodwork of the Lords, the throne and the woosack being the focal points of the Chamber.

Lord Teviot rounded off the evening by proposing the toast, The Federation of Family History Societies. A very memorable occasion.

Reported by Michael Bunting

SUBSCRIPTIONS - IMPORTANT NOTICE

Will members who pay by Standing Order please ensure that they have altered their instructions to the bank in line with the new subscriptions which began in 1995. (See enclosed renewal form for details.)

OTHER PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS

Mr E. Metcalfe, 18, Larch Rise, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria LA13 0JZ writes, "My 3 x gt. grandparents were **George and Martha Marshall** whose first child was baptised in Jan 1812 at Sheffield. I have never found a marriage for George and Martha. It is not on the IGI nor in the Derbyshire marriage index which includes Dronfield and Beauchief. I have also checked Killamarsh, Beighton and Norton. Martha was born at Greenhill about 1800.

I am also looking for the death of George Marshall. The family lived at Dobbins Hill, Ecclesall. George died prior to the 1841 census and probably before 1837 as his death was not found in St. Catherine's indexes. Please can anyone help?"

Mrs J. Baldwin, 19, Abbots Ave. West, Cottenmill,, St. Albans, Herts. AL1 2JA writes, "**Amy Simpson** was born in 1891 in Sheffield to **Walter and Louisa Simpson**, a sister **Doris** was born in 1897. Does anyone know this family? Some time between 1908-1926 Amy had a boyfriend who for some reason had thrown acid into her face and blinded her. There was a trust fund set up, it has been said, by a newspaper in Sheffield and I believe there was a story in the newspaper about it. If anyone has seen this story or knows about Amy I would appreciate hearing from them. Postage will be refunded. Amy was a very nice lady and lived to be 96 but never married."

Mrs B. Horne, 6, Saddler Grove, Waterthorpe, Sheffield S19 6L writes "I am seeking information on the Potts family who lived in the Park area of Sheffield particularly my gt. grandmother **Harriet Potts** born c1847 in Sheffield and her parents **Everett Potts** (coach painter) and his wife **Margaret Cohean**. Both are believed to have come from the Bath area. Their other known children were **John** born at Birmingham in 1839, **Rob** and **Thomas**, both born in Sheffield."

Shirley Allen, 16, Swire Croft, Gargrave, Skipton, N. Yorks. BD23 3SJ writes, "According to his army papers my grandfather, **George William Birks** was born in the Parish of St. Luke's, Sheffield on 5 April 1886. He was the illegitimate son of **Ella Rutter**. Ella married **John Henry Cartledge** when George was 12 years old. After great difficulty I have discovered a previous marriage to **Thomas Birks** when George was 3 years old. Ella was later widowed (I don't know when yet). This explains being unable to trace the registration of George's birth. He must, if registered at all, have been given his natural father's surname. Any help or advice would be greatly appreciated. Postage refunded."

Miss P. Joynes, 1, Watson Terrace, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 1VE writes, "My gt. grandfather Samuel Gorse/Goss went to Russia about 1850 for **Cammell Lairds' Rope Division**. Cammell Lairds do not have records although they said this may have been an offshoot factory at some time. Does anyone know anything of Cammell Lairds at this time?"

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

- 5/7 Computers in Genealogy Beginners' Handbook (1994)
 9/26 The North-Easterner. Issues 2 & 3
 10/14 Genealogy Centre Update - Derry Records
 10/15 The Ancestor Trail in Ireland by D.F. Begley (1985)
 19/5 A Guide to the Medieval Manor by Eric Overton.
 28/36 A History of the Parish of St. Barnabus, Highfield, Sheffield by Mary Walton and Gerald R. Mettam
 28/66 A Walk into History (Dungworth, Storrs & District)
 28/67 Eastwood View by Eric Morris
 36/15 My Ancestors were Baptists by Geoffrey Breed (SoG 1995)
 37/5/7 Derbyshire Strays Vol 7 (1993)
 38/15 A Collection of Surnames by Mrs R. Bullas
 38/16 Surname Periodicals - A Worldwide Listing of One-Name Genealogical Publications (1994)
 38/17 General Register Office One-Name Lists in the Library of the Society of Genealogists (1995)
 39/42 The Rodger & Tomlinson Family Tree by Lynne Howsam (1994)
 39/52/2 Glass Tools and Tyzacks by Don Tyzack (1994)
 39/57 Some Ellis References
 46/26 Courts of Equity - A Guide to Chancery and Other Legal Records by Dorian Gerhold (1994)
- FFHS Guides (Introduction Series)**
 7 An Introduction to Church Registers by Lilian Gibbens (1994)
- FFHS Miscellaneous Publications**
 20 Current Publications by Member Societies 8th Edn.
 23 Some medieval Records for family historians by Peter Franklin (1994)
- Federation / Gibson Guides**
 22 Company and Business Records for Family historians by Eric D. Probert (1994)
 23 Victuallers' licences (1994)

THE CALL TO ARMS

The Park Gate Iron and Steel Company, at the end of the First World War, gave a souvenir booklet to its employees which recorded the names of all their employees who joined the armed forces during that conflict. A photocopy of the booklet has been sent to us by a member, Mr A.D. Hodgson. He obtained it from the wife of B. Davis, mentioned in the booklet. We should like to thank Mrs Margaret Cawthorne (formerly Mrs Davis) for allowing us to use her copy of the booklet.

"Immediately after the fateful day in August, 1914 (when Germany, intoxicated with mad ambition, threw down the gauntlet of War), there followed Lord Kitchener's appeal for recruits for the British Army.

In accord with their fellow countrymen, and Britain's sons throughout the Empire, the Park Gate men nobly responded and joined the Forces in defence of all that Britons hold dear, viz. :-**TRUTH, JUSTICE AND LIBERTY.**

There were conflicting claims upon the services of the Park Gate workmen. On the one hand, Kitchener's call for the Army, and on the other, the demands of the Admiralty, War Office and Transport Services, for war material for ships, shell and transport.

It was impossible to spare all men eager to join the Forces and still to supply the indispensable war material. The number of men permitted to join the Army during the War reached a total of 362. It is sad to relate that 32 of the number made the supreme sacrifice of life.

We mourn the loss of these brave fellow workmen who died nobly in defence of Home and Country,.....

It is pleasing to remember that the dependents of these men were not forgotten during the breadwinner's absence. Weekly contributions were made by the workmen together with grants from the Directors of the Company. These formed a fund from which the dependents received a fixed sum weekly, and we have reason to believe that these were not only much appreciated but were the means of relieving to some extent the distress arising through the absence of the head of the family.

AMOUNT OF GRANT PER HEAD PER WEEK

Wives	8/- per week
Children	1/- each per week
Mother and Father	4/- each per week

TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED FOR THE FUNDS

	£.	s.	d.
For dependents	6,365	12	11
Christmas Parcels	401	11	1 1/2
Prisoners of War	<u>120</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>£6,887</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0 1/2</u>

Output of Steel for War Purposes from the Park Gate Works 425,500 Tons"

NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Winter 1995

Vol. 16. No. 4.

