

Sheffield and District Family History Society

The Flowing Stream ~



Spring 2003

Volume 24
Number 1

FUTURE PROGRAMME – 2003

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

Mon. 17 Mar.	AGM followed by <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>

Annual General Meeting

Monday 17th March 2003

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last AGM held on Monday 18th March 2002 (printed in *The Flowing Stream*, Summer 2002)
3. Matters Arising
4. Reports - to include presentation of the accounts
5. Elections
 - Officers of the Committee (President, Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor) and Committee members
 - Auditor
6. Other relevant business
7. Date of the next meeting

THE FLOWING STREAM

Journal of Sheffield and District Family History Society

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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.

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- 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

Once again at the start of the New Year we welcome a host of new members. For some of you this journal is your main means of contact with the Society so please take advantage of what we offer. If you have a problem in your research share it with us. It is surprising how many members find that someone can solve their problem. You might even find an unknown relative among our membership! Remember too that this publication is written *by* as well as *for* members so please send in any contributions, large or small, that may be of use or interest to other members.

By the time you receive this magazine the AGM will be almost upon us. Even if you are a new member you are still eligible to join our committee. New committee members will help to take our Society forward. We are a friendly welcoming group and would love some new faces in our midst.

Thank you to all who have contributed to this edition.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society welcomes the following new members.

- 2624 Dr & Mrs J Aukland, Mortimer House, Bradfield, Sheffield, S6 6JN
- 2625 Mrs N Barnsley, 1 Burnt Stones Drive, Sandygate, Sheffield, S10 5TT
- 2626 Mrs A Raynor, 1 Melfort Glen, Sheffield, S10 5FU
- 2627 Mr A S Bartlett 38 Elmsfield Avenue, Heanor, Derby, DE75 7BD
- 2628 Mrs J Ross, 49 White Walk, Kirkella, Hull, HU10 7JH
- 2629 Mrs M Dodd, 14 Relton Place, Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear,
NE25 8DU
- 2630 Mrs M Clulow, 10 Mitcham Walk, Mackworth Estate, Derby, DE22 4FJ
- 2631 Dr D A Marshall, Strines, Beacon Hill, Upton, Pontefract, WF9 1NH
- 2632 Miss G Macgregor, 50 Broomgrove Road, Sheffield, S10 2NA
- 2633 Mrs J Colville, 34 Oxhey Avenue, Watford, WD19 4HS
- 2634 Mrs J Carrick, 1 Cae Celyn, Berriew, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 8BT
- 2635 Mrs C Waddington, 49 Fossdale Road, Sheffield, S7 2DA
- 2636 Mr R A Pickering, The New Bungalow, Foredraught Lane, Tibberton,
Droitwich, WR9 7NH
- 2637 Mr A France, 47 Kirkstall Close, Brinsworth, Rotherham, S60 5NP
- 2638 Miss K Foster, 10 The Meadow, Denmead, Portsmouth, Hants, PO7 6YJ
- 2639 Mr J R Skepper, 1 Woodfarm Place, Sheffield, S6 5LX
- 2640 Mr & Mrs D Sanderson, 16 Cupola Lane, Grenoside, Sheffield, S35 8NQ
- 2641 Mr P Dickinson, 12 Ranelagh Drive, Sheffield, S11 9HE
- 2643 Mrs J Clark, 10 Hamble Close, Desford, Leics, LE9 9HH
- 2644 Mrs A Walker, 81 Mawfa Avenue, Sheffield, S14 1AL
- 2645 Mr D H Palmer, 4 Abbey Close, Addingham, Ilkley, Yorks, LS29 0LT
- 2646 Mrs H Hollingsworth, 66 Ravencar Road, Eckington, Sheffield, S21 4JZ
- 2647 Miss A Winfield, 150 Tinshill Road, Cookridge, Leeds, LS15 7PN

- 2648 Mr C F, Dawson, 8 Limestone Close, Woodsetts, Nr Worksop, Notts, S81 8RU
 2649 Mrs P T Young, 12 Sandygate Park Crescent, Sheffield, S10 5YW
 2650 Mr R M Fletcher, 63 Molineaux Road, Shiregreen, Sheffield, S5 0JZ
 2651 Mrs J M Sharratt, 20 Park Avenue, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 5QW
 2653 Mr R Dunsford, 66 Bolehill Lane, Sheffield, S10 1SB
 2654 Mr & Mrs R Loversidge, Heather Cottage, Priory Lane, Selborne, Alton, Hants,
 GU34 3BU
 2655 Mr M Price 26 Church Street, Kington, Herefordshire, HR5 3BE
 2656 Mr R Webster, 24 Hope Street, Aspull, Wigan, Lancs, WN2 1QH
 2657 Mr C Collier, 28 Arden Close, Market Harborough, Leics, LE16 7DA
 2658 Mr A B Crookes, Claypitts Barn, Whitechurch Lane, Henstridge,
 Templecombe, Somerset, BA8 0PA
 2661 Mr P Scott-Edeson, 1 Northend Terrace, Chipping Camden, Gloucs, GL55 6AE
 2662 Mr P Whomersley, 93 West Hill, Kimberworth, Rotherham, S61 2EX
 2663 Miss R Cato, 28 Matilda Drive, Hatch Warren, Basingstoke, Hants, RG22 4TB
 2664 Mr J M Ward, 22 Verger Close, Rossington, Nr Doncaster, DN11 0XP
 2665 Mrs P Shephard, 10 Witholm, Whitehill, Dalkeith, Scotland, EH22 2QH
 2666 Mrs L Monaghan, 18 Foster Road, Bridgenorth, Shropshire, WV16 4LS
 2667 Mr P Speer, 54 The Portlands, Eastbourne, Sussex, BN23 5RD
 2668 Mrs M L Hebbon, Linton House, Siltside, Gosberton Clough, Spalding, Lincs,
 PE11 4JR

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- 2642 Mr P Young, 7147 Hillside Drive, West Bloomfield, Michigan 48322, U.S.A.
 2652 Ms A F Clarkson, Po Box 1486, Somerset West 7129, South Africa
 2659 Mr J Beeley, Puyclavaud, St. Amant De Bonniere, Charente 16230, France
 2660 Mrs J M Laxton, 28 Davey Street, Ajax, Ontario L1Z 1L2, Canada

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- OS/2098 Mrs M. Phillips, 19 Banjorrah Street, Howrah, Tasmania 7018,
 Australia
 Dr D.T. Haigh, The Tan House, Little Stretton, Church Stretton SY6 6RE

GENERAL NEWS AND NOTES

Imperial War Museum Battlefield Tours

For a copy of the Imperial War Museum's brochure of Battlefield Tours call 0151 520 1290 or visit www.iwm.org.uk/tours

Family History trip to London

Dalesman Coaches are organising a Family History trip to London from Tuesday 18 March to Thursday 20 March 2003. Staying at the Paragon Hotel visits have been arranged to the Family Records Centre and a full day visit to the Public Records Office at Kew. The cost per person including coach travel, hotel and a full English breakfast is £105. A single supplement is £36. For details contact Pat Hartshorne on 01943 870228.

Courses at the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies 2003

<i>The Professional Approach</i>	Day School	1 February
<i>Heraldry for Family Historians</i>	Day School	12 April
<i>Introduction to Family History</i>	Day School	17 May
<i>Palaeography</i>	Day School	21 June
<i>Tracing your Family History</i>	Residential Course	21-25 July
<i>Introduction to Family History</i>	Day School	27 September
<i>Advanced Genealogy</i>	Residential Course	14-16 November

Further details of the courses and costs can be found on the website at http://www.ihgs.ac.uk/courses/day_and_residential.php or from the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies 79-82 Northgate, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1BA
Tel: 01227 768664 Fax: 01227 765617

Church of England Parochial Fees

The cost of searches in registers from Jan 2003 is as follows
For the first hour (inc. of one copy of an entry in certain registers) £15.00
For each subsequent hour or part of an hour £12.00
Additional copies of entries £15.00

Entwistle family History Association

This Association, now three years old, has recently completed the extraction from St. Catherine's Index of all Entw(h)is(t)le births from 1837 to 1900; and extraction of marriages and deaths is well under way. This information is available to members only in a special section of their website. If you are researching the name Entw(h)is(t)le and would like to know more visit their website at www.entwistlefamily.org.uk or contact their Membership Secretary, Mrs Elizabeth Cook, Pen-y-Gader, Llanrwst Road, Tyn-y-Groes, Conwy, Wales LL32 8SX.
E-mail: penygader@wiss.co.uk

SOCIETY NEWS AND INFORMATION

Standing Orders for Society Membership

The Society apologises for the omission of the Society Bank Account number on the Standing Order form sent out with the Winter 2002 journal. The Society Bank Account number is 24469521

Increase in Registration fees

General Register Office has announced that the cost of obtaining a standard birth, death or marriage certificate after the initial registration will increase from £6.50 to £7.00 from 1 April 2003. This increase is the

first since 1998. The fees for standard certificates of birth, death and marriage issued by superintendent registrars will increase from £6.50 to £7.00 and for short birth certificates from £5.00 to £5.50. The fee for certificates issued at the time of registration by registrars of births and deaths and additional registrars will remain at £3.50. The fees for short or standard certificates of birth, death and marriage issued centrally by the General Register Office (GRO) following personal or other means of application, will also increase by 50 pence. Other fees payable to the local registration service remain unchanged.

