

Sheffield and District Family History Society

The Flowing Stream ~



Summer 1999

Volume 20
Number 2

FUTURE PROGRAMME – 1999

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

Mon. 19 July. Summer evening meeting - *A Guided Tour of Ringinglow*
Martin Olive has agreed to guide us around Ringinglow as a follow up to his talk in January.

Meet in the car park of the Norfolk Arms at 7.30 pm. It is not a too strenuous walk but knowing our 'Summer weather' sensible shoes, umbrellas and raincoats seem like a good idea!

It has been agreed that we are able to park in the Norfolk Arms car park and that we may call in for refreshments after the walk.

ROTHERHAM BRANCH PROGRAMME

Please note - new venue

Meet 7 pm at the Eastwood Methodist Mission, St. Ann's Road, Rotherham

Thurs. 2 Sept. *Olympic – sister ship to Titanic* by Martyn Taylor

Thurs. 7 Oct. *Workshop*

Thurs. 4 Nov. *Maps and Family History* by Sally Shepard

Thurs. 2 Dec. *Members Evening and Seasonal Fare.*

TRAIN TRIP TO FAMILY RECORDS CENTRE, LONDON

Wednesday 6 October 1999. Cost £10 per person

An ideal opportunity to visit the new Family Records Centre in Myddleton Street. Family and/or friends are welcome to accompany the group for shopping or visiting museums or taking in a theatre matinee. Departing Sheffield about 9.27 am, arrives St. Pancras 11.47 am (times to be confirmed).

TO BOOK please telephone Sue Graves on 0114 2466359 (after 6 pm) and forward a cheque for (£10 per person, payable to "Sheffield and District Family History Society Coach Trips") to her at 118a, Hartley Brook Road, Sheffield S5 0JE.



THE FLOWING STREAM

The Journal of Sheffield and District Family History Society

Volume 20. No. 2. Summer 1999

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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 Jo Rundle, 75, Sunnyvale Road, Totley, Sheffield S17 4FA
Secretary Mrs Judith Pitchforth, 10, Hallam Grange Road, Sheffield S10 4BJ
Treasurer Mrs Eileen Allen, 25, Boston Castle Grove, Moorgate, Rotherham S60 2BA
Editor Mrs Denise Marsden, "Lee Moor End, Storrs, Stannington, Sheffield S6 6GY

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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 Mrs P.A. Heath, 4, Norton Park Road, Sheffield S8 8GQ.

Bookstall Officer Mrs Diane Maskell, 5, Old Houses, Picadilly Road, Chesterfield, Derby.

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Programme Secretary Mrs S. Carr, 13, Peveril Road, Greystones, Sheffield S11 7AP

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Other Committee Members

Mrs R.E. Bullas, 18, Normandale Avenue, Loxley, Sheffield S6 6SA

Ms A. Diver, 4, Highcliffe Court, Greystones Drive, Sheffield S11 7JR

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

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

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

Non-Committee Strays Coordinator Mr R.M. Bunting, "Firgrove", Horseshoe Lane, Ash Vale, Nr. Aldershot, Hants. GU12 5LL

Non-Committee Correspondance Secretary Mr Derek Tingle, 72, Highcliffe Drive, Sheffield S11 7LU

ROTHERHAM BRANCH

Meetings are held at Eastwood Methodist Mission, 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 David Peart, 46, Shearman Avenue, Rotherham S61 3AF
Vice Chairman Mr Martin Wragg, 6, Old Garden Drive, Rotherham S65 2BT
Secretary Mr Ron Bye, 12, Hall Grove, Moorgate, Rotherham S60 2BS
Treasurer Mrs Pauline Quail, 90, Middle Lane, Clifton, Rotherham S65 2TE
Speaker Co-ordinator Mr Les Gilberthorpe, 90, Hill View Road, Rotherham S61 2AJ

- 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.

Material for publication is accepted on the understanding that, if it is used, it will be recorded and stored on computer in whatever program is deemed appropriate.

Please note:

Advertisements are included in good faith as a service to members. The Society accepts no responsibility for any contracts made between advertisers and members.

EDITORIAL

Last year we held a competition for articles suitable for inclusion in this journal. We were very disappointed to receive only one entry. However it was of such a high standard that it was decided to award the writer the first prize that we had offered. The article has been printed in this edition. It provides food for thought for all of us.

Please accept my apologies for the lateness of this edition. Personal problems have taken much of my time in recent weeks. My apologies also for the omission of the E-mail addresses. These will be included in the Autumn edition.

Thank you to all who contributed to this journal. Much more copy is urgently needed. Please send in your articles etc. as soon as possible.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society welcomes the following new members:

- Mrs J. Allcock, Woodlands Farm, Woodyard Lane, Foston, Derbyshire DE65 5PY
Ms S. Arnold, 69, Goose Lane, Wickersley, Rotherham S66 1JS
Ms Nita Ashbury, 19, The Manor House, Priory Road, Mansfield Woodhouse, Notts.
NG19 9LU
Mr A. Atkinson, 183, Field Lane, Bartley Green, Birmingham B32 4HL
Margaret Atkin, 33, Cumberland Avenue, Leyland, Preston, Lancs. PR5 1BH
Mrs S.A. Baird, 54, Billet Road, Little Heath, Romford, Essex FM6 5SU
Mr Anthony Beal, 6, Magnolia Avenue, Peterborough PE3 9QT
Mr Tony Beardshaw, 8, Gough Close, Rotherham S65 3BS
Mr Nigel Bell, 20, Littlemead Road, Mojors Green, Shirley, Solihull,
West Midlands B90 1DP
Mrs Judith Bennett, Newton Cottage, Orchard Close, Newton, Sturminster Newton,
Dorset DT10 2HN
Ms J. Bower, 1, Oakwood Road, Balby, Doncaster DN4 8RQ
Mr A.C. Bradley, 8, Dorset Close, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 1LU
Mr Michael Briggs, Manor Farmhouse, Old Edlington, Doncaster DN12 1PX
Mr Justin Brooke, Chymorvah Vean, Marazion, Cornwall TR17 0DQ
Mr R. Broomhead, 2, All Saints Road, Heaton Norris, Stockport SK4 1QA
Mr Chris Brown, 23, Field Avenue, Shepshed, Loughborough, Leics. LE12 9SH
Mr & Mrs Chris & Andrea Brown, 254, Greystones Road, Sheffield S11 7BU
Mr Ivan Butterworth, 31, The Walk, Hullbridge, Hockley, Essex SS5 6LW
Mr & Mrs David & Shelagh Carter, 215, Shirehall Road, Shiregreen, Sheffield S5 0UP
Mrs M. Clarke, The Briary, 12, Moncrieffe Road, Sheffield S7 1HR
Mrs Yvonne A. Clarke, The Old Rectory, Stillingfleet, York YO19 6SJ
Mrs Audrey S. Cocker, 20, The Drive, Wadsley, Sheffield S6 4AL

Mr Donald Cocklin, 14, Romswell Road, Stockton-on-Tees TS19 7LN
 Carol R. & David E. Cooper, 6, Spa Lane, Woodhouse, Sheffield S13 7PH
 Ms Carol E. Craggs, 3, Lock Lane, Sandiacre, Nr. Notts. NE10 5LA
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 Revd & Mrs Dennis & Hetty Garlick, 51, Holmesdale Road, Dronfield, Derbys S18 2FA
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 Miss Lucy M. George 101, The Oval, Anston, Sheffield S25 4BX
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 Nr. Bury St. Edmonds, Suffolk IP30 9RU
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Mrs Jill Toft, 19, Grove Hill, Caversham, Reading, Berkshire RG4 8PN

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Mrs Lynne Walton, 13, Scotland Way, Countesthorpe, Leics. LE8 5QZ

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Mrs Pauline Wood, 85, Glendale Road, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS5 7NH

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IP12 4EZ

Overseas members

Mr John Arthur Antcliff, P.O. Box 178, Woombye, Queensland 4559, Australia

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Ms J. Corfield, 63, Burrard Road, Etobicoke, Ontario M9W 3T4, Canada

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Mrs Shirley Qyuartly, 36A, Bounty Street, Christchurch 8005, New Zealand

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Mrs Mary Edna Gleadall, "Beacon House", Beacon Hill, Lower Estate, St. Michael,
Barbados, West Indies

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E-mail addresses

Ed.'s note: New e-mail addresses will be published in the next edition

Change of E-mail Addresses

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Mr J.M. Dowse, Canada: a-ztech@islandnet.com
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Mrs Diana Rew, Herts: Smiffy@msn.com
Mr Mark Townsend, Sheffield: MkLesley@aol.com

Resignations

E.J.A. Haxworth

Obituaries

Colin Ryder

Colin Marsden

COLIN RYDER 1920-1999

Founder member of Rotherham & District Family History Society - Dec 1983
Chairman of Rotherham Branch 1995-1998

When asked to write about Colin, my mind searched for somewhere to begin. Looking back I realised that I had known him for fifty years. He was always self-reliant and in some ways extremely private, which belied that bluff exterior.

From my first encounter in 1948, as a schoolboy joining the Amateur Swimming Association, he was full of encouragement. Since 1961 he had been our neighbour in Hall Grove, and from December 1983, when the Rotherham Family History Society started, I got to know him a little better.

