

Sheffield and District Family History Society

*The Flowing Stream* ~



Winter 2002

Volume 23  
Number 4

## FUTURE PROGRAMME – 2003

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

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Mon. 20 Jan.  | <i>The Archive CD Project</i> by Guy Etchells                      |
| Mon. 17 Feb.  | <i>Historic Hallamshire</i> by Prof. David Hey                     |
| Mon. 17 Mar.  | <b>AGM</b> followed by<br><i>Granny's Tin Box</i> by Marjorie Dunn |
| Mon. 28 Apr.  | <i>Problems and Queries Open Evening</i>                           |
| Mon. 19 May   | <i>First World War at the PRO</i> by David Borrill                 |
| Mon. 16 Jun.  | To be announced  |
| Mon. 21 Jul.  | To be announced  |
| Mon. 15 Sept. | <i>Group Therapy</i>   |
| Mon. 20 Oct.  | Howard Smith - Subject to be announced                             |
| Mon. 17 Nov.  | <i>Christmas Social Evening</i>                                    |

### STOP PRESS

#### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

## WANTED - SOCIETY SECRETARY

Due to pressure of work our Secretary Judith Pitchforth is retiring  
at the AGM in March

Any one who is interested in the position please contact Judith  
E-mail: [secretary@sheffieldfhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@sheffieldfhs.org.uk)

*No Society can function without a Secretary!*

# THE FLOWING STREAM

Journal of Sheffield and District Family History Society

Volume 23. No. 4 Winter 2002

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Copy days for the Society's Journals are 28 Feb., 31 May., 31 Aug., 30 Nov.

## THE SHEFFIELD AND DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

The Society is open to anyone interested in the study of Genealogy and Family History. Monthly meetings are held at Cemetery Road Baptist Church, Cemetery Road, Sheffield (Napier Street entrance) on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7.30 p.m. 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 District of Sheffield. 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** Mr Barry Green, 101, Westwick Crescent, Sheffield S8 7DN  
*E-mail: [barryx@101Westwick.freemove.co.uk](mailto:barryx@101Westwick.freemove.co.uk)*  
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### Non-Committee Strays Coordinator

Mr R.M. Bunting, "Firgrove", Horseshoe Lane, Ash Vale, Nr. Aldershot, Hants. GU12 5LL

### Non-Committee Correspondance Secretary

Mr Derek Tingle, 72, Highcliffe Drive, Sheffield S11 7LU

- 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

This journal contains information about changes that will, if followed through, make enormous differences to us in the pursuit of our family story. Many of you will already know that the government has produced a White Paper which outlines enormous changes to civil registration. It could, if made law, mean that it will be very difficult to start research because the vital *recent* registration documents may not be available. Imagine if you could only access information about ancestors who were born more than 100 years ago and then, in the case of a marriage, if the younger partner was so born! For those of us without extended families willing and able to give lots of information there would be a gap we could not easily bridge between now and a hundred years ago.

We often read of stories of hereditary diseases being traced by genealogical means. So at a personal level, knowledge, for instance of the cause of death of your ancestors, may provide important information about predisposition to certain illnesses that could enable you or a member of your family to obtain essential early diagnosis.

It is vital, then, that we all play our part in ensuring that we have our 'freedom of information' by writing to the address given at the end of the article on Civil Registration (page 139). *Remember a letter from a group, such as a Society, no matter how many people it represents, is still only counted as one letter! So your letter, however brief, counts!*

Thank you to those members who have provided copy for this edition. I am very short of copy, as the size of this edition indicates, so please send me your articles, snippets and useful lists or the next edition will be even thinner!

## NEW MEMBERS

The Society welcomes the following new members

- 2612 Mr K Swallow, 32 Milton Drive, Ravenshead, Notts. NG15 9BE
- 2613 Mrs F Hunt, 4 Newstead Road, Sheffield S12 3BH
- 2614 Ms J Walters, 44 Cynthia Road, Oldfield Park, Bath BA2 3QG
- 2615 Mr J M Brogan, 35 Brier Close, Waterthorpe, Sheffield S20 7HR
- 2616 Mrs E M Loy, 55 Charnley Avenue, Sheffield S11 9FR
- 2617 Mrs J Key, 101 Windsor Road, Carlton-in-Lindrick, Worksop, Notts. S81 9DH
- 2618 Mrs M Naylor, Southwold, Stockton Road, Thirsk, N.Yorks. YO7 1BA
- 2619 Mr A Staniforth, 12 Silkstone Place, Sheffield S12 4RG
- 2620 Mrs J Webster, 41 Ashbourne Raod, Sheffield S13 8NF
- 2621 Mrs J Linnell, 38 Plumtrees, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 3JH

- 2622 Mrs C E Cowlshaw, Cedar Lodge, Whelpley Hill, Chesham, Bucks.  
HP5 3RL  
2623 Dr D Haigh, The Lodge, New Hall, Walmley Road, Sutton Coldfield  
B76 1PH

### ***Change of Address***

Mr D Adams, 14 Butterbache Road, Huntington, Chester, Cheshire CH3 6BZ  
Mrs S Gillain, 120 Green Lane, Clanfield PO8 0HE

## **GENERAL NEWS AND NOTES**

### **News from the Imperial War Museum**

*Anthem for Doomed Youth*. Twelve Soldier Poets of the First World War  
31 Oct 2002- 27 April 2003

A major exhibition of manuscripts, letters, diaries, works of art, photographs and personal mementoes .

Admission £5.00. Concessions £4.00

### ***Battlefield Tours with experts***

Building on the success for the 2002 tours the programme for 2003 is available at [www.iwm.org.uk/tours](http://www.iwm.org.uk/tours) or tel: 0151 520 1290

### **Hunter Archaeological Society - Selected Meetings**

10 Dec 2002 *Sheffield Manor Castle – After the Park* by George Jones

11 Feb 2003 *Evolution of the Wicker Viaduct & Victoria Station, Sheffield* by Graham Hague

Non-members are welcome to these meetings but a donation to Society funds would be welcome.

Meetings are held in the Arts Tower, University of Sheffield, Lecture Theatre 9, at 7.30 pm.

### **Yorkshire History Prize 2003**

The competition for essays on the history of Yorkshire is held annually. For longer essays of up to 10,000 words there are two prizes, of £300 and £150, and for shorter essays, with a limit of 5,000 words, there is one prize of £150. Entries should be original and based on research, and should neither have been published nor offered for publication. Illustrations may be included. Any subject drawn from the history of places and people in traditional Yorkshire is usually acceptable.

Those considering entry may like to know that in previous years essays, including prize-winning ones, have sometimes come from people without a history qualification. A good proportion of the winning essays have subsequently been published in learned journals.

Further details can be obtained from the Chairman of the Judges, Professor Barrie Dobson, 15 St. Olave's Rd, York YO30 7AL (tel: 01904 613500), who will advise on eligibility of subject. Notice of intention to enter, together with the suggested title, must be given to him before 1 March 2003. The final date for entries is 1 May.

## SOCIETY NEWS AND INFORMATION

### Transcription error - Attercliffe Municipal Cemetery Burial Index

BARKER Gertrude· 19 Dec 1905 (7hrs) dau of John Walter 9-7

Worksop Rd Attercliffe.(plot number - A1219nc)

Jane Hyatt sent for the birth and death certificates as her great grandfather was John Walter Barker and the date meant Gertrude could have been an unknown sibling of her grandfather (born 1896). However the father's name on both certificates is John WILLIAM Barker (a coal miner). The mother is Annie Eliza Barker (nee Pickering). She would be happy to provide copies of the certificates to anyone interested but wants to keep the originals as she believes there is a Pickering connection somewhere in her family too.

*From [Jane.Hyatt@btinternet.com](mailto:Jane.Hyatt@btinternet.com)*

### Baptisms at St. Peter's Parish Church, Tankersley

Edward W. Wilkinson informs us that he completed the computerisation of the Baptisms at St. Peter's Parish Church, Tankersley for the Barnsley F.H.S. last August, so after checking, they will be available for members to enquire. They cover the period from 1813 to 1838 and certainly not all the families were from the Tankersley area, in fact abodes in 'Chapel Town' and Thorncliffe featured quite prominently, as well as places like Rotherham and High Green, Thorpe Hesley, Wortley and 'Of Wentworth Township'. The following may be of interest to members.