Important reminders for members

Members are reminded that *they must include a stamped S.A.E* when writing to committee members for help and advice.

Also all the search services provided by the society require members and non-members alike to include a **large stamped S.A.E** plus an extra second class stamp for each surname being searched.

Recently many requests have been received without return envelopes and postage. A request without postage included slows the service down as envelopes have to be supplied and addressed and the replies have then to be taken to the post office for weighing.

Grenoside Local History Group. www.grenosidelocalhistory.co.uk

The Grenoside & District Local History Group was formed in 1997 having earlier started life as a local education class. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in Grenoside and its surrounding area. The group aims are to hold events, collect material and publish information to stimulate the interest and knowledge of Grenoside. We also encourage and support individuals in their own research as well as developing group research. As a group we are also interested in hearing from people who no longer live in the area but have memories, memorabilia and photos of the area that they would be willing to share with us. We meet every Tuesday at 10am - 12 noon between September & July, with the exception of school holidays, at the Grenoside Community Centre Lower Hall, Main St, Grenoside. Current subscription is £6 per term and our meetings range from workshops and informal meetings to visiting speakers who cover a wide range of local and family history subjects.

We also have visits to places of historical interest; duration of approximately 3- 6 hours, for which there is an extra charge. Visitors are always welcome - entry fee £1 including tea & biscuits. Contact David Diver, Chairman. Tel: 2456959 for further details

Help wanted at the Society of Genealogists' Fair

The Yorkshire Consortium of Family History Societies mans a stall at this prestigious Fair each year for the benefit of all Yorkshire FHS. They have made a request for London members of our Society to come forward to serve a little while behind their tables on one or both days that the fair is held. Four hours of support on one day is the qualification for a free entry ticket. Their aim is to make Fair visitors feel confident that their bit of Yorkshire is well covered by friendly, knowledgeable people. So, if you live within easy reach of London, please volunteer. You will have a most enjoyable time.

Home truths: Stories from North East Sheffield

This exhibition at the City Museum, Weston Bank, celebrates the life and times of people living in the North East of Sheffield (Parson Cross, Foxhill, Shirecliffe and Southey). The area began life in a spirit of optimism as new housing with indoor toilets and gardens replaced inner-city slums and provided much needed homes after WW II. However, the breadwinner for most of the families living there worked in the steel industry and, after its decline in the 70's, mass unemployment took its toll.

Home Truths is about the things that affect and shape us, from making a living, to falling in love, to nights out. The stories go back to the 1920's and extend to the present day, ration books, parachute silk for making underwear to wedding dresses, new clothes for Whitsuntide, East bonnet parades, Working Men's Clubs, Mansell Boxing Club and many more. Alice who was a waitress at Cockayne's store remembers catching rats to earn extra money - 6d. per rat!

The exhibition is part of a 2 year Heritage Lottery funded project to collect new histories and extend the museum's services into the community.

The exhibition is open until 30 March 2003 when the Museum and the Mappin Art Gallery will close for a major re-development.

Well worth a visit.

Reported by Anne McQueen

Penistone, Stocksbridge and Hoyland Express

Thanks to the Newsplan 2000 Project, copies of the *Penistone, Stocksbridge and Hoyland Express* are now available in Sheffield Local Studies Library.

Newsplan aims to help preserve local newspapers throughout the country and to make them more accessible by organising a programme of microfilming. The Heritage Lottery Fund and the UK newspaper industry

support the project and Sheffield is the first library in the Yorkshire region to receive microfilm.

The Express enjoyed a wide circulation as the masthead of early editions shows – the *Penistone, Stocksbridge and Chapeltown Express and Wadsley, Ecclesfield, Oughtibridge, Deepcar and Thurlstone Advertiser*. It was launched in 1897 by the Turner family, owners of a stationers and printing business in Mexborough who had founded the Mexborough and Swinton Times in 1877. Eventually the family controlled several papers in the area but the Express retained its separate identity until October 1940 when it became a local edition of the *South Yorkshire Times*. It is appropriate that the Johnson Press, current owners of South Yorkshire Newspapers, is one of the contributors to Newsplan 2000

The paper has been recognised as a very useful source of local news. The original volumes were transferred from the publishers' offices several years ago but access has remained difficult because of their poor condition. Unfortunately the earliest issues for 1897 have not survived but microfilm copies of 1898-1940 are now available.

The above article is taken from the Sheffield History Reporter

Yorkshire Signpost

This project is working to create an electronic guide to all archive collections in the Yorkshire region which are open to the public. Work began in July 2001 and is due to be completed by January 2003. Yorkshire Signpost represents the Yorkshire region in the Access to Archives initiative (A2A), managed by the PRO, the British Library and the Historical Manuscripts Commission. The aim is to point researchers in the right direction for the archives they need to consider. There will be summary descriptions of thousands of archive collections via the website: www.a2a.pro.gov.uk

A2A is the English part of the National Archives Network in the UK. Ten projects from the English archive regions and three subject-based consortia have been contributing to A2A, financially supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The aim has been to convert paper catalogues and lists of archives in to electronic format, and hence for them to be widely available on the internet. The A2A database offers browsing and searching by keyword/phrase, focussed indexes and dates. Data from Sheffield Archives was sent in during the spring of this year. Although the Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £147,000 covered 75% of the costs, the rest is being met by archive offices and universities in the Yorkshire region, and from individuals. Two of the more unusual entries from Sheffield Archives include documents relating to William Fernell: commission to seize pirates 1762 and depositions against Rev. Joseph Briggs, vicar of Kirkburton, for seditious utterances in church, 1687-88.

Others from Rotherham Archives include Luftwaffe target maps of Rotherham, 1941 and quack doctor's recipe books, 19th - 20th century. The project address is: West Yorkshire Archive Service, 15 Canal Road, Bradford, BD1 4AT Tel: 01274 731931. The email address is signpost@wyashq.demon.co.uk

Judith Pitchforth

COMPUTER AND INTERNET NEWS

Crimea War Medal Roll 1854-1855.

This CD-ROM is the complete roll for the British army in the Crimea War, WO100/22-34, which are scanned images of 6,984 pages of the rolls that were copied and supplied by the Public Record Office. It lists the Royal Artillery, Royal Horse Artillery (1-6 Battalions), Royal Artillery (7-12 battalions), Royal Engineers, General and Line Cavalry, Staff, Foot Guards, all foot regiments from the 1st to the 97th Foot, Rifle Brigade (1st + 2nd Battalions), Medical Corps, Turkish, Sardinian Contingent, Land Transport Corps, Ordnance Corps, Chaplains. If you would like to order a copy for £29-99p, plus postage, please e-mail [YesterYears Genealogy Supplies at YesterYearsGen@aol.com](mailto:YesterYearsGenealogySupplies@YesterYearsGen@aol.com)

Cheshire Wills Database

At www.cheshire.gov.uk/Recoff/home/htm

The index covers the years 1492 - 1940 and contains 130,000 entries. It covers probate documents proved at Chester mainly for Cheshire residents. The index supplies name, place of residence (at the time of making the will), occupation and date of probate (usually within a year of death, although it can be much longer). It also indicates the type of record which survives. These could be a Will, 'Admon' or administration bond (normally when there is no will), Inventory of personal property or Codicil or other probate documents.

There are no images of documents on this database, but you can order copies of most documents after searching the database.

The British Library website - www.bl.uk

The British Library is one of the world's great knowledge institutions. It holds over 150 million items from every age of global civilisation, from historical documents to the latest information for business and research. This website describes their collections and their wide range of services. You can search their catalogues and you can order copies of some documents online. You can also view some of the cultural treasures on show in their galleries in London, which are open to all, free of charge, seven days a week

CONFERENCES AND FAIRS

South Yorkshire Family History Fair Saturday 19 April 2003

10 am to 5 pm at the Don Valley Stadium, Sheffield.

Our Society will be there along with many other Family History Societies as well as companies with genealogical interests. Come and see us!

Society of Genealogists Family History Fair 3 & 4 May 2003

To be held as usual in the Royal Horticultural Society New Hall and Conference Centre, Greycoat Street, Westminster, London SW1.

Saturday and Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm. Tickets £6.