I think the Thursday night meetings were the few times I had seen him without his bike. On the walk back up Moorgate our talk would range far and wide, invariably names would crop up and Colin would know them. There was always the humorous anecdote. The great number of people he knew was a direct result of his many and varied interests. As well as swimming and cycling, Colin had an encyclopaedic knowledge of all things connected with railways past and present.

During his last brief stay in hospital, a matter of hours, the staff remarked to his relatives that he had been good company. I must say that is how I shall remember him.

B.L.Jervis

COLIN MARSDEN 1935-1999

It is with regret that the Society announces the death on 13 June 1999 of Dr. Colin Marsden, the husband of our Editor Denise and father of our Librarian Sue Hammond.

Colin has always been generous with his time and energy in assisting with the production of "The Flowing Stream". His expertise in solving the various technical and typographical problems was a significant factor in making our journal into one of the best amateur family history periodicals in circulation. His never failing support, albeit from back stage, to the small devoted production team will always be appreciated.

I knew Colin long before our Society was formed. I was always amazed that he packed so much into his life, possessing so many varied interests and concerns yet invariably displaying a lively sense of fun and a lack of pomposity.

Sincere sympathy is extended to Denise, to Sue and to the rest of Colin's family.

If we had "Friendship Trees" as well as "Family Trees" Colin would occupy a prominent position on many of them, for he was indeed a warm-hearted and friendly person.

Roy Bullen

GENERAL NEWS AND NOTES

For Fletchers everywhere

Andrew D. Fletcher 20, Fenton Terrace, Houghton le Spring, Tyne & Wear, DH4 7AZ has been researching the Fletcher name for some years and has 1262 family groups and /or individuals, mainly from Yorkshire. Most have a connection with West Yorkshire, particularly the Bradford area and there are some single ladies whom he has not been able to connect to their parents, plus a few strays out of the county. He would be pleased to supply, *free of charge*, to any members, any of the information he might have on their Fletchers in return for their Fletcher family trees. If you haven't reached the stage of producing a family tree please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

Attention all ex-miners!

N. Speakman 12, Pedley Drive, Westfield, Sheffield S20 8EX is researching the working and living conditions of miners in the 1930s and 40s. He would welcome information from those brought up in a mining community.

Ridgway Databases

Mr David Ridgway, 6, Gorseway, Burntwood, Staffordshire W87 8TB has so far completed the extraction of ALL Ridgways from the IGI onto a searchable database. He has also completed the extraction of ALL Ridgways from the St. Catherine's Birth Index 1837-1970, which has over 14,000 individuals listed. He is currently working on the Marriages and Deaths, which will also form searchable databases.

He would be interested to hear from any member who has a Ridgway connection, and who is willing to supply him with further details so that the databases he is compiling will be a more detailed account, including parents' names with the Births, spouses' names with the Marriages and age at death with the Deaths.

He is willing to supply a **free copy** of all four databases to anyone assisting him with information.

Cheshire 2nd Wills Beneficiaries index.

If any members have any wills that mention the County of Cheshire, Mrs Ann Cole of 174, Doddington Road, Lincoln, LN6 7HF would like to hear from you. The information required is as follows:

1. Name of testator, occupation and place of residence, date of will;
 2. Date of probate (this is usually included in the Record Office reference)
 3. Name of Record Office where the will is deposited (before 1858) or place where the will was proved (after 1858).
 4. Name, relationship to the testator and any other details of everyone mentioned in the will whose surnames are DIFFERENT from that of the Testator including tenants, landlords, witnesses, executors etc. Names of beneficiaries who were related to the testator and who lived outside Cheshire will be included as will the details of Cheshire beneficiaries named in the wills of testators living outside Cheshire.
- All **surnames** to be in **capitals** please.

Copies of Vol. 1 of the Cheshire Wills Beneficiaries Index are available from Cheshire FHS at £2.50 UK or £3.30 Overseas from Mrs V. Noble, 27, Abbots Way, Hartford, Northwich, Cheshire CW8 INN. (Cheques payable to Cheshire FHS).

SOCIETY NEWS AND INFORMATION

Members are reminded that details of searches available to members can be found in Vol. 20. No.1.

PUBLICATIONS THROUGH THE POST

Since the postal publications service was launched last year there has been an attempt to expand the range of items particularly in the field of 'local interest'. This poses some difficulties as some interesting books cannot be obtained for resale and some distributors require a substantial order before allowing any discount. There is a limit as to how much of Society funds can be committed to unsold stock at any point in time. In choosing titles priority is given to those with a reasonably broad appeal in both content and price. The price and weight of some make them unattractive while others may be a selective interest such as old railways, autobiographies, etc. If you have a particular field of interest that is not catered for in the present stock you are welcome to write (include SAE) to the Publications Officer. It may be possible to make a special order for an unstocked item or suggest titles that may be ordered through a local bookshop.

Price Changes and Additions

Changes to inland and overseas postal charges have precipitated a revision of the publications list printed in the Spring journal. The cost of some items has increased slightly whilst others have actually come down. As it is intended to publish the full list only in each Spring edition anyone wanting to order by post is advised first to send for a new price list.

Publications are continually being added and sometimes deleted from the stock. There have been several recent additions worthy of attention:

- Four Alan Godfrey maps which are reprints of large scale OS maps originally compiled around 1900 showing individual buildings and houses as well as streets. **Nether Edge** and **Fulwood and Ranmoor** are new while **Wath-upon-Dearne** and **Sheffield Neepsend** are now back in print. All AG maps are now £2.20 (U.K.), £3.30 (airmail), £3.10 (surface).
- **Militia Men of the Barnsley District** (reviewed FS Winter 1998) is now out of print but fortunately the Society was given permission to produce it on microfiche. Whilst not as accessible as the printed copy this has the advantage of being a fraction of the price and much lighter. Price £3.00 (U.K.), £3.30 (airmail), £3.10 (surface).
- **Nether Hallam Census Transcript and Index** (reviewed in FS Spring 1999) formerly available only on microfiche may now be purchased on 3.25 disk. £3.00 (U.K.), £3.60 (airmail), £3.10 (surface).
- When the **Genealogical Services Directory 1999** arrived it was being sold from the bookstall as fast as it was unpacked. This is a comprehensive, world-wide listing of archives, record repositories, indexes, societies and researchers. You name it and it's in, together with details of names, addresses and how to access the service concerned. £6.05 (U.K.), £9.20(airmail), £6.80 (surface).
- We are delighted to be able to offer **The T'alli Stone**, **The Reluctant Traveller** and **Abe's Legacy**, three novels written by former Society Chair Marjorie Dunn. Your chance to enjoy fictional romance and adventure based on the very factual setting of nineteenth century Sheffield and beyond. Just the thing for the beach at Benidorm - which cannot be said of all the items in our book list!
TS £6.80 (U.K.), £9.30 (airmail), £7.45 (surface);
RT £7.90 (U.K.), £10.85 (airmail), £8.60 (surface);
AL £7.90 (U.K.), £10.65 (airmail), £8.60 (surface);

Anne Giller, Postal Publications Officer

ON THE ROAD

The Society had a stall at the Midlands Family History Fair on Saturday 27th March at the De Montfort Hall in Leicester. The Fair was quite busy and we met more of our existing members and gained some new members too.

The Society was due to have a presence at the SoG Fair in London at the beginning of May. The parcel was duly despatched and went astray. Apologies to all those who had intended to buy goods on the day.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

The St Mary's, Bramall Lane and All Saints', Ecclesall Burial transcriptions are now available on fiche and also on computer disk (in .TXT format, 3.5 in IBM compatible disks). The Christ Church, Heeley transcription is available on computer disk, but the fiche will not be ready for a while because there are only around 5000 records and that is not enough to even half fill a fiche.

The above items are now available from Anne Giller.

IN THE PIPELINE

St John's, Park and Brightside are being transcribed. Our continued thanks to all who are doing this work. Your efforts are much appreciated around the world.

Judith Pitchforth

NATIONAL BURIAL INDEX UPDATE

First of all, many thanks to all those members who have offered to help with the inputting of the data. It is very encouraging to find so many people willing to help. Unfortunately, I've had to put them on a waiting list, because what we need is more people with fiche readers.

At the moment, there are 46 of us working on the project, and I estimate that we are probably half way through the church burials.

Congratulations to one of our inputter volunteers, Sue Stone, on the birth of twins. This has had no effect on her willingness to help with the project! Keep up the good work, Sue.

Transcriptions completed

St Peter & St Paul 1813 to 1855 – St James 1813 to 1855 –
St Paul 1813 to 1855 – St Mary (Bramall Lane) 1830 to 1908 –
Ecclesall All Saints 1789 to 1923

Coming soon

Park St John 1840 to 1924 - Crookes St. Thomas 1841 to 1973 – Heeley
Christ Church 1848 to 1906 - Gleadless Christ Church 1839 to 1953

In production

Attercliffe Christ Church – Brightside St Thomas – Wadsley – Rotherham
All Saints – Greasbrough St Mary - St Philip.

Our database now has over 133,500 burial records available for searching.

Heather Gillott. - Burials co-ordinator. 4 Bents Crescent Dronfield S18 2EY
E-mail: heather@dronfield.swinternet.co.uk

MAYDAY! MAYDAY!

Saturday the 1st May 1999 at the Society of Genealogists Fair was one of those days when the emergency distress call was very appropriate.

