

Sheffield and District Family History Society

The Flowing Stream ~



Winter 1999

Volume 20
Number 4

FUTURE PROGRAMME – 2000

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

- Mon. 17 Jan. *Family Names, Family History* by Prof. David Hey
Mon. 21 Feb. *Lest We Forget Part 1* by Douglas Lamb
Mon. 20 Mar. *A.G.M.* followed by *Queen Mary's Dolls House* by Marjorie P.Dunn
Mon. 17 Apr. To be arranged
Mon. 15 May *From the Cradle to the Grave* by Wendy Weston
Mon. 19 Jun. *Annals of Sheffield Cathedral* by William Ross
Mon. 17 Jul. *Sheffield Turnpikes* by Howard Smith

ROTHERHAM BRANCH PROGRAMME

Please note - new venue

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

- Thurs. 6 Jan. *A.G.M.*
Thurs. 3 Feb. *Talk on the Dearne Valley* by Mick Elliott
Thurs. 2 Mar. *Workshop*
Thurs. 6 Apr. *Wincobank* by Cyril Wilson
Thurs. 4 May *Open meeting*
Thurs. 1 Jun. *H.M.S. Warrior* by Aileen and George Wade
Thurs. 6 Jul *Open meeting*
Thurs. 7 Sept. To be arranged
Thurs. 5 Oct. *Workshop*
Thurs. 2 Nov. To be arranged
Thurs. 7 Dec. *Open meeting*

THE FLOWING STREAM

Journal of Sheffield and District Family History Society

Volume 20. No. 4 Winter 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 (Napa 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

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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

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

Each journal contains a list of e-mail addresses. Members are requested to ensure that any address sent in is **clearly written** - preferably typed. If details have to be deciphered there is always a danger that a mistake will be made - and you may miss a vital clue to your family!

Please keep sending in copy for the journal. The much larger publications that you now receive mean that much more material is needed to maintain this standard. Thank you to all who contributed to this edition.

We wish all members a very Happy Christmas, Memorable Millennium Celebrations and a Prosperous and Successful New Year.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society welcomes the following new members

- Ms Kathryn J.M. Atkin, 28, Fulmer Road, Hunters Bar, Sheffield S11 8UF
Miss Patricia Axelby, 14, Cox Road, Wisewood, Sheffield S6 4SX
Mr Peter Balm, 34, Broadheath Drive, Chislehurst, Kent BR7 6EH
Mr Glen Dennis Bradbury, 91, Dyke Vale Road, Hackenthorpe, Sheffield S12 4TA
Dr Adeline Bradshaw, 1, Edmonds Ct. Daviot Street, Roath, Cardiff CF2 4SR
Mr Ralph Brammer, 64, Grove Walk, Norwich, Norfolk NR1 2QH
Mr Leonard J. & Doreen A. Brocklesby, 29, Mortains, Todwick, Sheffield S26 1HU
Mr S. Bullen 82, Nathan Drive, Waterthorpe, Sheffield S20 7LX
Mr Robert J. Cope, 7, Wellsbourne Park, Plymouth PL3 5JJ
Mr Roger Dewsnap, 2, Westbourne Avenue, Clifton, Swinton, Manchester M27 6NN
Mrs Sandra E. Drake, 33, Westward Place, Bridgend, Bridgend County Borough CF31 4XA
Mr Bill & Mrs June Feasey, 19, Curlew Avenue, Eckington, Sheffield S21 4HR
Mr Andrew Ferguson, 70, Morthen Road, Wickersley, Rotherham S66 1EG
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Mr John William Haddock, 26, Grange View Road, Kimberworth, Rotherham S612AX
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GENERAL NEWS AND NOTES

Leeds Central Library on the Move

While essential building work takes place the Leeds Central Library will 'move' across the road to the Town Hall in The Headrow and reduced services will operate there until Spring 2000. Local and Family History facilities will be limited but local information including Leeds directories, a limited number of Ordnance Survey maps of the Leeds Metropolitan area, and the local photographic archive on the council's website will be accessible. The full range of family history indexes will also be available for anyone researching their family tree.

Leeds City Library telephone number is 0113 247 8290

The Family Tree section on page 489 of Channel 4 teletext is operational again. Messages are changed overnight on Sundays.

Whitby Archives and Heritage Centre

The Family History Department can carry out research on your behalf at only £5.00 per hour. Their resources cover Whitby and North Yorkshire in particular and Yorkshire in general. They also hold many research resources for other areas. For an information booklet please send an SAE to Whitby Archives and Heritage Centre, 17/18, Grape Lane, Whitby, North Yorkshire YO22 4AD

Tel; 01947 600170 or see their web site

<http://www.users.zetnet.co.uk/whitby-archives/>

Entwistle Family History Association

An inaugural meeting of this society was held in Blackburn in Sept. 1999 and was attended by 21 people from many parts of the country. If you are researching the name Entwis(t)le and would like to know more, please contact the Membership Secretary: Mrs Elizabeth Cook, Pen-y-Gader, Llanwrwst Road, Tyn-y-Groes, Conwy, Wales LL32 8SX.

E-mail: penygader@wiss.co.uk

or Secretary: Mrs Barbara Nightingale, 58, Earnsdale Road, Darwen, Lancs. BB3 1HS. E-mail: dn2001@hotmail.com

SOCIETY NEWS AND INFORMATION

Society Membership and Membership Renewal

The Executive Committee is currently reviewing its own structure to try to improve communication within the Society and also the way in which the Society operates. We have consulted the Federation of Family History Societies and after receiving advice we have decided that we will no longer ask members to state whether they wish to belong to the 'Main Society' or to 'Rotherham Branch'. *This will not affect any members' rights to attend any meetings* - members are always welcome to attend meetings in both Rotherham and Sheffield. We have also decided that all membership renewals should be directed to the Membership Secretary, Tricia Heath. Her address is on the renewal slip.

The Executive Committee and the Rotherham Branch Committee are working together to update the Constitution (last amended in 1989) to meet the needs of the millennium and we will be writing to all members of the Society in the New Year. We hope that the updated Constitution will be discussed at a meeting early next year, probably in March.

Judith Pitchforth. Hon Secretary.

New Members Booklet

Erratum - Leeds City Library telephone number should read 0113 247 8290

Badger One-Name Society

Mrs Mary Rhodes, 134, Sunnybank Crescent, Brinsworth, Rotherham S60 5JJ, one of our members, is doing a one name study of the surname Badger.

Yorkshire Consortium of Family History Societies (London Group)

Chairman's Report 1998-99 by Lawson Cockcroft

As in every year since the Group was established, I can report a year of marked success. The pattern of meetings has continued with Ann Batchelor speaking on "Emily of the Short Petticoat" at the September meeting which was also our 1998 AGM, followed by our first "commissioned" lecture given by Audrey Collins in November on the topic of "Remote Research". In March of this year, Michael Gandy was the speaker at our first joint meeting, at which we welcomed the Catholic FHS, to hear him speak about Catholic Records. Angela Petyt was our speaker at the June meeting, where she described the use of school records to fill in the educational background of our ancestors in Victorian Britain.

The meetings have, again, been well attended and by now the traditional friendly atmosphere has been immeasurably helped along by the indefatigable efforts of the volunteers of “the coffee team”, the bookstall and the “registrars” who check in members with a smile as they collect £2 per head.

Although Liz Craig “officially” retired at last year’s AGM, we have been helped immeasurably by her agreeing to continue to help and advise until the new secretary was able to take up his duties in January. We were also indebted to Lily Catterick who helped us in the arrangements for our participation in the 1999 SoG Family History Fair. The burden of organising volunteers to man the stand, of arranging the arrival of books, leaflets, etc. from the Yorkshire Societies and its return was taken on by Roy Stockdill and the success of the London Group’s contribution to the Fair is a tribute to him and the band of volunteers who were more than generous with their time and knowledge of Yorkshire and its FHSs - and their sales techniques.

Our treasurer will report that we have ended the year with a modest surplus - when you consider that the SoG Fair alone involves a large number of financial transactions with FHSs and the SoG itself, you will realise the tremendous debt of gratitude we owe Bob Adams who has taken on the burden of keeping our accounts in good order and presenting them to the auditor. This is without any shadow of doubt, the most onerous of the committee’s posts and Bob has again undertaken all that it involves with characteristic cheerfulness and efficiency.

In conclusion, I wish to record our appreciation of the friendly and efficient services of the SoG staff. The “new” admission procedure has been a great improvement and our dealing with the staff have been, at all times, as amiable and courteous as one could wish.

Members are reminded that they are all entitled and invited to attend meetings of the London Group.

Do you have a Flinders in the family?

Keith Flinders, 32, Homewood Avenue, Karori, Wellington, New Zealand is researching **Flinders** and **Stronach** worldwide. He is doing a one-name study of the surname Flinders and has a lot of information that he would be delighted to share with any members who may have a connection. Families with the name Flinders were in Sheffield from about the 1860’s with some originating from the Ilkeston area of Derbyshire, others from North Derbyshire and yet others from Nottinghamshire. He has extracted all the GRO index information for the name from 1837-1997 as well as census and will data.

Another earlier connection with Sheffield is a **Henrietta Flinders** who married a **Mr Chambers** at a place and time unknown. They visited her half-brother **Capt. Matthew Flinders RN 1774-1814** in London on 22 April 1813 and he recorded in his journal that they were from Sheffield. If any member has an interest in the name Chambers with a Henrietta X marrying into the line about 1812 / 13 then Keith has a lot of background information on her.

Messages and information can be passed to Keith c/o Mr J. Flinders, 26, Clarkes Lane, Chilwell, Nottingham NG5 5BL.

The Society Library, at Sheffield Archives has been overhauled. Some of the FFHS publications, including the very useful Gibson Guides, have been placed in binders, with the aim of making the information more accessible. There are a number of folders on the shelves which contain transcriptions of some Church registers, and several files full of Monumental Inscriptions. Other items have been removed from the envelopes where they used to be stored and placed in presentation folders and files. If you wish to comment on the new look please let me know – and if you have any ideas for other items for the shelves please contact the Society Librarian, Susan Hammond.

Exchange journals

Do you have ancestors from other parts of the country, and want to look at the FHS journals from that locality before you decide to join? We have exchange journals from most of the societies in the country – housed in a filing cabinet in the reception area at Sheffield Archives. Please use them on a reference basis – they are in folders labelled with the name of each society, and you should find that there are journals there from the past five years.

