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Sheffield and District Family History Society

# *The Flowing Stream*



Autumn 1977

Volume 1  
Number 2

T H E F L O W I N G S T R E A M

Journal of the Sheffield and District Family History Society  
Volume 1. No 2. Autumn 1977

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THE SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY.

The Society is open to anyone who is interested in the study of Genealogy and Local History. Regular meetings are held at the Y.M.C.A., Broomhall Road, Sheffield, during the winter months, and excursions are arranged for the summer. The Society caters for those parts of South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire that are within convenient travelling distance of Sheffield.

The annual subscription is £2.00.

The Officers at present are:-

Chairman: Dr. David Hey, Department of Extramural Studies, The University of Sheffield, Sheffield S10 2GJ.

Secretary: Mrs. Margaret Furey, 58, Stumperlowe Crescent Road, Sheffield S10 3PR.

Treasurer: Mr. George Robinson, 17, Winchester Avenue, Sheffield S10 4EA.

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

Committee Members: Mr. R. Bullen, Mrs. C. M. Dawson, Mr. F. G. Tyack.

The Society is affiliated to 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.

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THE CONSTITUTION OF THE SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT FAMILY  
HISTORY SOCIETY.

THE NAME of the Society shall be "The Sheffield and District Family History Society."

THE OBJECTS shall be:

- a) To contribute to the advancement of knowledge by studies in genealogy and local history.
- b) To arrange meetings in connection with the above.
- c) To co-operate with other societies devoted to the same purpose.

AFFILIATION.

The society shall be affiliated to the Federation of Family History Societies, and to such other Societies and Bodies as the Society may decide at the Annual General Meeting.

MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The Annual Subscription may be varied at the Annual General Meeting and shall be due on the date of that meeting. Membership may be deemed to have lapsed, unless the Executive Committee so decide in any case or cases, if the subscription is not paid by the end of the year in which it is due. The Society's year shall commence on the 1st January.

THE OFFICERS shall consist of:

- a) Chairman
- b) Secretary
- c) Treasurer
- d) Editor of Journal

who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting which shall normally be held in the month of March.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. shall consist of the above officers ex-officio and three others who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee shall have power to fill vacancies arising between the Annual General Meetings, and their choice shall be subject to ratification by members of the Society at the first ensuing Annual General Meeting.

The Committee shall have power to co-opt such other members, not exc. 3 in all as they see fit.

COMMITTEE POWERS AND DUTIES.

The Committee shall meet not less than twice a year and shall have full power to act in all matters affecting the Society without consulting the general body of members except as provided in the constitution. A quorum for committee meetings shall be four.

FINANCE.

The Society's funds shall be lodged with a bank and all payments made by cheque. All cheques shall be signed by any two officers of the Society. The Society shall be regarded as an Unincorporated Society, Club or Association for the purpose of their banking arrangements and shall complete the usual form of Mandate required by the Bankers in such cases.

MEETINGS.

The Annual General Meeting of which 21 days notice shall be given, shall be held on a day in each year to be fixed by the Committee and proceedings of all meetings shall be recorded in the minutes.

VOTING.

Voting at all meetings shall be by a show of hands except at the demand of at least two members when it shall be by ballot.

The Chairman of any meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

## PROPERTY

The Society's property shall be under the control of the Executive Committee. In case of the dissolution of the Society it shall be disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the resolution dissolving the Society.

## DISSOLUTION.

- 1) The Society may be dissolved in the manner following:
  - a) A proposal in writing for its dissolution, signed by not less than 20 members, or one third of the membership whichever is the less, shall be delivered to the Secretary not less than three calendar months before the meeting at which it is to be discussed.
  - b) A copy of such proposal shall be forwarded by the Secretary to every member of the Society not less than two months before the meeting at which it is to be discussed.
  - c) No such proposal shall be deemed to be carried unless two-thirds of those who vote are in favour of it, and unless the number of those who vote for it equals at least one-half of the members of the Society.
  - d) Any proposal for the dissolution of the Society must contain provision for the disposal of the Society's assets.
- 2) It is hereby agreed and declared that in the event of the Society ceasing to function for a period of twelve months, the Bankers of the Society shall pay over any balance in hand to the Secretary of the Federation of Family History Societies upon demand. The Federation of Family History Societies shall be the body to decide whether the Society had ceased to function for the said period. The money thus coming into the hands of the Federation of Family History Societies shall
  - a) be held by them until the Society revives or
  - b) be applied by them on such activities either within or without the area covered by the defunct Society either directly or indirectly, as they in their absolute discretion shall think fit. In this paragraph the expression "money" shall include cash, securities or other property whether real or personal of whatever nature, provided that this paragraph shall not be construed so as to include such public books, writings and papers of a parish as are referred to in Sections, 279, 280, 281 and 283 of the Local Government Act 1933, or any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof for the time being in force.

## ALTERATION OF CONSTITUTION AND RULES.

Alteration of the Constitutions and Rules shall only be made in the following manner:-

- a) Notices of the proposed changes shall be forwarded in writing to all members of the Society, together with 21 days notice of the meeting at which they are to be considered.
- b) No such proposal shall be considered at any meeting at which less than twenty members are present, or one third of the Society, whichever is the lesser, and it shall not be deemed carried unless at least two-thirds of the members vote for it.

Any additional rules or variations of this Constitution are to be written and certified and a copy is to be kept affixed to the front page of the current Minute Book.  
This Constitution and rules were adopted at a meeting of the Society held on the 10th day of February 1977.

## EDITORIAL.

By now it is hoped that members will feel they belong to a real Society. There have been several varied indoor meetings and two very successful excursions during the Summer. The Society's greatest need now is for new members. At the time of writing membership stood at 44 but if every member could recruit another one this would not only increase our income but also our interests and the scope of our activities.

The first copy of "The Flowing Stream" seems to have been well received despite the obvious shortcomings in its production. Many thanks to all who sent in copy or in any way contributed to it. Please accept the Editor's apologies for any mistakes in the journal.

