

Sheffield and District Family History Society

The Flowing Stream ~



Autumn 1999

Volume 20
Number 3

FUTURE PROGRAMME – 1999

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

Mon. 20 Sept. *Sources for Family History* by Margaret Turner of Sheffield Archives

Mon. 18 Oct. To be arranged

Mon. 15 Nov. *Our Dear Departed* by Maureen Hambrecht

ROTHERHAM BRANCH PROGRAMME

Please note - new venue

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

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

Journal of Sheffield and District Family History Society

Volume 20. No. 3 Autumn 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;

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Secretary Mrs Judith Pitchforth, 10, Hallam Grange Road, Sheffield S10 4BJ
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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
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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

First of all I should like to thank all the members who have expressed sympathy at my recent bereavement. It was a great help to feel that I had the support and understanding of so many people.

With the autumn and the darker nights fast approaching there will no doubt be more time for members to think about their research. Please remember that the journal needs lots of copy. What about telling other members of the new sources you discovered during your summer research? Or perhaps you found out something special about your family.

Judging by the number of E-mail addresses that have been sent in, at a guess over half our members have access to a computer. What about writing something that will be of particular interest to those members with computers? Various snippets are included in the computer section but often these are sent in by non-members.

For out-of-town members the postal book service will provide you with plenty of useful reading material. A full list of our stock can be found in the Spring edition of the journal.

Thank you to all contributors to this edition.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society welcomes the following new members.

Mr Gary & Mrs Margaret Ashton, 15, Woodstock Road, Gosport, Hampshire PO12 IRS
Mr Robert Beard, 14, Rosemary Way, Cleethorpes, N.E. Lincs. DN35 0SR
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GENERAL NEWS AND NOTES

CD-ROM of 1881 Census Index

Most of our members will by now be aware that the LDS have published the 1881 Census Indexes on CD-ROM. Just in case you do not know the details, the Indexes are the result of the joint efforts of the GSU, Federation of Family History Societies, Scottish Association of Family History Societies, the Public Record Office and the General Registry Office for Scotland.

The results of these co-operations are the National Index on 24 CD-ROMs plus one CD containing the Resource File Viewer, which enables you to read the other CDs. For all UK purchasers, the full set is available only from the

LDS Distribution Centre, 399, Garretts Green Lane, Sheldon, Birmingham B33 0UH for £29.75, which includes the cost of p & p. Cheques should be made payable to "LDS Distribution Centre". It is available by fax/credit card on 0121 789 7686. Overseas purchasers should contact their local LDS Family History Centre.

The indexes cover the whole mainland of Great Britain, together with the Isles of Man and Wight, the Channel Islands and the Royal Navy. Using the CDs enables one to access and print out the surname indexes and the area indexes, which also contain the Enumerators' returns by dwelling, area, parish and town etc.

Electoral Register Research

Landowner Search International will do research for you on Electoral Registers and Historical Electoral Registers. For fees and other details contact them at 6, King Street, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1ND. Tel. & Fax [+44] (0) 181 392 9288.

E-Mail: Isiuk@aol.com

Public Record Office Opening Times

Mon. Wed. & Fri. 9 am to 5pm

Tues. 10 am to 7 pm

Thurs. 9 am to 7 pm

Sat. 9.30 am to 5 pm

Public Record Office Closure dates

Sat. 28 Aug. to Mon. 30 Aug. inclusive

Mon. 29 Nov. to Sat. 4 Dec. inclusive

From 17.00 hrs on Thurs. 23 Dec. to Tues 28 Dec. inclusive

From 17.00 hrs on Thurs. 30 Dec. to Mon. 3 Jan. 2000 inclusive.

Fri. 21 April 2000 to Mon. 24 April inclusive.

Family Records Centre, Myddleton Street Opening Times

Mon. Wed. & Fri. 9 am to 5pm

Tues. 10 am to 7 pm

Thurs. 9 am to 7 pm

Sat. 9.30 am to 5 pm

Family Records Centre, Myddleton Street Closure dates for 1999

Mon 30 Aug.

From 13.00 hrs on Fri. 24 Dec. to Tues. 28 Dec. inclusive

From 17.00 hrs on Thurs. 30 Dec. to Mon. 3 Jan. 2000 inclusive.

Admissions to St. Paul's College, Cheltenham

If anyone has teacher ancestors who may have gone to this college further information may be obtained by writing to the college, Francis Close Hall Learning Centre, Francis Close Hall, Swindon Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL50 4AZ. No charge is made for their excellent services but donations are gratefully received.

The admissions book for 1884 shows that two of the students were from Sheffield.

Fred R. Johnson: Former school: Crofts Road Board: Class in Certificate Exam. II

Samuel Snelson: Former school: Sheffield Walkley Board: Class in Certificate Exam. II

F. Johnson also contributed an article entitled 'Either and Neither' to the college journal 'The Chelt' Vol. VII No. 3

From Jean Bunn, 15, Vine Close, Guisborough, Cleveland TS14 7BL

Sheffield Visitors in the Southport Census of 1851

The following list was found on the West Riding digest. It had been placed there by Chris Wright of Southport (chriswright@crossens18.freemove.co.uk)

If you want to subscribe to the digest, send an e-mail to

WEST-RIDING-D-request@rootsweb.com

that contains in the body of the message the command subscribe

Bearder	Emma	21	
Lee	Eliza	28	
Prince	Cath	48	
Rhodes	Arthur John	8	
Rhodes	Catherine	12	
Rhodes	Edith	7	
Rhodes	Edward	14	
Rhodes	Emily	4	Woolley
Rhodes	Gregory	43	Weatherby
Royle	Mary	39	
Royle	Sarah	44	
Shoerdron	Hannah	51	
Stanley	Isabella	38	
Webster	James	16	
Webster	Sarah	39	
Yeomans	Mary Ann	30	

Some Travellers in the 1891 Census

A Surname index of Circus people, Gypsies, Showmen, Tramps and Vagrants - in barns, houses, tents, waggons and out in the open. Extracts from Cumberland, Durham, Northumberland, Westmorland, Yorkshire, East

Sussex and London. Over 1600 individuals recorded in an 'as enumerated' format to enable researchers to identify which families are travelling together. *Some Travellers in the 1891 Census*. Transcribed by Janet Keet-Black (A4, 44pp). Price including p & p UK £3.40; Europe £3.70; Elsewhere Surface £3.70; Airmail £4.25. Obtainable from the Romany and Traveller Family History Society, 6, St. James Walk, South Chailey, East Sussex BN8 4BU. Cheques to be made payable to the Romany and Traveller Family History Society. Sterling only please.

Institute of Genealogists Courses

Introducing Genealogy Commences 27 Sept 1999 at London School of Economics, Portugal Street, London, WC2. 7-9 pm. Twenty eight tutored evening sessions.

Practical Genealogy Commences 27 Sept 1999 at London School of Economics, Portugal Street, London, WC2. 7-9 pm. Thirty tutored evening sessions.

Practical Genealogy Commences 30 Sept 1999 at Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies, Northgate, Canterbury CT1 1BA. 7-9 pm. Thirty tutored evening sessions.

Wills and probate 9 Oct. 1999

Advanced Residential Course 12-14 Nov 1999

The Commonwealth Gap 10-12 March 2000

Full details of all courses are available from the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies, Northgate, Canterbury CT1 1BA.