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

1266 Caroline Thomas, 20, Heol Y Llan, Barmouth, Gwynedd LL42 1LD

ASHTON	Sheffield WRY	pre 1830
BEAUMONT	Rotherham WRY	pre 1800
HALLIDAY	Wentworth WRY	pre 1850
OXLEY	Greasborough WRY	pre 1765
RAWLIN	Wentworth WRY	pre 1830
SMITH	Hemingfield WRY	pre 1800

1332 Mr R.M. Anderson, 4, Pasture Road, Goole. North Humberside DN14 6EZ

CRAPPER	Sheffield YKS	c1800
DRURY	Staveley DBY	c1780
ELLWOOD	Whitgift YKS	c1710
FOWLER	Sheffield YKS	c1780
GOULD	Staveley DBY	c1780
HARSLEY	Althorpe LIN	c1810
ISLE	Crowle LIN	c1720
JACKSON	Knottingley YKS	c1820
JOHNSON	Emley YKS	c1790
OATES	Burringham LIN	c1800
RINGROSE	Bishop Wilton ERY	c1720
SPINK	Hook, Goole WRY	c1710

1330 Mrs J. Skelton, 35, Barlow Drive, Sheffield S6 5HQ

ABBOTT	Sheffield YKS	1850-1900
GOTT	Sheffield YKS	1830-1920
KITCHING	Sheffield YKS	1830+

1349 Mrs D. Rew, 120, Hammondstreet Road, Cheshunt, Herts EN7 6NX

GILLOTT	Sheffield YKS	pre 1840
HALL	Sheffield YKS	pre 1840

1280 Mr J.G.L. Levesley, 5, Hayes Court, Halfway, Sheffield S19 5TS

BAILEY	Rotherham WRY	pre 1850
BAILEY	Sheffield WRY	pre 1850
GREAVES	Sheffield WRY	pre 1900
LEVESLEY	Derbyshire DBY	pre 1800
LEVESLEY	Sheffield WRY	1700+
LISTER	Sheffield WRY	pre 1900
RHODES	Rotherham WRY	pre 1850
RHODES	Sheffield WRY	pre 1850
STRINGER	Sheffield WRY	pre 1900

O/S156 Mr J. Dawson, 2461 Wiltse Dr., Penticton, B.C., Canada V2A 7X7

BEXTON	Pinxton DBY	1920+
BOOTH	Sheffield YKS	pre 1850
BROWN	Nottingham area NTT	pre 1840
BUTCHER	Selston NTT	1920+
COOPER	Nottingham area NTT	pre 1890
DAWSON	Sheffield YKS	pre 1900
FREEMAN	Sheffield YKS	pre 1880
GREGORY	Jacksdale NTT	pre 1850
JACKSON	Sheffield YKS	pre 1850
REDFERN	Riddings DBY	pre 1910
SEARSON	Pye Hill NTT	1920+
WARDLE	Jacksdale NTT	1920+

1335 Mrs S. Hammond, 3, Elm Grove, Corsham, Wiltshire SN13 9DX

HALLEY	Treeton area YKS	pre 1824
HURST	Rotherham YKS	pre 1914
HURST	Sheffield YKS	pre 1914
HURST	Baslow area DBY	1918+
HURST	Manchester LAN	1840+
LLOYD	Rotherham YKS	pre 1927
LLOYD	Sheffield YKS	pre 1927
MAY	Rotherham area YKS	1780+
MEGSON	Rotherham & Sheffield YKS	1885+
MORTON HOLT	Gildingswells YKS	c1850
OATES	Rotherham YKS	1886+
SCRIVENS	Rotherham & Sheffield YKS	1874+

1345 Mr & Mrs D. Memmott, 32, Greenfield Road, Meadowhead, Sheffield S8 7RQ

MEMMOTT	Sheffield SYK	pre 1800
MEMMOTT	Eckington DBY	pre 1800

1318 Miss H. Wallder, 4, Ronald Road, Balby, Doncaster DN4 0PG

BLAKE	Sheffield YKS	1862+
BROOKES	Sheffield YKS	pre & +1851
FISHER	Sheffield YKS	pre & +1849
HAGUE	Sheffield YKS	pre & +1842
IRONSIDE	Sheffield YKS	1861+
MASON	Sheffield YKS	pre & +1841
NEWTON	Sheffield YKS	1871+
NORRIE	Sheffield YKS	1861+
OLDALE	Sheffield YKS	pre & +1849
TURMNER	Sheffield YKS	pre & +1852
WALLDER	London MDX	Anytime
WALLDER	Sheffield YKS	Anytime

O/S 160 Mrs S. Parent, 308-1136, Adelaide N., London, Ontario, Canada N5Y 2P1

BADGER	Sheffield YKS	18C
BARLOW	Sheffield YKS	17C
CROSS	Ecclesfield YKS	18C
INGALL	Sheffield YKS	17C
TOMLINSON	Sheffield YKS	18C

1338 Mr D. Unwin, 23, Shady Lane, Attenborough, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 6AW

BOLSOVER	Sheffield SYK	L 19C
GLOSSOP	Sheffield SYK	pre 1850
KAY	Sheffield SYK	pre 1860
OLDALE	Sheffield SYK	L 19C
RAMSKER	Sheffield SYK	pre 1830
RAWSON	Sheffield SYK	pre 1840
SAMPSON	Sheffield SYK	pre 1820
UNWIN	Sheffield SYK	+1830
UNWIN	N. Derbyshire DBY	pre 1850
WRAGG	Sheffield SYK	pre 1920

1131 Mr E. Jackson, 23, Bradway Road, Bradway, Sheffield S17 4QQ

DARWENT	Sheffield SYK	19C
DRURY	Worksop NTT	19C
HEWITT	Killamarsh DBY	19C
JACKSON	Misterton NTT	pre 1875
JACKSON	Killamarsh DBY	+1850
JAVCKSON	Sheffield SYK	19C.