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## MEMBERSHIP LIST.

### Change of Address.

Mr. A.H. Chatwin, 76 Doncaster Road, East Dene, Rotherham.  
Miss S. Graves, 57A Fircroft Ave. S5 0SB

### New Members.

Mrs. D.R. Glover, 34 Glebelands Road, Knutsford, Cheshire.  
Mr. N. Hides, 82, Dundas Road, Tinsley S9 1S7  
Miss B.C. Lovett, 32 Granby Avenue, Harpenden, Herts.  
Miss I. Poplar, 275, Wellgate, Rotherham.  
Mr. R.E. Stevenson, 126, Willow Drive, Handsworth. S9 4AU.  
Mrs M. Stopford, 31 Morland Road, Herdings. S14 1TA.  
Miss V. Walker, 99 Bushoy Wood Road, Dore S17 3QD

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## NEWS AND NOTES.

### English Genealogical Congress 1978.

Will be held between Monday 4th September and Saturday 9th September 1978 at St. Catherine's College, Cambridge. The theme of the Congress is The Theory and Practice of Genealogy. Further details will be available in January 1978. For full details please send a stamped self-addressed foolscap envelope, before 30th December 1977 to Miss S. Colwoll B.A. Organiser, English Genealogical Congress, 1978, 26 Rangers Square, Hyde Vale, Greenwich, S.E. 10.

### Liverpool Marriage Index.

Liverpool family History Society are compiling a Marriage Index (indexing males only) from 1538-1837 in the same format as Boyd's Marriage Index, covering 'Greater Liverpool' The Parishes covered are all the inner Liverpool ones, plus Wavertree, Everton, Kirkdale, Walton-on-the-Hill and Bootle. It includes the marriages of people from those parishes, wherever they took place and also all marriages in those places. Please send any references you may find of marriages of people from Liverpool to Harold Culling, 11, Lisburn Lane, Liverpool L13 9AE. Mr. Culling is willing to check the Index free for anyone on receipt of a S.A.E.

### Family History News and Digest.

This is the official publication of the Federation of Family History Societies and gives lots of information about what other societies are doing. Our Society has one complimentary copy, in the care of Mrs. Furey, our secretary, if you wish to consult it.

### The Moving of the Public Record Office.

Many of you will be aware that some of the PRO records have been moved from London to a new headquarters building at Ruskin Avenue, Kew. However, the census records will still be kept at Chancery Lane along with the non-parochial registers and many other records. A full list of which records are where can be found in the Family History News and Digest described above.

### Bed and Breakfast Scheme.

The Federation of Family History Societies operates a Bed and Breakfast Register which is available to members of Federated Societies. The Register lists accommodation in private households in various parts of the country to enable members to pursue their researches away from home with minimum expense. The recommended charge is £2 per person per night. If you would like to act as host to other family historians or would yourself like to make use of the register, full details are available from Mrs. Cynthia Walcot, 9 Richmond Road, Birkdale, Southport PR8 4SB. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope with all enquiries.

### Register of One-name Studies.

This is not to be confused with the National Pedigree Index. It is primarily designed to enable individuals specialising in one surname to have their on record. It will contain only the names of Societies, Family Associations and individuals who are interested in ALL references to a specific surname and its variants.

### The Society's Library.

Mr. K. Topp has kindly agreed to be the Society's Librarian and Archivist. He has copies of the journals of other Societies and various other records. The journals are available for loan to members of the Society. Please see Mr. Topp at any of our meetings if you wish to borrow any publications.

### My Great Grandmother's Brother Thomas.

This is the provisional title of a series of broadcasts made by Dr. David Hey and members of the Society. The programmes (eight in all) are on the subject of tracing one's ancestors and are due to go on the air in the New Year. Watch the Radio Times for details as the time of broadcasting has not yet been finalised.

### The "Landseer Chart".

The Landseer Chart has been designed so that it is possible to enter on it details of a large section of one's family (aunts, uncles and cousins etc) as well as the direct line. It is available in two forms. The lightweight paper copy (price 55p) is intended for initial compilation of your information. The heavyweight copy (price 70p) is intended as a master copy for filling in final information (possibly for display purposes). Either or both copies can be obtained from Mr. D. W. Cole, "Rose Cottage", 19 Station Rd, Sutton-on-Trent, Notts. Postage and packing are 15p extra. Please note that Mr Cole has recently moved to a new address.

## Careers in Genealogy.

The Society of Genealogists has produced a leaflet 'Genealogy as a Career'. It stresses that vacancies are extremely rare and suggests that school leavers first seek qualifications and employment in a related field. Copies of the leaflet are available at price 15p each from The Society of Genealogists, 37 Harrington Gardens London. SW7 4JX.

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## SOCIETY MEETINGS.

### Visit to the Oaks at Norton 26th May 1977.

Members of the Society spent a most enjoyable evening looking round the Oaks under the personal guidance of its owner Major Bagshawe. In addition to viewing at leisure the house and its contents at close quarters, they were treated to a detailed and often amusing account of the Bagshawe family and its various and often eccentric members. Among the exhibits of household furniture and effects there was a superb collection of 19th Century clothing in perfect condition and with all the accessories worn by ladies of the Bagshawe family. One room housed an exhibition of toy theatres from several counties.

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### Visit to Houndhill in Warsbrough, 16th June 1977.

A large group of Society members passed a fascinating evening in the 16th Century lounge of Houndhill, the home of Mr Elmhirst. After a general introduction to the area and its history by Dr David Hey, the owner, Mr Elmhirst described for us how he came to own the house, built by one of his ancestors and the repairs, alterations and restorations he has made. In the 1930's the house was partitioned for use by three families. Many details of the family history of the Elmhirsts were given and members learnt the "inside story" of the writing of the book "Peculiar Inheritance" by a member of the family. Dr. Edward Elmhirst In the grounds of Houndhill the Society saw the remains of old weaving sheds and the round turret built for defence during the Civil War.