UTLEY	Joseph	1816,12,29	from Masbrough
CARR	Mary	1827,12,23	from Attercliffe
FISHER	Sarah Ann	1831,12,25	from Sheffield
SANDERSON	Elizabeth	1835,09,20	Abode not entered (Parents William & Sarah)
KAY	Sarah Jane	1837,07,03	from Ecclesfield

### Back copies of The Flowing Stream

The Society wishes to thank Mrs A. Bell for sending replacement copies of The Flowing Stream. Thank you also to all the other members who offered to replace our missing editions. We now have a full complement of back editions in our Archive.

## 1891 Census Project

Pat Swindin and Jan Connell are now co-ordinating the 1891 Census project. The project has done very well so far, under the excellent guidance and co-ordination of Heather. The hardworking transcribers and checkers are now working on Brightside and Handsworth.

We are appealing for more volunteers to transcribe the data and to check the transcriptions. Transcribers need a microfiche reader and a computer; checkers need a microfiche reader. We may have a microfiche reader which could be loaned out locally. If anyone else has a fiche reader which could be used, we would be pleased to hear from them.

Transcribers and checkers will receive full instructions and the gratitude of present and future generations of family history researchers. For further information please e-mail or telephone either:

Pat Swindin: Tel: 0114 2581154 E-mail: [patswindin@swindins.f9.co.uk](mailto:patswindin@swindins.f9.co.uk)  
Jan Connell: Tel: 0114 2365411 E-mail: [janet.connell@virgin.net](mailto:janet.connell@virgin.net)

### *'Historic Hallamshire' and 'Packmen, Carriers and Packhorse Roads'*

Landmark Publishing is pleased to offer readers special prices on both of the David Hey titles we publish. *Historic Hallamshire* which retails for £19-95 can be yours for £15-95, *Packmen, Carriers and Packhorse Roads* (which covers the Peak District, including South Yorkshire) which also retails for £19-95 can be yours for £15-95. Buy both books for only £27-50, a huge saving of over £12-00. All books are sent POST Free within the UK and at cost prices for overseas (please contact us for further details). Cheques payable to Landmark Publishing Ltd. Credit card details: Visa or Mastercard or Switch - please include the card number and the expiry date (plus start date or issue number for Switch).

To take advantage of this special offer, please write to: The David Hey Special Offer, Mr Andrew I. Lewer, Sales & Marketing Manager, Landmark Publishing Ltd, Ashbourne Hall, Cokayne Avenue, Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE61EJ. Tel (01335) 347349.

Fax:(01335)347303.

E-mail:[landmark@clara.net](mailto:landmark@clara.net)

### **The Centenarians of 1851 - Errata**

The editor apologises for the following errors

- p.105 line 6 – 11 males should be 111
- p.106 line 8 – Sulcoates should be Sculcoates.
- p.106 line 9 – Whitley should be Whitby
- p.106 line 22 – longest should be largest

*The article was contributed by  
Roy Bullen, 33 Durvale Court, Dore, Sheffield S17 3PT*

## Improvements to the Society Library

The library index has now been retyped and hopefully it will be easier to read, being bolder and with a slightly larger typeface.

The Specific Surname section has been moved from the bottom shelf in Archives to the right hand side bottom drawer of our new filing cabinets. These are located in Archives Reception.

I would like to thank Ann Diver and Brian Flounders for their invaluable help in bringing about these improvements.

*Anne McQueen, librarian.*

## Exchange Journals

New members and infrequent visitors to Archives may not be aware that we exchange journals with many Family History Societies. The journals we receive are stored in cabinets in the reception area at Sheffield Archives. We now have two new cabinets. The journals from the societies listed below are to be found in the drawer indicated.

<i>Drawer</i>	<i>Society</i>	<i>Drawer</i>	<i>Society</i>
1	Aberdeen	3	Glamorgan
1	Barnsley	3	Glasgow & Western Scotland
1	Bedfordshire	3	Gloucester
1	Berkshire	3	Guernsey
1	Birmingham (Midland Ancestor)	3	Gwent
1	Bradford (Bodkin)	3	Gwynedd
1	Bristol & Avon	3	Hereford People
1	Buckinghamshire	3	Hertfordshire
1	Burnham on Sea	3	Hillingdon (West London area)
1	Calderdale (Halifax & District)	3	Huddersfield
1	Cambridge	3	Inst. of Heraldic & Genealogical Studies
1	Catholic Ancestor	3	Isle of Axholme
1	Cheshire Ancestor	3	Isle of Man
1	Cheshire North	3	Isle of White
1	Cheshire South	3	Kent
1	Chesterfield		
2	Cleveland & North East	4	Kent North West
2	Clwyd	4	Lancashire
2	Cornwall	4	Leicester & Rutland
2	Coventry	4	Lincolnshire
2	Derbyshire	4	Liverpool
2	Devon	4	Local History Magazine
2	Doncaster	4	London (Cockney Ancestors)
2	Dyfed	4	Manchester
2	Eastbourne	4	Mansfield
2	Essex	4	Maryborough (Australia)
		4	Middlesex West
3	Family History News & Digest	4	Middlesex North
3	Felixstowe	4	Misc. Overseas Journals
3	Folkestone	4	Morley (Cameo)

*Drawer Society*

4	Nadine Family	5	Surrey East
4	Norfolk	5	Surrey West
4	North Eastern	5	Sussex
4	Northampton		
		6	Wakefield
5	Northumberland & Durham	6	Waltham Forest
5	Nottingham	6	Wharfedale
5	Offley Family Soc.	6	Wiltshire
5	Ormskirk	6	Woolwich (East London)
5	Palgrave Family Soc.		
5	Peterborough	6	York City & District
5	Pontefract	6	Yorkshire East
5	Quaker Connections	6	Yorkshire FHS (Leeds area)
5	Ripon	6	Yorkshire Historian
5	Shetland		
5	Shropshire	7	Magazines awaiting disposal
5	Society of Genealogists	8	Box files and Flowing Stream
5	Somerset & Dorset		
5	Suffolk Roots		

## COMPUTER AND INTERNET NEWS

### [www.archivecdbooks.co.uk](http://www.archivecdbooks.co.uk)

This website sells CDs of rare books that are of interest and value to family historians at reasonable prices. Of particular interest to many members is a CD of White's 1852 Sheffield and District Directory as well as many other valuable reference books.

### **News from The Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies**

Their *Family History Diary 2003* is now available. It contains 32 pages of genealogical and heraldic information including contact details for family history societies, websites, historical notes from 1066, useful addresses and a listing of genealogical events and fairs. The diary runs from September 2002 through until January 2004 so now is the time to buy. The Diary is priced at £4.75 plus 44p postage. It can be purchased online from their website shop at

[http://www.ihgs.ac.uk/shop/index.php/inst\\_pub](http://www.ihgs.ac.uk/shop/index.php/inst_pub)

Family history software is also available. Currently they can offer *Family Historian* and *Generations Starter Kit 8.0 UK Version* for sale but are aiming to expand their range of titles. *Family Historian* is the newest family history software program on the market and features a whole host of charting, multimedia and reporting facilities. A review of this program was featured in the May 2002 issue of *Family Tree Magazine*. *Generations Starter Kit 8.0* includes 7 data CD's aimed at the UK

researcher as well as two books about using computers in genealogy. To purchase either program please visit  
<http://www.ihgs.ac.uk/shop/index.php/Compsoft>

[www.paul.smith.doctors.org.uk/ArchaicMedicalTerms.htm](http://www.paul.smith.doctors.org.uk/ArchaicMedicalTerms.htm)

This website gives help with Archaic Medical terminology, descriptions for the more common causes of death in the past and many other helpful medical matters.

### **Have you heard of and used FreeBMD?**

FreeBMD is proving itself to be one of the biggest genealogy projects ever - save of course for the Mormons' wonderful IGI and FamilySearch facility -and perhaps the most useful of all for family historians with a past in Victorian England and Wales.