1310 Mrs M.J. Linden, 32, Priors Road, Windsor, Berks SL4 4PD

WHITHAM	Sheffield SYK	pre 1900
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1344 Ms A. Keys & Dr. K. Walker, 8, Maple Close, The Fallows, Brigg, DN20 9JE

BEECROFT	Sheffield SYK	pre 1939
COWGILL	Skipton NRY	pre 1900
HARLOW	Rotherham SYK	pre 1930
HIRD	Skipton NRY	pre 1900
KEYS	Glasgow LKS	19C
KITSON	Skipton NRY	pre 1900
MOTHERSOLE	Anywhere NRY	pre 1830
O'NEIL	Bolton LAN	pre 1895
PLATTS	Sheffield SYK	pre 1939
SCARBOROUGH	Skipton NRY	pre 1830
UPTON	Rotherham SYK	pre 1901
VARLEY	Skipton NRY	pre 1850

O/S 161 Mrs N.G. Walker, 2027, Seafare Drive, Oakville, Ontario, Canada L6L 1P5

CARRINGTON	Gleadless YKS	pre 1875
DIXON	Sheffield YKS	pre 1903
NEEDHAM	Sheffield YKS	pre 1893
PARKIN	Mortomley YKS	c 1781
UNWIN	Sheffield YKS	pre 1803
WARD	Beighton DBY	pre 1813

1346 Mr J.A. Livesidge, 63, Parkhead Road, Ecclesall Sheffield S11 9RA

CAROLINE	Rotherham YKS	19C
GRAINGER	York YKS	19C
HUMPHREY	Maidstone KEN	19C
LIVERSIDGE	Darnall, Sheffield YKS	19C
SMALLEY	Spilsby LIN	18C
TONKS	Kingswinford STS	19C

1350 Mrs J Royston-Tonks, 28, Norris Road, Sheffield S6 4QS

ARMITAGE	Warsop NTT	pre 1850
HARRISON	Messingham LIN	pre 1820
HOBSON	Sheffield YKS	+1850
HOBSON	Mansfield NTT	pre 1850
JARVILL(E)	Harpwell/Hemswell LIN	pre 1850
ROYSTON	Anywhere SAL	pre 1800
SANDERSON	Sheffield YKS	pre 1780
WILD(E)	Loxley/Wisewood YKS	pre 1850
WOOLHOUSE	Sheffield YKS	pre 1850

LIST OF EMPLOYEES

WHO SERVED IN HIS MAJESTY'S FORCES

† KILLED.

◆ MILITARY CROSS.

○ MILITARY MEDAL.

⊙ D.S. MEDAL.

▣ MEDAL MILITAIRE.

✱ D.C.M.

NAME.	RANK.	REGIMENT.
† Adlington, E.	Private	2nd York and Lancs.
◆ † Atzlewood, L. D.	Major	R.F.C.
† Beckitt, C. W.	Private	1st East Yorks.
† Booth, L.	Private	2/5th York and Lancs.
† Bott, B. C.	Trooper	R.H.B.
† Caswell, W.	Private	7th Queen's R.W.S.
† Chaffer, T.	Private	7th West Yorks.
† Chisholme, J.	Drummer	4th York and Lancs.
† George, D.	L/Corpl.	3rd South Staffs Regt.
† Hale, D.	Private	2/5th York and Lancs.
† Kyte, A. M.	Private	2/4th York and Lancs.
† Lawrence, A.	Private	7th R.S.F.
† Leng, W.	Sergt.	14th York and Lancs.
† Linley, W.	Gunner	2/1st R.H.A.
† Lowe, C. E.	Corpl.	2/1st W.R.R.E.
† Maiden, W.	Private	8th York and Lancs.
† Newbould, J.	Gunner	R.G.A.
† Orgill, C.	Private	4th York and Lancs.
† Pinney, A.	L/Corpl.	7th Queen's R.W.S.
† Salkeld, W.	Private	12th York and Lancs.
† Shaw, P. S.	Private	12th N.F.
† Smith, A.	Private	5th South Wales Borderers
† Smith, A.	Private	1/5th York and Lancs.
† Stacey, J.	Bombardier	164th R.F.A.
† Stevens, M.	Private	3rd West Yorks.
† Temple, C.	A.B.S.	R.N.V.R. Anson Batt.
† Todd, W.	Private	2/5th York and Lancs.
† Walters, P.	A.B.	R.N.
† Ward, B.	Private	2nd R.M.F.

LIST OF EMPLOYEES (continued).

NAME.	RANK.	REGIMENT.
Abrahams, A.	Private	2/5th York and Lancs.
Askin, H.	Private	5th York and Lancs.
○ Asquith, H. O.	L/Corpl	9th York and Lancs.
Beaumont, J. W.	L/Corpl.	9th East Yorks.
Beesley, J.	Private	8th York and Lancs.
Beevers, G. F.	Driver	2/2nd M.R.R.E.
Bell, E. G.	Sergt.	2/1st Queen's O. Y. Dragoons
Bennett, F.	Driver	37th Siege Battery, R.G.A.
Binney, B.	Sergt.	5th York and Lancs.
Blythe, W.	Private	2nd York and Lancs.
Booth, J.	Private	10th York and Lancs.
Bowers, B.	Private	11th York and Lancs.
Bowran, C. H.	Gunner	33rd Siege Battery, R.G.A.
Bridge, R. J.	Private	3/4th Cameron Highlanders.
Brittain, W. G.	Private	3/5th York and Lancs.
Broom, J.	Private	16th Chester Regt.
Burdass, W.	L/Corpl.	7th Lincolns.
Burns, F.	Driver	164th R.F.A.
Carr, N.	Sapper	2/1st W.R.R.E.
Cheesewright, L.	Major	3rd York and Lancs.
Clapham, A.	Private	12th York and Lancs.
Clayton, A. V.	Private	1st West Yorks.
Coley, J.	Private	5th York and Lancs.
Cooke, C. J.	Private	5th York and Lancs.
Cotterill, F. M.	L/Corpl.	R. E. Troop Coy., 20th Army.
Davies, S. G.	Driver	2/1st R.H.A.
Davies, Albert	L/Corpl.	3rd Royal Scots Fusiliers.
Davies, Arthur	L/Corpl.	1/5th York and Lancs.
Davies, B.	Corpl.	7th Royal Munster Fusiliers.
Davy, R. E.	Private	1/5th York and Lancs.
Duose, F.	Private	1/5th York and Lancs.
Earnshaw, M.	Private	1/5th York and Lancs.
Edwards, W. E.	Private	5th York and Lancs.
Ellis, E.	Drummer	3/5th York and Lancs.
Embly, W.	Private	5th York and Lancs.
Evans, A. W.	Private	3rd York and Lancs.
Featherstone, W.	Col.-Sergt.	R.M.L.I., <i>H.M.S. Research.</i>
Frost, G.	Private	3rd Royal Scots Fusiliers.
Fricker, J. F.	Private	1/5th York and Lancs.
George, T. E.	Gunner	1/5th W.R.R.F.A.
Giles, P.	Private	3/5th York and Lancs.
Goodinson, G.	Private	1/5th York and Lancs.
Goss, E.	Bugler	R.A.M.C., 30th Field Amb.
Goucher, W.	Corpl.	1/5th York and Lancs.
Gouety, A.V.	Sapper	1/1st W.R.D.R.E.
Greevy, J. M.	Private	7th York and Lancs.
Griffiths, G.	Signaller	8th York and Lancs.
Gueste, J. J.	Driver	A.S.C.
Gummer, L.	2nd Lieut.	1/5th K.O.Y.L.I.