BURIAL TRANSCRIPTIONS – UPDATE

We are well over half way through the transcribing of the church burial records from 1813. We have finished 14, have 5 ongoing and have 9 more to start. A lot of people have already bought fiche or disks of those churches that we have finished. So far I have had one or two comments thanking us for all the hard work we are doing and one telling how the person had managed to find the name he wanted although the incumbent had transposed it. I hope other people are having successes.

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 –
Attercliffe 1813 to 1902 - Brightside St. Thomas 1854 to 1901 -
Crookes St. Thomas 1841 to 1973 – Ecclesall All Saints 1789 to 1923 –
Gleadless Christ Church 1839 to 1953– Heeley Christ Church 1848 to 1906 -
Park St. John 1840 to 1924 - Wadsley 1835 to 1903.
Rotherham All Saints 1813 to 1854 – Greasbrough St. Mary 1813 to 1858

Coming soon

St. Philip

In production

St. George – Pitsmoor Christ Church – Norton St. James –
Fulwood Christ Church.

Our database now has over 190,000 records available for searching.

*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

Rotherham Branch Website

Members may like to know that the Rotherham Branch now has web pages at
<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Oaks/5468/>

These web pages are intended to extend the main society's pages. These pages include a **Members' Interest list** as well as a message board. It offers all members of the society a chance to put their surname interests on the Internet whether they have access to the Internet or not. If you are on the Internet then your interests can be e- mailed to me at:
caz@turn-er.freemove.co.uk (usual format please) or forms are available on-line within the web site.

For members without Internet access they can be sent by post to Mrs C.A. Turner, 39, Fraser Road, Broom Valley, Rotherham, S. Yorkshire, S60 2SZ. Please remember to supply a contact address which will *not* go on the internet. I will only pass on your address when I receive an e-mail from a prospective contact interested in the same surname.

The message board is again intended to be used by all members and works like the "Other People's Problems" section of "The Flowing Stream". Once again either send your message by post or e-mail. A contact address has to be included with the message on the internet.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has already sent me their surname interests and messages for the message board.

Caroline Turner Rotherham Branch Web page coordinator

Rathbones of Sheffield: and links with Babbington

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Village/2123/rathbone.html>

Error from sender

The website for *Dawson and Easingwood Family Trees* (in Vol.20 No. 3) should read

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

The following web sites may be of assistance to some members.

HYPERLINK <http://www.genuki.org.uk> The UK and Ireland genealogical information service with information about and links to Family History Societies. It has a wealth of information about research within its pages and links to other sites as well.

HYPERLINK <http://www.cyndislist.com/> This site gives over 40000 links to other genealogy sites which are all categorised and cross referenced.

HYPERLINK <http://members.tripod.com/~surnames/> This has links to over 1000 genealogy sites

HYPERLINK <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/> This is the home page of the National Genealogical Society. If you are just starting out on your family history research you may find that its general help provides you with a good start.

HYPERLINK <http://www.pro.gov.uk/> The Public Record Office home page. Its catalogue of 8 million records is available on line, and enables you to plan your visit to the PRO in advance so that you can maximise your time spent on research when you are there. Many records will have a brief description as well as their dates and the government department where they originated. The site has an A – Z index of all the PRO leaflets which may be downloaded and printed for your own personal use (but not reproduced commercially or for sale). It does NOT have access to birth, marriage and death records.

HYPERLINK <http://www.rootsweb.com> Another very comprehensive site with access to mailing lists to locate other genealogists researching family names.

For researchers interested in Yorkshire – if you send an e-mail to HYPERLINK <mailto:YORKSGEN-D-request@rootsweb.com> with the single word subscribe in the main body of the text you will sign up to the mailing list. The mail will be in digest form (i.e. lots of messages in one long e-mail), but if you prefer to have each piece of mail arriving separately then the address is HYPERLINK <mailto:YORKSGEN-D-request@rootsweb.com> Prepare to be deluged, and to send in your own queries as well. For West Yorkshire in particular, try

HYPERLINK <http://members.aol.com/wrylist/wry.htm> and for East and North Yorkshire try <http://jodenoy.clara.net/erynry/erynry.htm>

HYPERLINK <http://www.one-name.org/top.htm> The Guild of One Name Studies (GOONS) site. Members of the Guild collect everything about a particular surname. It does mean that if the surname you are researching is on their list that someone else has gathered the information you are looking for.

HYPERLINK <http://www.cwgc.org> The Commonwealth War Graves Commission site has information on burial places and the circumstances of death (where these are known) for the services personnel and some civilians who were killed in both World Wars. The site is only accessible during the day from Monday to Friday.

HYPERLINK <http://www.familysearch.org> All of the different sources of information from the LDS church are available at this site, including the IGI and Family Search. It is a popular site and can take a while to access. It is also worth reminding users that some of the information stored is conjecture and may not be directly from parish records. As always, don't accept indexes at face value – check the original. (You may also be interested to know that David Hawgood has recently published a FFHS guide to this called FamilySearch on the Internet)

HYPERLINK <http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/ilej> This site has the Gentleman's Magazine

The Vital Records Index for the British Isles, produced by the LDS Church has five CD ROMs covering a selection of civil and church records from 1538 – 1888. Records from the Sheffield area include selections from Bradfield Loxley Congregational Chapel, Lee Croft Independent Chapel, Queen Street Independent/Congregational Chapel, Cemetery Road Church, Howard Street Independent, Woodhouse URC Swinton, and Wath upon Dearne. Searches can be made on a name basis, restricting the years and the locations as the user wishes. An interesting feature is the ability to search a particular location, which

lists all the records in alphabetical order. Although this is just a selection of data, you may well find that you locate some of your ancestors - I found some of my North Yorkshire antecedents on here.

Available from the LDS Church, 399, Garretts Green, Birmingham. (Price £13.50)

Judith Pitchforth

For details of diskettes for sale on a variety of family history and local history subjects see the following web site

<http://www.tcwaters.free-online.co.uk>

CONFERENCES AND FAIRS

North East Group of FHS / Society of Genealogists Computer Day 8 April 2000

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

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, Folkestone.

See Vol. 20 No. 3 for full details of the above conferences.

East Lothian Millennium Family History Fair 25 March 2000

There will be lectures and workshops in the Town House and an exhibition in the Corn Exchange. For further details contact Veronica Wallace, Local History and Promotions Librarian, East Lothian Library and Museum Headquarters, Dunbar Road, Haddington, East Lothian EH41 3PJ Tel: 01620 828209

E-mail: HQ@lothlib.demon.co.uk

Society of Genealogists Fair 6 - 7 May 2000

To be held in the Royal Horticultural Society Hall, Greycoat Street, Westminster, London SW1.

Lincolnshire FHS Weekend Conference 1-3 September 2000

Entitled "Roses to Roundheads" the conference will be held at Bishop Grosseteste College, Lincoln. Day attenders are welcome. Topics will include: "Herald's daughter to Royal Arms! The story of Katherine Swynford" by Richard Thornton; "Brute and Beastly Shire: Conspiracy, Treason and Politics in the

Lincolnshire Rising of 1536" by Dr Simon Pawley; "Henry VIII: Dynast or Hedonist?" by Jean Townsend; "Ancestral Homes and Gardens" by Mary Anderson; "Battling with the Paper Chase: From Bosworth to Edgehill - Research Sources 1485-1642" by Lynda Hotchkiss; "Myths, Maladies and Magic" by Brian Thompson.

Further information from Mrs B. Webster, 25, Fen Road, Heighington, Lincoln LN4 1JL

THROUGH THE LETTERBOX

From Dr Alan Dorling, 22, Balley Road, Newark, Notts. NG24 4EW

Joseph Gales (1761-1841) wrote for and edited the *Sheffield Register* and fled to America in 1795. I refer to Gales briefly in my forthcoming article on the Newark printer, Daniel Holt. The two men must have worked together in Newark around 1782, and it is this early period of Gales' life I am interested in especially, though not exclusively.

I have, of course, the usual information on Gales found in the National Biographies, and I have contacted the Sheffield Library who kindly sent me copies of articles they have on Gales. However, it occurs to me that such an important local figure may have drawn your society's attention. If so, I would be grateful for any details.

From Fred Waite, Lichfield.

I have in my possession the back cover of a Bible which has written upon it names and dates of Births, Marriages and Deaths of **Burton and Pollard families**. The first event is the marriage of **William Burton and Elizabeth Pollard** on 15 January 1821 at The Old Church, Sheffield. Other places mentioned are Hickleton and Sprotborough.

If any of your members can make a connection with this family then I shall be pleased to supply full details. *Please contact Judith Pitchforth for further details.*

SOCIETY MEETINGS

Meeting on Monday 21st June 1999

Sheffield's Industrial Heritage

The theme of this talk by Derek Bayliss was the rise of Sheffield from its small town origins in mediaeval times to England's 4th largest city by the end of the 20th century. At the beginning of the 18th century Sheffield was the 33rd town in England in terms of size of population, and by the end of that century, had risen to 7th place.

One of the trading problems Sheffield had was the difficulty of getting goods out of the city because of the terrain. Once that was overcome, the city could exploit its natural resources and grow. Examples of local industries (but by no means exhaustive) and family names are given throughout this article, to give you a flavour of the occupations of some of your ancestors.

The natural resources of the area were stone, timber, water, iron, coal and people. Stone was used for building and in particular for roofing (thin stone was obtained from the quarries at Fulwood Head). Millstone grit was used not surprisingly for millstones, for grinding corn, and this stone was found in the countryside between Sheffield and Hathersage. It was an important industry. Grindstones however, are a softer sandstone than millstone grit, and they were important for the cutlery industry. This kind of stone was found at Brincliffe Edge, Grenoside and Wickersley. Fireclay was located in NW Sheffield, and this was used for lining furnaces and for making moulded brickwork for molten metal to run along. Sheffield and Rotherham were also famous for firegrates and stoves with elaborate castings. Hooles of Green Lane works in Sheffield even employed artists as designers for grates.