### Meeting on Wednesday 28th Sept 1977.

This, our first indoor general meeting where members could bring along their problems, say their piece and meet informally was a success. About 25 members heard about the progress of the society, its plans for the future and work done so far. We were treated to the inside story of the "goings on" at Wardsend Cemetery in the 19th Century when the Rev. John Livesey, the vicar of St. Philip's church and the Sexton, Isaac Howard were charged with irregularities in the entries in the Register. Rumours were rife about bodies that had come from the medical school. After a time in gaol Livesey was later given a Royal Pardon and reinstated.

### National Pedigree Index.

This Index, made up of information voluntarily supplied by compilers of pedigrees both amateur and professional will be kept at the Society of Genealogists. The scheme is to form a central Index of pedigrees researched and being researched of which three or more generations in the male line, and resident in the British Isles, have been established. It is hoped thereby to help to avoid duplication and put researches in touch with others working on the same families. Contributions must be on slips provided by the compilers. They are available on receipt of a S.A.E. from N.P.I. c/o Society of Genealogists, 37 Harrington Gardens, London. SW7 4JX Further details are available from the Secretary (Mrs M. Furey) or any Committee member.

### John Brown's Church.

A familiar Sheffield landmark has gone - the parish church of All Saints and 190ft spire overlooking the industrial east end of Sheffield. It has been demolished because its parish has largely disappeared.

It was well known to many of our ancestors in Sheffield because it was the church founded by John Brown the Sheffield industrialist. The magazine of Firth Brown Limited. recently described its foundation and history.

All Saints came into being as the result of a visit by John Brown to one of his workshops where he found several of his employees sitting around one of their workmates who was conducting a Bible Study Class. Mr. Brown offered the men a room in the office building and the Bible class which he had discovered grew quickly under his patronage. A Sunday service and Sunday school were started and John Brown became determined that his employees should have a church. The foundation stone was laid in 1866 and the church was completed three years later, opening in February 1869.

The total cost £14,000 was provided entirely by Sir John (he was knighted in 1867) and in 1871 he made available an adjacent site for the building of a school and provided £300 towards the cost. In the north aisle of the church was a marble plaque in his memory, part of which reads, "He was highly esteemed as an employer, who amid great material prosperity, never failed to care for the moral and spiritual welfare of his men." Perhaps the most notable period in the history of All Saints was around the turn of the century. The church built up what was said to be the largest Bible classes in England and the second largest in the world, They numbered 1,700 men and 2,200 women. For a church which owed its existence to a shop floor Bible class this was a fitting achievement.

Article by courtesy of Quality of  
Sheffield and Firth Brown Ltd's  
Magazine.

## Recording Monumental Inscriptions at Wardsend Cemetery.

The Society's first venture into practical fieldwork took place in September 1977 when some recording of gravestones and monumental inscriptions was carried out at Wardsend Cemetery, Neepsend, Sheffield.

Six volunteers turned up on the first Saturday morning and twice that number a fortnight later. A third Saturday was planned for October but was abandoned - rain stopped play.

The exercise was not intended to be more than a preliminary canter. It was not planned, surveyed or executed to approved professional standards, mistakes were made and lessons learned, perhaps some horizontal stones, long covered by turf, may have been missed, whilst a few erect stones may have been enthusiastically recorded twice over.

Against such amateurish activities must be counted some tangible gains:- something over 1,000 names were recorded in a cemetery whose records have been almost entirely lost, the relationships of people in the same grave have been listed, plus other interesting information. Members got to know each other better and shared the fun of learning a new task. And there was ample opportunity to talk family history.

The occasional inscription threw up especially interesting information - the grave of a man who was stabbed, others of soldiers stationed in the 1860's at the nearby barracks and others of men and women who came originally from distant parts of the country. One gravestone was of a family with the same surname as two of our ladies who were taking part in the work.

Doubtless even more fascinating details will emerge if the project is continued and as recorders move inwards from the rather scattered graves at the north-western end towards the serried rows in the central portion of the cemetery. This central area is also the most thickly covered by trees, ivy, and brambles; partial clearance operations would need to precede any reading of inscriptions here.

The work was started at the north-western end because there is less undergrowth there. And also because that portion is most liable to vandalism, and from the activities of the adjacent motor car scrap yard. In some respects therefore our work at Wardsend has been in the nature of a rescue operation and Wardsend was mainly chosen because virtually all written records and plans have been lost.

The Society has greatly benefited from the assistance of Mrs. Cynthia Short who is the South Yorkshire County Archivist as well as being one of our members, The Reverend Ford, Vicar of St. Stephen's who is responsible for Wardsend is pleased that we have undertaken this work.

An outline of the history of what was originally called St. Philip's Parochial Burial Ground was given at the September meeting of the Society. It was opened in 1855 and consecrated two years later. It is still technically open although rarely used for interments. The main period seems to have been from the 1850's up to the 1914-18 War. In 1862 it was said to accommodate some 800 interments annually, so it is clearly a large cemetery and complete recording of inscriptions would be a lengthy and painstaking project.

Decisions as to future work at Wardsend, and how the Society might process the information already written in members' notebooks, have yet to be made.

NB:- It has been suggested that ladies unable to go to Wardsend might knit mittens and ~~sea-~~boot stockings for those who do go!

### SOUTH YORKSHIRE GRAVEYARD SURVEYS.

My contacts over a long period with people trying to trace their family tree, and with genealogists, had already alerted me to the value of tombstone inscriptions, but my interest was stimulated more recently by discussions at the South Yorkshire County Archaeology Committee on the possible fate of High Hoyland churchyard now that the church has been scheduled as redundant. It happened that I knew the inscriptions had been recorded by a member of the Barnsley Archaeological Society and as a result of the interest of the Committee I offered to compile a list of all the surveys of tombstone inscriptions for South Yorkshire, and to investigate the possibility of setting up a Job Creation Project to extend and add to the surveys.

I am still engaged on the first task although it is nearly completed, and I should be grateful for any information about surveys in progress or planned.