Our parcel of books, being carried by the Parcel Service at the Post Office, had not arrived. Panic telephone conversations on the Friday between Anne Giller and myself had determined the parcel consignment number. I knew the "Van" would not return to the Aldershot depot until about 5.00pm that day so I left notices by the bell push asking for the package to be delivered to a neighbour whom I would contact from London. Nothing came. As a precaution I also hurriedly packed my own Sheffield books and microfiche.

Saturday morning saw the telephone wires burning between Horticultural Hall, Westminster and the Parcel Depot. Just before the Fair doors opened at 10.00 am it was admitted that the parcel with our consignment number should be in the Aldershot Depot but that it could not be located and nothing further could be done until the following Tuesday. Shades of all the "Watchdog" horror stories.

My band of London helpers, Anne Bell, Judy Calderwood, Laura Cornfield, Maureen Fearn and Kim MacDonald whilst not being able to contribute to the Sheffield Society funds through sales did at least have a lot of fun talking to people about their Sheffield problems. I think the best was when Anne pointed out that a census trade of one lady's ancestor which she had written down as a "Tile" cutter was in fact a "File" cutter. Our brief was also to help with queries directed at all Yorkshire Consortium Societies so we did learn quite a bit more about our White Rose county.

We did have one lady member who had come down from Sheffield. Oh, why didn't we entrust her with the parcel? Next year we will introduce politics into our family history and go private!

Michael Bunting

COMPUTER AND INTERNET NEWS

www.genfair.com

The website has been revised and should be more user friendly. Please let me know if there is anything that you think we could improve – I am interested to hear your views on this – covering everything from the colours used to the goods offered for sale.

Judith Pitchforth: sdfhs@harbottle.demon.co.uk

Useful websites

On-line searchable Cheshire Wills index (pre-1858)

<http://www.users.zetnet.co.uk/blangston/chswills/>

To submit or search for West Riding of Yorkshire surname interests

<http://m2.aol.com/wrylist/wry.htm>

A Listing of names of diseases as used in the past

<http://www.gpiag-asthma.org/drpsmith/amtl.htm>

Comprehensive First World War site - Trenches on the Web

<http://www.worldwar1.com/reflib.htm>

Karen Turner, 13, Longford Drive, Bradway, Sheffield S17 4LN

Tardis Travel Comes to Sheffield

If you have access to a computer with a CD Rom you will be interested in **Sheffield Time Machine**. Using a selection of over 500 items from their vast collection of local photographs and memorabilia, the Local Studies Library have devised an audio/visual interactive tour of the city centre as it was at the turn of the century. Click your mouse to select your destination from a contemporary map and experience Sheffield as it was then and now. This is both instructive and great fun to use with the added bonus that you can print out copies of the photos. The downside is the price which makes it a luxury item. You will have to decide to treat yourself or add it to your birthday/Christmas present list.

To use the CD you need a CD Rom, mouse, sound card & speakers, pentium (any speed but preferably 133Mhz+), Windows 95 or 98, 20 Mb free hard disk space, 256 colours and 800x600 resolution. Price including P&P £20.50 (U.K.), £21.25 (airmail), £20.65 (surface mail). Please note that this

item is not available from the Society and to purchase (£ sterling only) or get more details you need to contact Sheffield Local Studies Library, Surrey Street, Sheffield 1 Tel: 0114 273 4753
Web site: <http://dspace.dial.pipex.com/local.studies>

SOCIETY MEETINGS

Meeting on Monday 18 January 1999

Ringinglow and its people

Martin Olive entertained us with a fascinating account of Ringinglow and its people in the past. The Ringinglow was a boundary marker but the boundaries of settlement are difficult to define as the area is crisscrossed by various types of boundary. There was no one resident in the area before 1795, the year in which the Toll House was built. After that date numbers of people in the area increased until by 1841 there were 8 or 9 households with 32 people altogether in them. By 1865 at the height of its 19th century growth there were 22 households and about 120 people. In 1891 there were 19 households and 115 people.

As a follow up we are to have a Summer meeting in Ringinglow looking at the various places that our speaker had described. For details see the programme on the inside front cover.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Monday 15th March 1999 at 7.30 pm

Cemetery Road Baptist Church, Sheffield.

Present Mrs Jo Rundle in the Chair and 49 members.

Apologies Mr D. Bullas

Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were published in *The Flowing Stream*, Summer 1998. They were agreed on a proposal from Miss A. Kendrick and seconded by Mrs S. Carr. There were no matters arising.

Reports from officers

Chair's Report: Time flies. It hardly seems possible that a year has passed since the Society's Anniversary party in May 1998, and much has happened in that time. The Society has had another successful year due to the untiring work of your committee members, and those members who work silently on projects like the Burial indexes.

Those of you who had a taste of transcribing in June will appreciate how time consuming this work must be. Thank you Frank, for arranging such an

interesting exercise, for your help that night, and for all the other work you do for the society.

One of the most valuable things about our monthly meetings is the quality of our speakers. Speakers are not made overnight, hours of research go in to the preparation of a short lecture, and my thanks go to Sylvia for finding and negotiating with those interesting speakers we have enjoyed during the year.

What would we do without The Flowing Stream? That little booklet that keeps us in touch with all our members world-wide. Or without Denise, our wonderful Editor. Thank you Denise for all the work you put in to it.

My thanks must also be very generous to our general Secretary Judith, who seems always to be so calm and unruffled, and always knows just where to find that letter amongst all the papers and pamphlets that end in her files. Thank you Judith.

I'm sure you all recognise what a tremendous job Eileen our treasurer is doing in keeping the Society's accounts in order. Thank you Eileen for all your hard work. My thanks also to Sue, who works away quietly recording the Minutes at our committee meetings, and Diane and Anne, who after stepping in and relieving Margaret of the responsibility for the bookstall after so many years of dedication, are amongst other things whetting our appetites with a constant supply of books and periodicals. My final thanks go to those willing members who, often at a minute's notice, so capably give the vote of thanks to our speakers; not always an easy task, and I am grateful to you all.

Treasurer's Report: In presenting the accounts for 1998, Mrs Allen said that although most of the sources of income and expenditure differed only slightly from 1997's figures, there were one or two variations.

The Society had had a minor spending spree, and had bought several items of equipment to help with the services to our members. This had resulted in the small deficit for the year.

The bookstall turnover had gone from strength to strength, thanks to the efforts of Anne Giller and Diane Maskell. She thanked Angela Kendrick (Membership Secretary) and Elaine Smith who produces all the address labels for the society, and Mr Graham Lyon, Auditor.

She hoped that members would accept the accounts.

A query was raised regarding the amount under the heading of 'Social'. Mrs Allen explained that this was a very general heading and that the 21st birthday expenses and flowers for retiring officers etc. had been covered under that.

SHEFFIELD & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 1998

	1998	1997
	£	£
Accumulated Fund	8456	7727
Balance 1st January 1998	-103	729
Deficit for 1998	90	85
Creditor- Accountants Fee	nil	1900
Subscriptions in Advance	37	nil
Current Account	535	527
Accumulated surplus- Rotherham Branch	9015	10968
	<u>9015</u>	<u>10968</u>

SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1998

	1998	1997
	£	£
Income		
Subscriptions	6487	5620
Journal Sales	18	30
Donations	122	27
Book Sales	2167	1579
Advertising	20	96
Miscellaneous	6	103
Bank Interest	334	211
	<u>9154</u>	<u>7666</u>

Assets		
Current Account- General	nil	1792
Petty Cash Balance	136	70
Bank/Cash- Book Account	259	2470
Bank Account- Trips	36	36
Deposit Account	5615	5172
Bank and Cash- Rotherham Branch	535	527
Equipment	743	nil
Stock- Books and Fiche	1691	901
	<u>9015</u>	<u>10968</u>

Mrs E M Allen (Treasurer)

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

I have verified the financial statements which have been prepared under the historical cost convention. In my opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the Society's affairs at the 31st December 1998.

G Lyon

Chartered Certified Accountant
2 St Albans Close
Sheffield
S10 4DJ

27 January 1999

Expenditure		
Stationery and Printing	364	90
Journal Production Costs	1972	2182
Journal Postage	1419	1135
Photocopying and Duplicating	454	281
Postage and Telephone	502	504
Room Hire	360	372
Speakers Expenses	115	166
Books for resale	1923	310
Projects	565	1192
Federation Fees	136	136
Library Expenses	132	119
Insurance	121	64
Sundries	15	241
Donations	40	60
Accountants Fee	90	85
Social	753	nil
Publication Expenses	165	nil
Depreciation- Equipment	131	nil
Deficit/Surplus for year	-103	729
	<u>9154</u>	<u>7666</u>

The accounts were approved on a proposal by Professor Roy Newton and seconded by Margaret Robson

Secretary's Report: 1998 was an eventful year for the committee and for the society as we celebrated our 21st birthday. We started the year with 15 committee members, and co-opted Diane Maskell as Bookstall officer within a very short period of time. Attendance at committee meetings has been very good, with 15 out of the 16 members being present.

During the year the society has started to sell publications by post, thanks to the enthusiasm and energy of Anne Giller, and more recently in January we launched a bookstall on the Internet, which has resulted in both sale of goods and also in new membership.

At the committee meeting in April it was reported that the society had completed 20,000 records for the NBI. Thanks to Heather and the many volunteers the society has now contributed over 89,000 records to the National Index. This has also meant that as a Society we are now producing materials to help researchers wherever they may live in the world. We also have a Look-up service to help researchers with the 1861 census, the NBI and the World War One Soldiers Index.