The basic idea of FreeBMD is to provide free Internet access to the GRO registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths from their beginning in 1837 up to 1901. It is reckoned that up to one hundred million records are involved! Anyone who has heaved his or her way through the giant Index volumes at the Family Records Centre in London, or peered at those, sometimes illegible, microfiche versions, will quickly spot the benefit of being able to sit at home before a computer screen and call up the ancient relatives at the touch of a few buttons.

There are nearly 5,000 volunteer transcribers working on this, using scanned or photocopies pages from those massive books. Since work began some three years ago, around forty million 'lines' from the Index, perhaps forty percent of the ultimate target, have been copied and uploaded to the enormous (and growing) database of entries - hosted by Rootsweb and held in secure servers in "The Bunker". The database is updated every month or two, and there are seldom fewer than a million new entries at each update.

Despite the still very incomplete data, the search facility is of course the key - and keeps on getting better! Search can be by surname only, by district, by county, by part-year, or whole year or group of years - even by volume and page number... In this way searches can be refined down, and even the unknown spouse in an ancestral marriage can be identified by inference and deduction. Eventually, of course, the researcher will still want to buy the certificates, so the O.N.S. goes on profiting from eager ancestor-hunters, perhaps more than ever! However, the saving in time and energy is also of huge benefit to us researchers.

The FreeBMD team are always on the lookout for more volunteer transcribers, so if you have a computer, accurate typing skills (however slow!) and some free time, they would love to hear from you. All details of the project can be found at <http://freebmd.rootsweb.com>

**P.S.** I'm one of the volunteers - so far 30,000 lines personally uploaded!  
And several lost ancestors now found!

**P.P.S.** A quarter of my ancestors came from Sheffield and Rotherham –  
some traced back to the 1500s!

*Richard Oliver. Madrid-Spain*  
*richol@arrakis.es*

## CONFERENCES AND FAIRS

**Oxfordshire FHS Open Day Saturday 19 Oct 2002**

**Folkestone & District FHS One Day Conference. Sat. 19 Oct 2002**

**West Surrey FHS Open Day Sat. 2 Nov. 2002**

*Details of all the above can be found in the Summer journal Vol. 23. No 3*

**South Yorkshire Family History Fair Saturday 19 April 2003**

The Don Valley Stadium, Sheffield, is the venue for this major Family History event. Full details later.

**8th Yorkshire Family History Fair Saturday 28 June 2003**

As usual this will be held at York racecourse (Knavesmire Exhibition Centre) from 10 am to 4.30 pm. There will be all the usual stalls associated with such a major event.

Free parking. Admission £2.50. Cafeteria facilities.

It is the largest Family History event in the UK! (234 tables in 2002!)

Further details for Mr A. Sampson, 1 Oxbang Close, Redcar, Cleveland TS10 4ND (Tel: 01642 486615)

**N.B.** Our Society will have a stall here. Do come and support us! It will be a splendid day out.

## THROUGH THE LETTERBOX

*From John Wood, 9 Flitwick Road, Ampthill, Bedford, MK45 2NS*

I very much hope that family historians will not practise telephone cold-calling as advocated by Edward Wilkinson (*Flowing Stream* Autumn 2002, p. 89). This technique is likely to irritate more people than it pleases, is intrusive and impertinent, and puts family historians on a par with some kitchen and double-glazing salespeople. Enthusiasts for our hobby should be kept within reasonable bounds.

## BOOKSTALL OFFICER URGENTLY NEEDED

We need someone *urgently* to run the Society bookstall at meetings.

No special knowledge needed

No responsibility for purchasing goods

Contact any committee members for further information

*If no one volunteers the bookstall will close*

## SOCIETY MEETINGS

*Meeting on Monday 17 June 2002*

### **Sheffield Castle: A talk given by Ron Clayton**

Ron kindly stepped in after Norma Neill, who was due to give a talk, unfortunately had an accident. He brought with him a number of slides and transparencies and a huge amount of enthusiasm for his subject - and humour!

The first Sheffield castle was built of wood and burnt down in 1266. The first Thomas de Furnival rebuilt the castle in stone, although today there is little trace of his achievements, other than what has been described as a 'large rockery'. The placement was good - on a hill, with two sides on a river and the other sides could be defended by ditches. However more recent excavations in the market area have suggested that there was more to Sheffield castle than had been thought, and that it may well have been of a similar design and size to Pembroke castle. In its time it was home to some famous people, including John Towler who was killed in battle in 1453, and of course Mary Queen of Scots.

There is no evidence of an attack on Sheffield Castle, which was demolished after 1649. It was owned by the Norfolk family who were in exile in Italy. They wrote to the government and asked for it to be bought back and used as a hospital. That did not happen and instead it provided a source of building materials for Sheffielders, for example the foundations of the abbatoir on Cricket Inn Road came from the castle. The site was then used as a bowling green, then the markets and the site was then left to become overgrown.

The castle remained only in name - Castlegate, Castle Hill. Much of the land in the vicinity of the castle has since been developed, and the castle evidence has been hidden from sight. Castlegate was developed in the 1920s, replacing what had been wooden shambles (abbatoirs). There are remains of the bastion (16 - 17 feet high) and the remains of the gatehouse which is often flooded. Much of this is in a ditch under Waingate and the old courthouse. There is a suggestion that the castle

may have extended across to Pond's Forge. It is thought that the castle was built from sandstone quarried in Handsworth from the evidence of original medieval masonry that can be found under one of the fish stalls in the Castle Market.

The building of Castle Market in 1958 destroyed part of the round tower. Recent finds of quantities of window glass have suggested that it was a lord's residence and an important site. Fortunately now, developers have to fund proper archaeological excavations, so it is possible that more evidence may emerge.

*Reported by Judith Pitchforth*

## OTHER PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS

*From Hannah Smith, Hatfield College, North Bailey, Durham DH1 3RQ  
Tel:07855325161 E-mail: [H.J.Smith@durham.ac.uk](mailto:H.J.Smith@durham.ac.uk)*

I am a final year student at Durham University. I am currently working on my dissertation, and could do with a little help. The subject I've chosen is the **General Strike in Sheffield in May 1926**. I've been researching the topic, but would really like to find some personal recollections. If there is anyone you know who is old enough to remember the General Strike in Sheffield, I'd love to hear from them. How did it affect life in Sheffield? Did people have sympathy for the miners? Were educational establishments affected by the Strike? I am focusing particularly on the newspapers, education, and the local strike organisations at the time, but any information of any kind would be most appreciated.

*Graham Green, Hillington Cottage, Main Road, Icklesham, East Sussex TN36 4AR* asked for the publication of the following newspaper cutting relating to **Leslie Harland** who was the nephew of his mother **Nora Green**. Leslie's mother was **Helen (Ellen) Harland (nee Green)**. He is hoping there may be some members of that family still alive and living in the Sheffield area who may recall the family.

*LOST AT SEA – Leslie Harland (17), younger son of Mr. and Mrs. W.E. Harland, of 6 Willis Road, Hillsborough, who has been missing since June, must now, according to official information, be presumed lost at sea, as a result of enemy action. At the time he was serving as a mess boy on board a Norwegian vessel. Previous to this he had been torpedoed and then taken to Canada. To Leslie the lure of the sea was irresistible, and when his elder brother voluntarily went to Canada for R.A.F. training he decided at the age of 15 to go on board the training ship "Vindicatrix". During his course of training he made such rapid progress that at the end of three months he passed out fully qualified,*

*and made his first voyage in an oil tanker bound for South Africa, which he learned later (after signing off) had been torpedoed. When home on leave he could never settle, the fascination of seafaring life being far too strong. Brave and fearless, he saw no danger and having such a fine record was readily accepted when applying for a new berth. During his two years in the Merchant Navy, in varying capacities – deck hand, assistant steward and mess boy – he sailed in some half dozen vessels always preferring those under a Norwegian flag. Leslie attended the Hillsborough Council School and on leaving served as a junior clerk for six months in the employ of the Sheffield Forge and Rolling Mills. A strong and healthy boy, he was fond of sport and enjoyed football, cricket, boxing and swimming. Free and easy, he made many friends and his filial affection was noticeably strong. One of his chief interests was the making of models of ships and aeroplanes. He also had a private cinematograph with which he entertained his friends.*

The cutting is not dated but is presumed to be from around the early 1940's.