SOCIETY NEWS AND INFORMATION

Yorkshire Consortium of FHS (London Group)

All our members are entitled to attend meetings of the London Group. However, the Group has reported in their July newsletter that attendance at meetings has been decreasing. This is especially disappointing when speakers have travelled all the way from Yorkshire to present lectures with a "local" flavour. The London Group is an opportunity for all Yorkshire FHS members, who live in the Home Counties and find their own Society too distant to attend meetings, to join together to share research experience and to hear prominent speakers on various aspects of family history.

All meetings are held at the Society of Genealogists, 14, Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London EC1. They start at 10.30 am with a cup of tea and a chat. They nominally finish at 12.30pm when members usually retire either to the common room or library upstairs. These meetings are open to all Yorkshire Family History members and there is no additional membership fee.

A nominal charge of £2 is made for each meeting to cover the cost of hiring the room and the speaker's expenses. Further details may be obtained from Ron Riley, 20, Avon Close, Watford, Hertfordshire WD2 6DN (SAE appreciated). See the Spring edition for details of meetings

BURIAL TRANSCRIPTIONS – update

The rate of transcribing has slowed down a little during the last month or so. We volunteers have other demands on our time, such as holidays, gardening and outdoor activities. As well as co-ordinating the project, I also correct all the mistakes that are picked up by the checkers. At the present time, I have 27 batches of work waiting to be corrected (when they are finished it will add another 12,000 records to the database). Even so, the work carries on.

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

Coming soon

Brightside St Thomas 1854 to 1901 – Attercliffe 1813 to 1902 – Wadsley 1835 to 1903.

In production

St Philip

Our database now has over 150,000 records available for searching.

Many thanks to all members who are / have been helping with the project. Also to those who would like to help but don't have access to a fiche reader.

Heather Gillott. - Burial Transcripts coordinator. 4 Bents Crescent Dronfield S18 2EY

E-mail: heather@dronfield.swinternet.co.uk

COMPUTER AND INTERNET NEWS

S. & D. F.H. S. website http://mtx.net.au/~exy/sheffield_fhs.html

1881 Census on CD-ROM

The 1881 Census of England, Wales and Scotland is now available on 25 CDs at a remarkable price of £29.75 for the complete set including postage. For full details see above in the General News and Information section.

Some interesting addresses

Old Yorkshire Magazine <http://www.keldale.com/oldyorkshire>

This site went live on 1st August (Yorkshire Day) and gives details of Old Yorkshire Magazine. The Magazine covers history and genealogy relating to the Yorkshire area and some on line articles will be added soon.

The Dawson and Easingwood Family Trees

<http://www.keldale.com/dawsontree>

This personal genealogy page gives details of the families mentioned in the Drifffield area, and also offers a notice board for family historians wishing to offer to, or obtain information from, others.

Fine Detail Art <http://www.keldale.com/finedetailart>

The website of renowned artist Gordon McWilliam which offers a free family motto identification and translation service. You can also purchase family crests and historical miniatures. The latter is of interest to historical societies and also to genealogists who can have themselves or their family painted in period costume.

Information from Debbie Waller, Keldale Web Designs

West Riding Digest

For more information see General News and Notes section above.

CONFERENCES AND FAIRS

Barnsley Family History Fair. Sunday 12 Sept. 1999

Doncaster Family History Day. Saturday 30 October 1999,

Full details of the above can be found in the Summer edition.

West Surrey FHS Computer Conference Saturday 30 October 1999

To be held at Bishop Reindorp School, Guildford

There will be a very full programme of Lectures and Demonstrations on current genealogical packages and Workshops which will include "Using the Internet for Genealogy". There will also be a Computer "Bring and Buy".

Places will be limited and must be booked.

Please send a SAE with request for further details and application form to James and Wendy Montague, The Bell House, Wellington Road, Sandhurst, Berks. GU47 9AY or e-mail James Montague on: mbgb16@dial.pipex.com

North East Group of FHS / Society of Genealogists Computer Day

8 April 2000

To be held at Askham Bryan College, Askham Bryan, York

A programme of talks throughout the day in the main lecture hall has been arranged by Eric Probert of the SOG and these will include a main

demonstration of using the Internet for family history. There will also be a series of workshops and demonstrations on the use of various family history programs and other aspects of using computers for family history. These will range from beginner to advanced levels and will be able to be pre booked

This is the first time that the SOG computer conference has been in Yorkshire and it will feature the latest developments in computer use current at the time. The previous regionally organised SOG conferences in this series have been very popular and have been fully booked and so it is important to register your interest early. The cost which includes lunch is £20.

Booking forms will be available in September from Yorkshire Family History Societies and the Society of Genealogists or by post, sae please, from Mr J Le Seilleur, Bern Fold, 45B Ashgap Lane, Normanton, WF6 2DT.

Spring 2001 Half-yearly Conference 6-8 April 2001

Folkestone and District FHS have announced that the conference itself will be held at the Saga Pavilion, Sandgate, the only place in the Folkestone area large enough to take the anticipated numbers.

Further details from Maureen Criddle, 22 Church Road, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3LQ. (E-mail: maureen@mcrid.demon.co.uk)

THROUGH THE LETTERBOX

From Charlotte West / Vicki Gilritchie, Harvard Public Relations, Harvard House, Summerhouse Lane, Harmondsworth, Middlesex UB7 0AW

Re: Family Tree Maker Computer Software

As a PR company representing the company responsible for publishing Family Tree Maker we are always looking for new and interesting stories. We would like to know if any of your members use Family Tree Maker to assist in tracing and building a profile of their family history. The aim of Harvard Public Relations is to have a case study for press and promotion purposes related to Family Tree Maker.

Although Family Tree Maker version 6.0 - European Edition has just been released, we are interested in hearing from users of any version of Family Tree Maker. Ideally, we would be looking for an unusual/interesting family tree connection, such as the discovery of links with members of the aristocracy or famous people. Equally, we are interested to hear whether Family Tree Maker has enabled you to trace your family history back further than you anticipated - perhaps you managed to find a whole branch of your family tree through the World Family Tree Project or have managed to contact a living relative you never knew you had.

Please contact us if you feel that you have an interesting story to tell.

SOCIETY MEETINGS

Meeting on Monday 19th April 1999

I was a Stranger. Researching in a different area.

Norma Neill's talk reminded us of some useful practices as well as introducing us to some new places to look for those elusive ancestors. Her points are listed for ease of reference.

Obtain a map. The OS version will be fine initially, but then the older reprints will be of value because streets have disappeared. Look also at the physical geography of the locality to see how it has changed over time.

Look in to the local history of the place to find out why it exists where it is. What were its origins? Find out about traditions and other events of note.

Look into the social history of the location, and find out about the professions indicated by the social history (e.g. ribbon making in Leek)

Don't underestimate the influences of the churches – remembering that others apart from the Church of England may have played their part, e.g. The Quakers from 1660 – 1760; Methodists / Nonconformists at the end of the 18th century. Check founding dates of the churches. Commercial Directories give information about churches. Lists of Roman Catholics (sometimes referred to as Recusants, Papists) and Nonconformists may also exist.

Poor Law records are important – settlement certificates were essential in times gone by. To qualify for settlement you had to be resident for a year and a day.

Quarter Sessions records are also useful even if you don't think you had any rogues in the family. Disputes regarding the Poor Law were dealt with there, as were all manner of licences for various activities.

Check the manorial records – lists of farms, lands, manor boundaries, which will not necessarily be the same as parish boundaries. Look in to the other local parishes.

Influences on the land – for example, Haxey in the 17th century changed from being wetland to agricultural land (and occupations will have also changed).