The society has also been present at some of the Family History Fairs – in York, Halifax and at Doncaster, and we are looking forward to attending other fairs this year. It has been good to be able to meet with members who cannot normally attend meetings here in Sheffield, and by the way, volunteers to help on the stall are always welcome.

I would like to thank all of the committee who in their various ways help the society to grow and to support members in their research. Thank you also to those who have helped me in the past year, be it with a snippet of local information I can pass on to a researcher, or an offer of help.

Editor's Report: 1998 was the year in which we celebrated our 21st birthday. To commemorate this achievement we produced an extra publication which included articles from each of the 21 years of our existence. I should like to thank all the members of the committee for their help in producing A Celebration of 21 Years.

I should like to express my thanks to Elaine Smith who produces the address labels used to send out our journals. Thank you also to all those members who sent in copy for The Flowing Stream. Our journal can only ever be as good as the material used in it. I look forward to many and varied

contributions from members in order to maintain and hopefully improve both the standard and size of our journal.

Jo Rundle, as Chairperson, presented a bouquet and expressed the thanks of the Society for her 10 years' work, to Angela Kendrick the retiring Membership Secretary and Rotherham/Sheffield liaison.

Election of Officials:The following members were nominated as Officers of the Society at the 1999 AGM:

Chairperson	Mrs J. Rundle
Secretary	Mrs J. Pitchforth
Treasurer	Mrs E. Allen
Editor	Mrs D. Marsden

The following members were nominated as members of the committee:

Programme Sec.	Mrs S. Carr
Publications Officer	Ms A. Giller
Minutes Secretary	Miss S. Graves
Librarian	Mrs S. Hammond
Membership Sec.	Mrs P. Heath
Bookstall Officer	Mrs D. Maskell
Asst. Librarian	Mr F. Westwood

Members of the Committee without portfolio
Mrs R. Bullas, Miss A. Diver, , Mrs M. Hume, Mrs G. Moffatt

Proposed to elect en bloc by Mrs M Robson, seconded by Mrs R. Caudwell.

Any Other Business:

Mr Bullen asked whether there was a report from the Rotherham branch. Mrs Pitchforth gave a verbal report, that a meeting had taken place and that it was hoped that the two parts of the society would aim to work more closely, with joint leaflets and presence on the Internet.

There was no further business and the AGM closed at 8.00 pm.

Fulwood Cottage Homes

Marjorie Dunn became interested in the homes some years ago and wrote an article in Volume 13 Number 1 of "The Flowing Stream" describing their history. She was able to give us an update on the available records. She emphasised that many of the official records are still closed to the public and

will remain so for some years. However, since the article was written in 1992 she has been able to obtain a number of photograph albums concerning the homes. These she has now deposited in the Local Studies library.

- Back copies of our journal can be seen in Sheffield Achives on the Society library shelves
- Marjorie's book "For the Love of Children" which describes a scheme to provide outings for deprived children is available on the Society bookstall price £3.95 or from our postal service.

ROTHERHAM BRANCH A.G.M.

27 Members were present on 7 January 1999 at 7 pm in the W.E.A. Rooms in Rotherham for the Annual General Meeting of the Branch.

Apologies for absence; Mr & Mrs D. Mason; Mr & Mrs L. Calderwood; Miss A. Kendrick.

Minutes of the last AGM were read and approved as a true record.

Matters arising

The Mormon Family History Centre was now re-established at Grenoside.

The Friends of Rotherham Archives Group had continued its work during 1998.

Leaflets and posters produced for the Branch and placed in appropriate locations had proved of value in recruitment and publicity.

Several members had attended the 21st Anniversary celebrations of Sheffield FHS ;an excellent occasion.

A new speaker co-ordinator was needed.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence.

Chairman's Report: Colin Ryder felt that attendances at meetings had continued to be satisfactory. "We must be doing something right." The kindness, co-operation and tolerance of members was much appreciated and we should continue to move forward with confidence.

Treasurer's Report: Mrs Pauline Quail reported on Branch finances. The balance again showed an increase on the previous year. There were now 83 paid-up Branch members. Finances were in a healthy state but fees for speakers and room rental would rise in 1999. Mrs Quail was thanked for her report which was approved by members on a motion proposed by D. Peart and seconded by C. Illingworth.

Secretary's Report: Mr Bye reported that though 1998 had seen its share of disappointments, variety and interest had been maintained. A last minute cancellation by a speaker had resulted in members rallying round with several

fascinating short items to save the situation. Attendences had dipped slightly and it was to be hoped that this was not the start of a trend.

A new Speaker Co-ordinator was needed.

A highlight of the year had been Sheffield 21st Anniversary Celebrations: a most successful event. Sheffield members were to be congratulated on their achievement. Rotherham Branch hoped to attend local history days to publicise the work of Sheffield and District FHS. It was encouraging that Branch membership had almost doubled in the last four years to over 80 in 1998. Mr Bye said that, though continuity was important in Branch affairs, new ideas and wider member participation were needed to ensure a lively, progressive society. Mr Bye thanked members and committee for their support and work during the past year.

Election of Officers and Committee for 1999.

The following members were nominated as officers:

Chairman	Mr D. Peart
Vice-Chairman	Mr M. Wragg
Secretary	Mr R. Bye
Treasurer	Mrs P. Quail
Speaker Co-ordinator	Mr B. Jervis
Librarian	Mrs J. Bye
Rotherham/Sheffield Liaison Officer	Mr F. Westwood
Committee Members	Mrs M. Ensor & Mr C. Ryder

As there were no further nominations the above were elected.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

Rotherham Branch Balance Sheet For The Year Ending 31 December 1998

Balance brought forward	£527.19
Subscriptions	<u>£692.00</u>
	<u>£1219.19</u>
Rent to W.E.A.	33.00
Speakers' Expenses	35.00
Microfiche Readers	£120.00
Display Screen	44.00
Photocopying	7.76
Refreshments	8.21
Postage	8.00
Proportion of Subs paid to the Main Society	<u>£431.50</u>
	<u>£683.47</u>
 BALANCE	 £535.72

CONFERENCES AND FAIRS

Barnsley Family History Fair. Sunday 12 Sept. 1999

To be held at Dorothy Hyman Sports Centre, Cudworth from 10 am to 5 pm.
Admission £2.

Hillingdon Family History Fair. Sunday 22 August 1999

To be held from 10 am to 4 pm in the Great Barn, Bury Street, Ruislip, Middlesex.

Refreshments. Free parking. Admission £1 adults, children free.

FHSs: Microfiche Readers: Indexes: Church Postcards: 1881 Census: IGI: Advice Table.

Details from Gill May, 20, Moorland Drive, Gerrards Cross, Bucks. SL9 8BB (SAE please) or 01753 885602.

Searching for that Elusive Irish Ancestor Family History Conference.

31 Aug - 7 Sept 1999

Sudtitled *A Millenium of Migration*, the conference will take place in Belfast and Dublin.

For further details contact Shane McAteer, Executive Director, Ulster Historical Foundation, 12, College Square East, Belfast BT1 6DD.

Doncaster Family History Day. Saturday 30 October 1999

From 9.45 - 4.15 pm at the Residential School for the Deaf, Leger Way, Doncaster.

In addition to the usual array of displays and bookstalls the programme is:-

Sidetracked by Meryl Catty. There can be few family historians who have never found themselves sidetracked

An Enumerator's Tale by Audrey Gillett and Meryl Catty. Meet an enumerator and eavesdrop as he interviews a householder.

A - Z of Non Conformity by Michael Gandy. Some of the most interesting records can be found of ancestors who were not Church of England.

Further details from Mrs J. Staniforth, "Marton House", 125, The Grove, Wheatley Hills, Doncaster DN2 5SN

Entrance: £7.50 or £11.50 inc. Lunch. Disabled facilities.

THROUGH THE LETTERBOX

From Peter Rogers, 48, Welby Lane, Melton Mowbray, Leics. LE13 0TB
Would a member in the Ecclesfield area be kind enough to provide me with a photograph of the following Ecclesfield, St. Mary's Churchyard memorial?

In the memory of **Ann Singleton**,
the wife of **Thomas Singleton** of
Longley died Dec 10 1785 aged 42
Also **Thomas Singleton** died Sept 16th 1810
aged 80 Also **William Singleton** died
Feb 5 1851 aged 70 Also **Frances**
Searles daughter of **Thomas Singleton**
died Dec 3 1865 aged 93.

Any expenses incurred will be reimbursed.

From Kate Goddard, 18, New Walk, Beverley, East Yorkshire HU17 7DJ

I was interested to read Mrs Janet Frost's letter in the latest issue of "The Flowing Stream". She corrects some of the inaccuracies in Michael Bunting's article but introduces some of her own.

I am not aware of the planning that went into the evacuation of most of the school to Cliff(e) College on the outbreak of the war in 1939, but certainly it is not true to say that the 5 to 10 year olds were all in Sheffield. I entered the kindergarten class at the High School in 1936 and was 8 years old when the evacuation took place in 1939. My younger sister, Pamela, aged 4 at the time and due to start school that autumn was allowed to join me as one of the evacuated group moved out to Calver. I remember it well as she was the youngest girl in the school.

I suspect that parents were probably given the option of sending away their younger children or letting them stay in the Junior School in Rutland Park. However, there was certainly a definite junior department at Cliff(e) and the teacher in charge was Miss Jeffries. I vaguely remember the tension between the returning girls and those who stayed in Sheffield when eventually the war ended.