*Norma Reaney, Furness Cottage, 25 Greaves Lane, Stannington, Sheffield S6 6BB writes: "I am doing some research into the Liberty Hill area of Stannington in 1853, and am interested in finding out more about the following people:*

**Samuel Parker**, whom I believe may be the one who appears in the 1868 Directory as **Samuel Parker and Son, stag, horn and bone merchant, Sussex Street, Sheffield**

**John Greaves**, Grove Cottage, Sheffield, gentleman

**Thomas Wilson**, gentleman

**Rev. Stephen Langston**

If anyone has any information about any of the above I would be most grateful."

*Michael Cain, 8 Nithsdale Road, Corby, Northants. NN17 1LR writes: "In 1780 one of my ancestors was baptised and no father's name was given, therefore he may have been illegitimate, but I cannot find out anything more about him. In my search I was told that there were several degrees of illegitimacy recognised in those days, i.e. a servant girl or someone with money. Do any of our members know what these degrees were? I would welcome any replies."*

*Colleen Brunton, 284 Lonsdale Drive, Enfield EN2 7LD writes, "I was adopted in 1950, born in 1947 to my natural mother Anne Marie Donnelly known as Nancy. She was Irish and while she had me she worked as a housekeeper to two brothers, Robert and Jim Grant in Bard Street Flats, Sheffield. My name then was Anne-Marie. I am*

trying to find any information as to who my father was and any information about him. I do hope someone can help me”

*Mrs Janet Trickett, 123 Mays Lane, Barnet, Herts. EN5 2DX* asks, “Does anyone have any information on **Trickett House**? I know it was in the **Ecclesfield** area as I have entries for various baptisms at St. Mary’s Parish Church, Ecclesfield, all of which were from Trickett House. It is also mentioned in the Rev. Eatswood’s History of Ecclesfield on page 367, which was published in 1862. Any information would be appreciated.”

### NEW MEMBERS’ INTERESTS

The following members have interests printed in this edition

- 2361 Mrs Jan Perkins, The Jays, 163 Wheathead Lane, Exley Head, Keighley, W. Yorks. BD222 6NL
- 2428 Mrs Audrey Buxton, 190 Walkley Cres. Rd, Sheffield S6 5BB
- 2444 Mr R. Furniss, 11 Peterborough Road, Undercliffe, Bradford BD2 3AR  
*e-mail: rf014e0783@blueyonder.co.uk*
- 2516 Mrs P.L. Lidstone, Britwell House, 1 Court Lane, Burnham, Bucks. SL1 8DW
- 2557 Mrs Janette Hicks, 27 Western Drive, Claybrooke Parva, Lutterworth, Leics. LE17 5AG  
*E-mail: sjbhicks@tiscali.co.uk*
- 2560 Mrs S. Connell, 43 Macauley Crescent, Manadon, Plymouth, Devon PL5 3HF
- 2567 Mrs Joan Mulhearn, 27 West Hendford, Yeovil, Somerset BA20 1XE  
*E-mail: LAMULHEARN@AOL.COM*
- 2589 Mrs Lynne Ward, 69 Causeway Head Road, Dore, Sheffield S17 3DX  
*E-mail: lynne@savageclose.freemove.co.uk*
- 2598 Mr C.E. Buddle, 8 Dunbar Close, Holmes Chapel, Cheshire CW4 7DW
- 2613 Mrs Freda Hunt, 4 Newstead Road, Sheffield S12 3BH
- 2609 Mrs Ann Burgess, 11 Adie Road, Greatstone, New Romney, Kent TM28 8SR  
*E-mail: avb@easynet.co.uk*
- 2612 Mr Ken Swallow, 32 Milton Drive, Ravenshead, Notts. NG15 9BE  
*E-mail: kenswallowuk@yahoo.co.uk*

The numbers below correspond to the membership numbers and addresses given above.

No	Surname	Place	County	Period
2612	Badger	Hathersage	DBY	pre 1900
2612	Badger	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1900
2428	Baud	Rotherham	YKS	1882+
2516	Brammer	Sheffield Wicker	YKS	1800/1900
2557	Brooke	Sheffield	YKS	19C
2598	Buddle	Sheffield	YKS	1860+
2589	Buften	Rotherham	YKS	1800-
2589	Buften	Sheffield	YKS	1800-

2609	Burgess	Cardington	SAL	All
2609	Burgess	Tipton	STS	1850+
2609	Burgess	Woodhouse/Sheffield	YKS	1880+
2557	Clarke	Carlton	NTT	19C
2557	Clarke	Sheffield	YKS	19C
2612	Cross	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1900
2557	Dawson	Rotherham	YKS	19C
2557	Dawson	Sheffield	YKS	19 C
2613	Fidler	Sheffield/Ecclesall Bierlow	YKS	1886+
2613	Fidler	Stockport (Hazel Grove)	CHS	pre 1851
2613	Foulstone	Scholes (Rotherham)	YKS	pre 1841
2612	Fulstone	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1900
2444	Furniss	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1829
2612	Grant	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1900
2613	Groom	Thornhill/Rotherham	YKS	pre 1850
2567	Harrison	Intake/Gleadless	WRY	pre 1880
2560	Higginbottom	Sheffield	YKS	c1800
2560	Hinchliffe	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1800
2557	Hulston	Sheffield	YKS	19C
2609	Hydes	Harthill/Woodall	YKS	All
2609	Hydes	Sheffield	YKS	1860+
2613	Ibbotson	Scholes/Rotherham	YKS	pre 1840
2567	Lancaster	Intake/Gleadless	WRY	1840+
2589	Moore	Sheffield	YKD	1800-1860
2612	Morgan	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1900
2560	Mosley	Sheffield	YKS	c1800
2361	Mycok	Sheffield	WRY	1800
2589	Needham	Greenhill, Sheffield	DBY/YKS	1800-1860
2613	Oxley	Sheffield/Ecclesall Bierlow	YKS	1882+
2557	Parker	Sheffield	YKS	19C
2589	Parton	Sheffield	YKS	1860-
2516	Rastrick	Crookes Sheffield	YKS	1900
2560	Rastrick	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1800
2361	Rotheram	Sheffield	WRY	1800
2361	Rotherham	Sheffield	WRY	1800
2560	Shaw	Sheffield	YKS	c1800
2613	Shettler	Rotherham	YKS	1893+
2609	Shiple	Lincoln & Gainsbro'	LIN	1812+
2609	Shiple	N.E. Notts	NTT	All
2609	Shiple	Sheffield	YKS	1860+
2516	Spencer	Ecclesall Bierlow Sheffield	YKS	1900
2428	Stenton	Sheffield	YKS	1882+
2612	Swallow	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1900
2612	Swallow	Swinton	YKS	pre 1900
2609	Turner	Sheffield	YKS	1860+
2609	Turner	Snettisham	NFK	All
2560	Wild	Sheffield	YKS	c1800

## “ELEVEN PLUS” PASS LISTS

Sheffield family historians who are interested in the schooling of their parents or grandparents might obtain useful information by consulting the “Eleven Plus” examination pass lists which were printed by the Education Department annually from 1924 to 1944. These lists are contained in three books housed in the Local Studies Library at Surrey Street under reference 379.4274S. They cover the years 1924-29, 1930-39 and 1940-44. The books are not on the open shelves, and they bear the title ‘City of Sheffield Education Committee Final Examination for admission to Secondary and Intermediate Schools Order of Merit List’ or a similar name.

The information provided includes the name and home address of the boy or girl taking the examination, the school they attended when sitting the exam, the marks obtained and the position in descending order where the highest marks are nearest the top of the list; this is called the Order of Merit. Only children gaining half the maximum marks are included and are deemed to have passed the examination. The lists are divided between boys and girls with their marks in English and Arithmetic being shown separately in the earlier years but published as one total in later years.

From 1940 two ‘aptitude tests’ were added to the English and Arithmetic ones and the practice of disclosing marks and order of merit position ceased. This was replaced by each individual school listing its own new entrants in simple alphabetical name order.