Timber was used for construction (The Queen's Head off Pond Street was an example of this, but since its renovation it is not particularly easy to see the original timbers), and also for making machinery (examples at Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet). Charcoal was produced in the woods around Sheffield, using the coppicing method. The names Spring and Springwood indicate this local industry. George Yardley, a local charcoal burner is commemorated on a gravestone in Ecclesall Woods, where he died in a fire in the late 18th century. Charcoal burning is still done in Ecclesall Woods. Earthworks (cue holes) indicate where kilns were used for the production of 'white coal' used for smelting lead in the Sheaf valley. Baskets and containers made from split wood were made in Greno woods where there was a lake for wetting the wood for splitting.

Water was used in many industrial processes. Water was taken from the river in to the watercourse at Kelham Island grinding works. There are several examples of mills in the locality – there is an undershot wheel in the mill at Malin Bridge. However the more characteristic pattern of water use in Sheffield was to take water from the stream via a weir, hold it in a pond with a dam at the bottom or side and to have a mill (with a wheel) at the end. Water was used to power machinery other than just grindstones, for example for fulling or walking textiles. The water turned a cam wheel to power a hammer, which hammered and thickened the cloth. There were also metal working mills, paper mills (particularly along the Rivelin valley) and snuff mills (along the Porter).

A bed of ironstone ran through South Yorkshire, and it may well have been worked by the Romans. Some of the iron ore was removed from the surface on outcrops; some was mined via bell pits (there is evidence of over 1000 bell pits in the region). Cast iron was produced in blast furnaces, and some of this was changed to wrought iron via secondary furnaces and water powered hammers at forges along the river (Wortley Top Forge). Iron from the forges was used in many different ways. Cutlery is an obvious use, but also sickles and scythes were produced in SE Sheffield, nails (in small hand forges attached to houses), which were carried by nail chapmen to the forgers and then taken away once completed. From the 17th century onwards wire drawing was done, particularly for use in the textile industry. By the 18th century iron could be rolled (powered by waterwheels, for example at Low Matlock rolling mill in Loxley Valley). At that time the Walker family (who moved from Grenoside to Rotherham) had a large firm producing iron items ranging from cannon and bridges to smaller items such as frying pans and flat irons.

Coal was mainly used as domestic fuel from the 14th century onwards, in 16th – 17th century for glassmaking and by the end of the 17th century in the forges.

Cutlery was a local speciality in the iron industry. It originated as a domestic craft, often done part time, in small workshops attached to houses. Knives were forged and then ground using a grindstone (water on the grindstone speeds the process). The industry grew very rapidly in the 18th century as communications improved and the materials and markets became more accessible. Large firms and small specialists co-existed and most of the waterways around the city were used by the cutlery industry. After the invention of steam wheels to drive machinery, many of the workers were employed full time in the cutlery industry and the incidence of dust related diseases in the early 19th century brought down the life expectancy of grinders to around 32 years of

age. By the 19th century Sheffield cutlery was famous around the world, employing many people directly and in associated industries, for example making handles (wood, horn, ivory, bone), packaging and retail. Buttons and snuff boxes were also made in Sheffield (there was a button mill near Forge Dam, Fulwood). These items were relatively small and easy to transport. Old Sheffield Plate was later used for some of these items. Its inventor Thomas Bolsover had a works at Crucible and Wire Mill Dam on the river Porter. He lived at Whiteley Wood Hall (now demolished, although the stables are still there).

Britannia metal was an improved form of pewter and could be shaped by spinning and casting. It had similar uses to Sheffield Plate, which ceased to be used around 1840 when it was replaced by electroplating. Local firms adopted that new method and thrived. (James Dixon's company at Cornish Place works)

Some edge tools, for example shears and awls, were made by specialists in the 17th century. In the 18th and 19th centuries the hand-file industry was extremely important. It was both an urban and a rural industry, needing a lot of light because the teeth on the files were cut by hand. Lead beds were used to prevent damage to the underside of the hand-file – more hazards for the workers were the result. This industry has completely disappeared from Sheffield. Scythes and sickles were made locally – for example at the Abbeydale Scythe works, run latterly by the Tyzack family. Edge tools were made at the Globe Works on Penistone Road.

Finally, steel. This was used for making 'better' cutlery at the end of the 16th century. The early steel was not perfect, but as processes improved its uses widened, and eventually it was used for machinery. Evidence of some of the early steel works is still coming to light in the city when excavations are carried out for new buildings. Crucible steel could be shaped, rolled and drawn into wire. Samuel Fox at Stocksbridge used wire drawing for umbrella frames, and crinoline hoops were also produced this way. By 1840 90% of the steel production in Sheffield (Brown, Vickers, Firth, Jessop companies) had moved out of the town to the Eastern outskirts. After that time with the advance in technology and cheaper steel produced by using the Bessemer converter, Sheffield's steel industry grew. Robert Hadfield's company produced a wide range of alloy steels by using different scientific methods. Harry Brearley discovered the ancestor of all modern stainless steel. At one time one Sheffield firm produced ordnance whilst its neighbour produced the armour plate to resist it. The Davy Brothers' steel making plant dates from 1840 in the Attercliffe area. There was a small car making industry in Sheffield at the turn of this century; it produced the Hallamshire car. That industry does not exist in Sheffield now, but

components, for example, springs for the car industry, are still made here. At the close of the 20th century the steel industry in Sheffield is making more steel than ever, with a fraction of the workforce.

Reported by Judith Pitchforth.

Summer meeting on July 26th 1999.

We met at the Norfolk Arms at Ringinglow, from where there is a wonderful view of the city. The aim was to have a guided tour by Martin Olive, and to walk around the locality to see for ourselves those parts of the area that Martin had illustrated in his talk to us in January. We saw many of the remains of the local industrial processes, but unfortunately the rain poured down and did curtail the evening. Fortunately we had left our cars at the Norfolk Arms nearby, so were able to go inside to dry out.

Reported by Judith Pitchforth.

Yorkshire Consortium of FHSs (London Group) lecture

Maps, Directories and the Census by Jeanne Bunting

Census returns are one of the most important sources of primary family history material. Given an address from a birth, marriage or death certificate it is theoretically a short step to locating other members of the same family living at that address in the nearest 10 yearly census returns. Most members of the audience had experienced difficulty with this *simple* exercise. While the process may be simple for a village or small market town, large conurbations, and London in particular, were much more difficult. Jeanne was to explain why, and how to overcome the problems using one example from Sheffield and one from London.

The Sheffield example revolved around Attercliffe Road, a very long road which was present on modern maps but which did not appear on the street index for the 1881 Sheffield census. Earlier maps showed that this long road had been made up of three smaller roads Tinsley Road, Carlton Road and High Street. By using local street directories which define exactly where streets start and finish she was able to find the house she was looking for, but not the family. The houses had been renumbered! A visit to the local studies section of the local library - always to be advised - enabled her to find the family she was searching for and she was able to photograph the house in question.

The second example was Commercial Road, London. Again another long road. Here the problem was that one side of the road was in Whitechapel and the other in Stepney. However using maps and the street index to locate the side

roads - another useful technique - since it was most unlikely that all the side roads would change their name she was able to find the correct film and go straight to the required folio.

A most instructive lecture for beginners and old hands alike.

OTHER PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS

Mrs A.G. Murton, 219, Great Northern Road, Aberdeen AB24 2AB asks: "Is anyone researching the family of **Samuel James King** and **Betsy Turner**? They married 15 Sept. 1872 at Willenhall, Staffs. and came to Kiveton Park about 1870.

Is anyone researching the family of **Thomas Barber** and **Jane Mycroft**? They married in Sheffield on 8 May 1853. and came to Kiveton Park about 1870. I have information about both families but don't want to duplicate research that other people may have done. I am happy to share my findings."

Mr Brian Rushby, 1, Railway Terrace, Burford Road, Lechlade, Glos. GL7 3EP is searching for the marriage of **John Major** and **Catherine Sheppard** around 1837. Any help or suggestions would be most welcome.

Mrs Jean Haynes, 40, Cowper Road, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 5NG is seeking information on

1. **William Congreve** buried 1754 St. Peter, Sheffield aged 111 years 8 months "The Old Parr of Sheffield".

2. His son **Samuel Congreve**, schoolmaster at Clown and Derby, died aged 101 in 1791. Buried Derby Cathedral. Husband of Elizabeth, nee Wragg, married Ecclesfield 1728.

3. His grandson, **William Congreve** baptised 1729 (son of Samuel and Elinzabeth) at Sheffield. Cutler and writing master. Died 1777. Buried St. Peter, Sheffield.

4. His great grandson, **Thomas (Frederick) Congreve**, surgeon. Baptised on 30 November 1761 Sheffield. In particular this man's first marriage and any children of this union. He married, secondly, **Jane McCauley** at St. James, Westminster, on 4 December 1794.

Mrs Haynes presumes Thomas Frederick finished his apprenticeship to a surgeon in Wirksworth by 1782 but she loses him after that, until 1793 in London and in 1794 he is described as widower.

Mrs June Feasey, 19, Curlew Avenue, Eckington, Sheffield S21 4HR is interested in the Crookes family of Loxley, Owlerton and Hillsbrough. **Ralph Crookes** was baptised in Bradfield in 1804. He was the father of **Harvey Crookes** who married **Louisa Bamforth** at St Philip's in 1858. Mrs Feasey would like to hear from anyone researching this family.

Mr Geoffrey Levesley, 5, Hayes Court, Halfway, Sheffield S20 4TS asks if any member knows of the whereabouts of the **original manuscript of An Old Ecclesfield Diary**, the fascinating contemporary account of village life from 1775 to 1845.

Mrs Judith Bennett, Newton Cottage, Newton, Sturminster Newton DT1 0 2HN has a weak link: **John Bennett**, born about 1811 (1851 census), is described as son of **William**, a forkman. The only John, son of a forkmaker, found in the Cathedral PRs (bap 6-9-1811) is the son of John & Mary not of William & Mary. William the forkmaker had a number of children, and there is just enough gap for John to have been "his", and the parentage wrong in the register. Forkmaker John does not appear again in the registers so far searched. Can anyone else throw light on this family?