The crocodile walk to King Edward's swimming pool continued long after the return from Calver!

From J.P. Thorpe, 27, St, Aidans Road, Sheffield S2 2NG

Fulwood Cottage Homes

What a wonderful informative talk was given on Monday evening March 15th by Marjorie Dunn about the history of the Fulwood Cottage Homes, their formation, the people responsible for running them, and most of all the children they cared for. The talk was of great personal interest to me as I will explain.

In 1909 hardly a "stone's throw" from the venue of our meeting place lived the Thorpe family in a small back to back house in Court No. 2 Pearl Street. Less than a year had passed since James Henry Thorpe, the head of the household and a cutler by trade, died of tuberculosis in the Union Workhouse Ecclesall, aged 37. He left a widow and a young family of five children, two boys and three girls, the oldest child being twelve years old. This sad event caused the tragic break up of the family that would eventually put thousands of miles between a brother and sister, sending one to India and the other to America.

On the 21st of May 1909 Joseph Thorpe aged 11 was admitted to Fulwood Cottage Homes and less than a month later on 4th of June he was joined by one of his younger sisters, Amy.

Joseph spent four years at Fulwood before being discharged on the 2nd of September 1913 to enlist the following day in the Duke of Wellington's regiment as a boy soldier. After 21 years service in the army, several years abroad including nearly seven years in India, he returned to Sheffield, married and lived the rest of his life in the city where he was born.

Joseph Thorpe died on 26 Nov 1961. His name can be found together with others who served their country on the Roll of Honour of the Fulwood Cottage Homes which is now kept at Kelham Island Museum.

Amy, his sister, spent almost ten years at Fulwood before being discharged on 27 Feb. 1919 and in 1921 she set sail from Liverpool to start a new life in America. There she met a young minister Roswell Frederick Hinkelman. She married him and had a long and happy life in her new adopted country. Amy died on 14 April 1997. A childhood photo of her can be seen in the book "For the Love of Children".

After they parted in 1913 twenty five years passed before Joseph and Amy met again, when in 1938, Amy came back "home" on her first visit. There was plenty to talk about as there had been quite a lot of "water under the bridge" since their last meeting.

Amy's daughter (my cousin) is now Mrs Beverley Crompton, one of our overseas members, at present living in Montana USA, who maintains a strong interest in family history.

Joseph Thorpe, as you may have guessed by now, was my father.

OTHER PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS

Mrs Pauline Wood, 85, Glendale Road, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS5 7NH is searching for information on **Ethel Elizabeth Hurt**, born (?)1875 in Sheffield. Her father was drowned at sea and her mother died either during childbirth or shortly afterwards. It is believed a cousin raised her. Ethel married **Joseph Carney** pre 1910.

Mrs Pat Smith, 11, Rosecroft Close, Lancing, West Sussex BN15 9HL writes; "Can anyone help with information on **Albert Henry Parkes** b. 23.6.1891, d. 31.5. 1969, Brighton, Sussex. He was a Band Instructor / Conductor A.L.C.M. before 1925 when he came to Brighton. He also worked on the railway. His father **Henry** was of independent means and a sister married near Woolacombe, Devon, He was involved in Band competitions. Does anyone recognise "**Kingswood Prize Band**" or "**J.B. Kenwood, Conzens**" He left the family after a dispute. I am trying to trace any relatives of brothers and sisters. Any information appreciated."

Mrs Marguerite E. Brown, 205-920, Glenwood Avenue, Kelowna, B.C. V1J 9P2, Canada would like to know more about her ancestor **Job Hyde**. His first wife was **Elizabeth Allen**. She died in 1895. Mrs Brown would like to find the year of Job's second marriage to a Mrs Harper and also the year of his death. Before emigrating to Canada he worked at the Midland Iron Works and Rotherham Forge and possibly at Steel, Peech and Tozer. Information is also wanted about Job's sister **Mary Elizabeth Hyde** who was a Major in the Salvation Army. She also went to Canada.

Mr I.N. Randle, 10, Ascot Close, Fernhill Heath, Worcester WR3 7UX asks if anyone has photos of his grandparents. They were **Charles Brown**, born at 26, Beswick Street, Manchester in 1848 to **Thomas Brown**, a tobacco pipe maker and **Hannah** (nee **Cottam**) his wife. In 1870 Thomas married **Theresa Hannah Peacock Stacey** at Norton Parish Church, Derbyshire. Charles was a tailor in and around Sheffield. He died in 1912 and Theresa

remarried that year, to **Thomas Bennett** (who wore a neck brace). She had a shop in Trusthorpe, Lincs. and died in 1930.

Mr Craig Simpson, 248, Milligan Road, Aylestone, Leicester LE2 8FD writes: "I have discovered that I may be linked to the American film star **W.C. Fields** whose real name was **William Claude Dukinfield**. His father **James Duckenfield** was born in Sheffield in 1841, son of **John Duckenfield**, a comb maker and **Ann Lydon**. According to census records John was born in Sheffield in 1809/10 but I have been unable to find his baptism or marriage to Ann. Without details of his parentage I am unable to progress. Is anyone related to W.C. Fields? Details of John's birth etc. would be much appreciated. Please write to the address above or phone 0116 244 0247."

Mr Brian Rushby, 1, Railway Terrace, Burford Road, Lechlade, Glos. GL7 3EP would like to contact anyone researching the name Rushby. He has traced his family tree so far to **John and Catherine Rushby** at 29, Grove Street, Brightside Bierlow, Sheffield in 1857 when his great grandfather **Richard** was born on 13 Nov. Mr Rushby knows that there is a **Rushby Street** in Sheffield and would like to know who it was named after.

Mrs J. Rodgers, 3, Woodlands Road, Handforth, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 3AW writes; "I am trying to trace the Yorkshire family of my great grandfather, **Thomas Bower**. According to my research he was born around 1844 at Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent. He married a **Helen Barbara Mountford** or **Bamford** around 1874 then they moved to Wath-on-Dearne (Swinton Bridge) where my grandmother was born in 1876. In the 1881 census the family were living at 13, White Lee Road. In the 1891 census my grandmother was back with her sisters in Burslem where she married my grandfather **Jesse Nicklin** in 1896.

I remember going to the 90th birthday party of Thomas Bower in Burslem around 1934 but I haven't been able to find his death or any details of any of his family who stayed in the Mexborough area. I wonder if his first wife could have been a **Fanny Colclough** and if they had three daughters **Elizabeth, Rosehannah and Elenor**.

J.M.E. Hughes, 8, Lynton Close, Gayton, Wirral, Merseyside L60 3RS is interested in the following names between 1700 and 1900: **Hawksley**,

Thompson and Hawksley-Thompson in Sheffield and **Smith** in Wath-on-Dearne.

Mr J.W. Moxon, 9, Deneside, Off Kingsway, Ossett, West Yorkshire WF5 8EA is seeking information about **Walter Daniel Brown**, his family and his ancestors. He was born 15 March 1880 to **Daniel Brown** and his wife **Emma** (nee **Hopkinson**) of Alexandra Road, Dronfield.

His parents and family emigrated to America when he was 3 but he came back to England to fight in the first world war and was decorated for gallantry, being awarded the Military Medal. His rank and number are No. 332766 Sapper, W.D. Brown Royal Engineers.

He married **Minnie Waring** at Pontefract on 24 Dec. 1920 and he stayed in England living at 46, Kimberley Street, Featherstone where he worked at the local colliery.

In the war he sent correspondence to 117, Wheatcroft Road, Sandhill,, Rawmarsh near Rotherham and to Mr **T. Poppleton**, Kenya Park Lane, Featherstone.

His relatives appear to be Poppleton and Earnshaw but no relationship is known. An **Emily Earnshaw** who died in 1952 lived at 18 Vale Avenue, Thrybergh and was buried there. A **Thomas Earnshaw** lived at 36, Market Street, Featherstone. He was born in 1836 and died in 1937. He was buried at North Featherstone and married **Emma** who was also buried at North Featherstone. Any help in tracing these Sheffield people would be much appreciated.

M. Bailey, 19, Birch Grove, Bradford BD5 8HU needs help with the following families: **Awdus, Audus, Rodgers, Green, Scholey, Kenny** and **Trainer**.

Justin Brooke, Chymorvah Vean, Marazion, Cornwall TR17 0DQ is looking for any children or grandchildren of **Alpheus Charles Henry Asling** and his wife **Caroline** nee **Horn**. A.C.H. Asling lived at 149, Kimberworth Road, Rotherham in the years before 1914 and was a railway signal inspector.

NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The following members have submitted surname interests

- 209 Mr Vincent Parkin, c/o CSFB, 11, Madison Avenue, New York,
NY 10010-3629, USA
- 1582 Mrs J. Cutler, 12, High Lanes, Heworth, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear
NE10 0PD
- 1722 Mrs Audrey S. Cocker, 20, The Drive, Wadsley, Sheffield S6 4AL
- 1737 Mrs P. Smith, 11, Rosecroft Close, Lancing, West Sussex BN15 9HL
- 1752 Mr & Mrs Trevor & Christine Lodge, 14, Knab Close, Sheffield S7 2ER
- 1755 Miss Elsie Grassham, 3, Lennard Road, Penge, London SE20 7LL
- 1768 Mr & Mrs Plummer, 3, Hillbrook Road, Bramhall, Cheshire SK7 2BT
- 1772 Mrs Alison Robinson, "Seaview", 182, Mount View Road, Norton Lees,
Sheffield S8 8PL
- 1774 Mr Stanley Roy Milnes, Covers End, Woodhill Road, Sandon, Chelmsford,
Essex CM2 7SE
- 1790 Mr & Mrs C. & A. Brown, 254, Greystones Road, Sheffield S11 7BU
- 1793 Mr J.W. Moxon 9, Deneside, off Kingsway, Osset, W. Yorkshire WF5 8EA
- 1795 Mr Arthur Atkinson, 183, Field Lane, Bartley Green, Birmingham,
West Midlands B32 4HL
- 1804 Mrs Pauline Wood, 85, Glendale Road, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS5 7NH
- 1811 Mr Walter Woodward, 34, Lady Margaret Gardens, Woodbridge, Suffolk
IP12 4EZ
- 1827 Mrs Gillian Smith, 74, Crossways, Peterchurch, Herefordshire HR2 0TQ

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

1755 Abbott	Sheffield	YKS	1800+
1772 Allison	Scunthorpe	LIN	L19C
1790 Argyle	Cromford	DBY	pre 1850
774 Asbery	Rotherham	YKS	19C
1722 Ashmore	Sheffield	SYK	pre 1841
1795 Atkinson	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1860
1768 Bassindale	Treeton	WRY	1890+
1790 Beaumont	Mexborough	YKS	1800+
1790 Beeley	Masboro	YKS	c 1830

1790 Biggin	Heeley, Sheffield	YKS	c1815
1755 Biggin	Norton	DBY	1780+
1790 Biggin	Norton	DBY	pre 1800
209 Blagden	Sheffield	YKS	E 19C+
1790 Booth	Sheffield	YKS	1830+
1737 Boucher	Dore	DBY	19-20C
1793 Bretton	Thornhill	WKS	c1700-1800
209 Brooke	Huddersfield	YKS	F 19C+
1793 Brown	Dronfield	YKS	c1880
1752 Buckland	Sheffield	SYK	19C
209 Burkill	Lindley	YKS	F 19C+
1768 Burrows	Sheffield	WRY	1814+
1772 Buttrick	Crowle/Scunthorpe	LIN	M-LI9C
1827 Carnegie	Campbeltown	ARL	18-19C
1827 Carnegie	Paisley	RFW	18-19C
1827 Carnegie	Rotherham	YKS	20C
1804 Carney	Sheffield	WRY	pre 1905
1811 Clarke	Mosborough	YKS	E19C
1722 Cocker	Eyam	DBY	pre 1841
1722 Cocker	Stoney Middleton	DBY	pre 1841
209 Cormack	Wick		E 19C+
1768 Cousins	Woodhouse	WRY	c1848
1752 Dorey	Guildford	SRY	pre 1900
1790 Downs	Nether Hallam	YKS	c1835
1772 Draper	Lincoln	LIN	L19C, E20C
1793 Earnshaw	Featherstone	WKS	c1800-1900
1793 Earnshaw	Thrybergh	YKS	c1940-50
1774 Edwards	Greasley	NTT	19C
1768 Eyre	Tickhill	WRY	c1855
1795 Field	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1864
1795 Field	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1887
1827 Goodinson	Kilnhurst	YKS	19C
1827 Goodinson	Rawmarsh	YKS	18-19C
1827 Goodinson	Rotherham	YKS	19-20C
1755 Grantham	Sheffield	YKS	1840+
1755 Grassham	Sheffield / Leeds	YKS	1750+
1752 Greensmith	Bolton-on-Dearne	SYK	19C
1768 Hall	Canklow	WRY	c1846
1752 Hancock	Ringinglow, Sheffield	SYK	pre 1820
1752 Harrison	Fulwood, Sheffield	SYK	19C
1752 Harrison	Sheldon	DBY	19C
1795 Hinchcliffe	Rotherham	YKS	pre 1886
1755 Howe	Sheffield	YKS	1800+
1752 Hulbert	Trowbridge	WIL	pre 1820
1752 Hulbert	Westbury	WIL	pre 1970

1755 Hurst	Sheffield	YKS	1840+
1804 Hurt	Sheffield	WRY	pre 1905
1774 Inman	Rotherham	YKS	pre 1830
1795 Ladlow	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1861
1752 Law	Bolton-on-Dearne	SYK	pre 1913
1737 Linley	Rotherham	YKS	c1868
1768 Liversidge	Sheffield	WRY	c1842
1752 Lodge	Ash	SRY	pre 1870
209 McAvera	Downpatrick	DOW	M 19C+
1795 Mills	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1860
~ 1722 Mimes	Penistone	WRY	pre 1891
~ 1774 Mimes	Rotherham	YKS	19C
209 Moorhouse	Bradford	YKS	E 19C+
1722 Morton	Leeds	YKS	pre 1881
1790 Morton	Nether Hallam	YKS	c1835
209 Morton	Sheffield	YKS	L 18C+
1793 Moxon	Breton	WRY	c1900
1737 Naylor	Sheffield	YKS	19-20C
1827 Neal	Rotherham	YKS	19C
1827 Neal	Spalding	LIN	18-19C
1722 Noble	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1881
1827 Orr	Paisley	RFW	18-19C
209 Padley	Sheffield	YKS	L 18C+
1768 Parker	Sheffield	WRY	1838+
1768 Parker	Sheffield	WRY	c1816
1737 Parkes	Dore	DBY	19-20C
1737 Parkes	Ecclesall Bierlow	YKS	19-20C
1737 Parkes	Sheffield	YKS	All
209 Parkin	Sheffield	YKS	M 18C+
1755 Plowes	Leeds / Sheffield	YKS	1830+
1768 Plummer	Holmewood	DBY	c1876
1582 Raynor	Wickersley	YKS	pre 1780
1811 Redhead	Rotherham	YKS	E19C
1774 Reeve	Hucknall	NTT	1830+
1811 Richardson	Whiston	YKS	L18C-E19C
209 Riley	Sheffield	YKS	E 19C+
1790 Ripley	Pateley Bridge	YKS	pre 1860
209 Robertshaw	Thornton	YKS	M 18C+
1755 Seastron	Sheffield	YKS	1780+
1722 Smalley	Branston	LIN	pre 1861
1772 Smith	Dalry	AYR	M 19C
1755 Staniforth	Sheffield	YKS	1800+
1722 Staniland	Sheffield	SYK	pre 1841
1772 Stockhill	Grimsby	LIN	E20C
1827 Symington	Paisley	RFW	18-19C

1755 Taylor	London	MDX	1800+
1755 Taylor	Sheffield	YKS	1850+
1811 Thorpe	Rotherham	YKS	E19C
1793 Threlfall	Barnsley	YKS	c1890
1752 Trusler	Ash	SRY	pre 1850
1752 Trussler	Ash	SRY	pre 1850
1795 Turner	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1863
1795 Turner	Swallownest	YKS	pre 1886
1790 Varney	Brightside	YKS	C 1850
1790 Walker	Heeley Sheffield	YKS	c1815
1774 Ward	Retford	NTT	1890+
1774 Ward	Sheffield	YKS	19C
1793 Waring	Overton	WRY	c1700-1890
209 Wharton	Sheffield	YKS	E 19C+
1827 Whiteley	Rotherham	YKS	19C
1827 Whiteley	Sheffield	YKS	18-19C
1811 Woodward	Rotherham	YKS	LI8C-F19C
1811 Woodward	Whiston / Rotherham	YKS	L18C-E19C
1811 Woodward	Worksop	NTT	E-M18C
1790 Wragg	Norton	DBY	C 1800
1755 Wragg	Sheffield	YKS	1800+
1811 Wright	Mosborough	YKS	E19C

BOOK REVIEWS

We Of Our Bounty: A History of the Sheffield Church Burgesses: The Memoir Club, The Old School, New Road, Durham DL15 8QX

ISBN 1 84104 004 5: £14.95. Available from larger local bookshops.

The Church Burgesses or the Twelve Capital Burgesses and Commowalty of the Town and Parish of Sheffield in the County of York, to give them their full title, are one of Sheffield's oldest bodies. Founded by the Charter of Queen Mary Tudor of 8 June 1554 (from which the title of the book is taken), the Church Burgesses and that other interesting body, the Town Trustees, previously formed the medieval Burgery of Sheffield, whose status and responsibilities were formalised by a Charter of Thomas, Lord Furnival in 1297.

Dr George Tolley, Honorary Canon of Sheffield Cathedral and former Princiipal of thre then Sheffield City Polytechnic, is one of the currect Church Burgesses and is therefore well placed to write this history. His book is undoubtedly an important contribution to Sheffield's history. The Church Burgesses derive their income from the rents of their estates and spend it on maintaining and improving the fabric of the parish church (now the

Cathedral), the building of other churches, on support for education, and on donations to local charities. Dr Tolley has illustrated these matters with numerous interesting quotations from the Burgesses' own archives and has enlivened the story with accounts of personality clashes and disputes over the centuries.

Family historians will find many sections of particular interest. A biographical register of each Burgess from 1554 to the present day gives genealogical and career information about many of the leading men inb Sheffield over the past four-and-a-half centuries. Chapter 8: 'The Burgesses' Estates' with maps on pp. 142-43, shows where the properties lie. The records of the Church Burgesses up to 1947 are deposited in Sheffield Archives, where there is a full catalogue. Many members of our Society will find that ancestors rented property from the Church Burgesses. Dr. Tolley's book is essential reading for them, but its appeal is much wider. It casts an illuminating light on an interesting (and previously obscure) aspect of Sheffield's history.