COMPETITION THIRD PRIZE

THE MIRFINS OF SOUTH YORKSHIRE

My father's name was Mirfin, which is a rare name, for if you come across a Mirfin other than in South Yorkshire, the chances are, on enquiry, that their family comes from the Sheffield area. In Hampshire we recently met a Derick Mirfin, who proved to have been to Sheffield Grammar School, and who shared our interest in the Mirfin genealogy and in Laughton-en-le-Morthen as a local source.

Travelling a few miles to the east of Sheffield the first you may see of Laughton is the tall spire of All Saints Church, which contains two brasses which celebrate the deaths of John Mirfin and his wife in 1696 and 1694. You may also have a look at Slade Hooton Hall, built by a Mirfin in the late seventeenth century. From the sixteenth century the Parish Register records Mirfins of varying status. There was John Mirfin, Gent, marrying into the Beckwith family (at St. John's Church, Throapham, not far from All Saints). There was Robert, labourer. There were John and Robert, "taylor", and John Mirfin, blacksmith. The latter seemed to be accorded some honour, for the record of his marriage to Elizabeth Pashley in 1654 takes up several lines in the Parish Register.

The 7,021 names in the South Yorkshire Poll Tax returns of 1379 include Willelmus Mirfyne, a "smyght". Like the Laughton blacksmith, this profession accords with my own Mirfin family, which includes tailors and blacksmiths. My father, Frederick Charles Mirfin of Gleadless was a steel craftsman (edge tool hardener and setter). And I have another smith connection: my grandfather Thomas married Mary Marsden, and her grandfather, Joshua Marsden, cordwainer of Woodseats, married Mary Biggin of Norton. In the Norton registers the Biggin line can be traced back through nine generations to Thomas Biggin, scythesmith, born circa 1535.

Other Mirfin occupations include farmers, (plus skinnners, fellmonger and grazier), and a group of joiners, wagon-builders and wheel wrights, and a buttonmaker.

My husband and myself decided to trace my own Mirfin line. Firstly, what did we know? My father had seven siblings, my aunts and uncles, who had spread to various parts of Sheffield. Their father was Thomas, I knew that. But the key name, which tickled me as a girl, was Lubin, Thomas's father, who had lived, I believe, at Swallownest. Our wanderings took us to nearby Aston Cemetery. There, in front of us, on entering, was a large and clearly incised headstone, with the names of Lubin and his wife Bridget. He died in 1886 aged 71 years.

The next step in our family history research was to go to the Sheffield Records, at that time in the Public Library, to and look at the 1851 Census

Returns for Aston. There was the whole family : Lubin, tailor, his wife Bridget, his son Thomas (my grandfather) and John (later a blacksmith!), Henry, William and Mary. Since Thomas was the firstborn in 1843, it was likely that they were married around 1842. So we went to St. Catherine's House in London and hefted down the heavy volumes of indexes. There we found the marriage of Lubin Mirfin and Bridget Hepworth. We paid our £5, and now possess the certificate. It told us that Lubin's father was Henry Mirfin, Blacksmith, and he was born at Todwick.

We were excited to know that we had now begun to unravel the history of my family well beyond the story which living relatives had been able to tell.

On now to the 1851 Census for Todwick, a village which then had a population of around 200 people and which lay between Laughton and Wales. We found there Henry Mirfin, aged 70, master blacksmith, living with his wife Mary. The Census told us that he was born in Woodhouse.

Woodhouse lies within the parish of Handsworth and we went there to study the parish register. There were many Mirfins from the year 1602. We found Henry Mirfin, born in 1780, and his father John, "Blacksmith of Woodhouse", born in 1753. John's father Matthew was in turn "Blacksmith of Woodhouse" and married to Mary Jones in 1742. But we did not find the birth of Matthew. (Could he have been the Matthias, baptized in Wales in 1713, the son of Elizabeth Mirfin, and therefore illegitimate?)

We were stuck, but while we were searching we decided to collect the names of all Mirfins, hoping in time to link them together. We also looked for the origins of the name Mirfin. Reaney and Wilson give four sources, one Welsh and three English. We suggest that a source of "our" Mirfins might be the village of Wales, which is a few miles south-east of Sheffield and which is found in the Domesday records. David Hey refers to Celtic survivors, groups of natives who continued to farm lands on the outskirts of Anglo-Saxon settlements. The theory squares with Mirfins being of Welsh origin, but it does not rule out the possibility of the "natives" being Celtic survivors from the north of England.

It seems that Wales, or part of it, was contained within the original boundary of Laughton, and Wales church was a daughter church of All Saints, Laughton. Hence the idea that the Mirfins originated in Wales does not conflict with Laughton being the focal point.

Our theory is that the Mirfins spread outwards from Laughton. Moving eastwards we can travel right across the south of the old Sheffield Manor deer park, through Todwick, Wales, Aston, Swallownest, Woodhouse, Handsworth, Gleadless and Norton, a route which we call the line of Mirfin blacksmiths.

Towards the north-east you can visit the church at Wickersley and see that a Mirfin was listed as Rector in 1410. In the 16th century Mirfins went to

Cambridge University, via Sheffield and Rotherham Grammar Schools. A career in the church would place them on the lowest rung of the ladder of the "Gents". Robert Mirfin, yeoman of Killamarsh, father of one of the graduates, was an example of the top class below the line.

David Hey describes ancient north-south and east-west highways. In particular Ricknield Street runs from south to north, including Killamarsh, Harthill, Thorpe Salvin, Wales, Todwick, South Anston, Laughton-en-le-Morthen, and Braithwell, all with Mirfins. The 1672 Hearth Tax Returns for South Yorkshire list twenty Mirfins, nine being in the Laughton area and others to be found by travelling north-west towards Rotherham and north-east towards Wadworth, Rossington, Austerfield and Bawtry. Mostly they are modest one-hearthers, but Mr Mirfin of Rotherham had six. There was only one Mirfin in the 1672 list in Sheffield and none in Handsworth.

John Mirfin of Retford in Nottinghamshire illustrates the eastward trend. We have a copy of his will dated 1801, in which he mentions a brother at Handsworth (Matthew Mirfin Jr.) and another at Lincoln (Thomas, peruke-maker). He himself was a painter, which seems to be a suitably Celtic occupation, especially as he left a substantial sum of money (£600) to his illegitimate daughter, Mary Hudson, "known as Mary Mirfin". We could not find a record of his death. Could he have been a non-conformist? A Methodist Chapel was opened at East Retford in 1781.

A great find was the will of William Mirfin, blacksmith of Mansfield, who died in 1744 and left land and cottages to his cousin Henry, blacksmith of Todwick (not in fact "our" Henry). His will has as inventory attached, which includes all his blacksmith's stock-in-trade, details of funeral expenses, and contents of his eight-roomed house. He lived well, possessing a seeing-glass, prints of the apostles and a writing desk, as well as a cellar with many bottles and brewing equipment.