Sheffield Local History Fair Saturday 10 May 2003

From 10 am to 4 pm in the Town Hall, Sheffield

Celebrate 50 Years of Family History Research. Sat. 14 June 2003

This Celebration Fair organised by the Scottish Genealogical Society is to be held at the Assembly Rooms, George Street, Edinburgh EH1 2JL. For further details contact The 50th Celebration Secretary, The Scottish Genealogical Society, 15 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL

THROUGH THE LETTERBOX

*From Helen Sherringham, 36 Heritage Way, Glen Alpine, NSW 2560
Australia*

“Sheffield Time Machine”

This past Christmas we have had my Aunt Betty, as usual, over the Christmas period. She was born in Sheffield on Jan 2, 1910, the only daughter of John Arthur George and Helen Harrison. Her name was Helen Elizabeth Harrison George - and her married name is Aplin.

I decided to buy the CD “Sheffield Time Machine” for her Christmas. After initial problems trying to purchase it on-line, I wrote to Dr Anne Giller who kindly sent it straight away.

Aunt Betty was uncertain as to whether she would remember any of the places in the photos. But it became a wonderful experience for us all. I remembered her telling me that she had travelled by train on two separate occasions, so we started at the railway station. As soon as we went inside the station, she recognised it and started talking. It was a delight to see her so animated. The memories were bubbling up and as they did so were lots of stories about her childhood in Sheffield.

She also remembered Fargate clearly. Her grandfather (Charles Albert George) had a chemist shop there. He had died before her birth, but the business was still being run by her grandmother and her father.

The Wicker Arches and the trams also triggered a lot of tales. And she delighted in seeing the changes that have been made since she left in 1922

But the best was yet to come..... we decided to try the audio – and when she heard the commentary, her eyes sparkled, her back straightened and she broke into the Yorkshire dialect. There was no stopping her and we were all laughing with her and her surprised delight that she actually remembered.

She has also learnt to use the mouse and navigate through the program. The next day we had another look and found more pictures and lots more fun!! Afterwards, I produced my Godfrey maps of Sheffield and she found where the family had lived and traced their Sunday afternoon walks to visit her father. She was naming the streets as her finger moved along the route, until she stopped sadly and said she could not remember any more. Her finger had stopped on the corner of Sarah Street where her father had lived after the marriage broke down.

For the rest of her stay I was being told the long-ago memories that she had thought were lost. For anyone thinking of interviewing an elderly relative, I would suggest this as an excellent strategy. I familiarised myself with the CD and we installed it on the laptop so that she would be comfortable and not intimidated by the process.

SOCIETY MEETINGS

Meeting on Monday 16 September 2002

Using Sheffield Archives: Margaret Turner

Although this talk relates to records held in Sheffield Archives, much of the information is relevant to any archive or county record office.

Most local offices have the civil registration documents, those for births marriages and deaths in England and Wales, which are indexed alphabetically by quarter from 1 July 1837. If you use these then you will need to note the surname, forename, registration district, volume and page to order a copy of the original certificate from the family records office, via Southport. When you obtain the certificate, the information given on the marriage certificate may state 'of full age'. This could be a reference to the age of consent and until 1929, could be 16, so do not assume that the person was over 21. The names of the bride and groom

were not cross referenced until 1911, so the only way of ensuring that you are getting the correct certificate before 1911 is to check both the bride's and groom's entry in the index to see that they have the same reference number. This may not be possible, of course, in which case you need to make a judgement about the likelihood of obtaining the correct certificate.

Death certificates from June 1866 state the age at death, which can be helpful. It is worth checking the dates the office hold for these indexes because different offices have bought different runs of dates. There are completely separate registers for those who died abroad, especially for those who died in wars as these are registered separately.

For those from Scotland, civil registration began in 1855 and in Ireland in 1864.

There are problems with using these indexes because events are recorded where the event occurred, so a child could be born out of Sheffield even if the parents lived in Sheffield if the mother was visiting someone and the child was born unexpectedly. The handwriting on the certificates can be difficult to read and mistakes in transcription do occur. A high percentage of early indexes have mistakes in them and there was no penalty for not registering a birth until 1875, so the event may not have *been* registered. Information is only as good as that supplied at the time, and some illegitimate people did make up names for their fathers if the name was not known.

The IGI (International Genealogical Index) is a useful source but not fully comprehensive because some of the clergy objected to the Mormons filming their church registers. This is available on microfiche and CD-ROM and now via the Internet.

Census returns have been taken every ten years since the early 19th century, with the exception of 1941. Nationally the first year with available national records is 1841, although earlier census returns for some years do exist but the details are very limited. Locally there is a census return for Nether Hallam in 1831 (transcribed by this society). The information in the 1841 is limited – no relationship in the household and ages are rounded down to the nearest 5 years. It was not until 1851 that the relationship to the head of household was included, the exact age and place of birth. These returns are closed for 100 years. The 1901 census index is now available on the Internet and at the PRO. Enumerators wrote down what they were told – there was no double-checking and often you can hear the accents of the speakers when you read what the enumerator has written down. If you cannot find an entry, be imaginative in thinking of what the name could have been written as.

Parish registers can date from 1538 although most date from 1559. In 1597 the clergy were ordered to make a copy of the registers into fair

parchment books and send them to the diocesan bishop. These form the Bishop's transcripts (BTs). If an early register is missing it is worth checking the BTs, similarly there are entries in the BTs that are not in the parish registers and vice versa, so if possible, check both. In the early days of course, the registers were in Latin. Originally entries for births marriages and deaths were kept in the same register, and it was not until 1754 that marriages were kept in a separate register after Hardwicke's Marriage Act. Baptisms were recorded separately from 1813, and it is worth remembering that it is not the birth that is recorded and the baptism may have taken place a number of years after the birth. (One member present cited 83 years, so keep looking!) BTs for the Sheffield area are held at the Borthwick Institute in York, up to the early 20th century.

Sheffield Archives is the diocesan record office for the Archdeaconry of Sheffield (which also covers Rotherham) so the parishes from this area are held in Sheffield, but there are exceptions because of the changes to the boundaries of Sheffield. Norton and Totley registers are held at Lichfield record office, but copies are available in Sheffield. Do not assume that registers will be in the same county; for example Barnsley is in Wakefield diocese, and the Barnsley registers are held in Wakefield. One of the problems with locating baptisms is in finding the right church. In the early days of registers attendance at church was encouraged through fines for non-attendance, before freedom of worship was established in 1829. In some of the inner city parishes in Sheffield families took all of their children to be baptised as a 'job lot'. Not everybody was baptised and from the 18th century there were other denominations available for people. The parish registers refer only to the Church of England and from 1978 these records are protected and must be stored in the correct conditions. Nonconformist records are not covered by this act, so the records may not be where you would expect them. However Sheffield Archives does have a good collection of Nonconformist material.

Roman Catholic registers for the Hallam diocese are stored here, and it is worth remembering that the diocese covers Sheffield, Rotherham, Doncaster, Barnsley, down to Chesterfield and Worksop. For information on early 'popish recusants', there are records for these at the Borthwick in York, and there may be a mention of some people in the Quarter Session records because it was a crime to be a Roman Catholic. Latin was used for a longer period in the Roman Catholic registers.

Other records include the Poor Law records which may have apprenticeship indentures and bastardy bonds. Legitimate children took their father's place of settlement; illegitimate children took their mother's so some parishes went to great lengths to ensure that women did not give birth within their boundaries. Matters could be sorted out by the father

signing a bastardy bond and accepting responsibility for the child. If a man disputed this then it may appear in the Quarter Sessions records. The first Poor Law Act in 1662 tightened up on movement around the country. By 1696 people needed settlement certificates, which effectively acted as a passport. The Poor Law (amendment) Act of 1834 established poor law unions.

Within each parish there were three jobs, each held for the period of one year, where records were kept and names may be found. Churchwardens' records give information about expenditure on the church and relief to the itinerant poor, some of whom may be named. The post of churchwarden was not popular – they were allowed to levy rates on all parishioners. The overseers of the poor likewise were not popular because they made demands on the ratepayers and had to decide which of the poor deserved relief. Constables were responsible for law and order in the parish and for the punishment of vagrants. Magistrates sometimes dealt with local felons who did not merit an appearance at the Quarter Sessions.

Estate records can be very rich sources, particularly the Fitzwilliam records which are held in Sheffield. These detail all payments made by the estate down to the work carried out for an afternoon by a casual labourer. If your ancestor was a tenant succeeding to property on a manorial estate there may be details in the manorial records, some of which date back to the 13th century.

Although only about 25% of people made a will it is worth checking in the wills and inventories. Until 1858 the responsibility for proving a will for this locality was with the diocese, so the will may be at the Borthwick or in Lichfield. After 1858 the responsibility moved to the state. There is a copy of the annual index for wills and administrations for 1858 – 1934 for the whole country in Archives. The index gives a brief abstract of the testator, date of death and value of the estate.

The following list gives an indication of some of the other records available at Sheffield Archives:

Business records, particularly for the steel industry.

City council records including cemeteries from the mid 1850s, for example Burngreave, City Road. Some are indexed (see our publications information).