Mr & Mrs G. England, Flat One, 27, Holbeck Avenue, Scarborough, North Yorks. YO11 2XH write: "My gt. gt. grandfather **William England** started a brass founding business in the mid 1850s. At various times in the Kelly's it was described as Brass and German silver founders. On the 1871 census he was shown as employing 5 men, 5 boys, and 6 women. When he retired his sons **William**, who was described as manager, **Joe**, **Addy**, and **Richard England**, all described as brassfounders, continued and the firm was shown as England Bros. still at No. 4, Turner Street. William was the last to die in 1929 but the firm continued to operate and the last entry in the Kelly's trades directory was in 1954. Can anyone provide me with details of this firm?"

Christine Hill, 35, Browns Lane, Coventry CV5 9 DT writes: "I am trying to trace details of my grandfather and his family. His name was **Walter Tansley** and he married **Ada Emily Tricket** at the Parish Church, Ecclesall, Sheffield on 12th November 1906. His father was also named Walter, a silversmith, and lived at 10, Roach Road. Their first child, also named Walter was born on 6th May 1908 in Sheffield. The family moved to Coventry, where three more children

were born. He joined the 110th Scottish Rifles in February 1915 and was killed at the battle of Loos in France on 25th September 1915. ,

I cannot confirm his birth date, although I have been told he was 29 years old when he died, or where he was born. I would appreciate any information that anyone may have."

B.W. Lockwood of 37, Wiltshire Drive, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 0RY is seeking information on **James Parkin** (c. 11-06-1786 at Sheffield Cathedral) and **Ann Sidebottom** (c.29-04-1787, Wentworth) who were married in Rotherham on 27-10-1807. Also **Benjamin Mangham** (c.26-09-1762, Wentworth : d, June 1833 Wath) and **Mary Stead** (c.07-10-1762 d. Feb 1827 Wath) who married on 08-02-1785 at, maybe, Wentworth. Any information will be gratefully received.

Offer of Help

Mr Brian Rushby, 1, Railway Terrace, Burford Road, Lechlade, Glos. GL7 3EP has copies of a lot of **parish records for the Cotswold town of Lechlade**. The records include births, marriages and deaths from 1514 to 1959. He would be happy to help members with their research there.

Mrs Francine Clifford, Hydon House, Little Edge, Eyam, Hope Valley S32 5RN is researching **the village of Eyam and its history**. She has an extensive collection of material - parish registers transcripts/copies from 1630-1900; census returns (still in manuscript but slowly being put onto computer); copies of wills; family trees etc. She would be happy to conduct searches or give access to members for a very small donation to cover expenses.

NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

- 210 Mrs Eileen Topley, 8, Jukes Street, Hackett, Canberra, ACR 2602, Australia
 1457 Mr E.A. Grayson, 8, Pentland Road, Dronfield Woodhouse, Dronfield S18 8ZQ
 1739 Mrs Ann Roche, Linchets, 76a, Medstead Road, Beech, Alton, Hants. GU34 4AE
 1805 Margaret Atkin, 33, Cumberland Avenue, Leyland, Preston PR5 1BH
 1846 Mrs C. A. Hill, 33, Walmer Court, Wheeler Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1TY
 1853 Mr S. Bullen, 82, Nathan Drive, Waterthorpe, Sheffield S20 7LX
 1854 Mrs Christine Sadler, The Gun Room, Newstead Abbey Park, Notts. NG15 8GE
 1859 Mrs Marian J. Jones, 93, Pine Road, Penguin, Tasmania, Australia 7316
 1860 Mr & Mrs A. Sayles, 25, Greater Paddock, Ringmer, Lewes, E. Sussex BN8 5LH
 1861 Mr Ralph Brammer, 64, Grove Walk, Norwich, Norfolk NR1 2QH
 1862 Mr J. W. Haddock, 26, Grange View Road, Kimberworth, Rotherham S61 2AX
 1864 Mr D.S. Goldsbrough, Old Coastguard House, Kildonan, Isle of Arran KA27 8SQ D
 1868 Mrs Mary Rhodes, 134, Sunnybank Crescent, Brinsworth, Rotherham S60 5JJ
 1872 Mrs K. Morris, 74, Church Green, St. Peter's Street, St. Albans, Herts. AL1 3HG
 1879 Mrs June Feasey, 19, Curlew Avenue, Eckington, N.E. Derbyshire S21 4HR
 1887 Mr & Mrs Alan & Sue Coleshill, 8, Rex Avenue, Millhouses, Sheffield S7 2GS

1739	Addlesee	Lincolnshire	LIN	Any
1846	Addy	Sheffield/Ecclesfield/Rotherham	YKS	Any
1739	Andrew(s)	Sheffield	YKS	1880+
1739	Andrew(s)	Lincolnshire	LIN	pre 1900
1861	Archer	Batley Carr	YKS	19C
1872	Ask	Bubwith	ERY	pre 1850
1868	Badger	All	All	All
1887	Bailey	Tinsley, Sheffield	SYK	pre 1887
1879	Banforth	Ecclesfield	WRY	pre 1830
1859	Belk	Sheffield	YKS	1800+
1805	Birch	Sheffield	YKS	1800+
1805	Birch	Melbourne	DBY	pre 1850
1861	Brammer	Sheffield	YKS	19C
1872	Brittain	Eastrington	ERY	pre 1900
1872	Brown	York, Melbourn	ERY	pre 1850
1846	Brownhill	Sheffield/Wortley/ Nether Hallam/Rotherham	YKS	Any
1864	Brunt	Sheffield	YKS	c1800-1900
1887	Burgess	Tinsley, Sheffield	SYK	1883
1846	Burgin	Sheffield & District	YKS	Any
1861	Chapman	Long Eaton	DBY	pre 1850
1887	Coleshill	Hounslow, London		pre 1881
1879	Crookes	Bradfield	WRY	pre 1800
1457	Cross	Rotherham	YKS	pre 1881
1846	Davies	Sheffield/Rotherham	YKS	pre 1890

1846	Davies	Lancashire	LAN	pre 1890
1846	Dawson	Sheffield/Rotherham	YKS	pre 1890
1457	Dobson	Rotherham	YKS	pre 1841
1805	Dodwell	Ashbourne	DBY	pre 1840
1862	Drinkall	Broughton	LIN	pre 1870
210	Edge	Barlborough	DBY	1700-1800
1457	Finney	Rotherham	YKS	pre 1841
1853	Fletcher	Woodstock	OXF	c1829+
1853	Fletcher	Sheffield	YKS	1854+
1846	Foster	Sheffield & District	YKS	Any
1853	Frisby	Sheffield	YKS	Any
1457	Frith	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1841
210	Gaskin	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1840
1862	Godley	Sheffield	YKS	1850+
1864	Goldsbrough	Sheffield	YKS	c1700-1900
1868	Goldbun		KEN?	pre 1881
1805	Gould	Wincobank	YKS	pre 1850
1805	Gould	Sheffield	YKS	Any
1864	Gouldsbrough	Greasborough	YKS	c1700-1900
1864	Gouldsbrough	Elsecar	YKS	c1700-1900
1457	Grayson	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1841
1887	Gregory	Sheffield	YKS	1888
1887	Gregory	N. Derbyshire	DBY	1888
1862	Haddock	Sheffield	YKS	1890+
210	Harvey	Sheffield	YKS	1870+
1846	Hickman	Sheffield & District	YKS	Any
1846	Hill	Sheffield & District	YKS	pre 1890
1868	Hill	Rotherham area	YKS	pre 1862
1862	Holland	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1760-1900
210	Hukin	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1840
1739	Ideson	Lincolnshire	LIN	1850+
1457	Jackson	Kirby Moorside	YKS	pre 1841
1872	Jubb	Rotherham	WRY	pre 1900
1859	Kelvey	Sheffield	YKS	1800+
1853	Kirk	Leeds	YKS	pre 1861
1739	Kitson	Sheffield	YKS	1750+
1868	Land	Derby	DBY	pre 1877
1739	Lane	Sheffield	YKS	1850+
1457	Machon	Rotherham	YKS	pre 1841
1853	Manton	Birmingham	WAR	pre 1871
1853	Manton	Sheffield	YKS	1869+
1861	Marsland	Besthorpe	NTT	pre 1850
1862	Mayland	Sheffield	YKS	1790-1970
1853	Mills	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1918
1739	Morris	Sheffield	YKS	1850+

1861	Musgrave	Altofts	YKS	18C
1868	Nash	Stourbridge & area	WOR/STS	pre 1880
1739	Nicholson	Sheffield	YKS	1800+
1887	Noble	Attercliffe, Sheffield	SYK	pre 1878
1853	Northwood	Birmingham	WAR	1851+
1457	Nortliff	Bolton-on-Dearne	YKS	pre 1841
1861	Oldroyd	Altofts	YKS	c1844
1861	Preston	Batley	YKS	19C
1854	Priest	Bedford	BDF	1850-1874
1854	Priest	Sheffield	YKS	1874-1910
1854	Priest	Bury St. Edmunds	SFK	1821-1850
1846	Puckering	Sheffield & District	YKS	Any
1868	Ramsker	Sheffield & Rotherham	YKS	pre 1667
1868	Roberts	Rotherham area	YKS	pre 1772
1457	Robinson	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1841
1846	Rutherford	Sheffield & District	YKS	Any
1868	Sanderson	Rotherham area	YKS	pre 1738
210	Sands	Sheffield	YKS	1860+
1860	Sayles	Sheffield	YKS	L 18C-M 19C
1860	Sayles	Ecclesall	SYK	L19C
1872	Shemeld	Sheffield	YKS	pre M 19C
1861	Shires	Wakefield	YKS	18C
1868	Short		WOR/STS	pre 1900
1739	Sidebotham	Sheffield	YKS	1750+
1739	Sidebottom	Sheffield	YKS	1750+
1862	Simpson	S. Yorks.	YKS	pre 1870
1457	Slater	Doncaster	YKS	pre 1841
1854	Smith	Ecclesall	YKS	1880-1920
1868	Smith	Stafford	STS	pre 1840
1872	Smith	Sheffield/Rotherham	WRY	pre 1900
1457	Swallow	Bolton-on-Dearne	YKS	pre 1841
1805	Tandy	Sheffield	YKS	1850+
1805	Tandy	Kenilworth	WAR	pre 1850
1861	Thompson	Tupholme	LIN	c1800
1846	Turner	Sheffield & District	YKS	Any
1868	Turton	Rotherham area	YKS	pre 1840
1861	Walker	Overton	YKS	c1850
1868	Walker	Rotherham area	YKS	pre 1715
1457	Walker	Attercliffe	YKS	pre 1861
1739	Weaver	Lincolnshire	LIN	1750+
1739	Weaver	Sheffield	YKS	1870+
1805	Westerman	Sheffield	YKS	1800
1805	Weston	Sheffield	YKS	1870+
1805	Weston	Doncaster	YKS	1870+
1861	Wilkinson	Bretton	YKS	19 C

1854	Wilson	Ecclesall	YKS	M-L 1880s
1859	Wilson	Sheffield	YKS	1800+
1846	Wolstenholme	Sheffield & District	YKS	Any
1861	Wright	Harmston	LIN	pre 1850

COMPILING AN INDEX Part 2

What can the index tell us about Sheffield in 1861?