Burials. Graveyards belonged to churches, cemeteries were set up in an Act of 1850 because of overcrowding, often under local council control. Cemetery records may exist from 1757, so it is worth checking out. People who died away from home but wished to be buried at home may well have also left a trail of records of fees paid as the coffin travelled back through the parishes on its way home.

Civil registration records – not forgetting the IGI and the census. You may well find copies in your locality, and certainly you should be able to order records via the Mormons. Read the information in the Enumerator's records.

Talk to people who have lived in the place, making notes wherever you can. Visit the place, walking around if you can. Ask for information.

Ask at your local library for information even if the place you are researching is not local to you.

Join the FHS local to the place, and advertise your name in their publication. Write an article for the journal and make your name known. Make personal contact.

Look in to photograph collections in the library and deposited documents in the local record office.

Find out if Estate maps exist – when did enclosure take place – maps may exist. Tithe maps may exist as late as the 1840s.

Check the Registry of Deeds for information there.

Read books written about the worthy people of the town.

Some of the items suggested here are available through from the Society Publications Officer, Anne Giller. Happy reading.

Reported by Judith Pitchforth.

Meeting on Monday 17 May 1999

The meeting in May took a different format, when members were invited to bring problems and queries to the meeting. In addition to answering general queries on all manner of family history problems, the 1861 census search, the burials transcriptions searches and an example of some family history software for computer was available for members to view.

Reported by Judith Pitchforth.

Rotherham Branch Meeting on Thursday 6 May 1999

Arthur Wharton

Sheila Leeson's second visit brought us up to date with her findings about her relation Arthur Wharton. She now believes Arthur to be her grandfather. To support her belief she produced a photograph of her mother, and one of Arthur at the same age, which bear a striking resemblance.

As well as his sprinting prowess he also played football and cricket. Prejudice must have been difficult to overcome. Arthur's time at Theological College gave him education and solace in times of injustice. Having been wrongly given second place in the AAA Championships he marked a passage in 2 Corinthians Chapter 12 verse 7.

'To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness".

Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong!

In recent months recognition has come in different ways, firstly as a documentary film, with a little cinematic licence, showing Sheila climbing into the eaves of the house and discovering the photographs of Arthur (not the way it happened) and secondly the Birmingham dinner for black sportsmen past and present, which included Garth Crookes and Clive Best.

At the present time the book written by Philip Vasili about Arthur's life is being made into a film. Sheila wondered who would be cast in her part!

Reported by B.L. Jervis

Ed.'s Note: Mrs Sheila Leeson's first talk about Arthur Wharton was reported in Volume 17 No. 4 of "The Flowing Stream".

OTHER PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS

Mrs Cynthia Barnett, Copped Hall Cottage, Stonegate, Camberley, Surrey GU15 1PD writes: "Information sought on **Walter H. Oldfield**, born Sheffield c1878. He married **Mabel Dimmock** of Nova Scotia in Hong Kong 1910. Both were missionaries of the Christian and Missionary Alliance based in Wuchow, China. They had two children **Mildred** and **Ernest**. Walter was a cousin of my grandmother **Annie Elizabeth Oldfield**, daughter of **James and Jemima (nee Hall)** of Brightside. Walter's parents may have been **Walter and Harriett** and his grandparents **George and Elizabeth** of Rotherham".

Mrs Carol Carey, Ballinakill, Gort, Co. Galway, Eire writes: "I am looking for the marriage of **Samuel E. Bisby** to **Ann** ? (maiden name could be Bisby or **Badger**). The event may have taken place in Sheffield around 1892. Their first child **Emily** was born in Jan. 1893. Ann was my grandmother. She later married **George Joseph Oxley** (my grandfather). I am searching for this marriage and for George J. Oxley's birth. He was a steel furnaceman. They had two children, a son **George** born ? and a daughter, **May**, registered under the name Bisby. May is my mother. She was born on 26 May 1914 at 175, Don Road, East Brightside, Carbrook, Sheffield. I believe that George J. Oxley and Ann died around 1939 before the war and that they are buried in City Road Cemetery."

Raymond Gathern, 33, Grove Road, Selsey, Chichester, West Sussex PO20 0AS is seeking information, ancestors etc regarding **David Gathern**.

According to the 1881 census he was born in Sheffield in 1800 although according to the 1841 census he was born in 1802.

John Lamb, 35, Bourne Avenue, Kirby in Ashfield, Nottingham NG17 7FB is seeking information about his great grandparents, **William Spray** born c1828 at Ashover Derbys. and his wife **Elizabeth Spray** born c1825 at Whiston, Yorks. In the 1861 census they were at 30, Robinsons Houses Greasborough. The only other record is of their marriage when their address was given as Brightside Lane, Sheffield. There is no trace of them in the 1881 index.

Mrs C. Haughton, 32, Church Street, Helmdon, Brackley, Northants. NN13 5QJ writes: "I am seeking information on my great grandmother **Kate Yeardley's brother**, name and date of birth unknown. He and Kate were the only children of **Walter John Yeardley** and **Kate** (nee **Garrity**). The daughter, Kate, was born on 17 Mar. 1889 at 17, Cricket Inn Road, Sheffield. Apparently there was a fire at the home (address?) and the son died in it. Kate survived but was left with rheumatic heart disease as a result. She died at 43 years, probably because of being involved in the fire. There is a mention of Trafalgar Street by my 93 year old great aunt but no one has any knowledge of the family at Cricket Inn Road. The Yeardley family later moved to 83, Bramwell Street, Sheffield and lived there a good many years and well into the 1950's. Kate Yeardley (the mother) died at this address in Jan. 1952 aged 89. Any ideas or information would be much appreciated.

Also, I am researching my **Yeardley / Yardley** ancestors of the Sheffield and Rawmarsh areas and I have traced back to **John Yardley** bap. 9 Jan. 1831 at Rawmarsh, younger son of **George** and **Elizabeth** (nee **Wright?**). He is the earliest registered proven descendant of **Grace Robinson** (nee **Harrison**) of Leeds who married in Oct. 1585. She was sister of **John Harrison**, wealthy cloth merchant, benefactor and three times Mayor of Leeds. He had no children of his own and he set up a trust for the descendants of his sister, Grace. We, as descendants of John Yardley are all registered with the Harrison Trust at Huddersfield and I am now in the process of tracing between John Yardley and Grace Robinson. The Trust records only go back as far as John. So, any ideas, information etc. would be highly appreciated."

Dr W.G.G.Loyn, Llechwedd, Banc-y-darren, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 3JE writes: "I would appreciate help in tracing the forebears of my great grandfather, **Henry Loyn** (or perhaps **Loyne**) who died in Aberayron, Cardiganshire, (now Ceredigion) in March 1897 in his 79th year. According to his obituary he was a native of Rotherham but was brought up by his grandfather and knew hardly anything of his parents. He arrived in Wales

with a circus, was left behind and built himself up from being a rag and bone collector to become a successful businessman with wide financial interests. In the 1871 census he gives his place of origin as "Gin House, Yorkshire", (? Greasborough) and in 1891 as Yorks, Ecclesfield. His marriage certificate in 1872 gives his father's name as **Alexander James Loyn**, Coachman. A day's search in the Sheffield Archives failed to find his baptism in any of the probable parishes. A more experienced eye may spot and indicate some more profitable line of research."

Mrs Janett Watters, 90, Wychall Road, Northfield, Birmingham B31 3AJ is seeking the marriage or any other information on **William Gamble**. On his children's birth certificates it states his wife was **Hannah Gamble nee Marsh** but no marriage has been found. The family moved to Sheffield from Birmingham about 1860. **Walter** was born in 1859 in Birmingham and his brother was born in about 1861 in Sheffield.