Rate books – for owners and occupiers of property, giving information about people in rented property.

School records, such as logbooks, attendance registers, punishment books for those in Sheffield that have closed. The Carbook school logbook was cited as being a social document. Lists of schools for a particular year can be found in the trade directories.

Kelly's or other trade directories, but remember that the labourers will not be featured.

Coroners' records – these are closed for 75 years but the information was often reported in the local newspapers.

Quarter sessions records – available in Sheffield from 1880, before then, they are in Wakefield.

Police records give a full description of the person. A letter authorising access to these records is needed from the local police service.

Registers of convicts – sometimes include photographs and a full physical description. WYAS in Wakefield has a good collection of prison records for West Yorkshire.

Hospitals, including long stay mental institutions. It was thought that one could judge a person's mental state from their physical appearance, so there is an excellent set of records from the Stanley Royd hospital in WYAS at Wakefield. People were incarcerated in these hospitals for all sorts of reasons, such as having an illegitimate child, epilepsy and postnatal depression. Patients' records are closed but permission can be requested to view them.

This is a flavour of the information held in an archive office. It is worth checking before you go to find out if the records are on microfilm/fiche and to see if you need to book a reader.

Reported by Judith Pitchforth

Meeting on Monday 21 October 2002

Living in the Victorian House

A talk by Susan Deal

The Victorian period was a very long one so there were enormous differences between life at the beginning and at the end of Victoria's reign. Over 4 million houses were built but many, especially the poorly built ones, do not survive. Susan's talk was based on a typical working class family in an industrial town in which a disaster could tip them into real poverty but a small bonus could make a great difference. Ideally mother stayed at home but in reality most had to work. Marriages on average lasted only 10-15 years before one or other partner died.

In the 1840s a typical Victorian working class town house was a back to back one with perhaps three rooms and a cellar. Its weekly rent would be about three shillings and sixpence. It would have no damp proofing and would be both dark and cold. There were no curtains although some houses had wooden shutters. The bedroom was called the chamber. The cellar was used for the storage of coal.

Baths were taken once a week, in a tin bath with the same water being used for all the family, starting with father, mother then the

children in age order! The soap on which a 100% tax was paid, was made of beef fat and soda. Water was only available often for 2 hours at a time and the women had to fetch it. It was not piped to the house. Household waste was mainly ash from the coal fire and this was used to deodorise and solidify the waste in the privy. This was then removed at night.

Life was a very communal affair. Streets were recreational areas with parties and religious and political meetings taking place in them.

Many households kept a pig which was fed on scraps and then killed at Christmas. Food was not stored in the house and little cooking was done there, only frying and boiling. Beer was the usual drink because of the poor quality of the water. The diet was monotonous. Most people ate 5lbs bread a week. Dinner, eaten in the middle of the day was the main meal with a tea or supper eaten later. Fruit and salad vegetables were little eaten as they were suspected. Tea often consisted of bacon and egg and suet puddings were favoured as suet pastry was so versatile. Tinned food in 1859 was expensive and of poor quality. It had to be opened with a spike and hammer.

Houses were lit in the early days by oil lamps but by 1847 paraffin was being used. By 1860 even the poorest house had a paraffin lamp. People even stood the feet of the bed in paraffin to prevent bugs! Walls were whitewashed to keep down the bugs and the many flies were controlled by the use of fly papers with arsenic on them!

Clothes after washing were dried outside but could not be left out for long or they were soiled by rain. Ironing was done with the aid of two flat irons.

As time went on middle class ideas meant an emphasis on home entertainment. Public life in the streets was discouraged. By 1864 back to back houses were forbidden in Sheffield. By 1860 a family that could show a good rent book with no arrears could move to a new house in the suburbs. These were often better houses, made of better quality bricks and with damp proofing and a front door straight out onto the street. Curtains were used as a mark of gentility. There was often a range in the scullery so cooking could be done. Streets, although not houses, were being lit by gas lights. Personal washing was still done using a tin bath but there were more public baths with separate facilities. In them it was 3d for a hot bath with soap provided.

By the 1880s life was very different. Tinned food had become part of the diet, especially corned beef, peaches and salmon. Upstairs the bed had a wrought iron frame which meant fewer bugs and there was a landing upstairs which gave greater privacy. This meant it was possible to take in a lodger, usually a young man.

In 1884 Lever Brothers invented Sunlight soap which had no soda, more palm oil and less tallow and it was sold in individual pieces, not in

big blocks. New mangles for taking the water out of the wet clothes now had rubber rollers and there were shared wash houses. Commercial laundries had opened although these were too expensive for the working classes. By the 1890s the first washing machine had appeared.

Other improvements included special toilet paper in 1859 although it was too expensive for many people. Most still used newspaper. The 1870s saw the appearance of linoleum as a floor covering and the description "sanitary" began to be used. The first W.C.s appeared a decade later. Gas was not used in houses until prepaid meters were available. Then gas geysers began to be used, gas stoves and heaters and portable gas rings for cooking.

Although these descriptions were of a house in an industrial town like Sheffield many of the features described were found until many decades later in country areas.

Reported by Denise Marsden

Meeting on Monday 18 Nov. 2002

Christmas Social Evening

At this social evening members tried their hand at various quizzes. They were entertained by a member Ken Swallow who performed 'The Country Boys', a narrative poem that he had written, Seasonal fare of mince pies and homemade non-alcoholic punch was served

OTHER PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS

John Higgans, 44, Castlewood Avenue, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ12 1NY writes to ask if any Society members are interested in the Ridals of the Bradfield/Stocksbridge area. In 1881 **John Ridal** was a builder employing 100 men. He lived in a house called Rydalhurst! He would be interested in sharing information with anyone else researching this name who thinks they may be related.

Dr M.E. Wainwright, 1b Broad Green Wood, Bayford, Hertford, Herts. SG13 8PS E-mail: mike_wainwright@yahoo.co.uk asks

"Does anyone have a photograph or drawing of **Wainwright's shop, The Moor, Sheffield**? **Paul Silvester Wainwright** was my great grandfather and founded a 'Shirt Maker' and drapery business in Sheffield at 170 The Moor (or South Street as it was known) in about 1904. The building was, I believe, purpose built and had three storeys. The shop was on the ground floor, followed by the workrooms and the living accommodation. It stood where the Employment Commission 'pyramid' now stands, and where Sharps' fruit and veg. shop stood for many years after the war.

It was totally destroyed in the blitz on the night of 11th Dec 1940. A photograph exists in Sheffield Local Studies (see web site "Picture Sheffield") of the shop on the morning of the 12th with shop sign Shirts still visible. I would be grateful for a photograph of the shop, even in the background or any information relating to the business. All postage refunded and photos returned."

Mr M. Cain, 8 Nithsdale Road, Corby, Northants. NN17 1LR

E-mail: MandM@mmcain.freeseve.co.uk writes, "Whilst reading a copy of one of my ancestors wills, reference was made to a sum of money that had been loaned to a child as a surety against a Deed of Separation in the child's marriage occurring between 1830 and 1843. I have asked at the Borthwick Institute, at Sheffield Archives, and at the House of Lords Records Office with no luck regarding any documentation being saved. Can any member help me to find out anything?"

Miriam Dowson, Unit3/83 Harrison Street, Palm Beach, West Australia

E-mail: lavender@dodo.com.au writes

"My great grandfather was John Thomson Ramsay. He was born in Bombay, India approx. 1849. The only records I have, or have been able to trace are

- 1. His marriage certificate, married Sheffield 1876*
- 2. The 1881 census for Attercliffe cum Darnall York*
- 3. The 1891 census for Middlesbrough York*
- 4. His death LDS Middlesbrough 1893*

His marriage cert. tells me that he was living in Brightside. He was a Gen labourer and that his father was John Baptist Ramsay, a soldier.

In 1881 his name is spelt incorrectly as Ramsey. He lived at Attercliffe Common, Attercliffe cum Darnall. He states his birthplace as Bombay East Indies. He was a labourer in the Iron Works.

In 1891 he is living at Middlesbrough. He puts his place of birth as Bombay but adds that he is a British Subject. Occupation Steelworker.

He and his wife Sarah Ann (Thorpe) had 7 children between 1876 and 1891, Hettie, Edward, Charles, Laurina, Emily, John Baptist (dec 1883) and John Thomson. He died in Middlesbrough in 1893

It would seem that John Thomson and John Baptist may be family names. However, he named his first two sons Edward and Charles.

None of the John Ramsays located in India and all around Yorkshire and Durham tie in with the data I have already and he repeatedly includes his middle Christian name on all the records I do have. The British Library Oriental Records and Army records have been searched. Family gossip mentions my grandmother's swarthy skin, my mother's hook nose and the 'touch of the tar brush'.

Was there immigration into Sheffield in the 1870's? Are there records of employees in the Iron Works? Does anyone know about families of Indian descent in Sheffield in the 1870's?"

NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The following members have interests printed in this edition

- 2431 Mrs Jan Connell, 170 Abbey Lane, Sheffield S8 0BQ
Email: janet.connell@virgin.net
- 2361 Mrs Jan Perkins, The Jays, 163 Wheathead Lane, Exley Head, Keighley, W. Yorks. BD22 6NL
- 2624 Dr John N. Auckland, Mortimer House, Bradfield, Sheffield S6 6JN
- 2628 Mrs Jean Ross, 49 White Walk, Kirkella, Hull HU10 7JH
- 2630 Mrs Mary Clulow, 10 Mitcham Walk, Mackworth Es. Derby DE22 4FJ
- 2631 Dr D.A. Marshall, Strines, Beacon Hill, Upton, Pontefract, W. Yorks. WF9 1DB
- 2634 Mrs Jo Carrick, 1 Cae Celyn, Berriew, Welshpool, Powys SY21 8BT
E-mail: jcarrick@carrickj.fslife.co.uk
- 2638 Miss Katherine Foster, 10 The Meadow, Denmead, Portsmouth, Hants. PO7 6YJ
- 2640 Mr David Sanderson, 16 Cupola Lane, Grenoside, Sheffield S35 8NQ
E-mail: DAVE.SANDERSON@TALK21.COM
- 2646 Mrs Hazel Hollingsworth, 66 Ravencar Road, Eckington S21 4JZ

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

No	Surname	Place	County	Period
2624	Auckland	Hull	ERY	E 19C
2624	Auckland	Sheffield	SYK	M-L 19C
2624	Auckland	Wisbech	CAM	E-M 19C
2634	Bailey	Christchurch	HAM	pre 1880
2634	Bailey	Sheffield	YKS	1901+
2631	Carr	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1900
2628	Chadburn	Sheffield	YKS	pre 20C
2646	Crossland	Grindleford	DBY	1900 pre & +
2646	Crossland	Hathersage	DBY	1700+
2431	Daines		NFK	pre 20C
2628	Davison	Sheffield	YKS	pre 20C
2640	Deakin	Sheffield	YKS	1900+
2638	Farley	West Bromwich	STS	pre 1940
2646	Faulkner	Sheffield	YKS	1800+
2624	Firth	Wharncliffe Side	SYK	M-L 19C
2634	Foote	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1800
2638	Foster	Sheffield	WRY	pre 1930
2634	Fretwell	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1880
2640	Frost	Heeley, Sheffield	YKS	1900+

2634	Fretwell	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1880
2640	Frost	Heeley, Sheffield	YKS	1900+
2624	Gabbitass	Deepcar/Stocksbridge	SYK	19C
2631	Gale	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1900
2431	Greaves	Sheffield	YKS	pre 20C
2431	Hampson	Manchester	LAN	pre 19C
2628	Harrington	Sheffield	YKS	pre 20C
2634	Heeley	Aukley	NTT	pre 1800
2634	Heeley	Sheffield	YKS	1880+
2431	Hewitt	Sheffield & District	YKS	pre 20C
2630	Howcutt	S. Brixworth	NTH	1842+
2640	Jarvis	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1900
2640	Kenyon	Attercliffe, Sheffield	YKS	1800+
2431	Marples	Sheffield	YKS	pre 19C
2631	Marshall	North Notts.	NTT	pre 1900
2634	Maxwell	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1880
2640	Morris	Hazel Grove	CHS	1800+
2361	Mycock	Sheffield	WRV	1800
2630	Norton	Burnham	LIN	1841+
2640	Ogden	Sheffield	YKS	pre 1900
2646	Orio	Cannes	S. France	pre 1900
2361	Rotheram	Sheffield	WRV	1800
2361	Rotherham	Sheffield	WRV	1800
2631	Sanderson	Bradfield/Stannington	YKS	pre 1900
2640	Sanderson	Rotherham	YKS	1800+
2640	Sanderson	Sheffield	YKS	1800+
2630	Street	Middlesboro	YKS	1871+
2638	Timmins	West Bromwich	STS	pre 1927
2624	Vaughton	Deepcar/Stocksbridge	SYK	19C
2638	Wheeler	Sheffield	WRV	pre 1880
2431	Williams	Sheffield	YKS	pre 20C
2624	Wordsworth	Hoyland Nether	SYK	pre 1800
2431	Wright		NFK	pre 20C

COPY FOR THE JOURNAL?

Do you have any information that other members would find useful?
 Have you seen an amusing snippet while doing your research?
 Do you have a family story that other members would be interested in?
 Have you found a book that others might enjoy reading?
 Do you know of an index or book that might help other researchers?

If the answer to any of these questions is "Yes" the Editor would like to hear from you. Copy can be hand or typewritten and copy sent in on floppy disk is particularly helpful as it saves the editor a lot of time.

SITUATIONS VACANT

"Have you heard that the Society needs a Secretary?"

"I can't possibly do *that*....or can I?"

It may well be that as you read this that you wonder what is involved. Now there is an interesting question! It may be easier to say what it does *not* involve – chairing or organising speakers for meetings, looking after the society finances, the journal, membership and publication sales are all taken care of by other willing volunteers. However, there are some other aspects that you may expect to be part of the role but are *not* within the remit of this post.

When I became Hon Secretary in March 1997 the job had been streamlined and the following aspects were removed from it to lighten the load:

Minute taking - committee meeting minutes are taken by the Minutes Secretary, who drafts them and then passes them to the Secretary for checking and correcting if needed. The Minutes Secretary arranges for the duplication and postage of the minutes to the committee members.

Members' queries and society help with local research – queries involving look-ups at Sheffield Archives or Local Studies are directed to the Correspondence Secretary.

Since 1997 technology has moved on and instead of the post being delivered through the door, many of the queries come by email. I do still get letters and sometimes it is just a case of slipping a leaflet in the post or redirecting the letter to the appropriate committee member. Whenever I can I will answer short queries, particularly if it just involves checking in one of my family history or local history books. Anything involving research for members I pass on to the Correspondence Secretary as outlined above.

Quite a lot of the emails I receive are from people wanting general help – often non members initially. I try to give impartial advice when possible and often direct enquirers to the website. (Some people expect a blow by blow account of how to find their long lost great grandfather!) Some of these people will join the Society, others will join a different society when they find that their ancestors were perhaps only passing through Sheffield. I would suggest that access to the internet and email is important for the Secretary.

Over the past six years the role of the Federation of Family History Societies has changed and it is becoming a source for data as well as information and 'how to do family history' books. I think that it would be practical for the society to have a FFHS Liaison Secretary/Officer if anyone should like to do this without becoming the Hon Secretary. Since

I became Secretary the Society has played a greater role in the NE Group of FHSSs (essentially a gathering of the Yorkshire societies) and I have been the Sheffield representative on that committee. It is not necessarily the Secretary who has to be this link though.

I have written up many of the talks given by our speakers – mainly because I can write quickly; however this could be done by someone else. So what is there left to do?

The central part of the role of the Hon Secretary is co-ordination and forward planning in conjunction with the wishes of the committee and the (projected) demands of the members. The person is often the first point of contact with the public – hence the need for redirection of some of the correspondence. The secretary also acts as a sounding board for ideas the other committee members may have and may also be a ‘second opinion’ when required. It is an interesting job and one that I can recommend.

As a point of information, when I became the Secretary I had never been on the committee before and had only started doing my family history in 1993. I joined the society because I live in Sheffield – I have since found one solitary ancestor who was baptised in Sheffield and then reappears in the Sunderland area. Being the Secretary of this society has been a very enjoyable experience – my knowledge of local history and family history have both had a steep learning curve and I have met some interesting and helpful people along the way. It has also been a privilege and I would like to think that there is a successor reading this who is as prepared to take a deep breath in 2003 as I was in 1997. I will be delighted to discuss the role with anyone who is interested and to lend a guiding hand should it be required.

So, dear reader, over to you!

Judith Pitchforth

Email: secretary@sheffieldfhs.org.uk

THE SOCIETY BOOKSTALL

Do you enjoy perusing the bookstall at the local meetings? You could be just the person we need.

The Society needs someone to look after the bookstall and to bring it to the monthly meetings. At the recent committee meeting we discussed the practicalities of this job and it would seem possible to split this role into two, with one person looking after the disks and fiche and another person looking after the books and publications. This is an enjoyable job – you get the preview of new materials coming on-stream and it is a good way of meeting other members. If you would like to, you can also go along to the family history fairs that we attend on an annual basis (York and two fairs in Sheffield are booked so far this year).

THERE ARE OTHER JOBS -

- jobs that could be done by members who do not have to be on the committee. If you can see that we are missing something (so to speak) and wish to offer your services but not on the committee please have a word with one of the committee members and we will try to oblige!

Judith Pitchforth

SEX, LIES AND CIVIL REGISTRATION.