The examination was quite a large-scale exercise, and important for the educational future of the children concerned. In 1940 for example, 2771 boys and 2854 girls of about eleven years of age took the examination, coming from 167 Sheffield ‘School Departments’. And in the twelve years 1928-39 no less than 23,600 passed the examinations. They are listed in the books, which provides family historians with details which might not be easily obtainable elsewhere about our relatives.

Some children were not entered for the examination whilst others did not reach the required pass standard. These usually continued education at their existing school.

There was a measure of preference allowing parents to indicate which Grammar or Intermediate schools they would like their children to attend if successful in the examination. Their eventual placing in a school was governed by the Grammar schools of the city generally admitting pupils scoring marks in the higher range. But some children could, if they preferred, go to a good school of less historic or academic distinction, such as the fairly new Intermediate schools, even if they had high scores.

Personal preference for one school as against another depended on several factors. The distance between school and home and travelling time involved was one factor, especially in wartime, though many children cheerfully journeyed to school across Sheffield. Another consideration was whether an older member of the family had attended that school, or even whether one youngster wished to make the same choices as his or her best friends.

The administration of the whole scheme and the allocation of places must have been a complicated exercise for the Education Department staff, but at least they have left us some useful information in these lists.

*Roy Bullen, 33 Durvale Court, Dore, Sheffield S117 3PT*

## **IN GOOD FAITH AND TRUTHFUL IGNORANCE**

*From notes taken at a talk given by Paul Blake  
at the FFHS AGM in 2001*

Bigamy is generally presumed to be the state of being married to two different people at the same time. However this was not always the case. During the Middle Ages bigamy could refer to someone who married twice – as in the case of the widow or widower who remarried. Until the 16th century, being married to two people at the same time was not a civil offence, but the church viewed it as immoral.

In 1604 an Act was passed which caused marriage to two persons simultaneously to be a civil offence. Three points were covered by this Act. One was that a person could not remarry if the spouse was still alive. If the spouse had been missing for seven years, whereabouts unknown, then the person could remarry. The penalty for any bigamist who was caught was death by hanging.

Marriage however has not always been a 'definite' act. Before Hardwicke's Act of 1754 came in to force, there were several different forms of the 'marriage service'. One was simply for the couple to make a declaration in private, which may or not be witnessed. Then there was the practice of jumping over a broomstick. Amazingly, this was a perfectly legitimate form of marriage. Neither of these of course led to a mention in the church registers, but they were low cost in terms of fees, and effectively 'common law' marriages. The most notorious of irregular marriages were those which took place in the Fleet in London, carried out by men who may or may not have been clergymen who may or may not have written down the event. These irregularities were part of the reason for the Hardwicke marriage act which came in to force in 1754.

Marital breakdown is not a twentieth century invention. Stresses existed in marriages before then, with lack of finance a common cause.

There are many instances in the mid 18th century of Poor Law examinations of women applying to the overseers for relief when their husbands had absconded. In Honiton, approximately 10% of marriages ended in desertion, with half of the absconders escaping to the army or navy and the other half going off with another woman. Before 1857, divorce was only possible via the church courts (annulment) or by a private act of parliament, which was extremely expensive. After 1857 divorce was still expensive and remained so until the 1920s when the costs came within the reach of the population.

Desertion substituted for divorce for the common people. Those who had married by jumping over a broomstick divorced by jumping backwards over the broomstick, undoing their marriage in the process. This was socially acceptable until the mid 19th century for those who had married by this means. There are instances of wife sales, usually in the open, with the man selling his wife by prearrangement to her lover. The sales rarely happened as the one documented in *The Mayor of Casterbridge*.

With the marriage act being in some instances quite vague – a declaration of ‘I marry you’ being sufficient before 1754, perhaps it is not surprising that many people did not know their legal position. The death penalty was in force after the 1604 Act, although not often carried out. However evidence from the calendar of prisoners suggests that James Tucker was hanged for bigamy at the Quarter Session in Marlborough in 1617. By the mid 18th century the death penalty was ignored by the courts. The Gentleman’s magazine of 1777 cited the punishment of a bigamous woman who was blinded for her crime. By 1785 the punishment seems to have been reduced to being branded on the hand with a cool iron, suggesting that it was not being taken as seriously.

In 1795 another Act of Parliament was passed relating to bigamy. The punishment for bigamy was to be the same as for larceny - transportation for seven years. This was effectively divorce! The courts however could use their discretion. Between 1805 and 1816 of the 9,800 prisoners only 27 men and 3 women were indicted for bigamy. Four of the cases were thrown out, four acquitted and the other sentences ranged from transportation for seven years down to one month’s imprisonment and another who was fined one shilling. By 1828 the penalty was two years’ imprisonment with or without hard labour. After 1842 the Court of assizes had taken on the judgement of bigamy from the Quarter Sessions.

In practical terms, few bigamists get caught. In many cases, how would you find out? Once you find one marriage, generally you do not look for a further marriage whilst both parties are still alive. The case which was used to illustrate this was that of Richard Brockler who married Catherine Baker in 1850. The couple had six children, all but one

dying before the age of 6. Richard himself died in Liverpool in 1877. However Richard had previously married Eliza Webb in Liverpool in 1845. They had a son Oliver, born in 1846 who died in 1847 in Stonehouse, Gloucestershire where Eliza had been born. Perhaps Eliza left Richard or did Richard leave Eliza? Eliza died in Cheltenham in 1877, described as the widow of Richard Brockler, shoemaker. In this case, Eliza attended Richard's funeral and found that she was not the only widow.

Bigamy research is not easy because of the secrecy surrounding it. It can occur across continents, especially favoured by sailors. It may be easier to spot in a one name study. It is the kind of thing that does not get aired, although there may be one or two clues in snippets of family oral traditions. For the proof, you do need facts – dates of marriages and lack of deaths of the parties involved. It may be that the case went to court, in which instance the criminal records for 1805 – 92 in HO26 and HO27 at the PRO may help. These records are arranged chronologically by county and some between 1805 and 1816 have been indexed. There may be newspaper reports on trials, and *The Times* may be a useful source here (an index does exist for these reports). *The Gentleman's Magazine* has been indexed to some extent and bigamy is in the index although the coverage is not extensive.

Cases taken to court were not always proved. In 1784 two sets of two witnesses appeared in court to swear that the groom had married twice and that both wives were still living. The marriage register was not produced in the court, so the groom got let off. The signatures in the two registers, however, were identical.

It may be that you stumble upon bigamy – perhaps more likely now that so many of the census records are being computerised (especially, for example via the national 1881 census CD ROM). Other evidence may come to light in probate records. .

*Reported by Judith Pitchforth*

## **A HERITAGE WALK**

On the morning of 9 August 2001 I decided to walk around various places in South Sheffield where my forebears had lived, worked and played. Some of the places I knew already – Eyre Street, where my grandmother lived after her second marriage, and South View Road, where I had visited my Aunt and Uncle several times between the 1930's and the early 1960's. Other places I knew only from maps.

What I was to learn on the morning was that maps only give you two dimensions: they do not adequately convey the ups and downs –

especially so with the street maps that I had with me, where there are no contour lines or heights above sea level.

The attempt to find anything of Eyre Street was fruitless – I did not have the time anyway and I knew the old Eyre Street had been flattened to make way for the new traffic road bypassing The Moor pedestrian area: it had presumably been swallowed up by the new Arundel Gate. So I made my way down to the big traffic island where London Road starts and crossed over.

My second objective was soon found – the Lansdowne Picture House with its ornate twin towers, where my father Alfred had played the violin in the orchestra which accompanied silent films. This was a job he had done from about 1907, at the age of fourteen (so he told me when I was a boy) until he joined the Royal Army Medical Corps early in the Great War. On his return from the war my dad's confidence as a violinist had deteriorated and I still have the letter from the conductor of the Lansdowne Picture House Orchestra acknowledging his resignation. The once spectacular building is now covered in its entirety with a grim coat of black paint and called "Beds"; a club premises where music of a totally different kind is played nowadays. On a subsequent visit to their website I found (bless them!) a reference back to the building's origins – it was apparently called the "Palais" originally and first opened in 1910.