Mrs S George, 3 Brookside, Whinshill, Burton On Trent Staffordshire DE 15 0AQ writes "I would like to fill in the early gaps, around 1820-50. I know Brown is a common name but there might be someone in the Sheffield area that just might be related on another branch of the tree.

I am seeking information on the following:

- **George Hides** was born before 1837. His wife **Ann Bramal** was born before 1837. Marriage not known. George and Ann had a daughter **Rhoda Hides** born 24.10.1847 at Brightside Bierlow
- **John Brown** born before 1837 Occupation Blacksmith. Wife not known. Son **Thomas Brown** was born 1843. Occupation Steel Caster. Thomas Brown married Rhoda Hides 31.01.1864 at St George's Church, Sheffield. Thomas and Rhoda had a son Thomas Brown on 23.01.1866 at Orchard Street, Brightside Bierlow, Sheffield.
- **Henry Ellington** was born 1838 in Huntingdon. Occupation Wheel Wright Journeyman Lathe Blade Forger. **Mary Ann Skinner** was born on 25.12.1839 at Huntingdon. Henry Ellington and Mary Ann Skinner married on 07.10.1859 at the Baptist Chapel, Ramsey Huntingdon. Henry and Mary had a daughter **Louisa Ellington** on 16.01.1865 at Ramsey Huntingdon. Occupation Domestic Servant. Thomas Brown married Louisa Ellington on 27.03.1887 at Sheffield. Thomas and Louisa had a daughter **Rhoda Brown** on 12.07.1894 Sheffield and a son **Thomas Brown** in 1888 Sheffield.

Thomas Brown and Louisa Brown and their son Thomas are buried in a Cemetery on Stenson Road, Normanton, Derby. Thomas died 16.06.1931, Louisa died 05.05.1956, son Thomas died 13.09.1907.

1844	Greaves	Chesterfield	DBY	18/19C
1769	Hall	Sheffield, Brightside	WRY	L18 - 19C
1818	Hallam	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1907
1830	Holroyd	Rotherham	WRY	c1880
1769	Hopkins	Sheffield, Brightside	WRY	1860+
1769	Hopkins	Sibson & Market Bosworth	LEI	18-20C
1843	Jackson	Saxilby	LIN	1860-1914
1843	Jenkinson	Sheffield	YKS	1920-40
1840	Jervis	Rotherham	WRY	19C
1840	Jervis	Sheffield	WRY	19C & 20C
1844	Joesbury	Sheffield	YKS	18/19C
1830	Johnson	Newcastle	NBL	pre 1900
1830	Johnson	Rotherham	WRY	1770+
1801	Kenyon	Sheffield	YKS	1800+
1801	Kenyon	Wales		pre 1800
1818	Lee	Cholton Hulme, Manchester	LAN	pre 1901
1841	Lines	Sheffield	YKS	1800-1900
1769	Little	Leeds	YKS	L18-M19C
1844	Lockwood	Sheffield	YKS	18/19C
1818	McGarry	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1912
1801	McGrail	Ireland	IRL	All
1801	McGrail	Sheffield	YKS	All
1722	Milnes	Penistone	WRY	pre 1891
1774	Milnes	Rotherham	YKS	19C
1830	Morris	Rotherham	WRY	c1880
1843	Norburn	Heeley	YKS	1858-1910
1843	Norburn	Sheffield	YKS	1849-57
1801	Nutbrown	Rotherham	YKS	1700-1850
1801	Nutbrown	Sheffield	YKS	1700-1850
1801	Nutbrown	York	YKS	1500-1700
1769	Oldfield	Rotherham	WRY	L18-19C
1769	Oldfield	Sheffield, Brightside	WRY	19-20C
1818	Oxley	Brightside & Carbrook, Sheffield	YKS	pre 1914
1844	Parker	Sheffield	YKS	18/19C
1840	Reading	All	SOM	pre 1850
1840	Reading	Bristol	GLS	pre 1830
1840	Reading	Sheffield	WRY	19C & 20C
1816	Rylatt	Any	Any	Any
1769	Scott	Keighley	WRY	L18-E19C
1830	Theobald	Rotherham	WRY	c1880
1769	Timperley	Sheffield	WRY	L18-19C
1843	Topham	North Scarle	LIN	1820-30
1843	Topham	Wigsley	NTT	1820-50
1769	Vardy	S. Normanton, Alfreton	DBY	L18-20C
1818	Walker	Victoria, Australia		1919+
1769	Wass	Tibshelf	DBY	L18-19C
1840	Willoughby	Sheffield	WRY	19C & 20C

PUBLICATIONS THROUGH THE POST

Since the appearance of the last journal a number of new items have been added to the postal publications list. All the prices quoted include post and packing and may be ordered from the Publications Officer.

The indexed burial transcriptions for St John, Park (1840-1924) and Christ Church Heeley (1848-1906) are both now available on computer disk (£3.00 each UK, £3.60 each overseas). They will appear in microfiche form in the not too distant future.

A number of our members have interests in the ancient village of Ecclesfield so they will no doubt be pleased to hear that Alan Godfrey maps have just produced *Ecclesfield 1901* (£2.20 UK, £3.05 overseas).

Hot off the press comes the latest in the Tempus publishing series *Images of England* entitled *Sheffield Industries Cutlery, Silver and Edge Tools*. Like the other books in the series this is basically a collection of photographs with a commentary, which in this case is provided by two distinguished local experts in the field - Joan Unwin and Ken Hawley. Many of the photographs show people at work in settings ranging from the workshops of the little mesters to factories with internationally famous names. If you have ancestors who worked in these trades, and have struggled to read an enumerator's handwriting, only to discover when you've deciphered it that you are none the wiser as to the job it describes, then you just might find some enlightenment here. (£10.85 UK, £13.15 overseas).

Peter Harvey's books cannot be described as 'hot off the press' because they have been around for several years but they are new to our list. Peter Harvey is well known in Sheffield where he works as a journalist contributing a regular *Then and Now* page in the local evening newspaper *The Star*. He has an abiding interest in local history and has amassed his own collection of picture postcards as well as having access to other archives. He has selected material to demonstrate aspects of life in the early part of the twentieth century in Sheffield and its suburbs. He describes his approach as pure nostalgia which is obviously popular as his first volume was so well received that more was demanded and he went on to produce a second helping and eventually a third. We are offering each volume separately (Vols 1,2,3 £5.15 each UK, Vol. 1 £6.95, Vols 2,3 £6.60 each overseas), or all three at a special price (£14.15 UK, £18.40 overseas).

Finally, don't always believe what you read - contrary to what was published in the last *Flowing Stream*, the *Sheffield Time Machine* interactive CD (Sheffield Local Studies Library) is available from the Society publications service. (£20.50 UK, £21.25 overseas).

Anne Giller, Postal Publications Officer

USING IR 26 AND IR 27

At the Family Records Centre, two filing cabinets stand largely ignored by the researchers hunting for relatives in the Censuses from 1841 to 1891. They house resources which are very useful in locating wills which were proved in the period 1796-1903 (IR27) and for supplying, in some cases, additional information to that which is contained in the wills themselves (IR26). The first step in using these films is to look for the loose-leaf binder which is a guide to IR27 - given any year and the surname initial, this gives the piece numbers (i.e. the film numbers) which you will need.

IR27 is the Index to the Death Duty Registers. These are arranged in approximately alphabetical order in each year, with very few entries in the earlier indexes (i.e. up to about 1805), but quite comprehensive by 1857. Approximately alphabetical means that you will find a page headed Coc, for example, which will come before a page headed Cod, but on that page you may find Cockerill, Cockburn, Cockcroft, Cockcroft listed in that order. It simply depends upon when these wills were assessed for tax.