Our hopes of linking Mirfin families came to nought. True, we found Mirfins in a great many villages, but usually the Robert or John then disappears completely, with no knowing where he went. Who was the Robert Mirfin on the 1642 Protestation List at Eaton? Who was Robert Mirfin who married Anne Hey in 1669 at Bradfield? Or Thomas Mirfin of Styrrup, where the considerable "Subsidies" tax of £4 - 4s - 9d was paid by Mrs Sanderson and Thomas Mirfin in 1689? He was a local "sessar", but what was his relationship with Mrs Sanderson?

Nearer 'home' in Wales church we found a seating plan for 1725, which showed that on the north side there sat Robert Mirfin, Thomas Wilkinson and Thomas Mirfin. And of course, there had to be Mirfin blacksmiths there. In 1722 Henry married Mary Parkin at Anston; in 1757 John married Anne Haigh of Anston, and in the 1850s another John, with Catherine, was having a family.

They were all blacksmiths of Wales.

Farther afield, the London Mirfins have an excitement of their own. The Fine Rolls of Henry V mention a grant in 1414 to Robert Mirfyn of the manor of Eltham, which passed in time to Thomas Mirfin, of the Skinners Company, who became Mayor of London in 1518. To link them to "our" Mirfins requires another essay. But we must mention the Charles Flower Mirfin who distinguished himself in 1837 by being the last person to be killed in a duel on Wimbledon Common. The duel followed a clash of carriages on Derby Day and Mirfin was shot dead. We went to the newspaper library at Colindale and found a full account of the affair in the Surrey and Middlesex Standard. Mirfin was described as a silk mercer with a remarkably amiable and quiet disposition.

So where did he come from? Had he come to London to seek his fortune? All we can say so far is that we obtained in Nottingham a copy of a marriage bond stating that in 1801 John Mirfin, mercer, of Sheffield married Sarah Flower of Worksop. The reader will have noted that the dead man's name was Charles Flower Mirfin.

When we met Derick Mirfin in Hampshire we found that he had already traced his own family back to Netherthorpe in the heart of Sheffield. He knew that his great-grandfather was Ezra Mirfin, silver finisher, born in 1859 to Joseph Mirfin, pork butcher of Adelphi Street. Derick wondered whether his family had any links with ours.

We began by looking for Joseph in the 1871 Census, but he was not to be found in the excellent index at Sheffield Archives. Nor was Joseph Mirfin, pork butcher, to be found in White's Directory, although there was Andrew Mirfin, butcher of Attercliffe. (Andrew, incidentally, was one of "ours", being a son of John Mirfin, stonecutter of Woodhouse. He was in the Burgess Roll of Attercliffe in 1870.)

However, the name Ezra brought a reward in the 1871 Index. There were two boys, Ezra and William Mirfin, described as "sons", who lived at No 8 Kenyon Street with Thomas Morton, table blade forger, and his wife Emma, aged 49. So were they the sons of Emma Morton, who had previously been Emma Mirfin? Could Joseph have died?

We started looking through the Index of St. Catherine's House register of deaths, this time on microfiche, beginning at 1861. When we came to a Joseph in 1864-we sent £12 to OPCS, Southport, for the Death Certificate. Bullseye! Joseph Mirfin had died "on 19th January 1864 of bronchitis, at 2, Jericho, aged 35, pork butcher journeyman, Emma Mirfin being present". So presumably Emma was his wife. She proved to be Emma Oldham, born to Ezra and Hannah in 1821 and baptized in Sheffield Cathedral.

The death certificate indicates that Joseph was born circa 1829, and the IGI tells us that a Joseph Mirfin was born at Handsworth in 1829. We are keeping

our fingers crossed! We are hopeful that we can complete the link with our blacksmith Mirfins, and we may even find our own Matthew.

Our thanks are due to the helpful staff of Sheffield Archives, and also of the offices at Rotherham, East Retford, Nottingham, London, Portsmouth and Winchester.

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SHEARSTONE, Pauline. Gleadless from Village to Suburb. Pauline Shearstone 1985

WATSON, G. & K. The Mirfins of South Yorkshire. Unpublished 1994.

WHITE, William. General and Commercial Directory of Sheffield 1871.

Mrs Kathleen Watson, 49, Woodfield Drive, Winchester SO22 5PY

HOW ACCURATE IS YOUR GENEALOGICAL DATA?

Mr great, great grandfather, Joseph Jackson, was born in Misterton, North Nottinghamshire. At least all relevant census data (1941 to 1891) agreed this and Misterton parish register stated that the baptism of Joseph, son of William and Faith Jackson was solemnised in the parish of Misterton in the County of Nottingham in the year 1808, September 14th. He was also married in Misterton on 19th July 1831, but *when* was he born?

Back to the census returns. This is what they revealed:-

Census Year	Place	Age given	
1841	Misterton	(30)	Not used as rounded down
1851	Misterton	42	
1861	Killamarsh	50	
1871	Killamarsh	62	
1881	Killamarsh	73	
1891	Killamarsh	88	

His gravestone inscription reads 'Joseph Jackson who departed this life March 29, 1894 aged 90'. Yet, his Death Certificate gives 'Age at death' as 88. The Register Office informed me that the Register entry was originally 90 but had been amended to 88 (by whom) So you take your pick for the year of his birth from 1803, 1804, 1806, 1808, 1809 and 1811 (the latter two being inconsistent with the baptismal date).

Eric Jackson

SOMERSET HOUSE

Some Society members may have ventured into Somerset House in the Strand, London, to see the Wills/Admons indexes for England and Wales (1858 to date) and perhaps would like to know a little of the fascinating history of this magnificent set of buildings.

Four hundred years ago a row of huge mansions occupied by the aristocratic families lined the northern bank of the Thames from Charing Cross to Blackfriars. One being built in 1550 was to be the home of Lord Protector Somerset but he was executed before it was ready for occupation. As he had previously stolen most of the priceless chained books from the Guildhall Library not many mourned his death!

Later, Queen Elizabeth 1st often stayed in this warm sunny building. Following her death Queen Ann of Denmark, Henrietta Maria and Catherine all decided to live here rather than at marshy old Westminster.

In 1771 the newly formed Royal Academy moved into part of this mansion. In 1775 it was decided to demolish the old somewhat decrepit building and to erect a 'dignified' set of buildings covering six acres to house "Noblest Societies, Government offices (20 Departments have been located here at various times) and some official residences. On entering the complex the Courthauld Gallery now occupies the northern wing and in the courtyard stand the imposing statues of King George III and the symbolic Old Father Thames.

The probate Department in the south wing used to be the old Navy Office (trust the Royal Navy to grab the best site!) and Admiral Nelson often went through that entrance to the Navy room on the right - rebuilt after war time bombing - and reached the Nelson ornamental staircase.