David Hey

A Small Guide to the Parishes of Sheffield (Ed. J. Pitchforth: 1999)

This booklet may be small in size and price but it is big on content. It offers a complete alphabetical listing of the parish churches of Sheffield; both those that are and those that were, together with details of the parishes from which they were formed, the dates of their creation and, in some cases, their demise and merger. It covers the modern diocese including Bradfield, Ecclesfield and parishes in the south of the city that were once in Derbyshire. Details of over 100 places of worship are listed including some non-parochial chapels such as Hilisborough Barracks. The Guide gives the dates and locations of deposited registers and B.T.s with details of where copies may be inspected, including via the LDS Church, IGI, etc. Information about transcripts, finding indexes and M.I.s is also included. The content is indexed geographically and there is a map to assist users looking for ancestors in a particular area to select the most likely parishes to search. For any member attempting to trace family events in Anglican Sheffield after the onset of the nineteenth century population boom, this Guide is an essential tool. Compiled and edited by our Secretary and published by the Society, purchase is obligatory as well as advised! Price including P&P £3.10 (U.K.), £3.95 (airmail), £3.35 (surface mail). Available from the Postal Publications Officer.

Winner of 1998 Competition
DRUGS, DISSECTION AND THE DARK HOLE

*".....Sheffield, smoke-involv'd; dim where she stands
Circled by lofty mountains, which condense
Her dark and spiral wreaths to drizzling rains"*
Anna Seward. 1785

HERE my great, great, great grandfather Thomas Congreve was baptised in 1761, son of William and Elizabeth nee Dixon. The family lived in Silver Street, but Thomas was only fifteen when his father, a cutler turned writing-master, died. Thomas' two elder brothers were already working; Samuel in Birmingham, in the hardware trade, and William in Sheffield, apprenticed to John Ferry, cutler. Thomas decided to study medicine - perhaps because he had had experience of sickness and family bereavements; perhaps noted the evils of the smoky town, grinders with lung disease and cutlers with deformed joints.

In 1777 he was apprenticed to Anthony Goodwin, a young surgeon-apothecary in Wirksworth, twenty miles across the hills in Derbyshire.

For the next five years he boarded with Goodwin. His premium of £42 left no money for visits home. His duties kept him busy from nine a.m. to nine at night, including Sundays. He would take down the shutters, sweep rooms, prepare the workspace, clean the equipment, answer the door, run errands, deliver medicines, spread plaisters, feed leeches, empty slops, help with scarifying and bleeding, prepare potions and learn the names of the drugs. His knowledge of Greek, Latin and mathematics proved useful in the dispensary. Occasionally he drew teeth, which earned his master 6d. a fang.

From first hand he would learn of birth, death, maiming and disease, might watch post-mortems or, if a farm labourer lost a limb, have the chance to dissect the amputated part. Veterinary work would not be outside his scope, but above all, he learned how people lived - from the Hall to the poorhouse. His leisure time might be spent in local sports, watching travelling shows or, more seriously, studying - botany perhaps, drawing specimens and writing up notes. Anthony Goodwin was a founder member of the Derby Philosophical Society, where Erasmus Darwin held the chair, so the master's interlectual interests may have been reflected in his practice and rubbed off on his apprentice.

In 1782 Thomas Congreve packed his bags and bade farewell to Wirksworth but the next ten years are a blank, except that during this time he married, his wife died and he adopted Frederick as a middle name.

By the early 1780s his brother, Samuel, had moved to the London parish of St Andrew, Holborn. He and his family lived in Thavies Inn where one Andrew Marshal ran an anatomy school. Among his students was Joshua Brookes who later established his own anatomy school and vivarium in Great Marlborough Street. At some time Thomas Congreve joined his brother's family and probably worked as a pupil-assistant to Marshal moving to Westminster when Brookes set up there.

Thomas Frederick found the life of an anatomist was one of "alarums and excursions". An Act of 1752 allowed the Surgeons' Company to receive the bodies of executed murderers for dissection - this being an additional punishment for the crime. The established hospitals were becoming medical schools but there was a shortage of anatomical material for a growing number of students.

The nights of the "sack 'em up men" became very profitable, as body-snatchers robbed churchyards of fresh corpses. In 1785, two excisemen followed a porter, bearing a large hamper, into Marshal's academy. The contents proved to be four infant bodies, described as "pork from the country" but as nothing worth more than a shilling was found, no one could be hanged for stealing 'property' - the bodies not counting as such. At Brookes', who dissected even in the hot summers when his use of salt petre to preserve his subjects gave his rooms the flavour of a 'ham-shop', a sack was deposited and the 'subject' about to be carried to the dissecting room when it thrust out its head and neck and begged for its life. Brookes sent the drunken man to the watch-house until he sobered up.

This was the world Thomas inhabited - working long hours and becoming skilful, developing a solid judgement, a quick apprehension, a good memory and the courage to go through with severe operations; preserving his natural humanity while performing the amputation with speed and dexterity.

But a change came! War with France provided new opportunities so Thomas married Jane MacCauley in 1794 in Westminster but took up residence in Brompton, Chatham, Kent, and with it the post of 1st Mate and Dispenser on H.M.S. Victory - and serving at that time as a prison hospital ship for Dutch prisoners - moored in the Medway. He took the naval examination at the Surgeons' Company, passing as high as one could on a first examination, First Mate at Any Rate (i.e. on any ship up to 100 guns),

and later a further examination as Hospital Mate. From the Victory, which went for a large refit and glory at Trafalgar in 1805, he was transferred to the Gelykheid.

Life on the hulks could be intolerable. Up to 1,000 men might be "buried alive" in three tiers of decks - the lowest 'orlop' well below the waterline. When the ports were opened in the morning the stench that rushed out was so foul the guards outside were knocked over. Men endured long periods of idleness, there was depression, crime, fighting, unnatural practices and disease. Food was meagre, sometimes adulterated if the Victualling Agent was negligent. Visitors came in boats to "View" those prisoners allowed on deck for occasional airings. Offenders were punished with the "dark hole" in the bowels of the ship where they stayed in darkness for weeks on end in a space, six feet square, with only the rats for company. When they emerged, hollow eyed and with an earthy pallor, they might be sent to the Prison Hospital Ship - a separate vessel, where scurvy, typhus and malaria were common.

In 1800, Thomas obtained the post of Assistant Surgeon in Chatham Dockyard. Here he attended to men who suffered accidents in building the 'wooden walls' - hernias, crushed limbs, fractures, scaldings and burnings. He provided his own medicine chest and instruments and had to "be in the way" during the long working hours of the yard and make home visits. During the Napoleonic Wars the yard had the largest workforce in the country and Thomas' highest salary here was £200 p.a. to keep two adults and four children.

In June 1815 came the victory of Waterloo, but by August, Thomas was too ill to continue work - perhaps he had marsh fever - and on 2nd February 1816 he died.

Did he consider himself for his time, "an average man"? To me, who gathers up these fragments, he seems to measure up to George Eliot's description in Adam Bede of one "with an inheritance of affections, nourished by a simple family life of common need and common industry and of faculties trained in skilful, courageous labour; they make their way..... rarely as geniuses, commonly as painstaking, honest men with the skill and conscience to do well the tasks that lie before them."

Mrs Jean Haynes, 40, Cowper Road, Harpenden, Herts. AL5 5NG

THOMAS WALKER HORSFIELD

Prologue: Thomas Walker Horsfield is my great-great-grandfather, and he's been a bit of a mystery since I took up family history upon retiring in 1992. Ironically, his was the first name I encountered - the earliest ancestor listed on the fly-leaf of our family Bible - but the last for whom I eventually got answers. The process, at that, involved more good luck than any clever work on my part.

In the beginning, TWH was a shadowy figure. He was my mother's paternal great-grandfather, whom we originally knew little more about than his and his wife's name. He was without birth date or place, without known parents, without known siblings, without occupation or life story, with only one known child (my mother's grandfather), and without date or place of death.

The known trail started somewhat later - with his son Robert Waterhouse Horsfield, whose birth date and place, and marriage date and place, were recorded in our family Bible. However, neither of those sites provided a clue about TWH or his birth place, which we learned later was Sheffield. According to the family Bible, son Robert W. Horsfield had been born at Lewes in Sussex, christened at Taunton in Somersetshire, and married at Maidstone in Kent. But there was no mention at all of Sheffield or Yorkshire

Thanks to a chance discovery several years later while browsing through the Latter-Day Saints' computerized IGI, I happened to stumble onto a Yorkshire-born family group including a Thomas Walker Horsfield. Assuming these three specific names were unlikely to belong to someone else, I thought of this as a breakthrough. (Later finds confirm that this was our man.) In one fell swoop I now had not only TWH's birth date and place (Nov. 1792, Sheffield), but his parents' names (James and Ann Hewett Horsfield), and the names and birth dates of his five siblings.

At about the same time, while searching IGI records for Sussex (since their only known son was born there), I found a record of TWH's marriage in 1818 to a Hannah Waterhouse, also originally of Sheffield. This seemed to agree on three counts: one, that Hannah was the name given in our family Bible as TWH's wife - two, that Hannah, like Thomas, came from Sheffield - and, three, that Robert Waterhouse Horsfield's middle name was thought to commemorate a family surname, in this case his mother's. This led

in turn to the discovery of an IGI family listing for TWH and Hannah and their seven children (the second being our Robert Waterhouse) - confirming the story to that point.