Unfortunately you cannot believe everything that is written on a certificate, even if that certificate is a genuine representation of the information as presented to the Registrar. What you do need to do is to consider that some of the statements may be inaccuracies, not necessarily lies and to think how the information came to be written down in that way. Perhaps someone misheard or misunderstood a question or answer, perhaps something was miscopied or possibly someone did not know, and gave a wrong answer. Think again why someone would *want* to lie – patterns may emerge. It may well be that you will never find out why they said what they did. It could have been for financial reasons, to escape from something (in the case of a false identity) or even to get a job by saying they were older/younger than they actually were.

There have been various studies carried out on marriage certificates and as an estimate, 25% of marriage certificates have an incorrect age written on them. In most cases the error is not great, but on some occasions the discrepancy may be as large as 15 to 20 years (usually men claiming to be younger than they were). If you find a birth certificate difficult to find, working backwards from the ages stated on the marriage certificate, then remember the case of the groom who claimed to be a widower of 29 and his spinster bride was 21. In reality she was 19, he was 31. It looked better to have partners with ages in the same decade. If people say that they are 17, 18 or 19 then it is likely to be true, because there is nothing to be gained by lying.

There are different motives for this, but at the root of it is the way of life in Victorian times, where people did not have to keep producing documentation in the ways that we do now. Perhaps the child's parents did not manage to register the birth within the allotted six week period and wanted to avoid being fined and so said that the child was younger than he actually was. At the other end of the childhood scale, perhaps they claimed the child was a year older, so that he could leave school a year early and go out to work to help the family income. The person concerned may actually be unaware of the inaccuracy.

Occasionally the motive may have been financial. An example cited was that of a woman in Liverpool in the early days of registration, who had paid into a local burial board and then invented a child. Sadly it died. She registered its death, obtained a death certificate and then she made a claim on the burial board. She drank away her profits, moved to the next area and tried to do this again, but was found out. Another case cited was that of a girl who found her own death certificate in her father's pocket and then she informed the Registrar that she was alive and well.

Concealed pregnancies and births in Victorian England were not uncommon. There are instances of young women who concealed their pregnancies, gave birth and then tried to get rid of the child which may or not have been born dead. Ignorance led to dreadful consequences.

Divorce was not an option for most of the Victorians. Couples who seemed to be married may not have been, regardless of the statements on their childrens' birth certificates. Audrey cited a case where the couple had married forty years after the birth of their first child, simply because they were not legally free to marry any earlier.

A marriage certificate of 1838 was found to have a blank where the entry for the father's name and occupation should have been. It could have meant that the child was illegitimate. However it is worth checking the rest of the register for that particular church. In this instance all of the marriage entries had blanks where these items should have been. The problem was that of church disobedience at the beginning of the civil registration period or a particularly incompetent clergyman. There are also other causes for errors. One of these is the maiden name given by the woman at her first marriage – however it is not necessarily her birth name: Another area where embroidering the truth occurred was in the statement about the father's occupation – so it is worth checking his occupation on other certificates for any siblings' marriages.

The conclusion is that once you have the certificate in your hand it may not always provide you with the answers that you had hoped for – sometimes it may be the start of yet another trail.

From notes taken at the FFHS AGM 2001, from a talk given by Audrey Collins.

Judith Pitchforth.

Did you know?.....

The Sisters of Notre Dame were established in the house of Mr T.B.H. Holy on Sheffield Moor in 1854. In 1872 that house was converted in to a shop by John Atkinson. The Sisters of Notre Dame moved to Cavendish Street in 1862

IVORY CUTTERS

In trying to find out more about my great grandfather, Charles Lee, I found a reference to *Charles Lee, Ivory Cutter*. I was intrigued because I had never heard of such a trade in Sheffield and associated ivory cutters with those ornate Chinese carvings I had seen in the Graves Art Gallery. I put a question in the *Flowing Stream* and thought others would enjoy the information that was given me by members.

Ivory cutters or carvers worked at the top end of the cutlery market making handles for knives. Handles were made of rosewood, cocobolo, bone, porcelain, tortoiseshell, stag horn, buffalo horn, metal, mother of pearl and ivory. These materials were imported from overseas via Hull and then up the canal. One of the wharves of the canal dealt with nothing but material for knife handles, much of it ivory, which was the most expensive material.

From the thick end of the tusk, the largest handles were made, working down to smaller and smaller handles. From the extreme tips of the tusks toys for their own children were made – examples are baby's teething toys such as tiny cricket bats, saws, razors etc. and tiny teapots and kettles for small girls to play with.

The cutting of the above materials by the handle makers, constituted an industry in its own right, an important element within the larger cutlery industry. The men regarded as Little Mesters rented their own workshops in a yard along with other trades – buffers, finishers and knife handle fitters.

Ivory was replaced by Xylo, but as most cutlery is now made entirely of stainless steel, perhaps the skill of knife handle makers is no longer needed.

Thanks to Roy Bullen, Anne Giller and Sylvia Smith who supplied the information. It would be interesting to hear about other old trades in Sheffield. After I had read this interesting information I found this was not my Charles Lee, who was actually a coal miner!! That's the fun of Family History.

Janet Frost, 99 Maidenhall, Highnam, Gloucester GL2 8DJ

Did You Know....?

A Catholic school was opened in Surrey Street in 1834. In 1853 Father Scully, priest of St Marie's Church established schools in White Croft. In 1856 St Vincent's Church was built in Solly Street. Catholic schools were also opened in Sheaf Gardens in 1858 and in St Charles Street Attercliffe in 1868.

"MURDER" - SEARCHING FOR THE FACTS!

I was never privileged to verbal details of our family history, which has probably added to the enjoyment of my research, and whenever questions were asked I only received the customary "we do not talk about the family, and you do not need to know"!

So, with the vague information that "one of your granddad's sisters was murdered" I set about my search for the facts (the other bits of gossip relating to this subject later proving to be completely wrong), and quickly learned that the information is out there somewhere - if you search for it!

Having established a Christian name, a trawl through the GRO fiches at Sheffield Archives revealed a likely reference and quarter of death in Eton (not Aldershot as had been hinted at!).

I was then advised (by a fellow FHS member) to search the newspapers at the Local Studies Library in Sheffield and Rotherham, and sure enough the *Sheffield Independent* reported on Tuesday 26th November 1912 that "Eric James SEDGWICK was charged with the murder of his sweetheart, Annie DAVIS, a maidservant employed by Mr Lee-Booker, one of the Eton masters".

She had been stabbed through the heart with a kitchen knife.

Both having been born locally, Annie near Rotherham and Eric near Barnsley - this was news!

Subsequent reports of every happening in the case were boldly featured in local newspapers, the *Rotherham Advertiser* telling their readers "Rotherham has perforce to take a melancholy interest in yet another murder case". Another piece of luck - the *Rotherham Advertiser's* report included a photograph, which enabled me to identify one of the few unnamed photographs I had inherited - what joy!

My friend then found a super addition for my file, in Huddersfield library, *The Hangman* Volume 2 1900-1929 by Steve Fielding reveals brief details and that Eric James Sedgewick (27) was actually hanged by John Ellis and George Brown.

The newspaper reports were of obvious interest to myself, especially as other family details were also revealed, but it is of general interest to note the swift justice evidenced in the early 1900's, and the variety of towns involved in the legal process

Sunday, 24th November, 1912

Monday, 25th November, 1912

Murder at **Eton**

Sedgwick appeared before **Slough**
Magistrates

Tuesday, 26th November, 1912

Coroner's jury at Windsor returned a verdict of "Wilful Murder"

25th January, 1913

Sedgwick sentenced to death at the Bucks Assizes in Aylesbury

Tuesday 4th February 1913

Hanged in Reading prison
Coroner's inquest

To close the file, if you have an interest in old causes of death, his death certificate factually gives the cause of death as "Judicially hanged".

Mr J. Grantham, 11 Rural Lane, Sheffield S6 4BH

THE RECORDS OF FIRE INSURANCE COMPANIES

Did you know that the records of fire insurance companies are of value to the family and local historian?

After the Great Fire of London in 1666, companies sprang up to insure premises against fire. Every company policy holder was issued with a metal badge, otherwise known as a fire mark that was fixed in a prominent place on the outside of the building. By the 18th century, fire insurance was also provided for those living in other parts of the country, particularly in the south and in provincial cities. Where fire policy registers exist, they generally include the following information: policy number, name of agent/location of agency; name, status, occupation and address of policy holder; names, occupations and addresses of tenants (where relevant); location, type, nature of construction and value of property insured; premium; renewal date; and some indication of endorsements.

The Guildhall Library has the best collection of records and also many fire insurance plans, as does the British Library. In order to assess potential liability, the companies commissioned the production of town plans from the 18th century. They give details on the use of a property, and information on the number of storeys and building materials. House numbers are often given, sometimes with the schedules of occupiers. Later revisions of the plans are held in county record offices.