I crossed over London Road and passed a bus stop where I asked a lady how to get to Club Gardens Road, where my grandfather had spent his last years. I was directed through the recently built area of flats and gardens and soon found the rather elegant brick built terraces with named courtyard entrances at intervals along them: one of these coincidentally was Clayworth Court – the coincidence being that Clayworth was the birthplace of the father of the grandfather in question. This however was not my grandfather's old residence – that was number 30 at the north end of Club Gardens Road: a part of the road now demolished it seems.

The road rises gently until it reaches Sharrow Lane where I entered territory I knew of old.

As I walked down South View Road I encountered the view I had first experienced on visits to my uncle's house in the 1930's – the view over the valley towards Woodseats. The terrace houses were grimy then and there was a smell of soot everywhere: now I was aware that they were made of red brick – perhaps there had been a general clean up at some stage but it was more likely that the rain of half a century and the lack of smoke from coal fires had had their effect. The area looked in quite good shape and a lot of the properties seem now to have become student accommodation.

Here was my uncle Ernie's former residence! And then turning right into South View Crescent here was my paternal grandfather's house

– it must have been a very respectable villa when he moved there with his family in 1903. A year or two later the family moved to a house on the other side of the road which had a passage leading through to the back courtyard and the outside toilets – I summoned up courage and went down it: nobody was there and I allowed myself the luxury of trying to imagine my grandparents and their children occupying this place! I too was part of that scene because my grandmother (bless her!) had looked after me as a baby whilst my mother was supply teaching a long way away in Dumfries, Scotland.

Now for the venture into territory so well known from maps and yet so surprisingly unlike the pictures I had built up in my imagination! I went down to Abbeydale Road and across to the other side where I headed down Chippinghouse Lane – here student accommodation became replaced by garages and builders' yards.

This took me back to London Road which I crossed and then I headed south for a few yards until I noticed Gleadless Road turning off to the left under the main railway line: from now on this was territory I knew only from old maps, directories, censuses and certificates.

It was dramatically different from the pictures I had formed in my mind: the road went steeply uphill through green surroundings and as the hill turned sharply up to the right I saw the large church in Anns Road dominating the landscape: it has now become a Chinese Christian Church and presumably serves a Chinese community in the southern part of Sheffield. Amongst the leafy terrain on the right hand side of the road appeared an estate of elegant new semi-detached houses and it was not until the Church had been reached at the top of the hill that old buildings appeared again.

I noticed that the road numbers had by then reached into the two hundreds! My father's birthplace was 92 Gleadless Road: obviously half way up the hill where the elegant new houses now stood and where all traces of the old buildings had been swept away, including the tobacconist's shop which was run in the 1890's by my great grandmother.

I walked on up Gleadless Road until I reached the junction with Richards Road coming down from the left and Carfield Street going down to the right – somewhere down there was Albert Road which had in it the nursing home where I was born more than 75 years ago, but this was not today's objective.

I then looked for Heeley Green which is shown as a road turning off to the left in both my street maps, the 1970's A to Z and the old 1903 Ordnance Survey map. Finding a pedestrian footpath I worked my way between the houses and found my way to Heeley Green which now has new estate houses on either side and, looking back, I saw that there was a

pedestrian entrance on to the estate from the junction between Richards Road and Gleadless Road via a children's playground.

The surprising thing for me was, however, the fact that Heeley Green was heading steadily upwards: a circumstance I could not have deduced from my maps. I realised moreover that the Ball Inn (which was once run by my great great grandparents) was at the end of the road and must be at considerable altitude. As the road curved round suddenly the Ball Inn came into view! Not only does it dominate the Heeley Green estate which leads up to it: it stands at the top of a hill and also dominates the area to the north which slopes down from Myrtle Road to East Bank Road down in the valley.

It is a sturdy robust building and the fact that it is well and truly open for business was a thrilling surprise! On this occasion however, at about 10.30 am on a Thursday, it was closed: perhaps it was a blessing because my time was limited and there were other things to see and do. Going round the back of the pub I surveyed the quite generous car park and noted that there was a children's play area: evidently families were catered for and meals are provided at the appropriate times.

So I decided to plan a return visit at some later time with other members of the family so I could perhaps contact the present victuallers in more appropriate circumstances! I contented myself for the present with imagining the extended family recorded in the 1871 census: my great great grandfather, John Dale, and his wife Ann (who took over the running of the Ball Inn when he died), their two sons and their wives and the three grandchildren: my grandmother was born in 1872 and became the fourth grandchild in the family.

It was something of a surprise to me to find the Ball Inn still there since there is nothing about it in any of the Sheffield guides I have read: perhaps it is because it is an ordinary rather four square Victorian building – not prettily timbered! A cousin of mine told me it was frequented by Sheffield United players who trained on the adjoining recreation ground (reflected in the footballer's leg shown on the pub sign): maybe it is a bit too workaday for tourists? Certainly it is too workaday to be included in the lore and literature on Sheffield pubs which I have found to date on the library shelves.

My walk had unexpectedly been an ascent! For my grandmother Ann Eliza it had been a descent – spread over 30 years or more – from her childhood days with her grandparents, parents, sister, uncle, aunt and cousins in the Ball Inn down to the smaller family in her mother's shop halfway up Gleadless Road and then, with her more prosperous husband and their five children, down to 36 South View Crescent and finally across the road to Number 55.

*Gilbert Keith Jackson, 5, Dale Close, Cockermouth, Cumbria CA13 9ES*

## CIVIL REGISTRATION: THE WHITE PAPER

*Many of you will be aware that the government has issued a white paper detailing changes to civil registration. Since this is a subject of vital importance to family historians the following article reprinted from the Federation's Family History News and Digest August/September 2002 explains what the proposed changes, if implemented, will mean to us.*

### **Most important issue**

In two years time you may find that information you now expect to find on a birth, marriage or death certificate will no longer be available to you. This is just one of the main proposals in the Government White Paper *Civil Registration, Vital Change*. The proposed changes to the system of Civil Registration for England and Wales are by far the most radical since its introduction in 1837 and will fundamentally change the way that family historians will be able to conduct their research in future. **This is arguably the single most important issue facing family historians researching in England and Wales today.**

### **Welcome Changes**

Some of the proposed changes will be welcomed by researchers, such as the eventual deposit of 'historic' records in record offices. Another is the end of the requirement to buy an expensive certified copy of a birth, marriage or death entry to see the information contained in it. On the debit side, however, the intention is to restrict the access to some information on more modern register entries. Broadly speaking, this will mean that addresses, occupations and causes of death will not be disclosed except to members of the family or other authorised persons.

### **Inconsistencies**

The actual details described in the White Paper, are fairly complicated, and contain a number of inconsistencies, and there is no attempt either to define 'family' or to explain on what grounds a person might become authorised to see these details. It is to be hoped that this vagueness is deliberate, to allow for flexibility during the consultation period and that we will be able to have some influence on the shape of the final proposals.

### **Historic or Active Population**

The crucial distinction is that between the 'Historic' records and those relating to the 'Active Population'. The 'Historic' records will be made more cheaply and more widely available and those relating to the

'Active Population' will be restricted. The idea behind the restrictions on more recent events is to protect the privacy of individuals and to prevent fraud. However, the means by which the Government seek to do this will merely make life difficult for the great majority of genuine researchers without achieving its stated aims. The 'Active Population' is deemed to be anyone born within the last 100 years, whether or not they are still alive, and regardless of the date of the actual event itself. So, for example, you would not be able to see the address or the father's occupation on a birth certificate from 1903, but if the child had an older sibling who died in the same year, or later, you could see both of these items on their death certificate, without restriction. On a recent death certificate you would not be allowed to know the address or occupation of the deceased person, who, being dead, has precious little privacy to protect. On the other hand, these would be shown for the informant, who would be by definition still alive! There are many other inconsistencies and impracticalities, too numerous to mention here.