That, until recently, was the sum of our findings. Then, a few weeks ago, in response to the name "Horsfield - of Sheffield" on YORKSGEN's internet surname interest list, someone suggested I try the Sheffield Local Studies Library. What a gold mine they were! Thanks to their Mike Spick, who found and sent me a two-page obituary for TWH and several extracts about him from "Peeps into the Past" by A.B. Bell, I now feel 'acquainted' with the man. Born 6 November 1792 in Sheffield, he became an associate in early adulthood of James Montgomery, the poet. It is said that Montgomery observed and "lamented" young TWH's strong preoccupation with joining the Unitarian ministry, but could not sway him to forego the inclination. Accordingly in 1814, at the age of 22, Thomas Walker left home for Hackney, to undertake tuition with the Rev. Robert Aspland and his associates in ministry, Dr. Morrell and Jeremiah Joyce. It was here, we understand, that he developed the eloquence for which he was known during his career in the pulpit.

Upon completion of his course of tuition in 1817, he accepted his first charge as minister of the former Presbyterian congregation at Lewes in Sussex. The following year he married Miss Hannah Waterhouse of Sheffield "with whom he lived most happily to the moment of his premature death, leaving her a widow with seven children, to mourn his early departure". TWH took on his duties in Lewes with a zeal and enthusiasm that proved quite a sensation not only among his flock, but reportedly among the rest of the townspeople of Lewes as well. Over a period of several winters he delivered a series of doctrinal lectures attended by crowds comprised largely of inquiring young men, and succeeded in considerably expanding the size of his congregation. His oratory, we are told, was exciting and stimulated "intense curiosity and interest".¹

In 1824 during his residence there, but independent of his ministry, he wrote and had published (by J. Baxter of High Street in Lewes) a two-volume quarto work entitled '*The History and Antiquities of Lewes, and its Vicinity*', considered at that time to be an authoritative source and a standard work. In 1835, some eight years after taking on a new charge at Taunton in Somersetshire, J. Baxter of Lewes published a second and similar two-volume work by TWH entitled '*The History and Antiquities of the County of Sussex*'. (Both books, I'm told, are still carried in many English libraries). As

a consequence of the respect gained from authoring the first of these, he was named a fellow by the Antiquarian Society.

While in Lewes, TWH displayed a public benevolence, perhaps rarer in those difficult days, by initiating socially-conscious good works. He opened and conducted a boarding school in Lewes for years, and was instrumental as well in establishing a Mechanics Institute in 1825, where he gave lectures "in chemistry, electricity galvanism, etc.etc"¹

In December of 1827, to the regret of his congregation in Lewes, TWH accepted a new charge at the Mary Street Chapel in Taunton, which was "founded as a Baptist chapel but became Unitarian in 1733"² "Revd Horsfield acted as treasurer from Christmas 1827, and (was) listed as 'Sussex Historian'".² It was in Taunton that he and Hannah belatedly had their seven children christened. According to his obituary, the Unitarian Christian congregation of the Mary Street Chapel was undergoing "unpleasant circumstances" at that time, rendering his position there a delicate and difficult one. We are told, however, that "he conducted himself in it with prudence and kindness toward all".¹ TWH was again instrumental in 1830 in the successful establishment there, as he had in Lewes, of a Mechanics Institute.²

Of special interest to me is the comment in TWH's obituary that he began in Taunton to cultivate the art of oil painting, attaining "a high degree of proficiency", and that "many of his pictures are surprisingly good for the works of an amateur". (It would be unusual, of course, for obituaries to speak unpraisingly of the deceased, and such observations must be taken with salt. Nonetheless, oil painting is an interest of mine as well, and I'm pleased to know my great-great-grandfather shared my pleasure in it.)

Near the end of 1835 Thomas W. Horsfield again relocated to take over a third charge, this time in Chowbent - a small suburb of Atherton in Lancashire. His new flock in Chowbent were said to be "exceedingly attached to him" and had accommodated his continuing desire to do good works by building two spacious halls for him - one for a Mechanics Institute and one for lecture rooms.

Sadly, his years in Chowbent were to be cut short by failing health. In August of 1838, in spite of being indisposed, he went by appointment to preach at Platt Bridge near Manchester. "He was brought home in a chaise on the 14th, dangerously ill and expired on the 26th, being only 45 years of age. He was followed to the grave by almost the whole of his mourning congregation."¹

Here, I think, was a man who made his life count - prematurely short though it was. I honour his memory.

1. Obituary of the Rev. Thomas Walker Horsfield, F.S.A (p.59, Cat# B. H.787, Sheffield Libraries)
2. Communication from Somerset Archive and Record Service, 3 April 1998.

NOTE: As of this date I have been unable to locate or acquire a death certificate based on the details given in TWH's obituary. Nor have I been able to learn anything (other than their names) about his wife Hannah Waterhouse, his father James Horsfield, or his mother Ann Hewett. Each currently represents a dead-end in my records. If any kind reader should chance to have knowledge pertinent to one of these individuals, would you please contact me:

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E-mail: DONANDBJO@aol.com

THE CHAPEL ON THE BRIDGE.

In my teenage, before I was interested in family history my sister and I were taken by my Mother to see an old childless aunt and uncle who lived in a village in Northamptonshire. Aunt Clara, who was my Mother's cousin, welcomed us graciously. Uncle Dennis was a keen gardener and spent most of his time outdoors. Aunt Clara took us indoors to show us her treasured possessions. She had several pictures, interesting-but-of no great artistic merit, a few items of silverware and a glass fronted cabinet full of china. She showed-Mother her collection of photographs and they talked animatedly about things which were familiar to them both. They were family things - my Mother's family. How I wish I had been more interested and had looked at all her treasures and listened to her stories.

One of the things she told us, which I remember amused me a great deal at the time, was the story of 'The Chapel on the Bridge'. She said she had had a beautiful large oil painting of the Chapel on the Bridge at Rotherham, in , I quote, "a magnificent gold frame!" When they had moved from the large house near Rotherham to the small bungalow in Northamptonshire there was not a wall in the room large enough for the painting. She told us she had given it on long loan to the Rotherham museum in Clifton Park, and as far as she knew it was still in storage in the cellars

there. Then she surprised us by asking if we would like to have this special picture. At that time my sister was collecting things for her 'bottom drawer', but an oil painting was not on her list of essentials. I was not in the least interested, so we all politely declined the offer. After lots of talk between the two cousins and several cups of tea we at length departed. That was the last time I saw Aunt Clara and Uncle Dennis.

Some years later Aunt Clara died and Mother went with some other older family members to her funeral. On her return Mother told us that Uncle Dennis had become very odd. He had been quite rude to his wife's relatives, and suggested they had all come 'for what they could get'. He was so possessive that he had even watched the funeral guests as they walked round his garden in case they picked any of his roses.

Sadly, as he got older, Uncle Dennis got progressively more difficult, stubborn and confused. Eventually he was taken seriously ill, was admitted to hospital and from there into a residential care home.

The bungalow was locked up, empty, but that did not deter the thieves. They broke in, stole anything of value and set it on fire. What was not burnt was ruined with water. When Uncle Dennis eventually died intestate, the local authority cleared everything out and took the battered remains to the tip. A distant relative suddenly discovered he had inherited the shell of a bungalow. All that interesting 'family' stuff was gone - some of it of little value except to family members.

Some years later, by which time my interest in family history was aroused, there was an exhibition in the Rotherham Arts Centre of oil and water colour pictures of local places, including several of Rotherham's claim to fame, the Chapel on the Bridge. I wandered round the exhibition and wondered if one of these was Aunt Clara's famous painting. The man on duty could tell me nothing about any of the pictures, so I never did get to know.

The moral of this story is - don't let family memorabilia get out of your hands, if you can help it. Though what could have been done in face of Uncle Dennis's stubborn possessiveness I really don't know.

Eileen Allen

BOOK LIST

Please note that books mentioned in this section are *not* for sale through the Society unless they are included in the Society Publications list.

Society of Genealogists publications

My Ancestors were Freemen of the City of London by Vivienne Aldous
ISBN 1 85951 400 6 Price £4.95 plus 50p postage

A new edition to the Society's *My Ancestors* series, this title runs through the complex records relating to the granting of freedom. The text describes the sources available for researching into Freemen whilst various appendices include lists of those granted honorary freedoms, and useful genealogical records at the Corporation of London Records office.

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The York Minster data-bank contains more than half a million entries relating to Yorkshire men and women, mostly before 1550. The earliest entries are from the second century, but the main bulk of entries starts in 1086 with Domesday Survey. The sources include: Probate records such as wills, inventories and monumental inscriptions; membership of religious guilds; lists of freemen; civic officials; parish registers and mister records; charters; local and national government records; legal records; taxation returns; accounts and, finally, court and ecclesiastical records. Some of the material is taken from original manuscripts that are not readily available to the public. The Minster is a non-profit making organisation, and any surplus funds are ploughed back into research.

A search for a surname and its variants costs £10, but there is no charge for an unsuccessful search. Enquiries with ordinary and E-mail address, and a cheque payable to the Dean and Chapter of York, should be sent to the Minster Library, Dean's Park, York. Cheques in US, Canadian, Australian or NZ Dollars for the equivalent of £10 are welcome.

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