The aforementioned Queen Henrietta Maria, wife of King Charles 1st and her French Catholic entourage on their deaths subsequent to the King's execution were not allowed to be buried by the Church of England so they were all buried in the cellars of the old building. Their remains were subsequently reburied but some of their old gravestones still lie in cellars below the Probate wing. An old messenger once told me that in his memory 50 tons of coal were also kept down there to fuel the ancient heating system.

A free brochure is now available in the probate Department which shows the location of public toilets, baby changing room and soft drinks dispensers. The west wing has a first class Tax Information Centre for those wishing to combine business with pleasure!

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

HOWSAM / FLETCHER

To be or not to be - that is the question

Some of you will remember my earlier letter (Vol.16. No. 1) about my search for my husband's ancestors and the possible link to the surname Fletcher. At last I have solved the mystery.

When I first decided to try and trace my husband's family history, his father had already died so I asked my mother-in-law to tell me what she knew. I had little success. My mother-in-law was a secretive person, never discussing other family members in case she offended someone and also believing the past was the past and should be left well and truly alone. She did vaguely say that her husband had a grandma Fletcher who had a fruit shop on Gower Street but who *wasn't* a real grandma. I paid scant attention to that as it was normal to call neighbours or family friends auntie or grandma etc. according to their age. My husband's family did originate from the Gower Street area and so my search began.

My first stumbling block was the 1891 census. I knew the family had been living on Gower Street then as his grandfather was born there in 1891 and other children later. When I couldn't find them I assumed they had been mised out as they appeared to live over, or behind, a draper's shop. I did note there was a John Fletcher and his family living nearby so I made a note of his details and stored it away. Over the next few months I progressed slowly, finding out eventually that the Hows(h)ams had moved here from Spilsby in the late 1860s. Soon, as I began to search the parish registers, St. Catherine's index, censuses etc. to pick up the Howsams in Sheffield, the name Fletcher kept cropping up. Sometimes it was used as a second or third Christian name and sometimes as a surname with the Howsam becoming the second or third Christian name. There was no set pattern to it. It was as if they got up each morning and decided whether they felt like being a Howsam or a Fletcher that day.

Eventually I found that two Howsam brothers came to Sheffield with their families and more children were born here. Nathaniel, the younger brother, and his family were the ones who seemed to favour the Fletcher name more whilst John, from whom my husband is descended, did not appear to use it as much. Why? Does anyone have any idea why they should chop and change so much? Both brothers had the same mother. In the meantime I was still attempting to find the elusive 'next' generation of Howsams who should be on Gower Street in the 1891 census. I even did a blanket search of the whole of Attercliffe and Brightside to no avail.

I turned my attention back to furthering my search in Lincolnshire and made quite a bit of progress although as yet had not found the reason for the use of the name Fletcher. One evening I was going through all the bits of

information that we all accumulate during our research, when I suddenly shouted out "I've got it, I've got it. I've had it all the time!"

My husband, by now well used to my weird mutterings and frequent outbursts, looked resigned to being bored for the next hour or so. And, yes, *I had got him* along with his wife and family under the name of Fletcher. I'd had this information right from day one. I had also made a note of a greengrocer from the 1913 street directories by the name of John Fletcher and also a George Henry Fletcher, his brother who had an eating house on Gower Street.

So, my mother-in-law's rather vague reference to grandma Fletcher now meant something. She *was* a real grandma but because she had used the name Fletcher it had misled my mother-in-law into think she wasn't.

Further research has led me to solve the mystery of where the Fletcher name came into use in the Howsam family and also to my husband's 3 x great grandfather Nathaniel Househam who in 1830 married Ann Fletcher at Hundleby near Spilsby. A mother's maiden name was used as a family name and it was still being used 100 years on, into the 1920s and 30s, by her grandson and his wife. Confused! You should have seen my poor husband! Never mind about the phrase "Doesn't know whether he's coming or going". He doesn't know whether he's a Howsam or a Fletcher. But I do.

The moral of this story is - Don't throw away your miscellaneous information. Read it through now and again and remember there is always an element of truth in what relatives tell you. Oh, and if you come across anyone researching the name of Fletcher and they are 'stuck' tell them to try Howsam instead. They might strike gold.

Mrs Lyn Howsam, 8, Far View Road, Sheffield S5 7TB

CUTTING OFF ONE'S SISTER-IN-LAW WITH FIVE SHILLINGS

"In the name of God Amen the ninth day of November Anno Domini One Thousand six hundred and thirty I Edward Beete of Greasbrough in the County of York sick of body but of good and perfect memory (thanks be to God).....I giveth to Joan Beete my sister in law five shillings within one year after my decease Then I giveth to Elizabeth Beete my sister in law five shillings in like manner both which legacies shall be a full satisfaction for challenging and demandinge any more of my goods or chattels...."

From William Beet

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Some memories of the early 1900s

Some time ago, at the age of 85, an old family friend, known affectionately to us as Bill, wrote the following account of his early memories. He had recently lost his beloved wife and I like to think that writing these reminiscences gave him some pleasure. My husband and I certainly enjoyed reading them. Denise Marsden

To whom it may concern, and the unlikely few who may be interested - I was born in what my mother always called "The last place God made". In later times I considered this, but could not understand the logic, for if God chose this South Yorkshire industrial village as the ultimate he must have had a great deal of practice with all the previous creations and could reasonably have been expected to have improved on his creations by experience. It is said that practice makes perfect, you know!

My paternal grandfather had already made his contribution to posterity by keeping my grandmother pregnant throughout the fertile period of her life, ergo - including my father, 12 offspring to live and an unknown number lost.

Transport at that time was either primitive or non-existent so the move to live near to their place of work made sense to those involved, namely my grandfather, my uncle Bill, uncle Walter and my father. Their place of work was an iron foundry in which this grandfather had some sort of minor authority. He certainly had the privilege of handing out the most profitable jobs to his sons and gave them what was called the "flat and heavy" castings which were paid according to weight (tonnage) and avoided intricate time-consuming detail work liable to produce waste not paid for.

The crucibles were carried from the furnace by two men, one at each end of a rod containing a circular loop at its centre, shaped to carry a furnace pot. The ground was very uneven and was interspersed with puddles leaked from the roof so that the sparkling white hot molten iron was frequently splashed into the water to explode and shower the unfortunate men with molten iron. It was, therefore, almost a daily routine for their wives to be dressing painful burns on the necks, backs and feet of their men. The realisation and assessment of all this came later and particularly after my uncle Walter was blinded by having an eye burned out by hot metal.

My early childhood memories are, strangely enough, still fresh in my memory. I had a pet cockerel that followed me about pecking at my handful of cake and he enjoyed being rocked on the treadle of my mother's sewing machine.

At four years of age I was taken to school, issued with a wooden-framed slate and a slate pencil and soon discovered that the method of erasure was to

spit on the slate and rub off the obsolete markings by hand.