The Job Creation Project was duly drawn up, approved by the Manpower Services Commission and is now under way. Two Graveyard Survey Assistants were appointed within the County Archives Service and work began on 12th September. Trefor Evans is a graduate in Art & Design and is also qualified in photography while Lee Singleton is a graduate in History, a trained teacher, and a qualified draughtsman. They are working together excellently as a team and have already produced some very useful work. They began by making a measured survey and plan of High Hoyland churchyard which is considered by archaeologists to be probably a very ancient site indeed, certainly Saxon and possibly Iron Age. This plan is being co-ordinated with Miss Dearnley's list of the tombstone inscriptions so that we shall have as complete a record of the churchyard as possible.

Now Lee and Trefor have embarked on a planned programme to survey and list (if possible in the time) four contrasting churchyards: a moorland parish, a parish in the coal measures, a parish on the magnesian limestone and a parish on the drained fenlands. They are beginning with the first at Bradfield with the kind co-operation of the rector, and thanks to reasonable weather and much hard work, this survey is almost finished. Next they will tackle Wentworth old churchyard, a parish on the coal measures. This is felt to be a task of some urgency as the stones are deteriorating.

The work involved in one of these surveys is considerable and I want them therefore to be of value to as many research workers as possible, to family historians yes, but also to local historians, social historians, archaeologists and others. Therefore as much information as possible is recorded. The work is to make a measured survey and plan of the churchyard, to record all inscriptions verbatim (as far as possible) and to photograph the stones earlier than 1900. There is also the task of translating all this information into a permanent and useful form.

The records of the surveys will be held in South Yorkshire County Archives and will be available for consultation by research workers. I am investigating the possibility of copies being made elsewhere, notably to the Family History Section of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society which already holds records of some ten lists of South Yorkshire tombstone inscriptions (though these vary greatly in scope). Conversely, I would like to have copies of as many as possible of these in the South Yorkshire County Archives where they would be more readily available to local people and, so to speak, nearer home.

Any suggestions or queries on the Graveyard Survey will be most welcome and can be made either to me personally, or to South Yorkshire County Archives Service, Ellin Street, Sheffield S1 4PL. (Tel: Sheffield 29191).

C.M.Short.

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#### OTHER PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS

NB. The Editor has international reply coupons for all overseas requests for help.

Josephine Garland Nattkeeper would like information on the GARLAND family of Sheffield. John Walter GARLAND married Elizabeth JEPSON on 14 December 1847 at St. Peter's. Their address was 153 West Street and John Walter was a butcher. They had seven children, the sixth being Thomas Jepson Garland born 1st March 1858. The father of Elizabeth was named Thomas Jepson.

Mrs. Paul D. Hampton, 8601, Bedford Road, Macedonia, Ohio, 44056, USA, is trying to trace the family of her grandfather JOHN WILLIAM COLLIN, born in Sheffield on 14 February 1868; son of Eliza Green and John Collin. He emigrated to the USA in 1892. He had a brother named Arthur who served at one time in the British army in Africa.

James E. Hinkle, 2024, Green Acres Drive, Montgomery, Alabama, 36106, USA, would like information on the METTERS family who were raised and wed in the Sheffield area and went to the United States between 1856 and 1858. He has sent a family group sheet with many details (contact the Editor for further information).

Robert L. Choate, 274 Prospect Drive, Leesburg, Virginia, 22075, would like any information on the BINNS family before 1650 in Yorkshire.

Harold Culling, 11, Lisburn Lane, Liverpool L13 9AE, would like to hear from any members of the CULLING family in Yorkshire who are interested in their ancestry.

J. Barnes, 18, Long Croft Road, Dronfield, Woodhouse, Sheffield S18 5XX, seeks information regarding HENRY WHALEY (1827-75), scale and spring maker of 104, Pea Croft, Sheffield and his wife MARY (1826-75) formerly BARTON. As the name WHALEY is rare in Sheffield any general information would be appreciated. Mr Barnes would also like information about MATTHEW SLACK BARNES, spring knife cutler (born 1836 in Manchester) of Stafford Street and Oxford Street, and his wife HANNAH (formerly REVILL) born 1834 in Chesterfield. A daughter ANNE married CHARLES TAYLOR and the family lived for many years in Hillsborough.

Miss Beryl C. Lovett, 32, Granby Avenue, Harpenden, Herts., is seeking information about the MAKIN family, two of whose members were Master Cutlers - in 1803 and 1815. The family were probably connected with the village of Ecclesfield.

Miss G. Andrade, 7, Ingliside, 31 Howick Road, Pietermaritzburg 3201, Natal, South Africa, is seeking information about her grandfather JAMES ALEXANDER HODGKINSON who went to South Africa during the late 1800's to fight with the British in the Boer War. He came from Sheffield and had been to Sandhurst. He had a brother HAROLD who went with him to South Africa. Miss Andrade would like to establish contact with any living relatives.

Mr A.K. Clayton, Superintendent Registrar, Sheffield Registry Office, would like information about CHARLES DARLEY CLAYTON who was born in 1835 either in or near Castleford in West Yorkshire.

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#### GRAVE WISDOM

In Volume 1 Number 1 we printed two curious inscriptions on local tombstones. Here is another one, noted in Joseph Prince's "History of Silkstone" (1922), page 56. It is dated 1815 and concerns John Taylor a Silkstone potter and his wife:

"Out of the clay they got their daily bread  
Of clay were made also  
Returned to clay, they now lay dead  
Where all that's left must shortly go  
To live without him his wife she tried  
Found the task hard, fell sick and died  
And now beneath their bodies lay  
Until the just be called away  
And moulded into spiritual clay.

A somewhat laboured pun, typical of the epitaphs of the time. Has anyone recorded any other local example?

LETTER FROM A NEW MEMBER.

Dear Editor,

First of all I wish to express my thanks to all concerned for making it possible for me to associate with a group of people with this same fascinating interest as myself. I was most impressed with the feel of my first meeting on Wednesday, September the 28th and I am now looking forward with renewed hope to more successful genealogical research.