Typically, an entry will give first the name of file person making the will and where he lived, then his executors and where they lived, then the court at which the will was proved and finally the location of the tax assessment in the Death Duty Register itself. If at the end of the entry, the abbreviation NE appears, this indicates that though the will existed, there is no entry in the register (usually because the estate was not assessed for death duty).

The Registers are huge books available only from the PRO at Kew, after allowing one week for their production from the store at Hayes. Registers up to 186- have, however, been filmed and comprise IR26. Entries may be quite short for a simple will and small estate, with several testators appearing on the same page or extend over more than one page. A valuable feature of these entries is that they tend to include the addresses of beneficiaries.

The Death Duty Registers, up to 1856 are on film - the later ones are available only at the PRO and require a week's notice to be given. Everyone who receives a bequest is mentioned in the registers and a code is used to indicate their relationship, if any, to the deceased. Where the will may state "to my sons", the register will give the names of all the sons and also their addresses - useful information if you intend to pursue a reconstruction of the family, rather than a single ancestral line.

The Society wishes to express their thanks to the Consortium of Yorkshire Family History Societies for the above information which was first printed in their November 1998 newsletter.

THE COUSINS CAME TO TOWN PART 2

(Continued from Vol. 19 No.4)

The letter I sent to Kathleen Hatton, afterwards, summarises the result of my initial research into these Yorkshire ancestors.

“.....firstly the Charlesworths, where I confirmed the marriage of Thomas to Mary Loxley on 25.11.1753 at Sheffield Cathedral. I have ordered a photograph of this part of the register and will let you have a copy. They must have lived in Sheffield initially as I can confirm that the first two children, Thomas and Mary, were baptised at the Nether Independent Chapel. The first baptism at Masbrough Independent Chapel was in 1759, Alice, and then that of the next child, Sarah, which was recorded at both chapels thus tying them firmly together. The Nether Chapel record of 1761 states ‘daughter of Thomas of Masbrough’, so the family was living there at the time.

In fact, I found the burial record of Alice in Rotherham, on 24.2.1760, stating ‘Alice, daughter of Thomas Charlesworth, of Masbrough’. So we can be sure that they moved to Masbrough, situated between Sheffield and Rotherham, after 1756 and before 1759. You already have the baptisms of the rest of the children at Masbrough Chapel ending with Ann in 1770. I searched all the Rotherham burial records, up to 1798, but found no record of either Thomas or Mary Charlesworth. So they could have moved, possibly to live with their eldest son Thomas. I can confirm the marriages of their daughters, Mary to John Aukland on 23.3.1786, and Hannah to Robert Needham on 24.4.1791, both at Rotherham Parish Church. So there had been marriages between these families before moving to London.

You were correct in questioning the marriage of Sarah Charlesworth, on the same day as Mary, because she couldn't write her name. I found another Charlesworth family living in Masbrough at the time but, as they were Anglican, I cannot say if they were related. The father was George, who was buried on 24.7.1774 in Rotherham, and I found the following children, but not his marriage.

	baptised	buried	married
Elizabeth	13.5.1759		
William	27.12.1761		
Frances	29.4.1764		24.3.1785 to William Loverage
Sarah	27.3.1768		23.3.1786 to Robert Elliot
George		2.3.1769	
John		9.4.1771	
Joseph	16.8.1772	24.8.1774	

There was another marriage in Masbrough of Joshua Charlesworth, to Hannah Mills on 2.10.1781, who moved to Catcliff and could have been related to George as they used similar names for their children. It looks as if Sarah had been 'adopted' by Mary after her father died, as there was a 12 years difference in ages, and eventually had a 'double' marriage?

Mary Loxley's sister Betty (Elizabeth) soon followed her to Masbrough as she married John Morton in Rotherham Parish Church on 19.12.1761. This was only ten months after the burial of Alice so perhaps she initially went to help Mary over a difficult period and then met John Morton. They were both stated as 'of this parish' so I expect that Thomas Charlesworth had set up shop and she was working there. I don't know where John Morton was born but the only candidate appears to be the one baptised in Sheffield on 12.5.1734, so perhaps he was in business with Thomas. Betty Morton, of Masbrough, had two children before she died and was buried in Rotherham on 5.9.1787. Firstly Sarah, quite a popular name then, baptised 24.10.1762, and then John, baptised 10.8.1766. I believe John (junior) married an Elizabeth and had three children before 1798. They were John, born 3.12.1788 and christened on 8.2.1789, Thomas, buried on 25.9.1791, and Mary, buried on 23.2.1796. Each generation seems to have tried to pass on these given names.

By the way, we mustn't forget that William Loxley married an Ann Morton in Ecclesfield on 31.7.1786. As far as I can work out, they had moved to Rotherham by 1788 where Ann Loxley was born in 1797 and baptised at Downs Row Chapel. I am not yet certain, or may never be, that William was Mary Loxley's nephew, the son of William, but I know that her nephew John Loxley, who married Hannah Rich, also moved to Rotherham before 1783. John's family eventually returned to Potter Hill around 1807, when Mary's brother Thomas died. Earlier in 1749, Samuel Walker, the Rotherham Ironmaster had moved from Grenoside to Masbrough. I suppose the late eighteenth century saw the development of the steel trade in that area and hence more opportunities in the retail trades.

The Needhams were already established in Masbrough, and Rotherham, where Robert met and then married Hannah Charlesworth in 1791. The family seems to have already been in the basket making trade so perhaps that is a clue to follow up. Five of their children were baptised at Masbrough Independent Chapel then they transferred to Downs Row Chapel for Robert, Henry and Mary's baptisms. Perhaps they were influenced by John Loxley or vice versa? We have a choice of parents for Robert, Hannah's husband, as there was a family, all baptised at the Parish Church, which recorded him on 28.8.1767, the son of Joseph of Bradgate. Bradgate is adjacent to Masbrough, and he had six siblings but Hannah didn't call a son Joseph. There were other

Needham families in Masbrough, two of which had their children baptised at Masbrough Chapel, but no son called Robert. A William Needham had witnessed the marriage of Robert and Hannah, but the only one I found was born in 1770 to William and Sarah with no brother Robert. I think the family from Greasbrough, just up the road from Masbrough, is most likely as they had a son baptised as Robert on 12.6.1770. The parents were Robert and Ann, and Hannah named her first daughter Ann. What do you think?

Lastly we come to the Auklands and the missing baptisms of Samuel and Ann, children of John Aukland and Mary Charlesworth. I could not find them on the Rotherham Parish Register but I can confirm that Joseph was born on 21.11.1788 and not 24.10 as noted on my records. No baptisms of the children of George Hall and Elizabeth Aukland, who married on 9.9.1783, were found but I note that the IGI has probable offspring in other parts of Yorkshire. I believe that the Ephraim Aukland, who was buried on 2.8.1796, was John's father and not his brother as it is the only record I found and did not state 'Ephraim, son of Ephraim'. I also noticed that Ephraim and Dorothy did not have any children, baptised in Rotherham, from their marriage in 1743 until Elizabeth was born in 1751. This is quite a gap so perhaps they lived elsewhere initially (I eventually found the other children, baptised in Rotherham, under the surname of Oakland!) I did not find his baptismal record so perhaps he also came from Hatfield, near Doncaster, where they got married.