Introduction

In the first article of this series, I explained how the Index came in to being. In this article I want to illustrate the way I used the Census index to identify the details about population and in future articles to look at some aspects of migration. I have worked from a copy of the index, and still have the original version.

Methods

The first task in using the index was to rationalise the data it contained. Because the index has faithfully recorded what was in the enumerators' books, the index has many anomalies. For example, Sheffield is variously described as being in Cheshire, Derbyshire and as far away as Suffolk! There is also the added consideration of the way in which place of birth was recorded: Handsworth was often recorded without the initial H, turning up as Annsworth, Answorth and Hadsworth. Sometimes it has Woodhouse included, either as Woodhouse Handsworth or as Hansdworth Woodhouse. To make it possible for a reasonable analysis of place to be attempted, all these variations have been 'smoothed out' to reduce the range of place names. Places that are included in the Census, such as Hackenthorpe and Aston have been included in a definition of Sheffield as have areas now part of Sheffield such as Hillsborough. Further, although it is relevant to identify places close to Sheffield, this is less important when the locations are more remote. Thus, no effort has been made to 'smooth out' the place names of counties other than those of the three Ridings.

The other rationalisation I did was to group together the Piece numbers into the Districts under which the Index was originally published. I did this because the data I wanted to compare areas of Sheffield and the piece numbers provided too much data for patterns to emerge. The districts used were: Attercliffe-cum-Darnall, Bradfield, Brightside, Ecclesall, Ecclesfield, Nether and Upper Hallam, Handsworth and the three districts of Sheffield, North, South and West.

With the index on a computer, I used MicrosoftTM Access database to extract the data I needed. Access has a facility to count the records that meet

categories specified. Thus to examine the population, I set Access to count the number of people of each age in each district. Once this had been done, the aggregated data was transferred to MicrosoftTM Excel which provided the facilities to produce the charts. Excel also has a very useful facility to produce pivot tables. These tables allow the data to be aggregated further and provided the insights in to the facts 'hidden' in the raw data.

When I was looking at the counties of birth specified I was able to use the pivot table to identify the piece and page of entries that would provide the explanation of the data. Armed with this information, I visited the Central Library and was able to look at the microfilms, going directly to the pages of interest.

Population

According the census index there were 256,529 people in the area covered on census night. At this stage, I must point out that I cannot verify the accuracy or the completeness of the data. For some indication of the process of enumeration, see Pauline Litton's article in the January 1999 edition of Family Tree magazine. This extract from the description of ED 3502 (Attercliffe) provides a good example of the difficulties encountered by the enumerators:

I beg leave most respectfully to inform you that Kiveton Park Railway Station and the Railway Company pay Poor Rates for the same to the Parish of Treeton, collected by Mr Samuel Shaw, enumerator. Mr Shaw went to the station to leave a schedule and the Station Master informed him that the Enumerator for Harthill had previously left one, and that he had filled it up and he refused to fill up another. Therefore the Schedule for Kiveton Park Railway Station will be found in ED 436/1.

The first limitation of the index is that it is just that, and not a transcription. For example, without identifying all the recorded forenames as either female or male, it is impossible to calculate the number of each sex within the total.

However, the index can reveal the age profile of the area. The data reveals that Sheffield (including all the townships covered by the census but excluding Rotherham and Firbeck) had a traditional 'population pyramid'. This is clearly illustrated by the graph (Figure 1) Just under half (47.4%) of the population was under the age of 20 with nearly 80% under 40 years old.

Even when individual districts are analysed, the same distribution is evident. The age profile is consistent when the data from different districts is studied. Three districts were chosen: Bradfield, nestling in the hills of the Southern Pennines, Brightside which was, in 1861, an area to the east of the

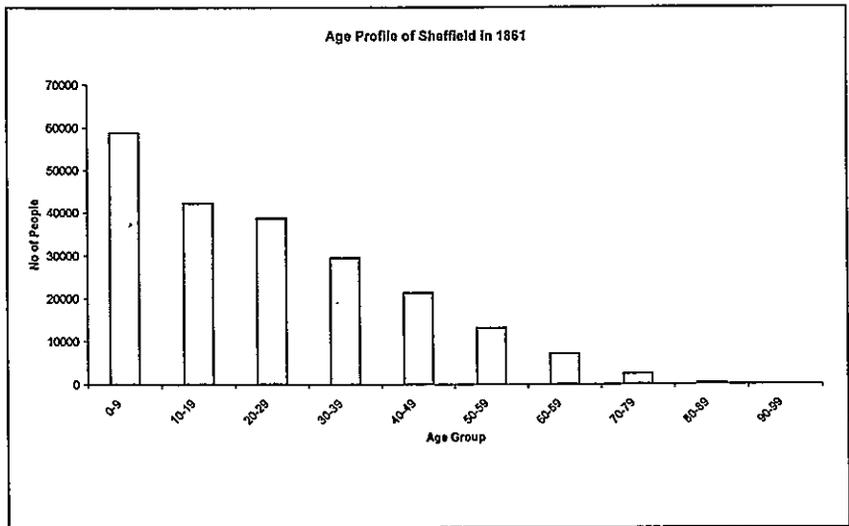


Figure 1 Age Profile of Sheffield in 1861

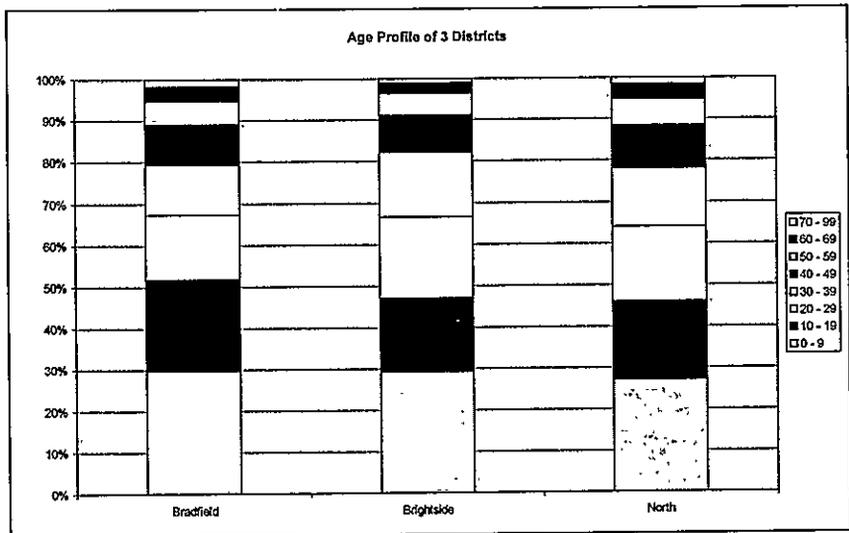


Figure 2 Age Profiles of 3 Districts

town of Sheffield and the district of Park which had become part of the town in the period immediately preceding the census. As Figure 2 shows, there is little difference in the age composition of these districts and the profile obtained from the whole data does not obscure any variations in the various districts. There is a slight variation in the profile for Bradfield which will be explored later.

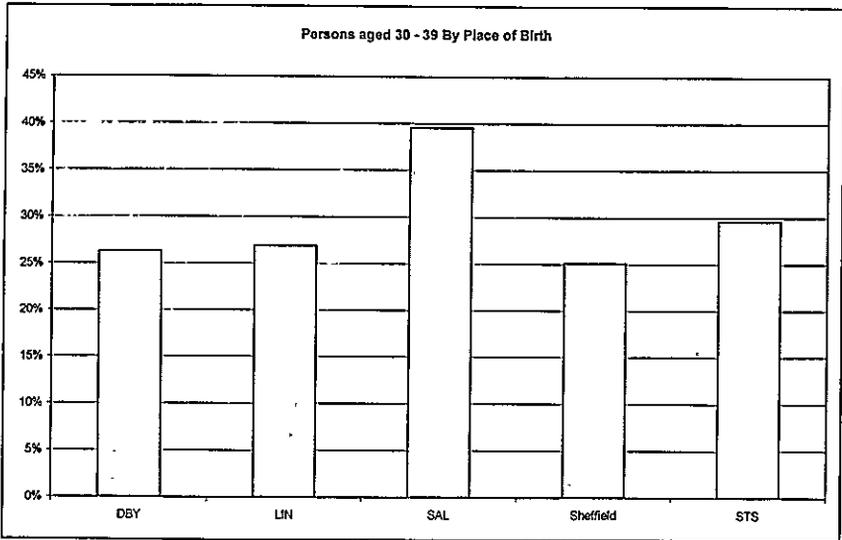


Figure 1 People in 30-39 age group as percentage of all those from the selected counties

So the age distribution for Sheffield follows the expected pattern and is consistent across the districts but were there any differences between the pattern for natives of Sheffield and for immigrants from other counties? As the table and figure 3 show, there were

Origin	30-39 Years	All Adults
DBY	26%	10056
LIN	27%	4253
SAL	40%	402
STS	30%	1592
Sheffield	25%	57775

proportionally more people in the 30 to 39 age group for the four counties than for the native population. (The figures used for this chart were derived so as to be the percentage of individuals aged 30-39 who stated their birth was in a given county with all adults (20+) who gave that county as their birth place being

100%.) Of the counties selected, those closer to Sheffield have figures close to those for the town whereas the more remote counties have a much larger percentage of people in the age group. These figures might be explained by considering the age at which people leave their place of birth to establish their own homes and economic activities. It is well known that Sheffield was expanding rapidly at this time and many of those recorded on the census had been born outside the area. But where had these immigrants come from?