At that time it was a common sight to see a bearded Jew carrying a wooden frame on his back bearing sheets of glass and with a can of putty in one hand and tools etc. in the other. He would use his hawk-eyed vision to detect every cracked or broken window pane in the neighbourhood and followed with persistent applications to be allowed to furnish the replacements (shades of Chaplin's 'The Kid' comedy to come much later).

Another familiar sight was the gypsies carrying bundles of copper coloured soft wire from which they could instantly produce at lightning speed such things as ornaments, names, toasting forks and letter racks etc. The request to buy these unnecessary articles was practically forced on to the unwilling customer. Under the threat of a curse on refusal the gypsy's palm had to be crossed with silver before one's fortune could be read.

German bands appeared from time to time and later on were accused of spying out the land ready for the Great War.

Funerals were a very common sight and were mainly the result of childbirth victims. Groups of women would stand around condemning all men as nothing but beasts, forgetting for the moment their erstwhile willingness to embark on such a dangerous venture as Holy Wedlock. At that time and in that place funerals were conducted according to a strict formula. A long stretch of road was covered with peat or coconut fibre to deaden the sound of carriage wheels. Every house blind and curtain had to be drawn or be threatened by a thrown stone. Every male observer was obliged to stand halted and bareheaded. The hearse must always be drawn by two Belgian black horses carrying black ostrich plumes on their nodding heads. More black plumes and much purple draping added to this pageant of death. Just before Christmas the bloodcurdling shrieks of murdered pigs announced another kind of death ceremony.

Mothers would seek out the road-mending teams engaged in filling the joints between granite sets with molten pitch. They requested the privilege of holding their screaming whooping-cough-tormented children over the choking fumes of the pitch bucket in the forlorn hope of a cure.

Home remedies included such things as brimstone and treacle, castor oil, linseed and Spanish juice, and essence of peppermint dropped on a lump of sugar. There was a constant war waged against head-lice, mice, rats and fleas. No wonder that there was so much disease as frequent dust storms consisting of dried horse manure, soot and heaven knows what else assailed the eyes and lungs. The scene would not be complete without the navvy frying his rashers of breakfast bacon on his shovel over his brazier or the young children, naked below the waist, relieving themselves from the pavement edge.

However, there were some consolations. Pullet eggs were 24 for a shilling and entertainment ranged from annual trips to the pantomime and circus to street

organs and phonograph records. Also there was general appreciation for the Salvation Army.

When my grandfather died, my father and uncles experienced a shocking disillusionment. Gone for ever was their benefit of nepotism previously provided by Grandad. All privileges gone and new favourites installed, the only way to keep a job was to pay back part of one's wage to the new boss and instead of returning home to eat a good dinner on Saturday it was now the order of the day to pay for as many drinks as the new boss demanded and drink oneself silly until the boss decided that enough was enough. My father now had to work very long hours for as little as 28/- per week and came to know poverty for the first time in his life.

On the Coronation Day of George V we departed from this dirty, dangerous and ugly place for my father to take employment under my maternal grandfather at Joseph Rogers, whose showrooms took up half of one side of Norfolk Street, Sheffield, and were the nearest thing to Aladdin's Wonderful Cave.

So much for the Good Old Days!

William Hobson

BOOKLIST

The T'alli Stone by Marjorie P. Dunn

This story by our Chairman, Marjorie Dunn is a love story set in South Yorkshire immediately after the Napoleonic wars. Although a work of fiction, many of the incidents in the story have been drawn from local newspapers and adapted. Other details have been taken from the writer's own family history. The book (ISBN 1-874718-16-4) is available from local bookshops, or obtainable direct from Mrs M.P. Dunn, 2, Summer Lane, Sheffield S17 4AJ England. Price £5.95 plus £1 Overseas airmail (payable by sterling cheque drawn on an English Bank)

Railway Ancestors: A Guide to the Staff Records of the Railway Companies of England and Wales 1822-1947 by David T. Hawkins.

This comprehensive illustrated guide opens up to genealogists and railway enthusiasts the vast range of unique information stored in the records of the pre-nationalised railway companies. It describes in detail the sources available to the researcher and how to gain access to them, using many hundreds of examples of the many different types of records and giving a fascinating insight into life on the railways from Victorian times to the Second World War. Published jointly by the PRO and Alan Sutton Publishers. Price £25,00.

Knifemaking in Sheffield and the Hawley Collection by Grayson, R. & K. Hawley. ISBN 0 86339 4884. Price £3.95. Available from the Ruskin Gallery or PAVIC Publications, Sheffield Hallam University, Collegiate Crescent Campus, Sheffield S10 2BP. The book attempts to tell the story of this Sheffield industry through the eyes of one man and his collection of knives and tools amassed over a lifetime.

A Geography of Childhood: an evocation of life in Howbrook and High Green by Jean Huddleston. Chapeltown and High Green Archive: 1995 ISBN 0 9513952 7 0 Price £3.95. Available from Chapeltown Library, Asda Chapeltown or by post for £5.00 from Joan Jones, 4, Kirkstead Abbey Mews, Thorpe Hesley, Rotherham S61 2UZ

The Surname Detective by Colin D. Rogers ISBN 0-7190-4048-5 Price £10.95. This book employs publicly available sources to investigate the distribution of individual surnames throughout the British Isles. By following the migration of the British population over hundreds of years this book enables both the amateur genealogist and the family historian to trace the history of over 100 surnames, ranging from Smith to Purslow.

USEFUL ARTICLES IN OTHER SOCIETIES' JOURNALS

Maps and Mapmaking by Michael Gater
Shropshire FHS Vol. 16 Part 2 June 1995

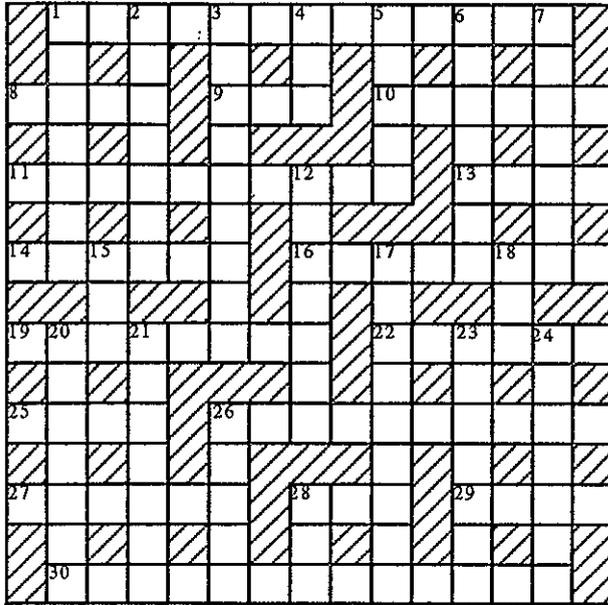
Publishing Your Family History by John Titford
John Titford won a family history writing competition and had his work published by Phillimore. The article gives advice on how to write your history.
Northants FHS Vol. 16. No. 3

Records of Commissioned Officers of the British Army by Capt. Erik A. Gray.
Midland Ancestor Vol. 10. No. 12. June 1995

Driving Licence by Ian Care.
The history of Driving Licences.
Derbyshire FHS Issue 73. June 1995

War Office 97 by Capt. Erik A. Gray
A description of what W O 97 contains.
Midland Ancestor Vol.11. No. 1 .Sept.95.