In summary, I still have Masbrough Chapel and Rotherham Church (from 1798) registers to search, to see if I can find the deaths of Thomas and Mary Charlesworth, perhaps also the marriage of Joseph Aukland to Mary Charlesworth, and any Needham marriages. Thomas, the son of Thomas Charlesworth seems to be one to follow up but I had no luck in Sheffield."

The trade directories and early census records of Rotherham enabled me to confirm another relationship. Katherine Ann Charlesworth, who had married John Needham at St.Giles, Cripplegate, on 19.1.1853, was a widow at 35, Church Street, Rotherham, in 1861 and carrying on the business of basket dealer and manufacturer. With her were her late husband's siblings, Hannah and Henry, both unmarried. Henry also seemed to have his own shop at 93, Wellgate, operating as a brushmaker. At John's wedding in 1853, his father was stated as Robert, and both occupations as basket manufacturers. Thus, as all ages corresponded, Katherine Ann had married her cousin, John, the son of Robert Needham, and then on 27.10.1863 married his brother Henry at the Unitarian Whitefield Chapel, Rotherham. This was quite legal in those days as there was no issue from the first marriage. The business was still operating from Castle Street in 1881. So Katherine Ann had made the return journey from London to Rotherham, when she was 38, with her first husband.

This was a much easier journey than that made by her father Joseph, and her uncle John Charlesworth, as the railway had been completed by 1840. The coach had taken over three days from Sheffield to London in 1760, which had improved by 1786 through better roads, until it only took 16 hours by 1830! Joseph and John Charlesworth had probably moved to London before the marriage of their sister Mary to John Aukland in 1786, as neither were witnesses to that event, and John then married Elizabeth Wooff at St.Katherine's, Creechurch, on 28.8.1788. It looks as if John Needham's brother Samuel could have gone with them as a Samuel Needham had witnessed the will of John Charlesworth on 31.8.1818.

Joseph, the son of John Aukland and Mary Charlesworth, was born in Rotherham in 1788, probably in Wellgate where his father was in business as a stonemason. By 1818, he was a grocer and cheesemonger in Cripplegate, London, so I expect he learnt the business from his uncle John Charlesworth, grocer and tea broker of Shoreditch, Middlesex. He continued in this business, which included from 1818 that of tea broking, until his death in 1864. In 1852 he was still at Lower Whitecross Street, Cripplegate, but in 1853 was in partnership with a Joshua Needham as cheesemongers of 191, Shoreditch High street. My knowledge of the rest of the Aukland family, who had remained in Rotherham, then increased tenfold by correspondence with two descendants who were members of the Sheffield FHS. Angela Kendrick, of Rotherham, gave me the descendants of her ancestor William Aukland (1760-1816) including his son John, and grandson William, who carried on the business of stonemasons at 185, St. Ann's Row. Shirley Parent, of Ontario, Canada, is the descendant of Ephraim, born 1757, who married Elizabeth Revil on 20.6.1779 in Rotherham. It was then that I realized that this Elizabeth could be the third daughter of Samuel Revell and Hannah Loxley, who married in Ecclesfield on 18.10.1751. Hannah was a younger sister of the Mary Loxley who married Thomas Charlesworth. So Shirley and I probably share a common ancestor in Thomas Loxley (1701-1776) of Potter Hill, Ecclesfield.

This led me back to Thomas Charlesworth, born 1754; did he stay in Yorkshire or move to London? Given that both his brothers entered the retail trade then perhaps he took over his father's business as eldest son, if indeed his father had been a grocer. No appropriate entry was found in the Rotherham trade directories or even in the list of Cutlers' apprentices. There were entries for Sheffield in the 1817 to 1833 trade directories for a Thomas Charlesworth, assuming the name was given to his descendants, in High Street, Park (baker, wine merchant, flour dealer, confectioner, and undertaker!), in Sylvester Gardens (button and clasp manufacturer), and in Garden Street (boot and shoemaker). Perhaps the discovery of a will may

disclose if any of these are related and the occupations of my Charlesworth ancestors in Yorkshire?

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ALBERT REANEY 1851 – 1910

As family historians we are used to our ancestors turning up in the most unexpected places. Most branches of my family are like this - but not the Reaneys.

As Professor David Hey of Sheffield University will tell you the surname originated from Rannah Farm, situated between Sheffield and Penistone, making it a truly local surname. It is not a common surname and is still mainly found around the Sheffield area.

You can imagine my surprise therefore last year, whilst sitting in an American motel room on the Washington/Idaho border, more than 6,000 miles away, when I came across an article about Reaney Park in Pullman, Washington State. The leaflet, "Whitman County" stated that Reaney Park was the location of an annual pea and lentil show. Our route for the next stage of our holiday was quickly changed and we set off the following morning for Pullman.

After driving around Pullman for quite a while looking for the park we finally ended up at the Chamber of Commerce who told us where exactly it was located (quite off the beaten track) and gave us directions to it. Unfortunately, though, they knew nothing about the park's history or who it was named after.

We found the park in a quiet little backwater surrounded on two sides by small Victorian style wooden houses. In the centre of the park was a band stand, which made it look quite English. The road running around the edge of the park was called Reaney Road. We wandered around the park (about twice the size of the Peace Gardens in Sheffield) but were unable to gather any more information.

Later in the holiday, whilst re-reading the leaflet I came across an article about a history group who met in the school at Pullman, so I wrote to see if they knew any more about the park. They sent me some copies of newspaper cuttings which told me a lot about Albert Reaney, his life and his park.

In 1898 he donated the use of his park for the 4th of July celebrations, when it was reported:

"Reaney's park is becoming a place of beauty. Mr. Reaney had put an immense amount of labour and expence upon the grounds, until they are now a place of which the city is justly proud. The park has been nicely fenced, and

around the whole, on the outside, a bicycle track has been built. Inside is another track and under the shady poplar, elm and ash a band stand, dancing pavilion, numerous seats, a half dozen swings etc. have been placed.”

*Norma E. Reaney, Furness Cottage, 25, Greaves Lane, Stannington, Sheffield
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COMPILING AN INDEX

A review of the preparation of the full index for the 1861 Census

Many Society members will be aware that the entire 1861 census has been indexed and I am sure will appreciate that this has been a major undertaking. In this article I want to provide an account of the way in which the index was assembled over a number of years and then to illustrate how the data can be used to provide analyses which can aid our understanding of the period.

The process of assembling the index starts when hardworking volunteers have transcribed the data from the films of the enumerators' books and their efforts have been checked and entered on to an computer file. As many readers will be aware the indexes to about one quarter of the census have been published in book form on a district by district basis with the rest published on microfiche, and I became involved in the project at the point of transition. Microfiche has the obvious advantage that more data can be put onto a single fiche than can be reasonably printed on paper and I was able to locate a company in Leeds that could produce fiche directly from disk file (print images for the technically minded) thus obviating the need to print the indexes onto paper.

At the end of the second phase 180,000 records had been indexed and there the project might have ended had not the Society acquired a new Secretary. (Readers will only need to read the surnames of the secretary and the present writer to see the significance of this!). I happened to mention in passing the thought that what would be really useful was a complete index, split alphabetically. It was obvious to me that the paper indexes had been produced by computer (I suspect by using dBASE software) but at some point the Society had lost trace of the computer files. A little later Eric Youle in Australia sent an e-mail to say that he had the paper indexes, a scanner and the software to scan the indexes back into electronic form but it would take a some time, would this be useful? After a delay of less than one second I replied 'Yes please!'.

Over the next few months electronic files arrived by e-mail. These were checked against the paper copies and the majority of scanning errors identified. When the first 11 indexes had been assembled along with those

from the second phase, the only area outstanding was Bradfield and a second offer came through at this point to complete the project.