I feel fortunate after approximately ten years of only somewhat occasional research on having collected so much information on my family. I have concentrated on the male line back from my father, having progressed now to my great great grandfather who was born in Sheffield in 1800.

I am deeply indebted to several members of my family for verbal information and collections of old photographs.

My other main source of information has been the local history department of the Sheffield Central Library. I have personally visited both Somerset House and St. Catherine's House, and gained much useful information from gravestones and registers at Burngreave and Attercliffe Cemeteries, and St. Georges, Brookhill and St. Matthews, Carver Street.

Could anyone assist me on collecting information concerning my father's period of service in the Army during the second World War, and my uncle's army service during the first World War. Does anyone know of anybody who lived near Slate St. Heeley, during approximately 1915-35 or who attended Anns Road School 1910-1920. Are old school registers kept by anyone?

I certainly feel you need Lady Luck on your side. I am fortunate in that my family seems firmly established in Sheffield for many generations, and I thank heavens my name is not Smith.

Yours etc.

Roger Stevenson

PRAYING WILLIAM COWLISHAW.

A cousin of mine, Mr Harry Cowlishaw of Norfolk Road has sent me a pamphlet about an ancestor of his called "Praying William Cowlishaw".

The pamphlet was written in 1856 by the Reverend Luke Tyerman, and printed, with an introduction by the Reverend Frederick Hughes, Superintendent Minister of what was always known as 'Manor Chapel' in 1896 when money was needed for re-building.

William Cowlishaw was brought to Sheffield as an infant during the 1770's. I am not sure of the exact date.

His father was a day labourer who got 1/6 a day, and there were seven children in the family. William was apprenticed to a pen blade forger and stayed in the same employment all his life.

But, and I quote-

"Unhappily he began to associate with companies who led him on from bad to worse, till hunting foxes and fighting cocks and dogs became his principal amusements..... for three and twenty years he lived a life of great wickedness. After the death of a friend in 1806 William attended the funeral and although filled with shame at the contrast between other, clean and neat mourners and himself went immediately to the public house and got drunk!

Two work mates, recently converted Methodists persuaded him to go with them to a prayer meeting and William became as thorough in his religion as he had been in his earlier sporting and drinking.

He would attend the prayer meeting at the Norfolk Street Chapel about three times on Sundays, and extra services in the park, praying and singing with the other Methodists, and then adding something of his own by going from house to house in Sky Edge in an effort to convert his neighbours.

William and his wife had eleven children and his eldest son wished to work at his father's trade after being employed as an agricultural labourer. Unfortunately money for tools was lacking, but after praying in his little room, William met a man walking in the fields who offered to lend him the money.

We don't know who the man was, but he charged interest on the loan! William died on November 29th 1856 - still having prayed vigorously on every possible occasion, although he was blind and confused. The Cowlshaws were well known in the Manor - the district, not the building, and the area is of enormous interest.

Margaret Furey.

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#### BACKGROUND--THE NORTH RIDING.

My Great Grandfather, Robert Robinson, Surgeon, was born at Thormanby in the North Riding on 1st March 1808. At that time, one could put up one's brass plate without sanction of government or professional bodies. A minority of intending surgeons went through the University Medical Schools at London or Edinburgh, but Robert was not amongst these. There were small medical-surgical schools all over the country (the wide-spread cases of body-snatching are evidence of this) and Robert doubtless received his training at one of these, most likely in York.

His Father was George Robinson, who farmed at Thormanby, having been born there in June 1777. He was a churchwarden, and signed the Bishop's Transcripts along with the Vicar, for several years. He must have been a person of some consequence in this tiny community.

This district, between Thirsk and York, is a rich agricultural area, with villages scattered like currants in a bun. Strangely, Thormanby, with its very Danish name is almost the only village actually on the turnpike (now the A.19 York Thirsk Northallerton road). It seems that our Anglo-Saxon-Danish ancestors who settled this land did not like the roads which the Romans had left behind - they were the routes along which trouble could come. So they hid their villages in the forests and swamps well off the road, and linked them with a network of tortuous paths.

Long before 1800 the forest and swamps had become smiling cornfields; the villages were still there in the same locations, and the tortuous footpaths had become equally tortuous country lanes. Many of the villages have a small shop, and such doubtless existed 150 years ago. If one needed any article out of the common run however, it meant a journey to York, simple enough in this age of cars, buses and tarmac, but not so simple 150 years ago.

Robert Robinson was too far from York to attend the hospital there, and he must have become a general practitioner, with several local villages to form a viable practice. Nowadays a general practitioner never operates, even though he be fully qualified and competent; operating is by the hospital staff surgeons. At that time however the journey to York involved a bumpy and expensive ride, and I think Robert was prepared to do operations in his own area, assisted by a trained nurse whom the area could doubtless provide. We have his surgical instruments - they are in the possession of a cousin of mine who is himself a surgeon.

In those years the turnpike reached a pinnacle of perfection; the coaches, including the London - Edinburgh mails, ran to timetables worked out to the exact minute at every point. By contrast, the lanes were a quagmire half the year, and every journey was in part along them. They were the responsibility of the parishes who had neither the money nor the expertise to do much about it. On horseback the only practicable way of getting around, and one needs to be a competent horseman, as well as to employ a stable-boy. So we see Robert going round the villages in his practice, on his horse and carrying his black box:

My Father told me that he died from injuries caused by being thrown from his horse, but to my surprise the death entry shows dropsy. He certainly died young, on 16th July 1846, aged 38.

This event seems to have upset George, now aged 70; he made his will, and he died on 22nd August 1846; a sad time for Eleanor, the wife of the one and the Mother of the other. There were two other sons, who never married; they carried on the farm. Robert's widow, Ann, was pregnant when George was preparing his will, and it contained a legacy to the unborn child.

Robert's wedding had been on 17th February 1845, so Ann enjoyed only 17 months of married life, after which she lived on and on, through the events and changes of the 19th Century - the Great Exhibition, the Crimean War, the Education Acts and Queen Victoria's Jubilee. She finally died at Belper on 14th November 1891. Why Belper? I have to find that out. The connection with Thormanby had not been severed, as the fact of the burial at Belper is recorded on Robert's tombstone in Thormanby churchyard.