S.&D.F.H.S. CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD 1995



ACROSS

1. Relatives with little time? (6,7)
8. "... and it grandam will Give it a ?..." King John, Act 2. (4)
9. Obtain by recording, etc from fiche, perhaps. (3)
10. To mend a boat. (6)
11. According to the book! (10)
13. Flying overseer ensures the continuation of Family History! (4)
14. Drake kept it out of our genealogy! (6)
16. Bit like King Arthur's table or 8 Ac. (8)
19. Starts like 26Ac. but is under the altar - not like 26Ac. (8)
22. Oh, Sire may I make your

- socks? (6)
25. Mighty small moat. (4)
26. Before the altar - not like 19Ac. (10)
27. Familiarly definitely not a pleb! (6)
28. Orchestral home for Orpheus's music? (3)
29. Poor man's kitchen. (4)
30. Article with live spreading issue, growth and roots but this is not alive! (3,6,4)

5. Relative who lends money crudely speaking. (5)
6. When ancestors decided to - it entangled the branches! (7)
7. Manorial strip shows? (7)
12. Short burial to restrain point gives tenure. (7)
15. One thousand is a National honour.
17. French one will cure your poor condition. (9)
18. Source of micro knowledge.
20. Nonsense and start of unicorn with lease on parchment. (7)
21. Manor's no go area. (7)
23. Smith that was popular in Sheffield. (7)
24. Wartime stray? (7)
26. All relatives belong to one of these kingdoms. (5)
28. How a Greek would proclaim his 21st. (3)

DOWN

1. Was a lute recognised that greets the family? (7)
2. Roman assemblies miss entangling with security organisation. (7)
3. Sounds like medieval warrior has tumble at twilight? (9)
4. Starting point for all genealogists. (3)

NAMEMEMBERSHIP No.....

ADDRESS.....

Please forward solutions to Denise Marsden, "Burnside", Low Bradfield, Sheffield, S6 6LB not later than 4th January 1996.

PLEASE TRY YOUR LUCK - REMEMBER VALUABLE PRIZES have to be WON !!!

SUMMER PROGRAMME

Mon 19 Jun 1995 Evening Meeting to Eckington

Meet at 7 pm in the public car park behind the Duke of York pub in Market Street. If approaching from Sheffield on the A616 turn left at the traffic lights just past Moss Brook Sateak House. Go along Church Street. Turn left into Market Street just past the Nat. West. bank then left into the car park behind the Duke of York.

Mon. 17 July 1995 Evening Meeting to Ridgeway.

Meet at 7 pm in the car park at Ford (adjacent to Bridge Inn car park). The historical walk will last approx 2 hours.

INDEX to VOLUME 16 of "THE FLOWING STREAM"

Index to Personal Names

Allcard	74	Grayson	24
Archdale	16	Greaves	40
Ashton	24	Greaves	46
Bacon	37	Greaves	53
Bailey	46	Hague	20
Bailey	47	Haigh	103
Bansford	45	Harris	48
Baum	20	Harrison	25
Beal	12	Hawley	48
Beatson	23	Heath	24
Beet	78	Hepworth	102
Beete	108	Hetherington	56
Bellamy	50	Hey	103
Bettony	23	Hilton	56
Biggin	101	Holroyd	68
Blackwell	78-82	Househam	15
Bolland	62	Househam	108
Booth	24	Housley	24
Brandreth	37	Hows(h)am	15
Brookfield	12	Hows(h)am	107-8
Broomhead	42	Howsam	107-8
Cadman, Peter	23	Hudson	103
Caley	22	Ibbotson	23
Chapman	50	Jackson	105
Clarke	15	Jones	102
Clive	47	Kendall	83
Coleman	15	Kirkland	16
Corbett	24	Lauder	78
Crawshaw	42	Leader	46
Cudworth	20	Lee	24
Dearden	24	Levesley	47
Drabble	68	Lockwood	20
Firth	20	Lomas	79
Fletcher	16	Machen	24
Fletcher	107-8	Marsden	20
Flower	104	Marsden	101
Garside	24	Mather	12
George	51	Merrill	79-81
Godfrey	53-4	Mirfin	101

Moore	23	Shepherd	40
Morton	20	Skinner	83-4
Morton	104	Stafford	81
Nawl	12	Stephenson	24
Nichols	24	Sutton	16
Oldham	104	Swinerton	53
Parker	51	Thomson	24
Parkin	103	Tyzack	85
Pashley	24	Varty	55
Pashley	101	Wakefield	56
Patten	12	Walker	47
Pennington	83	Watkinson	12
Rhodes	46	Weldon	16
Roper	62	Wilkinson	103
Sanderson	103	Wise	45
Saville	48	Wood	46
Saville	49	Yarwood	55
Sayers	51		

General Index

Annals of the Poor	18-21
History and Records of Totley	63-4
Park Gate Iron and Steel Co.	
Employees in World War 1	98-100
Peculiar Marriage Bonds - Lichfield	49-50
Penknife Cutlers of Sheffield	11-13
Scrapbook of Sheffield Servicemen World War 1	5
World Tour of Sheffield Musical Union	17, 41, 73

Index to Place Names

Aston	101, 103	Masbro'	47
Attercliffe	12,104	Midhope	42,44
Barlborough	23	Misterton, Notts	105
Barnsley	48	Netherthorpe	104
Bolsterstone	42,44	Norton	12,101
Bradfield	20,24,42	Ontario	55
Bretton West	20	Pentrich	37
Brigg	52	Retford	103
Canada	51,55	Rotherham	103
Chapeltown	50	Shoreditch	85
Cheltenham	45	Shrewsbury	45
Clayton West	20	Silkstone Common	42
Clifton, Bristol	16	Solingen	12
Darnall	15	Spilsby	15,107-8
Dronfield	79	Stannington	12
Eaton	103	Styrrup	103
Ecclesfield	47	Swallownest	101
Eckington	12	Throapham	101
Eyam	79-81	Thurgoland	43
Gleadless	101	Todwick	102-3
Greasbrough	108	Wales	102-4
Grenoside	24,46-7	Warrington	16,55
Handsworth	102-3	Wharncliffe	24
Isle of Wight	51	Wickersley	102
Killamarsh	103,105	Wimbledon Common	104
Laughton-en-le-Morthen	101	Woodhouse	102, 104
Lincoln	103	Woodseats	101
Longton, Staffs	48	Worksop	104
Macclesfield	12	Wortley	23
Mansfield	103		