During a conversation with John Perkins, Judith (the Secretary) told him about the project and the 'gap' of Bradfield. Immediately he said he had the data, on disk, and would it be useful? The answer was obvious: 'Yes please'.

Now that the entire census, as I thought, was together in one disk file, I began the process of indexing what was now a file of over 250,000 records and at the end of August set my computer to produce the indexes as a series of disk files ready to be sent to the company. One of the requirements specified by the Committee was that the full alphabetic index should be available in disk format as well as on microfiche and a fair amount of time was spent in splitting the full index into manageable units that would fit onto a 3.5" floppy disk.

Just as all these files and fiche had been produced and the project should have been drawing to a final conclusion, a researcher brought to our attention the fact that an entire Enumeration District (No 45) seemed to be missing from the Fiche for Ecclesall Bierlow. This was indeed so and to this day I cannot explain how it came to be missed. All I can do is to apologise for any inconvenience this omission has caused and refer readers to recent journals where the steps taken to remedy the situation have been explained.

As it stands, the index covers the same area as the Society and has 256,500 records. To my knowledge, no other society has sought to produce a full alphabetic index of any census for their area and I think the Society can be proud of the achievement which was only possible because of the many people who initially transcribed all data from the original source.

The 1861 Index was devised simply to provide a quick method of locating census entries and was envisaged as a paper based index. On this basis, the design of the index was entirely reasonable. Over the course of its production, the availability of computers increased dramatically so that many people who might use the index now have access to a computer. As I hope to illustrate in the next articles, the index on computer can be used to examine the census data in a number of ways. For this reason I would urge any society or individual contemplating an indexing project to include in the index all the headings found in the enumerators' books. The potential for research that such an index would offer would be far in excess of the extra work involved for transcribers.

Keith Pitchforth

TRAWLING IN DALLING

“Look at Wood Dalling and Guestwick,” they said. We did, and there they were in November 1769, tying the knot, Jeremiah Jacobs, 20 and upwards, and Ann Gall, 25 and upwards. Father Henry Jacobs was bound in a £200 bond that all was lawful.

So we went to Guestwick, where baby Jeremiah was baptised in 1770, to look at the Church. It was locked, standing in the middle of its overgrown churchyard, with a notice written on a paper bag pinned to the gate, “No service on September 21st.” We looked at the farmer ploughing his field opposite, at the empty phone-box and deserted lane, and moved on.

Wood Dalling Church was visible across the landscape, and as we drew up we were welcomed by the resident duck population from the village pond. Dare I get out of the car? My days of feeding ducks have long since gone. But I did, and we entered the churchyard and found the Church door open. What a barn of a place – silent, almost bare, the Mothers’ Union banner looking as if it had not been moved for years, but evidence that preparations were under way for Harvest Festival. Suddenly the door burst open and a man and woman rushed in.

“Hullo,” I said.

“Are you the flower-lady?” was the breathless reply. They rushed round the Church, up to the altar, and then disappeared equally quickly. Checking up on us? We looked at the Memorials, the brasses, signed the Visitors’ Book and bought a postcard. Then we wandered round the churchyard – no sign of my Jeremiah’s presence there! But in 1769 he had been here, walked up the aisle and marked the register.

We approached the Church gate to be met by another villager.

“Family History?” she asked. She told us she was part of the local grape-vine and they were determined to keep the Church open, although they only had five in the congregation on Sundays. They had lost the lead from the roof one day, on another someone walked out with the Priest’s chair, and recently someone else removed Poppyheads. Everything moveable now had to be chained to the wall. A similar story is repeated in several village churches in the area.

We said our goodbyes, braved the ducks once more and left.

Janet Bye, 12, Hall Grove, Rotherham S60 2BS

BRITAIN IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

The Eighteenth Century was a time of many changes which would have affected all our ancestors be they rich or poor.

At the beginning of the century there were few towns and those were small and quiet by modern standards. There was no mechanical transport and few roads. The majority of the population worked on the land or at various crafts such as thatching, milling, carpentry, weaving, shoemaking and blacksmithing. Each village was virtually self-supporting although people would sometimes travel to the nearest town to sell surplus produce and to purchase goods not available in their own locality. Farmers bought or sold livestock when they could afford to do so. Travel was on foot with goods being carried mostly on packhorses.

The largest towns such as London, Bristol and Liverpool grew up where the sea or a river provided an easy means of transport for heavier goods. London, the largest town, was only tiny compared to the modern city. This had become the centre for government and professions such as law but was also the main social centre for the wealthy. The rapid development of Bristol and Liverpool was due to their dealings in the slave trade. Hull specialised in shipbuilding and overseas trade, Birmingham had metalworking, Newcastle shipped coal, Portsmouth and Plymouth were naval towns whilst smaller towns became spa towns. These were Bath, Cheltenham and Tunbridge Wells in the south and Harrogate and Scarborough in the north.

Although people had larger families, their being none of the modern methods of birth control, many children died in infancy from childhood ailments whilst adults were often victims of typhoid and cholera outbreaks due to lack of sanitation. Medical knowledge was abysmal compared to today. Bleeding by the application of leeches was often seen as the cure for all conditions! The total population would have been about five and a half million.

Food was often poor with little variety. Bread was the basic item with vegetables, fruit and eggs in season. The wealthy had a better choice as they were able to purchase meat, sugar, tea and coffee and also a wide selection of imported spices.

Sometimes a farming ancestor might be able to raise the sum necessary to obtain an apprenticeship for one of his sons and this would probably necessitate the boy living in a town. There he would spend some years learning a trade such as woodworking, stonemasonry, clothmaking or metalworking. Possibly he would trade in the woollen cloth that was Britain's chief export. Spinning and weaving were done at home and the finished cloth

bought up by travelling dealers. The cloth was then sold at markets such as the Wool Hall in Halifax, Yorkshire.

Amusements were simple and often barbaric. Cockfighting, bull and bear-baiting were common and in London, for example, people often gathered to watch public executions. The mentally handicapped of Bedlam (Bethlem Hospital) provided light entertainment for the bored wealthy.

The social structure was a fairly rigid one with the wealthy having a great deal of influence. The King had more power than he would have today as he could choose his own ministers and policies. However as Parliament gave him his income it could always disagree with those decisions. The House of Lords consisted of peers who had a great deal of power. In the Commons the elected Members were not paid so necessarily had to have a private income. Only men were allowed to vote and they had to be owners of property above a certain value. There was no ballot box which led to a lot of abuse of the system. Women and the working classes had no say at all in the governing of their country although they probably had strong feelings about it!

There were only two main political parties, these being the Whigs (Liberals) and the Tories (Conservatives). The Labour Party did not exist and the rights of the poor were only considered by a few supporters of social welfare. The more responsible members of the aristocracy joined political parties whilst the more irresponsible embarked on a life of pleasure which often included gambling away the family fortune or estates! As the aristocrats owned large areas of land all over the country this could result in changes for most of the people living and working on that land. A good landlord would see that the land was properly farmed and the buildings kept in good repair. A poor landlord would rarely, if ever, visit his estates and they would be neglected.

The Squire was the next largest landowner in the village and might also dispense justice, of a kind, as he would probably be the local Justice of the Peace. The Vicar - often a younger son of a wealthy family - would farm the glebe land and also take a tenth (tithe) of the produce of the farms in the parish. The yeomen farmers owned and farmed their own land whilst the tenant farmers rented theirs. At the bottom of the social ladder were the labourers who worked for the larger farmers and who had no security of employment. Farming was by the Three Field System which had existed for many centuries.