### **Preliminary Response**

Soon after the White Paper was published, a series of briefings was held, at which interested parties could put questions to members of the Registration Review Team, and following this the **FFHS Executive composed a preliminary response** (see below) to the proposals which was sent to the Review Team and to the Government Minister responsible, Ruth Kelly. This was accompanied by a detailed examination of the relevant parts of the White Paper, and their implications for family historians. Full details of both these documents, together with a summary of the whole White Paper and a table of the proposed changes can be found on the FFHS Internet website at [www.ffhs.org.uk/](http://www.ffhs.org.uk/) The White Paper itself can be purchased from HMSO for £12.50, or it can be accessed from the HMSO website at [www.official-documents.co.uk/document/cm53/5355/5355.pdf](http://www.official-documents.co.uk/document/cm53/5355/5355.pdf) In addition, a text-only version can be downloaded from the SoG's website at [www.sog.org.uk/](http://www.sog.org.uk/)

The actual changes will not be as a result of an Act of Parliament, but using Order-making Powers under the Regulatory Reform Act 2001. This requires minimal parliamentary time and has a reasonably fixed timetable. The idea behind this is that 'Stakeholders' are involved throughout, and that it is therefore more likely to achieve the required changes. It is up to us, as 'Stakeholders' to do our best to see that happens, by making our views known to the Registration Review Team and to the Government.

## Consultation Document

Although no exact date has been given, the **Consultation document has been promised for Autumn 2002**, to which responses will be invited. However, the Federation, some member societies and many individuals have already offered their comments. At the start of the White Paper, is a summary of the views expressed in response to the earlier consultation paper *Registration: Modernising a Vital Service*, from just under 1000 respondents. Only 32 of these were from family history groups or archivists, and the following conclusions were based on the numbers of actual answers to questions, and not the number of individuals represented by each respondent.

## Every Vote Counts

The fact that the Federation could claim to be speaking on behalf of many thousands of members with its response does not seem to enter into these calculations. It is vital that any society or individual who is concerned about these proposals should let the Government know about it. This is a case where every vote really does count! **The Federation response (see below) is only a provisional one, but we believe it is one with which most family historians will broadly agree.** Societies and individuals are very welcome to use the wording as written, it required, and to forward it to the Registration Review Team, simply by adding your own signature and saying that you agree with the opinions expressed. This can be done by e-mail: [registration.review@ons.gov.uk](mailto:registration.review@ons.gov.uk) or by post to Lorraine Cole, Civil Registration Review Programme, General Register Office, Smedley Hydro, Trafalgar Road, Southport PR8 2HH. Alternatively, you could compose your own response, and if on reading the White Paper there is anything you think we have missed, include that too. In either case it would be helpful to us to know which societies have sent a response, to add weight to our argument when dealing directly with the Registration Review Team. Please forward a copy of your letter or e-mail either to Audrey Collins, 20 Ilmington Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA3 0NH or to Richard Ratcliffe, 75 Thoroughgood Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 6DS. **The important thing is to respond**, if you believe that this matter is as important as we believe it to be. **There is no need to wait until the formal consultation document is published.**

*The copy of the Federation's initial response has been printed on facing pages so that members can photocopy it, if they wish, and add their own comments thus ensure that there are as many votes as possible reaching the Registration Review Implementation team.*

## **Civil Registration: The White Paper**

### **The initial response of the Federation of Family History Societies**

The Government has now released this long-awaited document, outlining the proposed changes to the system of Civil Registration in England and Wales. This follows the consultation paper *Registration: Modernising a vital service*, published in September 1999, to which many individuals and groups, responded, including the Federation.

This response provides you with our initial reaction to the White Paper's publication. As you will appreciate however, its proposals have a number of adverse implications for most family historians, and so we wish to allow our member societies the opportunity of advising us of their reactions to these, before we formulate a detailed response to the White Paper.

The Federation welcomes the proposals for the older records to be made open to researchers, without the need to buy expensive certified copies. The transfer of historic registers to record offices is to be welcomed, so that they can be preserved in suitable archival conditions, and made available for public inspection. We also welcome changes to the way in which information from the more recent registers will eventually be made available, without the need for expensive certified copies. This will be a great improvement on the situation which has existed since 1837, whereby information from the registers could only be given in the form of a certified copy of the entry. The availability of low-cost uncertified paper copies will be a great improvement on the current situation.

The Government plans to computerise the more recent records, but not the older ones, although it would support any not-for-profit organization which wanted to invest in enabling electronic access to these records, and the Federation and its member societies would hope to be involved in any such project. Our members have extensive experience of indexing, and would have a great deal to contribute, building on our central role in the 1881 Census Index, the National Burial Index and other projects. Some member societies are already working to this end, in partnership with local registration services.

We have, however, considerable reservations about other proposals contained in the White Paper, namely the restrictions on the information which will be released from more recent registrations, namely

occupations, addresses and cause of death. The Government proposes to make the distinction between 'historic' records and those relating to the 'active population' by placing restrictions on the release of information from certificates relating to persons born less than 100 years ago. We strongly advocate that the cut-off period should be 75, not 100 years, as we and many others suggested in our response to Registration: Modernising a vital service.

Since the White Paper is part of the consultation process involved in making legislative changes using the Regulatory Reform Act 2001, many of the proposals are described in principle, rather than in detail. Our detailed examination of the document shows that there are anomalies in the proposed arrangements as described, and some potential practical problems. Many proposals which are practical in terms of current and future registrations would be difficult to put into practice in the context of the historic records. Since our membership has extensive experience of using these historic records, and some of us have detailed knowledge of their origin and structure, we would be very happy to provide the Registration Review Implementation team with help and advice in this area.

**Richard Ratcliffe**  
**Director of Archives Liaison**

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION ON THE FEDERATION WEBSITE

For those members who wish to read what the Federation has on its website on the subject of Registration the following guidelines will help you to locate the information

Go to the main page - [www.ffhs.org.uk](http://www.ffhs.org.uk)

then to MEMBERS section

then to NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

then to ARCHIVES LIAISON

then to WHITE PAPER ON CIVIL REGISTRATION

There you will be able to read through all the information. There is no standard letter, but the relevant address etc is given plus lots more information.

### A HISTORY OF GLEADLESS SCHOOL Handsworth and Gleadless Council Infants School (Continued from Vol. 23. No 3)

*31 August 1894* I, Ada Garrick, entered upon duty this newly opened school of Gleadless, as Infant Mistress, on Thursday 28th instant. 78 Children have been enrolled.

*7th September 1894* Mrs Cotton was assistant in charge of the infants class in the Church School and has been transferred as assistant to this school.

*17th May 1895* As my resignation expires on the 18th inst., I leave this afternoon.

*18th May 1895* Commenced duties – Miss A E Waite.

The staff is as follows:- A Waite; Headteacher.L Cotton; Assistant M E Wood Ist year pupil teacher

*7th September 1896* Mary Wood's homework has not been prepared for several weeks.

*22nd June 1902* School closed for the afternoon owing to the "Declaration of Peace" in the Transvaal.

**6th October 1904** Received notice from the Wakefield Education Department that Martha Gillott's (3rd year pupil teacher) claim to be paid a yearly increment of £2.10.00d (£2.50) has been agreed. Salary will now be payable at the rate of £17.00.00d per year

**12th October 1906** Miss A Drewry has been transferred to the mixed department and ordered to take charge of the Temporary School at Gleadless.

**16th August 1907** From a report of that date:-

"This school maintains its reputation for well considered and effective infant work. The removal of the Standard I to temporary premises has given much needed space for free movement. The babies' room is not well equipped. It could greatly assist the teacher if old fashioned desks were removed, and more suitable desks and chairs or tables substituted."

**10th July 1911** 26 babies have gone down Jaunty Lane to watch the farmers haymaking in Mr Robinson's field, also to gather grass for nature lessons during the week.

**15th September 1911** All the Teachers are in attendance in the schoolyard during playtime and take an active part in the children's games. Many children have been absent from school during the week – the reason assigned "NO BOOTS", which is perfectly true.

**2nd February 1912** Owing to snowy weather only 76 children present. Number on roll 147.

**25th March 1912** Relief Committee which has been formed during the Miners Strike visited the school to take pairs of boots which were given to some of the poorest children.