The above information was taken from the November 2002 Newsletter of the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies.

THE BURNT RECORDS PROJECT

August 2002 saw the end of the Public Record Office's (PRO's) First World War Burnt Documents project resulting in the release on microfilm of service records of over two million soldiers who served in the First World War. When viewed with the campaign medal records, war diaries and trench maps, the microfilm records of these service records paint a vivid picture of the era. The Burnt Records project ensures that the experiences of a generation and the impact on their communities are preserved for future generations.

Project Background

In September 1940, a fire caused by the bombing of the War Office Record Store destroyed about two thirds of 6.5 million soldiers' documents for the First World War. The service records that survived were mostly charred or water damaged and unfit for handling because of their fragile nature. They became known as the 'Burnt Documents'.

With the support of the Heritage Lottery Funding (HLF) and the Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU), the PRO took on the task of microfilming these important documents, which consisted of over 33,000 boxes of service records of over 2 million soldiers. Research had shown that making these records available would be of immense value to those with an interest in family, military and local history as well as giving the soldiers' descendants information on their ancestors.

The 'Burnt Records'

The 'burnt records' are available in record series WO363 at the PRO. The series contains service records of soldiers and non-commissioned officers (NCOs) who served between 1914 and 1920, including regular soldiers who may have enlisted as early as 1892 and stayed in the army during the First World War. The series does not include the discharge papers of soldiers who continued in the army after 1920 or soldiers who transferred to another service or records of the Household Cavalry or Guards regiments.

The records were filmed and arranged simply in alphabetical order of a soldier's surname. They can vary in size from a single sheet to dozens of pages of documents. The most common items to be found in them include attestation papers, which give details of the soldiers' names, addresses, dates of birth and next of kin – often listing all family members, medical records, discharge papers and Army Form B103: Casualty Form-Active Service, which provides the details of soldiers' military careers.

For the PRO's online exhibition featuring service records and other aspects of the First World War look at www.pro.gov.uk/pathways/firstworldwar

The above information is taken from The PRO's leaflet on the 'Burnt Records' Project.

GLEADLESS TEMPORARY PROVIDED SCHOOL

15 Oct 1906 Opened school with children transferred from Gleadless Provided School. Miss Scattergood takes Standard III and I have charge of Standard I.

13 Oct 1908 Have been obliged to write to the caretaker as to the state of the school and the backyard. As to the former, Miss Drewry complained that the rooms are swarming with mice. In the South class room I found a loose floorboard underneath which was a cavity nearly filled with dirt, paper, rags etc. This looked as if it was a receptacle for the sweepings. In the backyard I found accumulations of dirt and rubbish which seemed to have been there for some time and which could encourage all kinds of vermin. I have asked the caretaker to have the matters attended to at once.
W. Roberts.

10 May 1909 Miss Drewry complained to me this morning about Mr Fox coming into school and charging her with not keeping proper supervision over the children and allowing them to go into his fields. I have written to Mr Fox warning him that he must not again enter the school or I must report the matter to the County Council.

9 June 1909 Miss Scattergood took Standard II to Rolleston Wood to view the stream for the purpose of illustrating the life on the river. They followed the stream for some distance, came along the Hurlfield road to view the Heeley Valley. They were absent from 11.00am. to 12.20pm.

22 July 1910 Class I – Miss Scattergood – found one child marked present who was absent – Warned Teacher.

23 Jan 1911 Mrs Hague had 1/6 (7.5 p) taken from her bag, which had been hanging up in the cloakroom.

3 Apr 1911 Admitted 41 children from the Gleadless Infant School and transferred 59 children to the Gleadless Council.

29 March 1912 School closed, children transferred to Gleadless Council School.

From a report dated 26th May 1912.

"This school being closed at the end of the month as there is now plenty of accommodation in the Council school for the district. It has met a temporary need satisfactorily and has been used for the instruction of children in the lower standard. Miss Drewry and Miss Scattergood will also return to the Council School"

The Society wishes to repeat its thanks to Mr New, the headmaster of Gleadless School, for permission to print the logbooks of his school. A full transcript has been deposited in the Society library. This includes the logbook from 1953 to 1992 which has not been printed in "The Flowing Stream".

UNWANTED CERTIFICATES

The following certificates have been deposited in the Society Library

Births

B111 26 July 1864 George William , son of William Kirk, Table Blade Forger, and Mary Kirk, formerly Ibbotson at 107 Lansdowne Road, Ecclesall Bierlow

B112 23 Jun 1889 Henry, son of Alfred Ford, Gas Rate Collector, and Eliza Ford, formerly Hall, at Meersbrook Park, Norton RSD, Ecclesall Bierlow

B113 25 Feb 1889 Henry, son of George Jackson, Table Knife Cutler, and Kate Jackson, Late Tattersall, formerly Stenton, at Ct 11 Infirmary Road, Nether Hallam.

B114 24 Mar 1889 Harry, son of John Sewell, Malster & Labourer, and Elizabeth Sewell, late Ashton formerly Lacey, at Henshall RSD, Whitley, Pontefract

Marriages

M64 6 Nov 1873 Francis Rose, age 25, Widower, Clerk, of Sheffield, s. of John Rose, Timber merchant and Eliza Ford, age 22, Spinster of Stumperlowe, dau. Of Abraham Ford, Labourer.

M65 17 Sept 1938 Peter Francis Reynolds and Beatrice May Hunter

MEMORIES OF GLEADLESS IN THE 1940'S

During a recent visit to my mother in Nottinghamshire I came across several editions of *The Flowing Stream* in which appeared the "History of Gleadless School". I attended Gleadless School from late 1944 to 1948 (or '49) in which year I successfully negotiated the "eleven plus" exam and proceeded to Nether Edge Grammar School. The following photographs were taken during my time at the school.



A Rounders team of the 1940s with their coach Miss Abrahams

Back row, L-R: Peter Dixon; Peter N. Smith; Brian Malkin; Leslie Youle.
Middle row, L-R: Peter Hardwick; Brian Malinson; Peter Froggat; Leslie Plumb
Front row, L-R; Arthur Rundle; Kenneth Harrison; Keith Hale (Capt)



The cast of a play performed in the 1940s.

Back row, L-R: Peter Hardwick; Maureen Moakes; Arthur Rundle; Leslie Youle; Linda Salmon; Olga Mills; Ann Richardson.

Front row, L-R: Peter Froggat; Maria Foxford; Gerald Williamson; Ernest Talford.

Among many memories I remember Mr Iosson who owned a new-fangled (American?) ball point pen called a Biro and Mr Spir* playing cricket with us occasionally in the school yard. He delighted in whacking the ball across Hollingsend Road into the field beyond.

* Ed's apologies for the misspelt name in Vol. 24, No. 4.

Arthur S. Rundle, 13623 Bevelheimer Rd, Westerville, Ohio 43081, USA

ED's note The letter from Mr Rundle contains several mentions of school friends. Please contact the editor if you are interested in details.

I BLAME HIS GRANDPARENTS

Some may find that delving into their family history is an intriguing challenge while others, more cynical, regard it as somewhat pointless when we end up with just names and dates and little insight into the lives they mark out. My early efforts had been like that but they did move me to contact relatives and exchange anecdotes about the family. They also rekindled an interest in recent history, reminding me of the hard times that my parents and grandparents had lived through, of two world wars and a depression and of the enormity of the slaughter in World War 1, a war in which my older uncles served. I was subsequently

moved to write a long melodramatic narrative poem, 'The Country Boys' that I went on to perform at public houses on Remembrance day and at the Society's Christmas social.

Given that education in the 1950's was characterised by the arts/science divide I opted for the 'science' side. This undermined an inclination that I had to study architecture studying Engineering at university instead. I regard my greatest achievements there as my cartoons for Twikker and the design of two large rag floats in successive years, (1955 and 1956). The latter brought out the architect in me and were best float.

Decades later, someone from SDFHS surprised me by revealing to me that an ancestor on my mother's side, was a local architect of note, with offices in Orchard Street. He is credited with work at Renishaw Hall and his name, **Joseph Badger**, appears over the entrance to the stable block built there in 1794. Badger Lane, behind the university engineering faculty, is named after him or after his brother Jonathon, an engineer who had premises in Portobello St.

I'm not making any claim to a shared talent on the basis of a rag float design but I do appear to have an affinity with my maternal grandfather, Edward Badger, who, on his return from a visit to the pub at lunchtime would hold court in the living room and recite poetry. An older cousin told me this on learning that I had dabbled at being a comedian, storyteller and performance poet.

Ken Swallow, 32 Milton Drive, Ravenshead, Notts. NG15 9BE

AN AMAZING DISCOVERY

My Grandfather on my mother's side was Charles Henry Crossland born in Nether Hallam, Sheffield in 1877. He fought in, and luckily survived, the 1914-18 war but we knew through family knowledge and family tree research that he had three younger brothers who died in service during that period. Last Spring our son and his wife took us over to Belgium to visit memorials and graves of my great uncles.