During this all too short period of marriage, one son was born; George John Robinson, on 21st August 1845. After education at York, he learnt the traditional family business of farming from his uncles, and then set up on his own account in 1865 at Maunby-on-Swale. Here, on 25th February 1871, he married Ann Margaret Peacock, and a gift to the 'happy couple' was a Sheffield plate set of tea-pot, coffee-pot, milk and sugar. Each piece is engraved with the initials 'G.J.A.M.R.'. We have this, and frequently use it

Unfortunately Ann Margaret died after producing a boy (my father) and a girl, and he later married Annie Guthrie, the Mother of three sons and two daughters. This was an exciting time in the farming world. On many farms the horse had ploughed his last single furrow, and George John became Managing Director of the South Durham and North Yorkshire Steam Cultivation Company. The method was to have two traction engines, each with a drum which could draw in or pay out cable; standing on opposite sides of the field, they drew the plough across, cutting four or five furrows at one time. Steam threshing was another development; the combine harvester has displaced most of these, but some are still in use.

In 1868 he gave up farming on his own account, and removed to Northallerton, but still deeply involved in agriculture, and he led the movement to establish a stock mart at Northallerton, becoming the Secretary and Auctioneer. He was very active in public life, in the Liberal camp in politics, where he was a leading speaker. He became Chairman of the Northallerton Urban District Council, and J.P. He had steam fire engines and steam rollers brought into use.

Earlier, he had been a member of the Birdforth Highways Board. Had those muddy lanes met their master?

Today they are as smooth and perfect as any in the Kingdom, but the twists and turns laid out by our ancestors a millenium ago are mostly still there. George John died in 1900; every-thing stoped in Northallerton for the funeral which was the biggest affair that they had seen for a long time.

George James Robinson.

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IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED....

It ought to have been easy to find Frederick Marsden's birth certificate. After all he was born about 1876 -- only a hundred years ago. My father-in-law told me all he could remember about his father. The snag was that he didn't know much about Frederick's early life beyond the fact that he was an orphan and had spent part of his childhood in the workhouse.

I found Frederick's marriage certificate. He married on August 2nd 1897 when he was 22 years old and his father's name was given as William Henry Marsden (deceased) -- occupation, traveller.

Armed with this information I attempted to find his birth certificate at St. Catherine's House. No success. My husband searched the indexes. No certificate came. I requested a search over a ten year period. Again, no success.

My husband and I sat down to think out a solution. Perhaps he had never been registered. After all, we knew his mother had died when he was about 5 years old -- and his father before then. Perhaps he had given the wrong age when he married. But a ten year search for his birth would surely have found him. Perhaps the certificate had just been overlooked in the search. But that didn't seem very likely either. The workhouse records were destroyed during the war and the 1881 census results are not yet available. We seemed to have come to a full stop.

Having had no success finding a birth certificate we decided to find Frederick's death. My father-in-law gave us the date. I went to the church where his burial record was found immediately. He died in November 1935 at the age of 60 years. So now we knew the year of his birth!

The real breakthrough came when we learned of an old lady of 88 who was the daughter of Frederick's eldest sister, Emily. A long conversation about her memory of her uncle didn't seem to be getting any nearer to a solution to my problem but it did give me some more of the family background.

Frederick was the youngest of 4 children and Emily, my informant's mother, was the eldest child. After their father had died, their mother remarried -- but we don't know the man's name. The marriage was not a happy one and when Emily's and Frederick's mother died, their stepfather disappeared leaving the 4 children to fend for themselves. Emily was then about 15 years old and Frederick about 5 years of age. Presumably this is when Frederick went into the workhouse.

I decided to try and obtain Emily's birth certificate which would of course give me the details about parentage that I was seeking. But again I failed.

A second conversation with Emily's daughter seemed to repeat only the information given the first time we talked -- until she happened to mention that her mother had married John Robert Knight at the church where she herself was baptised.

Feeling that I was clutching at straws I went to the Local History Library where the records for the Holy Trinity Church in the Wicker are deposited. There, two years earlier than I had been led to expect was the marriage certificate of Frederick's sister Emily. Her father's name was given

as Charles Marsden (deceased) not William Henry Marsden and he had been an engine tender - not a traveller!

Having the correct information I was able to obtain Frederick's birth certificate within a day from the Sheffield Registry Office. I can now continue with my researches but I am left with a puzzle. Why did Frederick give incorrect information? The only solution so far seems to be that he just didn't know his real father's Christian name and occupation and so gave that of his stepfather. Perhaps one day I shall find that second marriage certificate - then I shall know.

Denise Marsden.

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### TWO NOTES ON THE CENSUS

1

People starting on their family history and investigating Census records for the first time might very well get discouraged if ancestors they confidently expect to find in a particular street or specific locality are not to be found. The beginner might feel like giving up that line of search altogether, or looking at Census returns of far-away places where the family was said to originate.

Before taking any of these steps it is well worth checking on the possibility of people being near to, but not in, their own homes on the Census night.

The early census returns note considerable numbers of folk in other people's houses as 'Visitors', 'Boarders' or 'Lodgers'. Other Sheffield people were in local hospitals, debtors gaols or workhouses. A great many of the people listed in the 1841 Census were Sheffield-born no doubt, but for reasons indicated below, were not in their homes:

#### 1841 Census

##### Sheffield Township -

632 in workhouse, infirmary or Shrewsbury Hospital

147 in gaol or prison

16 in Hollis Hospital

44 in barges (which may or may not have been their permanent homes)

Sheffield had a large number of uninhabited houses in the 1841 Census. There were 2,222 of these, and 14,111 inhabited, compared with Leeds which had 1,249 uninhabited and 18,743 inhabited. The Abstract of Census returns attributed the empty houses to depression in trade so perhaps some poverty-stricken former tenants were among those in the workhouse. By 1851 incidentally things in Sheffield were very different - there were then only 142 uninhabited houses.