With the death of William III in 1702 Queen Anne came to the throne. A sickly woman much given to overeating, possibly as a consolation for the deaths of all her seventeen children, she left much of the running of the country to her ministers. She was also much influenced by the Duchess of Marlborough. In 1714 Anne died and George I of Hanover was brought over.

He didn't really want to live in England and refused to learn the language! Our ancestors would have called him "German George". He was not too effective at dealing with Ministers and this led to the creation of a first or Prime Minister, namely Robert Walpole. George I was followed by George II in 1727 and he proved to be a much stronger king who could actually speak English! He was followed by George III, from 1760 to 1820.

The main events of the century were the Act of Union in 1707 which united England and Scotland and thus we became citizens of Great Britain. The Jacobite Risings of 1715 and 1745 would have affected those of our ancestors who lived in Scotland and the north of England, especially those who belonged to the then unpopular Catholic religion. These risings culminated in the Massacre of Culloden in 1746. There were the inevitable wars with France such as the War of Austrian Succession 1740-1748 which involved Britain and Austria versus France and Prussia. This was followed by the Seven Years War 1756-1763 which was Britain and Prussia versus France and Austria.

Robert Clive was also fighting the French in India whilst in 1776 our settlers in America made the famous Declaration of Independence. At home the Gordon Riots of 1780 were the result of an Act giving Catholics equal rights as citizens. A mob set fire to Catholic homes in protest. The King, with his troops, went out and quelled the riots thus earning himself the respect of the people.

Probably the most dramatic event of the century was the outbreak of the French Revolution in 1789. At first there was a great deal of support in Britain as we sympathised with the sufferings of the peasants. However, when more and more aristocrats went to the guillotine the tide of opinion began to change. The wealthy in this country began to fear the possibility of a similar revolution taking place here and thus began taking measures to protect themselves. The Combination Acts of 1799-1800 were passed to stop workers "combining" or meeting together in groups. Heaven only knew what they might be plotting!

Despite all these upheavals Britain continued to thrive and to extend trade with other countries and colonies such as America, Canada, India, China and the West Indies. Increased wealth resulted in better food, larger towns and an increase in the population. Our own food production proved inadequate and this in turn led to great changes in farming and the start of the Agricultural Revolution.

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TRACING A POLICEMAN ANCESTOR

I first found out about my great-grandfather William from his son's marriage certificate. He was there described as "deceased". Indeed he had died when my grandfather was only two years old, so it is not surprising that he had no place in our family folklore. My father never spoke of him and probably didn't even know his name. After all William had been dead twenty years when my father was born. So, having seen for the first time ever the name of my paternal great-grandfather, I was intrigued and determined to discover more about him.

William's occupation is given on his son's marriage certificate as "warrant officer", a term I associate with the armed forces. However, on finally running to earth my grandfather's birth certificate (our surname is a very common one!), I found William's occupation to be "policeman", and concluded that "warrant officer" was a rank in the police force.

Longing to find out more about this shadowy ancestor I asked Sheffield Archives what police records they possessed and was provided with a list of considerable length. At the same time I was told that, to get access to them, I had to get permission from the Sheffield Police Authority. So I wrote to the Press and Public Relations Department of the South Yorkshire Police Headquarters in Snig Hill, Sheffield, explaining that I wanted to find out more about my great-grandfather, hoping to discover documents he had signed or perhaps even a photograph of him. A letter giving me permission to look at the relevant volumes was sent to me by return of post. I have used this letter twice already, on visits to Sheffield Archives, warning them in advance of the volumes I wanted to study. This was clearly helpful to the staff, because some of the "police order books" (as they are called) are very weighty.

The first "police order book" that I opened dated back to the 1850s and contained service records of all who joined the Sheffield Police during that time. Within minutes I had found Entry No. 240 and William's entire service record lay before me! I took my pencil and paper and copied the details. He was appointed probationer on 14th June 1855 and permanent constable on 21st December in the same year. Promotions to second class, first class and merit constable are recorded, and finally William became an assistant warrant officer on 9th September 1859. So my puzzlement about the term "warrant officer" was over!

It seems that William specialised in running to earth those who had escaped from reformatory schools. He obtained several rewards for "meritorious conduct" during the 1860s, all of which involved apprehending absconders and returning them to their schools. One of these rewards amounted to 20 shillings, a handsome sum indeed back in 1862. From these

circumstances I conclude that William was promoted to assistant warrant officer to have the powers that the rank implies, namely to be able to have access to premises and arrest offenders.

So why was William never promoted to the rank of police sergeant or above? The answer is probably because of his misconduct, the records of which are, alas, slightly more numerous than those of commendation. On one occasion he disobeyed orders, a couple of times he didn't turn up for duty and once he assaulted a civilian. However the most frequent misdemeanour was being "under the influence of liquor", a habit which, I'm glad to say, hasn't been inherited.

In family history research things rarely turn out exactly as expected. Expecting to find only tiny fragments of information about my great-grandfather, I turned a page and suddenly he became alive.

On my next visit to Sheffield Archives I consulted another "police order book" which turned out to be a most detailed diary, kept in meticulously tidy handwriting. It dealt with day-to-day matters during the 1850s and 1860s, including appointments, promotions, disciplinary matters, issues of uniforms and equipment and changes of policy. Frequently, individuals are mentioned. At intervals the entire force is listed. For example on the 4th October 1869 the names of all 237 constables and 3 warrant officers were written out by hand. My interest was, I found, being extended from purely personal considerations to the history of Sheffield's Police Force and the meticulous way in which it was being administered back in the mid-Victorian era.

So far I have only consulted three out of the dozen or so police order books relating to the time of my great-andfather's police service. What will I find when, during future proposed visits to Sheffield Archives, I read through the remainder? Whatever I find, I shall be on the way to becoming a real authority, on the history of the Sheffield Police Force.

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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.

My Ancestors were Quakers by Edward Milligan and Malcolm Thomas
ISBN 1 85951 404 9 Price £2.95 plus 50p postage.

This new 2nd edition has been vastly expanded and revised

Social Structure in some Dark Peak Hamlets in the 17th and 18th Centuries
by Dr. Derek Brumhead. Available from Derbyshire Record Office, Matlock.
price £2.75 inc postage.

What was the social structure of the Dark Peak communities in the period 1650-1775? Who were 'yeomen' and who were 'husbandmen' and what was the difference? What can Hearth Tax assessments tell us about the economic prosperity of the Dark Peak in early modern times? What was different about the houses and farms in this part of Derbyshire? Answers to these questions are to be found in this 14-page, illustrated booklet. First seen in 'The Local Historian' it is now available as a separate publication.

USEFUL ARTICLES IN OTHER SOCIETIES' JOURNALS

Military Service Tribunals 1916-18 by David T. Hawkins

Genealogists Magazine Vol 26 No. 2 Dec 1998

Contains papers relating to applications for exemption on medical, religious and other grounds.

The usefulness of depositions by June Biggs.

N.W. Kent FHS Vol.8. No.2. June 1998

Was your ancestor a witness? By Peter Wood.

Gives details of a new database at the House of Commons Record Office. The database contains names, occupations, addresses etc. of witnesses who gave evidence to committees of Lords or Commons considering private bills between 1771 and 1917.

Bedfordshire FHS Vol. 11. June 1998.

Lest we forget – the Miners' Bond by Tony Whitehead.

Details of a little known tool that can help in researching mining ancestors.

The North Easterner. Issue 14. Spring 1998.

YORKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY

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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