When the data is aggregated the most striking figure is that of the number of people who were or claimed to have been born in Sheffield. Just over 60% of the population had been born and bred in or near the place where they were living in 1861. The other members of Sheffield's community had not moved very far from where they were born. When those born in Derbyshire, the West Riding and Lincolnshire have been added to the number for Sheffield, 86% of the population has been accounted for. These figures show a clear pattern of migration into Sheffield from its hinterland to the North, East and South. To the west, the Pennines provided a barrier to migration with far fewer travelling from Lancashire. Given that much migration was over short distances, it is far more probable that the towns of Lancashire were as attractive to Lancastrians as were the towns of the West Riding to natives of Yorkshire and there was little incentive to those moving from the countryside to move to towns far away. The pattern of migration to the towns of the West Midlands such as Birmingham and Coventry would, almost certainly, provide evidence to justify this explanation. Yet at the same time, people were seeking new lives in lands across the sea and across the world. Perhaps the reason for this apparent dichotomy is that those moving to the cities were doing so because a surplus of population in the countryside meant there was no employment for them there, whilst those emigrating overseas were doing so for more positive reasons including the availability of assisted passages.

Summary

The population of Sheffield in 1861 followed patterns that have been well established although the native population is perhaps higher than has been found in other towns that were rapidly growing during the middle years of the 19th century. Migration over short distances in to Sheffield was normal with the adjoining counties of Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire providing the majority.

In the next article I will examine the migration into specific districts and give some examples of particular families who settled in Sheffield.

Keith Pitchforth, 10, Hallam Grange Road, Sheffield S10 4BJ

THE AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTION.

At the start of the Eighteenth Century our farming ancestors were still using methods which dated back to Saxon times. Each village had three large fields with each field being divided into strips. These strips were shared out amongst the population according to wealth. Each man's strips were scattered around the field so that the good and the bad soil was shared out fairly. Over the years no doubt some swopping would have gone on so that a few farmers might have their strips closer together. Two of the fields grew corn crops whilst each year one field in turn would be left fallow or resting. This was necessary as there were no artificial fertilisers. There would also be a large meadow growing hay and the Common land where all the animals would graze together.

There were many drawbacks to this system of farming. Time was wasted walking from one strip to another, weeds spread from the strips of the lazy farmers, all would have to agree on the crops grown and both the banks between the strips and the fallow field were wasteful of land. The hay crop could not keep all the animals alive all year so many were killed at the start of winter and the meat salted down. Many animals interbred and diseases spread rapidly.

The advantages lay in the strength of community spirit when all the farmers would get together to share in tasks such as haymaking and ploughing. It was hard work but the people were, to some extent, independent.

By the middle of the century a rise in the population necessitated the growth of more food. The larger and richer landowners looked around for newer and better methods of production. Many of them, having done the Grand Tour, had been impressed by farming methods used in countries, such as Holland, where agricultural land was scarce. Consequently many new ideas were carried back to Britain and it became quite fashionable to discuss farming theories.

One of the earliest people to put his thoughts into writing was Jethro Tull (1674-1741) who published a book *The New Horse-Hoeing Husbandry* in 1731. He said that the fallow field was not necessary if the soil was properly ploughed and the weeds hoed out. Apart from his invention of a horse-drawn hoe he also designed a seed-drill which sowed seeds in rows. The old method of sowing by hand (broadcast) was very wasteful of seeds and the fields impossible to weed. Neither invention worked too well but at least they were a step in the right direction!

Sir Richard Weston introduced his Four Course Rotation, also a Dutch idea, with the growing of roots and clover interspersed with the usual corn crops.

Lord Townshend (1674-1738) farmed at Raynham in Norfolk where he also grew turnips thus earning himself the nickname "Turnip Townshend". He improved the fertility of the soil by deep ploughing with the addition of manure, clay and lime. His Norfolk Four Course Rotation of turnips, barley or oats, clover and wheat increased food supplies both for humans and animals. The latter could now be fed on root crops in winter and thus kept alive.

Robert Bakewell of Dishley in Leicestershire began farming in 1760. He selected animals for breeding and thus greatly improved both the size and the health of the beasts. He placed his cattle and sheep in separate fields in order to eliminate the spread of disease that had been so prevalent on the Commons. Bakewell's Model Farm attracted visitors both from overseas and from this country. People were most impressed by the clean and airy buildings and by the size and obvious health of the animals. His methods were widely copied and some better-off farmers employed artists to paint portraits both of their wives and their prize livestock! This led to some hideous pictures of unrealistically large pigs, sheep and cows being proudly displayed in farmhouses!

Thomas Coke of Holkham, Norfolk (1750-1842) encouraged his tenants to adopt new farming methods by refusing to give them leases unless they did so! He also held a yearly sheep-shearing festival when he gave prizes to farmers. This was the start of our modern Agricultural Show!

King George III also ran a model farm at Windsor where he popularised the new methods thus gaining himself the title "Farmer George".

In the farming villages it was soon discovered that not everyone liked the ideas and some people flatly refused to agree to try them! Obviously it would be better to enclose the fields with each farmer having the type of holding seen on our modern farms. However, not everyone in the village would agree to this. Some enclosures had taken place before 1740 but these were in places where all the farmers liked the plan. Now it was decided that the landholders in a village could apply to Parliament for an Enclosure Act if most of them supported the application. The middle of the Eighteenth Century saw a rapid increase in the number of these applications.

When the Act was passed then a group of Parliamentary Commissioners would arrive in the village and would settle disputes and investigate claims to the land. A map showing the allocation of land, the roads and the paths would then be drawn up. A list of the new landholders would also be prepared.

To prove ownership of land the smallholders had to produce documentary evidence. However, as few could read or write these papers had often been lost or destroyed. Even when ownership could be proved the new fields had to be

fenced, hedged or ditched and the Commissioners' fees would have to be paid. Many small farmers could not afford to pay and so were forced to sell up. At this point many of our ancestors would have had to leave the land to find work in the towns or would have become labourers on the land of the larger landholders. Possibly this accounts for all those family legends of lost estates!

Enclosures were consequently unpopular with the less well-off and a number of Anti-Enclosure Riots took place but the rioters only managed to get themselves transported or, worse, put to death. The wealthy gained more land but the poor lost land and independence. Even the Commons were taken which meant the loss of grazing for the livestock. The plight of the poorer farmers met with the sympathy of the first agricultural journalist Arthur Young. He began to publish a journal called "The Annals of Agriculture" in 1784. In 1793 he became the first Secretary of the newly-established Board of Agriculture.

The most positive result of the Agricultural Revolution was the improved quality, quantity and variety of food available to the public. There were more vegetables including potatoes which became a basic part of the diet, more butter, cheese, milk and fresh meat.

On the negative side there was a huge increase in the numbers of landless labourers, many small farmers lost their land and more land ended up in the hands of fewer wealthy owners. Sadly, many of our ancestors ceased to be independent workers and had to depend for their livelihood on the whims of others. The Industrial Revolution provided jobs for many but at a high cost in health and happiness.

Mrs Barbara Moore, 15c, St. John's Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3LR.

STRAYS

BANNS *Snaith Parish Chest Papers LDS film 1912292*

Wm Drury of Waleswood, Wakefield (actually near Sheffield) and **Amelia Dobson Bailey** of this parish.

27 Aug. 1826: 10 Sept. 1826: 17 Sept. 1826.

MARRIAGE took place on 18 Sept. 1826. *LDS film 0991092 Snaith Par. Regs.*

BURIED at Fishlake, Yorks 28 Jan 1856

Mary Adam of Broomhall Street, Sheffield aged 32.

From Mrs B. Moore, 15c, St. Johns Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3LR

THE SAWMAKER'S APPRENTICE

My great grandfather, Isaac Snowden, was born in Sheffield on 6 May 1825 and was living in Queen Street at the time of the 1841 census. I am fortunate to have his original Apprentice Indenture. Some of the terms and conditions make interesting reading.

THIS INDENTURE MADE THE

Eleventh day of May in the third Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty between Isaac Snowden, Son of Joseph Snowden of Sheffield in the County of York, Sawmaker and the said Joseph Snowden of the one Part and William Groves, Ann Holland, Richard Holland, and William Groves the younger of Sheffield aforesaid Saw Manufacturers and Co-partners of the other Part.

Witness that the said Isaac Snowden of his own good liking and by and with the Consent of his father hath put and bound himself Servant and Apprentice to and with the said William Groves,.....in the Trade and Occupation of a Sawmaker to be taught and instructed, and with him as an Apprentice to dwell, serve, and abide, from the day of the date hereof; for, during, and unto the full End and Term of Seven years to be computed from the fifth day of May 1839 during which time the said Isaac Snowden shall and will take the said William Groves,.....for his Masters and them well and truly serve, and in all their Commands lawful and honest obey;

their lawful Secrets he shall keep;

the Goods, Chattels, and the Money of his said Masters or of any other wherewith he shall be put in trust, by reason of his said Service, he shall not mispend or waste, nor them lend without his said Master's Consent;

Fornication he shall not commit, nor Matrimony contract;

Taverns and Alehouses he shall not frequent;

at any unlawful Game he shall not Play;

nor absent himself from his said Master's Service by Day or by Night, without the consent of his said Master, but in all things as a good and faithful Apprentice and Servant, shall dutifully demean and behave himself during the said Term.

And the said William Groves,.....do covenant and agree that they shall and will teach and instruct, or cause him to be taught and instructed, according to the best of their Skill in the said Trade or Occupation of a Sawmaker.

And Also, That they pay and allow to the said Apprentice towards providing himself with Board, Lodging, Apparel and other Necessaries the

following sums of Money for every Week that he shall work for and serve them, that is to say:-

Six shillings per week until the said Apprentice shall attain the age of sixteen years,

Seven shillings per week for two years afterwards,

Eight shillings per week for the following two years,

and Nine shillings per week from that time until the said Apprentice shall attain his Age of Twenty one Years.

Signed, sealed and delivered.....

Also I have Isaac's Account Book, measuring 5 inches by 3 1/4 inches and covered in pigskin with a brass catch. Label of Richard Groves and Sons inside.