##### Ecclesall Bierlow -

204 in the Wesleyan School (there were 172 ten years later)

181 in the workhouse (183 in 1851)

34 in the debtors gaol

Nether Hallam -

152 military personnel and 71 others (soldiers' families)  
in the barracks. }

Upper Hallam -

included 70 visitors at the annual feast

Other parts of Hallamshire show similar situations. Nine people were listed as living in boats at Greasebrough, Rotherham, while in the chapelry of Bradfield there were 35 in the workhouse and seven living in tents.

I am always saddened by the thought that people had to live in tents in the bleaker parts of Hallamshire and wonder what tragic story lay behind the entry in the 1851 Census for Moorwood near Stannington which the enumerator listed as follows:

Gypsies in Rivlin (sic)

Sleeping in a tent

Charles Macdolland	Head	Mar	32	Riddle mfg	Ireland
Winney	do	Dau	8		do
Mick	do	Son	6		do
Mary	do	Dau	2		do
Peter	do	Brother	Unm 18	Riddle mfg	do

One tries to imagine what had become of the mother, what became of the infants, and how they got through the winters.

2

The Abstracts of the 1841 Census provide summaries of persons born within the county. In the case of Sheffield the figures were:

	Born in Yorks	Not born in Yorks	Total
Attercliffe cum Darnall	3,644	512	4,156
Ecclesall Bierlow	16,153	3,831	19,984
Hallam Nether	6,168	1,107	7,275
Hallam Upper	1,215	186	1,401
Sheffield Township	56,542	11,644	68,186
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	83,722	17,280	101,002

Thus about 17% were born outside Yorkshire. This compares with only 2% of the population of villages in mid-Devon who were born outside that county at the 1841 Census. Rural Devonshire was obviously less affected at that time by people moving in, than by those migrating to the growing industrial towns such as Sheffield.

R.Bullen.

### WHY DO IT? A SEVENTEENTH CENTURY ANSWER.

One of the first local people to trace his family tree was Sir John Reresby (1634-89) of Thrybergh. His Family History was written in 1679 and survives in manuscript form in the British Museum (reference Add.MSS. 29442-3) Much of it was incorporated in the Memoirs of Sir John Reresby, written a little later and published in 1936 with Andrew Browning as editor.

The purpose of the Family History is set forth on the first page in the following terms:

- " 1 To instruct posterity as well as the living how long it hath pleased Providence to continue us in the same name and place, and to incite them thereby soe to demcane themselvs according to the rules of conscience and honour as to obteane a longer continuance of the same mercy.
- 2 To save such the labour of turning over a great many obscure papers as are curious to know what hath passed in their familie, and that please themselves (as I have done) with olim memenisse.
- 3 To preserve memorials of some things of use as well as of curiosity, which age as well as want of care to preserve hath near already consumed.
- 4 To restoor such to their deserved places in the pedegree as have been omitted, either by neglect, or bycause yonger children, their memory it should seeme formerly seldome surviving their poor annuitys.
- 5 To show who have been the true patrons and foster-fathers of their families, that their memories may be honoured and exemples followed."

They were perhaps a little more sure of themselves three hundred years ago.

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### HOLLOW MEADOWS CHAPEL - A RECORD OF BAPTISMS

Through the kindness of Mrs.C.Marsden (nee Earnshaw) of Hollow Meadows I have been able to take photocopies of the Baptismal Register of the Methodist New Connexion Chapel at Hollow Meadows. These now belong to the Society and are at present held by Mr.K.R.Topp.

The Register, which is still in use, has 'Ebenezer Chapel Hollow Meadows' written inside the cover. The Hollow Meadows district has always been thinly populated and the Register shows that only thirty five infants were christened there in the 121 years between the earliest entry (July 1855) and the most recent (December 1976).

The title page states that the Register started on 1st May 1863, and the first entry is 20th December of that year. The next seventeen entries however are all written in the same hand and the same ink and span a period from July 1855 to September 1861. It would seem therefore that, after the first entry, someone remembered the earlier baptisms and wrote them into the new book.

The surnames of infants baptised are: Dearden(6), Kirby(4), Bacon, Hammond, and Couldwell (2 each) and one each for Allott, Atkinson, Bowen Crapper, Danby, Doleman, Greaves, Hague, Hawk, Lingard, Marsden, Radford, Rollett, Sellers, Stringer, Tasker, Townsend, Tyas, and Wragg.

A number of parents and children named can be linked with people in the 1851 and 1861 Censuses, and with 19th Century Directories. Some of their descendants still reside in the district although the last of the large Dearden family (my kinsmen) living locally died some twenty years ago. In the last Century this part of Stannington was listed variously

as Hollow Meadows, Moorwood, New England or Upper Hollow Meadows. Most of the people settled on the bleak 1,000 foot moorland about 1850 at the instigation of the Duke of Norfolk, who became the principal landowner following the Brafild Enclosure Award of 1826. He sold them the land on which the tiny stone built chapel was erected, beside the Sheffield - Glossop Turnpike at Moscar. The chapel itself was paid for and given to the people by Mark Firth (head of Thomas Firth & Sons, Lord Mayor 1874, died 1880).

Further information may be found in 'The Making of New England at Hollow Meadows' by G.B.H.Ward (Sheffield Clarion Ramblers Handbook 1948-49), 'Theft and blade o' Shevviold' by Thomas Winder (Sheffield Independent Press 1907) and 'The Cutlery Industry in the Stannington Area' by D.J.Smith (1977) Page 32.

R.Bullen

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INTRODUCTORY NOTES ON THE READING OF 16TH AND 17TH  
CENTURY DOCUMENTS.

1. "There is some truth in the paradox that legibility in a manuscript document consists chiefly in the reader's prior knowledge of what it contains". (L.C.Hector).

2. Spelling

Modern uniformity must not be expected; the same word may be spelt differently on one line.

The spelling of the document should be copied exactly (e.g. Chesterfaield)  
The meaning of a strange looking word may be obtained by pronouncing it (e.g. pineakl - pinnacle).