**6th March 1914** Owing to the excessive high winds a little child (Ellen Hobson) was blown down the yard and carried a considerable distance. Two of the teachers tried to rescue her and in so doing Miss Smith was blown down and suffered bodily injury. She is obliged to return home.

**31st March 1915** My resignation expires today A S Waite

**1st April 1915** Commenced duties today, H Baynes-Smith

**18th November 1915** One of the babies, Harold Hill, passed away yesterday. He was suffering from Diphtheria.

**17th March 1916** Mr Roberts (headmaster) has examined the children for promotion to his department and is taking 41.

**26th June 1916** Miss Scattergood from the mixed department is to commence duties tomorrow morning.

**29th June 1917** Mr Corke called in to inform me that the Sub-Committee has decided to transfer Miss Scattergood back to the mixed department from Monday 2nd July. In the report of 9th May it was said:- "The Weakness of the teacher of the second class militates against really good all-round results being produced. The teacher is quite unsuitable for infants and gives no evidence of capacity to act upon suggestions calculated for improvement".

**20th November 1917** Notice was received this morning that in recognition of the services of West Riding Men, a holiday should be given in all schools tomorrow.

**25th November 1918** I (H Baynes-Smith) returned to school after five weeks absence. During this time the school has been closed for influenza from 8th to 25th November. School re-opened with 106 present out of 170 and 2 deaths are reported – Leonard Elvin and William Briggs.

**30th June 1919** School closed for the day – Peace Celebrations.

**18th April 1921** 89 children had free breakfasts in school this morning. Opening of school could not be held until 9.10 am.

**19th April 1921** Owing to the large number of children (134) attending for breakfasts, it is quite impossible to use the room until 10.00am.

### **Did you know?.....**

Four churches were built before 1845 with money from "The Million Pound Fund" which was a national fund to commemorate the victory over Napoleon at Waterloo. St George's, Broad Lane was built in 1825 at a cost of £15000 and had seating for 2000 people. St Philip's Church near Infirmary Road cost £13000 and seated 2000 people. Attercliffe Church was built in 1826 at a cost of £14000. St Mary's Bramall Lane was built in 1830 at a cost of £13000.

## A FAMILY MYSTERY

Ivy Hilda Francis was my auntie and was born in 1903. I was born in 1925. My only memory of her was of her bright red fingernails (very striking in those days) and an air of overwhelming elegance. She came to see us in about 1934. There were four of us children and I was about 9 years old and was named after her. My father was her brother Tom.

Ivy had been a mannequin for Walsh's and had worked in hotels in Scarborough and London and so had met and mixed with all the 'right people'. Olive, Edith and Clara, her sisters, had worked as housekeepers in hotels and in tailoring. All dressed beautifully. They and their brothers, Tom and Hector, and their parents lived in a small cottage. Their father, another Thomas, worked on the land at first and then was a shopkeeper and a bailiff.

One day Ivy came home and they all had tea together. Afterwards she told everyone that she was going away to get married to someone 'above her station' and would not be able to see them any more. If they needed to communicate they were to put a notice in the Daily Mirror.

They were pleased for her but very sad. It was not done for the upper classes to marry beneath them. The only thing to do was to put her former life behind her and venture out into a new world. This she did and from that day to this no one has seen her or spoken to her.

One day Edith, one of Ivy's sisters came across a newspaper cutting about a widow in Banbury who had had a rich husband. After looking for a family for her the lawyers presumed that she had used a different name from her birth name and now had died without children or immediate descendants. Her representatives were seeking for information about her husband's relatives and hers in order to be able to pass on the money and property.

Edith thought it might be Ivy and wrote to them. They sent a questionnaire made by the lady's housekeeper. Edith had supplied photographs for them to peruse but it was soon apparent that it was not Ivy although the ages were similar.

In the end it was found that the husband came from the Sheffield area and that they had relatives hereabouts. Because she had not used her own name to be married it would have been very difficult to trace her background and we all wondered if Ivy had done this.

Later on, as we got older, we asked the Salvation Army. They must have put out a notice (possibly in the Daily Mirror) and miraculously Ivy replied by going to their office in London. She said that she was married and happy and that she did not want to communicate with the family any more. Regretfully we felt we must abide by her wishes.

Maybe she married under an assumed name and had children who are now of our age but owing to the influence of class distinction we shall never meet our 'posh' cousins.

*Mrs R.I. Jackson, 398 Myers Grove Lane, Sheffield S6 5LA*

## BOOK REVIEWS

*Memories of the Workhouse and Old Hospital at Fir Vale*

Compiled and edited by Lyn Howsam

Published by Alistair Lofthouse Design & Print ISBN 1 901587 22 3

This book sets the scene historically by briefly considering health care before the advent of the NHS, talking of diseases that in many instances are not common and certainly not deadly in modern Britain. The brief history of the Fir Vale Workhouse itself, which set out to look after people who for whatever reason were unable to look after themselves, and, as with so many things, events overtook them and the workhouse became the place which people dreaded. Many people may be saddened to hear that there are no admissions registers surviving – just census information and the punishment book. It also briefly mentions the House of Help on Paradise Square which aimed to help the poor and needy – young girls who might otherwise be in moral danger. Some of these ended up in the Fir Vale institution, locked up forever because they had given birth to an illegitimate child.

The second part of the book focuses on memories of several people, from people who worked in the hospital, to patients and their families. Childbirth in the thirties struck me as being a very cold and unhappy experience, with the mother being left on the sidelines as the child was produced and taken away – a stark contrast to childbirth today.

You may not have had any ancestors who lived or worked in the Fir Vale Institution, but you may find that the memories of these people mirrored those of others who lived and worked in similar places around the country.

*Pale as the Dead* by Fiona Mountain

Published by Orion Books at £9.99

This novel by an author who grew up in Sheffield combines genealogy, history and suspense. Natasha Blake a professional genealogist is investigating the disappearance of a young girl Bethany who is obsessed with Lizzie Siddall, the famous Pre-Raphaelite model and artist, wife of Dante Rossetti. What was their connection? Will Natasha find Bethany before it's too late....

## SOCIETY SEARCH SERVICE

The Society provides a Search Service for the following:

- **1861 Census Surname Index for Sheffield, Rotherham & Bradfield**

- **Burials Index & Transcripts**

(this project is in progress and the search service covers all material indexed to date including some records not yet available for sale on fiche or disk.)

- **Soldiers Died in The Great War 1914-18**

(details of 37,000 officers and 665,000 other ranks killed In WWI)

The cost to Society members is £1 per surname (Census/Burials) / £1 per individual (Soldiers) plus £1 for each variant spelling. If you require a search of a common surname e.g. *Green*, you are advised to provide forename(s) if possible. This is to limit the cost to you - there are 25 pages of entries for the surname *Green* in the Census Index! When ordering a Soldiers Search please try to give as many of the following details as possible - Surname, Forename, Regiment, Army Service Number, Where born, Where enlisted, Where died. This will help to focus the results on the person you want. Please send an **extra stamp** for each surname searched and a **large envelope**. *You will receive a print-out of the surnames you requested up to a maximum of 5 sheets. If the search should produce more than that then you will be notified with the first part of the return.*

For further details and order forms send an SAE to:-

- Diane Maskell, 5, Old Houses, Piccadilly Road, Chesterfeld, Derbys S41 0EH for the 1861 Census Surname Index for Sheffield, Rotherham & Bradfield and for the Burials Index & Transcripts.
- Frank Westwood, 11, Hail Mary Drive, Sheffield, S13 9XW for Soldiers Died in the Great War

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## YORKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY

YORKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY HAS A DATA-BANK OF MORE THAN HALF A MILLION ENTRIES RELATING TO YORKSHIRE MEN AND WOMEN, MOSTLY BEFORE 1550. A SEARCH FOR A SURNAME AND ITS VARIANTS COSTS £12.50 BUT THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR AN UNSUCCESSFUL SEARCH. ENQUIRIES WITH ADDRESS, AND A CHEQUE PAYABLE TO YORKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SHOULD BE SENT TO THE BIOGRAPHICAL DATABASE, MINSTER LIBRARY, DEAN'S PARK, YORK YO1 2JD



# THE FLOWING STREAM

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