Payments in of 2 shillings per week, saving towards essential clothing:-

15 March 1842	Shoes	11s..0d
15 May 1842	3 1/4 yards Cloth	£2..10s..0d
29 Aug 1842	Hat	13s..0d
9 Sept 1842	Boots	14s..0d
3 Oct 1842	Trousers	7s..0d
22 Oct 1842	To suit materials	£1..8s..0d
	Making	4s..9d
May 1844	To Boots	16s..0d
17 June 1844	Trouser Maks.	7s..6d
17th May 1845	Beaumont	14s..6d
	Millington	16s..6d
	Suit Maks.	£1..14s..0d

Isaac Snowden married Sarah Hobson December 1850, living at 214, South Street, with Mother Ann Snowden, widow. He had a Sawmaker and Tool Dealer business in Old Street, London 1856 to 1875.

Sheffield Street Directory 1876, business at 100, Trippet Lane.

Sheffield Street Directory 1879, business at 106, Trippet Lane, close to the early S. & D. F.H.S. library premises.

Sheffield Street Directory 1883, business at 126, West Street, now the West Street Hotel.

Died 14 June 1901, Grimsby, at the home of his son Fred Snowden, Sawmaker.

F.N. Snowden, 72, Patching Hall Lane, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 4DB

WINDOW TO THE PAST

I wish I could look through a window and be able to see to the past,
Like having a video recording of the things that are happening to us.
I want to see great grandma's wedding, to see all the fun that they had,
Did her parents know Chantry when they lived in Norton or were they a
different class.

I wish I could look through a window and see all the stories unfold,
The ones I have known since my childhood, the ones that I found on my own.
The mystery of wondering why did they do that, why did they move from
that place,
Why did they come here, was it really much better than leaving the place of
their birth.

I want to look through a window and see all the hardships endured,
Generations of hard working poverty of mining and working the land.
From the coalfields of Gloucester and farmlands of Norfolk, no trace is left of
them now,
Called to the coalfields and farmland round Sheffield, hoping their lives
would improve.

I would love to look through a window and see where my future lies,
Will I one day nurse a grandchild who looks up with my ancestors' eyes.
Will my husband and I have lots more happy years and one day when my
time has come,
Will I look through a window and see them all there, waiting for me to move on.
Carol R. Cooper

USEFUL ARTICLES IN OTHER SOCIETIES' JOURNALS

The lives of our ancestors

Roots and Branches Felixstowe FHS Vol 13 no 4 Dec 1998

A list of books about our ancestors' lives given by Michael Gandy after a talk to the Felixstowe FHS

Dictionary of Diseases by Martin Edwards

Cambridgeshire FHS Vol. 11 No. 8 Nov 1998

THE SHEFFIELD HANDICAPS

When we start our research there is usually an event or story that catches our interest enough to investigate further. In my case it was my Father giving me a silver medal and a photograph of my great Grandfather. He told me that he was 'Sheffield/Irish'. The silver medal was awarded to him for winning The Sheffield Handicap, two years running. The pun is intended as the Handicaps were short distance running events in the 1880's.

Sadly there is very little information about these events. They were organised and controlled largely by the licensed trade, who put up the prize money for entrants to compete over a short distance, apparently 200 yards was typical. The Handicaps were quite an event in Sheffield, with large crowds and significant betting on the outcome. The races were enthusiastically reported in the Sheffield Telegraph newspaper.

As I knew nothing about the Handicaps, I wrote to the Sheffield Star newspaper asking for help. They published my letter and I was fortunate enough to receive one letter from a gentleman in Sheffield, who had a book "The Sporting Annual". He sent me the following excerpt about my Great grandfather, William Martin:

- 27th December 1883 Newhall Ground Amt (Amateur) 100 Distance 201
Winner W. Martin Sheffield Start 86
- 8th December 1884 Queens Ground Amt. 100 Distance 200
Winner W. Martin, Sheffield Start 80.3/4

I am not sure what the "start" meant, except that it must relate to the individual's handicap.

I treasured this information and some months later I tried to contact the gentleman again. I was hoping to obtain more information from his book. After some time I had a nice reply from one of his relations, who informed me that, sadly, he had died. They had taken the trouble to search for the book but were unable to find it.

With these dates and some help I obtained a copy of the heats and finals of the races from the reports in the Sheffield Telegraph. Subsequently, I wrote to the paper to ask for help in researching the races but they could not help.

The reports I do have are very graphic in detail. In the 1883 heats at the Newhall Grounds, there were 53 entrants, from all over the country, to compete for the prize money of £100. The newspaper column was headed "Opening of the Great All England Christmas Handicap". The report stated that the entrants competed in 14 heats, on the 26th December with the final run on December

27th and it was watched by a crowd of 6000 people. William Martin was clearly an unknown, judging by the odds on him at the start. By the time the four finalists were found, he was 2 to 1 on! The other finalists were A. Marriott of Sheffield, T. Rose of Hicklin and J. Fowler of Stretford. William won £80, Marriott £12.10s, Rose £5 and Fowler £2.10d.- quite large sums of money in those days.

The 1884 race had a similar write up except that the weather was recorded as being terrible and the track assumed the proportions of a 'quagmire'! The weather, of course, affected the size of the crowd that year.

The Sheffield Library sent me copies of 3 pamphlets that are the only history available on these races. They gave a lot of information on the background and on some of the people who competed. One notable man was Harry Hutchins of Putney who, apparently, gave up his delivery job with W.H. Smith, to come north and won 3 Sheffield Handicaps sometime before 1880. The licensed trade was the key to the success and apparent disrepute of the Handicaps. The Sheffield Telegraph reported "*t'handicap's over*", in 1883, but they continued for some time after that.

I would like to add to the general knowledge of the Sheffield Handicaps. There must be articles, photographs, books e.g. The Sporting Annual, and stories available in and around Sheffield, on this subject. I would be delighted to hear from anyone with any such information, with a view to collating the material, for safe keeping by the FHS in their library, in Sheffield.

Acknowledgements:

D. Hindmarsh of the Central Library, Sheffield

The gentleman who provided the clue from the Sporting Annual

(Name withheld)

Brian Martin, 50, Thornton Road, Yeovil, Somerset BA21 3LD.

UNWANTED CERTIFICATES

The following certificates have been given to the society. For full details please contact the editor enclosing an SAE and a 10p stamp.

B 94. Birth 7 Sept 1854 Sheffield South

William Hartley s. of William Hartley, Forger, & Mary Ann, formerly Capper.

B 95. Birth 15 Nov 1865 Brightside. Sheffield

John William s. of William Edward Bennett, Warehouseman, & Charlotte Formerly Kennedy.

M 51. Marriage 22 Aug 1905 Burton Joyce, Notts

Henry Edward Blagg, Lace warehouseman, & Beatrice Allen.

PHILATELY AND FAMILY HISTORY

Every philatelist knows that finding some old family correspondence in a long-forgotten drawer can be rewarding in a philatelic sense - but the "converse" can sometimes be true. That is, if I had not been interested in philately, my grandmother would not have given me, many years ago, two old envelopes. It was the information that these provided which led to me learning something about my family history.

My maternal grandmother moved house in 1964, and it was when packing her belongings that she found two old envelopes. The original letters were probably still in them, but by the time they reached me the letters had been discarded - my grandmother simply thought that I might like to have the old stamps on the envelopes. In fact, at the time I was busy with school examinations, and I paid little attention to the envelopes, apart from carefully putting them away in a stockbook. It was many years later that I finally looked closely at them, and then I began to wonder...

One envelope, bearing a "Penny Lilac" stamp, was sent from Bridlington, and is addressed to a Mr Samuel Lawson, of Dykes Hall Road, Hillsborough, Sheffield. Posted on March 5th 1885, it has a Sheffield receiving mark of the same day. The other envelope, addressed to Miss Gertrude Lawson of the same address, was posted in London on May 15th 1875, and it arrived in Sheffield the following day. It was franked with a "Penny Red", Plate 165, and a "Halfpenny Rose", Plate 5, making up the 1½d. rate for a letter weighing between one and two ounces in weight.

I remembered my grandmother telling me that her mother's maiden name was Emily Lawson, and that she died at the early age of 44. The inscription on her gravestone in Wadsley churchyard confirms her age, and gives the date of death as 16 December 1915. Emily Lawson would therefore have been born in 1870 or 1871, that is, four or five years before the date of the envelope addressed to Gertrude Lawson. I guessed that Gertrude might have been Emily's sister, and that Samuel Lawson was their father. Working on this hypothesis I consulted the 1871 census return. Looking through the entries for Dykes Hall Road I found, sure enough, a Mr Samuel Lawson. Aged 48 at the time, he was described as a "blade grinder and grocer". He lived with his wife Elizabeth, aged 39, and their two children Gertrude, 3, and Emily, 10 months. So the theory was confirmed.

After making this discovery I naturally wanted to learn more about the Lawsons. Working back from the approximate date of Gertrude's birth it was not difficult to find Samuel and Elizabeth's marriage entry in the indexes at St

Catherine's House. Having obtained the marriage certificate, I learned that Samuel Lawson and Elizabeth Fox were married at the parish church of The Wicker on 11 February 1866. Samuel was described simply as a blade-grinder and Elizabeth as a spinster, and so the grocery business must have been a later enterprise. Samuel's father was William Lawson, a farmer, and Elizabeth's was William Fox, a scalepresser. (Another cutlery tradesman. ?)

When I made these discoveries I began to wonder at the tales that could be told by old letters. I could imagine the scene in the Lawson home when Samuel's letter had arrived from Bridlington on that March day in 1885. The postman would have entered the shop to deliver it, and might have bought a pound of sugar from the loaf, or a bottle of ginger beer or porter while he was there. He might have been served by Gertrude or Emily, who would have been teenagers by that time. On returning home from work, dirty, tired and possibly coughing from the effect of "grinder's dust", Samuel would have opened the black-edged mourning envelope and read the letter that it contained.

Naturally, I would like to know more about this side of my ancestry, but little information has been passed down through the family, apart from the fact that Emily died young, and that Gertrude emigrated to Canada, after which contact with her was lost. Samuel's indenture of apprenticeship dated 1835 has survived, and "surfaced" recently when my great uncle died and his possessions were being sorted out. From this we know that Samuel's date of birth was 7 August 1822. He died in 1894, and Elizabeth died in 1906.

So far, I have not followed the trail back any further, though when I find the time I hope to trace the Lawsons' forebears - probably when I retire, assuming, that is, that by then I have not become simply a part of my family history.