A knowledge of local dialect can often be helpful. For this, refer to 'Two Collections of Derbichisms' by Samuel Pegg (English Dialect Society, No. 78, 1896); also 'Derbyshire Dialect in the Seventeenth Century from the Bakewell Parish Accounts by H.M.Hulme (D.A.J. LXII, 1941).

3. Capitals and Punctuation.

The use of capitals may often seem arbitrary. Note the use of 'ff' instead of capital 'F'.

Punctuation in the modern form will often be lacking.

4. Letters.

Some points to be watched in the early stages:-

- i. The old form of the letter 's' (the long 's') resembles an 'f' without the cross piece.
- ii. Distinction between 'e' and 'o'.
- iii. Use of 'y' for the rune thorn (th). (e.g. ye - the; yt - that; ym - them).
- iv. Letter 'c' often used for 'ti'. (e.g. visitacon, publicacon)
- v. Use of 'v' for 'u'; 'y' for 'i'; 'd' for 'th'; 'i' for 'j'. (e.g. vnder; oyle; furder; ioynd).

5. Abbreviations

Main forms:

- i. Suspension - end of a word omitted. Ultimately a word may be represented by its initial letter (e.g. Inpr (imis); p(er); Septem (ber)).

- ii. Contraction - letter or letters omitted from the middle of a word. A word may thus be reduced to its first and last letters. (e.g. It(e)m; kt(knight); presentmt(presentment)).

Abbreviation signs - both general (i.e. a warning that there is some abbreviation) and special (i.e. an indication of the letter(s) required to extend the abbreviated word) :-

- Over a letter generally indicates omission of 'm' or 'n'.
- ~ Over a letter indicates omission of letters before or after, or both before and after this mark (e.g. tenemt).
- } Over 'p' represents pre; over other letters er, re or ir; at end of a word us or os (e.g. p sentment, t minate)
- Ⓟ per, par, por. (e.g. ~~p~~erson, ~~p~~ish, ~~p~~tion).
- Ⓡ pro, (e.g. p fit)
- Ⓢ At the end of a word - es or is (e.g. present)
- Ⓣ At the beginning of a word - con, com (e.g. flict)

#### 6. Numbers

li. s. d.

Common form of parish accounts - 00 06 08

Common use of Roman numerals; iij not iv; viij not ix. NB Last minim is written as 'j'.

#### 7. Dates.

Until 1752 the year began for most purposes on Lady Day, 25th March. Also the Julian (Old Style) calendar used in England was in the 17th Century ten days behind the Gregorian (New Style) generally used on the continent. Thus 15th January 1664 (O.S.) was 25th January 1665 (N.S.)  
24th March 1664 (O.S.) was 3rd April 1665 (N.S.)

#### 8. Recommended Reading

"Latin for Local History" by E.A.Gooder.

## A BRIEF GUIDE TO RECORDS: II. CENSUS RETURNS.

The first Census for England and Wales was taken in 1801, and a Census has been taken at ten-yearly intervals ever since. The Census returns of 1801-31 are of no use to the genealogist, and at present only those for 1841-71 are available for study. The 1881 Census will be available in 1982. However the Scottish Census returns for 1881 and 1891 may be seen at the General Registry Office in Edinburgh.

The original returns for England and Wales are kept at the Public Record Office, and at present may be seen on microfilm at the P.R.O. Annexe i.e. the Land Registry Building, Portugal Street, London W.C.2. This building is only a quarter of a mile away from St. Catherine's House, where the registers of births, marriages and deaths are kept, so it is usually convenient to visit both buildings during the same day. A reader's ticket should be obtained well in advance. This is free, but an application form must first be obtained from The Secretary, Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, London W.C.2

Many town libraries and some archive offices now have microfilm copies of the Census returns for their particular area. An excellent collection is housed in the Local History section of the Central Library, Surrey Street, Sheffield 1. This covers all the available returns for most of South Yorkshire, and parts of North Derbyshire. A telephone or written request would determine whether or not the area you are interested in is covered. Rotherham Central Library also has Census microfilms for a smaller area. Try to find as much as possible about the whereabouts of your ancestor before you look at the microfilms. It takes days to go through the whole of Sheffield, only hours to go through, say, Darnall, and much less than that to find Staniforth Road. Trade directories (available in the library) often enable one to narrow the field of enquiry; try to find a directory as near to the Census year as possible, but remember that many people were not recorded in the directories.

The first Census of any use is that of June 1841. This lists all the members of a household. It is important to remember that, except for children under fifteen, all ages are rounded down to the nearest five. Thus someone whose age is given as 55 could have been 55, 56, 57, 58, or 59 in reality. This Census is a fairly early source (almost as early as the registers of births, marriages and deaths) and it may explain a family relationship. It does not give a person's place of birth, but merely tells us whether or not a person was born in the county where he or she was then residing.

The Census returns of March 1851 and those subsequently are much more informative. They record a person's name, status, occupation, age and place of birth. Ages may be inaccurate because of human error or deliberate falsification but they are normally to be trusted. The place of birth can be vital in tracing the next step backward. My great-great-grandfather, John Hey, first appears in the records of Penistone parish in 1806, but I had no idea where he had come from. Fortunately he was still alive in 1851 when the Census returns recorded his place of birth as Shelley in the parish of Kirkburton. I found him in the baptism registers, baptised on 18 February 1781. One of the youngest of a family of eight he left Shelley to work as a weaver. The 1851 Census described him as a fancy weaver (a maker of knitted waistcoats etc.), and this is the occupation recorded on his death certificate in 1885.

Census returns can often be used in conjunction with other records, as illustrated above. Another pitfall to beware of is that, as a Census was made only every ten years, some members of a family may escape recording. Young children may have died, for instance, and other siblings may not have been born when the 1871 Census was taken. Children who appear in one Census but not in the next may not have died but have gone to work in service. As with all records we must not jump to quick conclusions.

Even if you can trace your family tree without using these returns they are still useful in providing extra details that help to fill out the picture; they are a very important source for us all.