Philip E. Robinson, 2, Rydallhurst Avenue, Sheffield S6 4BG

Snippet from the Banyan Tree (E Yorks FHS journal)

1891 census for Sculcoates Workhouse in the East Riding. The Master was Joseph Rowland Jessop, born in Sheffield.

Judith Pitchforth

WAS YOUR ANCESTOR KILLED AS A POW AT SEA?

Many of you may have lost male relatives during the Second World War, and maybe they were PoWs of the Japanese when they died. Much has been written about the PoW camps, but there is a group of prisoners about whom little seems to be known - those killed by Allied fire at sea. Numbers killed by "friendly fire" have been estimated as high as 21,000.

My husband's cousin,, Alan Booth, was in his early twenties when he was killed whilst being transported from Thailand to Japan on a Japanese prisoner of war ship. The only notification his family received was that he had been "killed in action at sea on 21 September 1944 as a prisoner of war being conveyed from Thailand to Japan on board Hof Oku Maru". So far, I still have no further information about this ship. The family story was that the ship was not marked with red crosses and was fired on and sunk by Allied forces. I had always assumed that this sinking had been a "one off" and that such tragedy could not have been repeated. However, I have now discovered that there were other such incidents at that time.

The Japanese did not recognise the Geneva Convention governing the treatment of prisoners of war, and when thousands of men were being transported from camps in Thailand in 1944, no Red Cross signs were shown on the ships.

In January 1944 the Japanese decided to send 10,000 of the fittest prisoners from Malaya and Thailand to work camps in Japan. At this time American and Canadian submarines had orders to attack all Japanese ships, and unfortunately many Allied servicemen died in this way.

In April this year the TV programme "Timewatch" gave a report on the tragedy of two such ships in a convoy of nine. One of the ships was the "Rakuyo Maru" but the second was not mentioned by name. These ships were sunk on the 10th or 11th September 1944 by the American submarines Grouper, Pampanito and Sealion II. On the 15th September the Pampanito and Sealion II returned to the scene to survey wreckage - and stayed to rescue 127 prisoners who had been in the sea for some five or six days. During this programme, one of the Sealion officers said they had torpedoed another convoy about a month after the Rakuyo Maru and the ship "Arian Maru" was sunk with 1,800 American prisoners aboard. Only eight of these survived.

I responded to an article written by Mr Ken Boggeln about the ship "Lisbon Maru", which met the same fate on 1st October 1944. This ship had 1,800 prisoners on board of whom 800 were lost. Mr Boggeln has met several of

the survivors from this ship. He sent me a poem written by one of these men and a quotation taken from the Hong Kong Telegraph newspaper of August 1946; the article covers the first day's trial of the person who gave the orders to fire on the prisoners aboard the "Lisbon Maru".

Apparently over 840 British and Canadian PoWs lost their lives when the Lisbon Maru sank on 1st October 1944. At the War Crimes Court at East Point Niimori Genichiro, a civilian interpreter attached to the Japanese Army in Hong Kong, faced eight counts of committing atrocities against PoWs. It was alleged that after the vessel was torpedoed Niimori ordered that the PoWs be batted down in the holds. With the ship sinking, the PoWs broke open part of the hatches. As they emerged on deck it was alleged that Niimori gave orders to a squad of Japanese on the bridge to fire on them. Many of the PoWs were shot whilst struggling in the water, some died of suffocation in the holds, and others were trapped in one of the holds when the ship sank.

It seems that there were at least five ships lost in this way and that the loss of life was greater than most people realise. How many more ships were there? How many more lives were lost? How many more families, perhaps from the Sheffield area, left bereaved by these incidents?

If your family suffered a loss like this, or if you have any information about these incidents - particularly the "Hof Oku Maru" - I would love to hear from you.

Mrs Ethel Frith, 38, Chartwell Avenue, Wingerworth, Chesterfield, Derbys. S42 6SP

Ed's note. Mrs Frith has a very moving poem written by a survivor of the Lisbon Maru. Unfortunately, because of copyright restrictions we are unable to print it here.

STRAYS

Parish Register film (LDS) 1564236

MARRIED at Fishlake

12 Jan 1814. **John Guest** of Rotherham to **Ann Taylor**

14 July 1807 **John Mitchell** of Rotherham and **Sarah Good**

26 Nov 1805 **John Booker** of Sheffield and **Sarah Hardy**

From Mrs B. Moore, 15c, St. Johns Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3LR

THE CREE FAMILY OF BEIGHTON

John Cree was little more than a rumour when I first encountered him. Not even a name. It was said by my mother that one of her ancestors, whose name she thought was Cree, had been a soldier and was involved in the Indian Mutiny. Like many a family tale this one was only partly true. John had indeed been a soldier, though not in India. But let me begin, as they say, at the beginning.

Mike Spathaky of the Cree Family History Society has linked the early Crees in Derbyshire with the hamlet of Oxcroft on the Clowne/Bolsover border. It was one of this family, Joseph Cree (bap. October 1764) who was to establish a branch of the Crees in Beighton, a small community just inside the Derbyshire border with Yorkshire. Joseph and his wife Ann settled in Beighton some time after their marriage in 1789.

Joseph was an agricultural labourer as were two of his sons Joseph and George and more than half of the adult population of the nation. The period of the Napoleonic Wars and their aftermath saw a combination of population growth, the mechanisation of agriculture and economic distress. "The superabundance of labourers press upon the soil" declared Squire Coke of Norfolk. Men like John Cree, the second of the three known sons of Joseph and Ann Cree, started to cast around for alternatives.

How John came to join the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry (the 32nd Foot) can only be conjectured. What is known is that in 1826 the Regiment moved north from their base in Plymouth and stayed for a spell in Nottingham, 30 miles to the south of Beighton. No doubt the Regiment made use of a recruiting sergeant to visit surrounding towns. Possibly one came to nearby Chesterfield and siren voices of adventure and foreign shores reached John's ears. Perhaps alone, perhaps with a pal from the village, he took the road to Nottingham. It was there on July 5th 1826 that John was attested (sworn in) with the 32nd Foot. At the age of 20 he had enlisted for 20 years service with the Infantry.

After a brief spell in the industrial areas of Yorkshire and Lancashire John was posted to Ireland. He spent his time mainly in the south west of the country but it was in Kilkenny on 25 December 1828 that he was promoted to Corporal. A fine Christmas box for a lad of 22. He was allowed a period of leave around the end of 1829. Six months later he was on board the "Perseus" bound for Quebec. He was not to see his native Derbyshire again for almost 12 years.

For reasons unrecorded John was demoted to Private within a few weeks of arriving in Quebec but regained his former rank two years later. Further

advancement came in 1837 when he was promoted to Sergeant. His duties were largely routine until the outbreak of the Canadian Rebellions of 1837-39. They were an early expression of French Canadian nationalism, the modern state of Canada not being created until 1867. Quebec was divided in the 1830s into Upper and Lower Canada and civil disturbances broke out in both areas towards the end of the decade. From its base in Montreal the 32nd Foot was one of several regiments used to maintain order. John moved up and down the St. Lawrence and also spent time at Lakes Ontario and Erie. Conditions were often very harsh with forced marches through ice and snow using sledges as transport over frozen lakes. Temperatures reached 20 degrees and below. John himself prospered however and on May 1st 1839 he was promoted to Colour Sergeant.

It was not until September 1841 that John was again to set foot on British soil when the 32nd Foot disembarked at Portsmouth. Within six months he had married Eliza King (nee Duty) a widow from Waterford with a Protestant background. Perhaps her first husband was an army colleague of John's for Eliza was living in army barracks in Portsmouth immediately before she remarried.

John's parents Ann and Joseph died respectively in 1842 and 1850. By that time John was making his own contribution to the Cree Trees, fathering nine children between 1843-59. No fewer than eight of them were girls. Eliza became a "camp follower", her children being born wherever John was stationed. His army career now took him across the north of England during the "Hungry Forties" He then returned to Ireland for the "Monster Meetings" of Daniel O'Connell and the real hungry forties, the catastrophic failure of successive potato crops in what is now the Republic of Ireland but which was then part of Great Britain. It was in Ireland that John's third daughter was born in 1845.

After Ireland the 32nd Foot went on to India, to the Mutiny and the Siege of Lucknow (thus the family story had a semblance of truth). John stayed in England acting for a time as a recruiting sergeant in Worksop where my great (x2) grandmother Mary was born. He remained a soldier until 1848 when invalided out. He had chronic rheumatism attributed to "climatic conditions and military service". He was 41 years old and had spent over half his life serving the Flag. At Chelsea Hospital he was described as being just over 5 feet 8 inches tall with light brown hair, grey eyes and a sallow complexion. He was awarded a pension of one shilling and ten pence a day, a sum which continued to be paid for the remainder of his life.

John returned to Beighton with his Irish wife and growing family. For 30 years he worked as a railway watchman at the village railway station on the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire line. His only son, naturally enough

called John, worked as a coal miner but had left Beighton by 1881. In January 1885 John's youngest daughter Gertrude married and moved to Sheffield. All the birds had now flown; only John and Eliza remained. Three months later John himself succumbed. His death certificate recorded "epithelioma of the lips and exhaustion." At the age of 79 the old soldier had fought his last battle. He is buried alongside his parents in the parish churchyard.

Eliza was the mother of one son and eight daughters. One of them, Mary, was herself the mother of five daughters and no sons. One of these daughters, Mildred, had only one child, again a daughter called Olive. Olive had three daughters but no sons. Only one of Olive's daughters, Brenda, had children and she had two daughters and your humble scribe, only the second male issue in this line of the family for over a hundred years.

Eliza never returned to her native Ireland. Having left her home and family, having lost her first husband, having raised nine children the first four of whom were born in different army barracks, having seen all her children leave home followed by the death of her husband, Eliza's final years were spent in Chesterfield workhouse. She was admitted on December 28th 1894 and gave up the ghost aged 82 in July 1897. No burial place is recorded in the workhouse register of deaths; the entry reads simply "buried by friends". Where had they been one wonders.

John Cree's brothers Joseph and George both died in Beighton a few years before John himself. Joseph's children seem to have moved into Sheffield and George's only son Peter had one son who was living in Handsworth, Sheffield by 1891. Peter Cree died in the village in 1905. It seems likely that with his death the Cree name in Beighton, which had been present for over a century, came to an end.

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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.

FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

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