Tom Crossland, born in Holmfürth, Sheffield in 1884 was killed in action in Flanders 4th August 1917 but his body was never found. We discovered that there was a memorial to those who died in that area at Nieuport, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, so our first visit was to try to find his name on the memorial. We didn't have to search very hard because, as he was a corporal, he was at the top of the list in large letters.

Bernard Crossland, born 1885 in Sheffield, died 5th December 1918 in a military hospital in Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Lawrence Stanley Crossland, born in St. Bartholomew Sheffield in 1891, was killed in action 10th August 1915 in Flanders.



We know that he was buried in the Talana Farm Cemetery in Belgium and that was our next destination. On arrival we found his grave quite easily but there was a book in the entry gate which gave details of all the burials there and our son was going through it.

He said to me, "Weren't Lawrence's parents William and Annie Crossland because I have found another soldier who apparently had the same parents?"

He had indeed found another brother whom nobody in the family had ever mentioned and we had not discovered in our extensive research for our Family Tree. We subsequently obtained his birth certificate and this confirmed the details.

Tom-Harold Crossland, born Ecclesall Bierlow, Sheffield 1896, killed in action August 1915 at Ypres.

About my Grandfather

Charles Henry Crossland was a musician who played clarinet in several military type bands in Sheffield and subsequently became the conductor of the Band of the British Legion of Frontiersman.

We have not been able to find out much about this band so if anyone has any knowledge we would be very pleased to hear from them.

Please contact us by

Alf & May Tulett, 49, Grafton Road, New Malden Surrey KT3 3AA

Email: ALFRED@tulett.fsnet.co.uk

A Sad Snippet

From the Registers of the General Cemetery

Entry No. 19489

Buried 22 August 1876 Child found at the Sheffield Victoria Railway Station without arms or legs

Sent in by Derek Tingle

A SHEFFIELD CHILDHOOD

Growing up in Sheffield 1893 – 1914 [As told by my father]

The England we knew in our childhood, and I for my part judge it by Sheffield, was very different from today. Looking back it seems to have been more exciting in spite of it being a more leisurely existence; for instance, you never got tired of seeing the gas lighter come along with his long pole glowing at the end, pop it through the bottom of the lamp, and on goes the light. Today someone just presses a button at the Electric Power Station and the whole town is lit at once. Straw or litter used to be strewn on the roads to deaden the clip clop of the horses when someone was lying very sick, and one usually kept one eye open for the hearse and horses with plumes, it was always a matter of intense speculation; the old doctor used to visit us in his brougham, and the young one rode his horse which he tethered to the young lime tree outside our house.

Horse buses ran to the centre of the town and you were very proud if you managed to sit on the box. I remember the conductor of our bus very well; we called him Punch and he later pushed a fruit and vegetable barrow around. I remember the first electric tramcar coming to Sheffield, they were very smart blue and white affairs with no top deck. One exciting memory was driving round town with my father in a specially illuminated tramcar for the coronation of Edward VII. My father was on the town council and I felt highly privileged - almost a V.I.P. Motorcars were still rare enough to make it worthwhile collecting the numbers, a list of a dozen numbers was quite formidable. I am not old enough to remember the penny-farthing bicycle although I have ridden and fallen off one. Bicycles were known as safety bicycles and it was comparatively rare for a woman to be seen riding one and if she did she invariably had a studio photograph taken of her standing by it and wearing a straw boater. Men always wore a Norfolk suit for cycling, it was a close fitting jacket fairly high up to the neck with lots of strapping, while the breeches were very tight and buttoned below the knee. Stockings, boots not shoes and probably a deerstalker cap completed the outfit. Moustaches were heavy and beards more than common, most houses had one or two outsize breakfast moustache cups with a perforated ledge on the inside so as to avoid the cleansing of the moustache by suction and the soiling of too many table napkins, politely called serviettes.

Little boys were dressed as little girls for some time before they were promoted to kilts, and first breeches always had six pence in one of the pockets. Period photographs will tell you all about the other funny clothes people wore. My earliest recollections were a tall house in a row at Crooksmoor Road, Sheffield, a yellow glass door knob, a red brick wall,

grass and poppies, standing on a large nursery table and the walls covered with Christmas number pictures carefully nailed through slices of cork.

When I was four years old we moved to 29 Rutland Park, it was a new semi-detached house and my father was able to have certain improvements incorporated in it, such as a good size glass sided porch where he grew his bulbs and I later kept goldfish, also a small dressing room which became my bedroom. Rutland Park was a small crescent in which was the Girls High School newly opened, there were good sized houses at each horn of the crescent but the centre part consisted of speculatively built small semi-detached houses, ours was one of the slightly superior ones in as much as we had two bow windows facing the road, a green wooden gate instead of iron, and a red gravel path instead of asphalt, and a slightly bigger front garden than most.

We lived at number twenty nine until I was eighteen years old and every inch of it is ingrained in my memory, the dining room with its oak side board, overmantel, and table covered with a velvet cover, which Esmond couldn't bear to touch because he hated the feel of velvet, the red leather covered chairs with backs broad enough to seat my cat Koko, the window seats always full of bulbs and other pot flowers, your grandfather was a great gardener and gardened up to the last few months of his life, the old basket chair with a hole in front to hide one's slippers, my beloved Koko used to spend hours imprisoned under this chair. It sounds heavily furnished as there was also a writing desk in the bow window, besides two big arm chairs, but I do not remember it as being overcrowded. It was in this room which we commonly used as a sitting room as well as a dining room that I remember smoking my first cigar sitting under the table to avoid the wrath of Heaven I imagine, and carefully putting the part smoked stump back in the hope that it would not be noticed, I suppose, it was a very short time before I was disillusioned.

The drawing room was only commonly used on Sundays or for parties; it was beautifully decorated, the paint white and the wallpaper yellow, the dining room paper was naturally red as was also the hall's, the chairs were mostly rather fragile affairs with embroidered seats done by my mother and there were several rather lovely Persian rugs spread round.

The kitchen was a homely room with a big range taking up the best part of one wall; the joint was always cooked in front of the fire hung on a clockwork spit. We always baked our bread at home. There were nice cool cellars with a big stone table.

On the first floor there were three rooms and a dressing room, the two front rooms were my father and mother's rooms furnished in heavy mahogany. The wardrobe was in three pieces, a huge affair, the bed was a big iron double one with lots of brass knobs that one could undo. The bath was an old fashioned business all encased in wood including the shower

part, which sprayed you from the sides as well as the top. Upstairs there were two other rooms, in one of which your uncle slept and in the other the maid or maids as we usually had a cook and a housemaid, which was of course, quite unnecessary. There was also a lumber room in which we had a good sized joiner's bench and a full set of tools; I can't remember making anything except wooden swords for when I went crusading - I made myself a wonderful crusader's outfit, shield, helmet, white cloak with red cross, swords and daggers of course. Our nursery was on the first floor overlooking the back but it wasn't as much fun as the lumber-room, which was well lit by skylights. I don't recall a great deal of time spent with my brother Esmond, he went away to school when he was ten and all his friends were older than mine and there is a mile of difference between a six and a nine year old.

I first went to school when I was four years old in skirts, a school kept by a widow, a Mrs. Finch, at number eight Ashgate Road, naturally I did no work but it kept me out of mischief. I remember working on sewing cards and singing in a big room with lace curtains on which were stuck butterflies and beetles etc. My teacher was called 'Girlie', a pupil teacher I suppose. I kept at the same page of my arithmetic book with her the whole time at school, which was several years. Girlie had what I thought was a vaccination mark on the top of her nose, one thing I recall very vividly and that was being dragged the whole way to school from home by my father, tearfully and yelling protestations the whole way to school, and what is more every neighbour seemed to see or hear of the occurrence. Later I went to Westbourne Road School kept by two maiden ladies, the Misses Whitfield, they were very fine women too who really endeavoured to give the boys a first class preparatory education, nearly every Sheffield boy went to this prep school and many distinguished themselves in later life. Mrs. Finch also had a very good class of child to look after in spite of having little education herself, many of them turned up to school in carriages and it always had a good name and expanded to a good sized school, her younger son Ernest became one of the best known surgeons in the North of England.

I stayed at Westbourne School until I was fourteen when I went to Abingdon School, Berkshire, one of the oldest but smallest public schools where I spent an undistinguished three years winning no prizes and gaining no colours, however I was happy enough with my similarly undistinguished friends, did as little work as possible except at exam time, and worked hard for the last fortnight of each term in an endeavour to catch up, and so usually held a pretty good form position by the end of term. My reports alternated pretty regularly by being very bad or pretty good, the good ones following paternal threats to take me away and send me to the local Grammar School. I left Abingdon when I was seventeen to commence my commercial career with Hadfields Steel Foundry Company Ltd., which I will talk about later.

At this point I think I should start again at the beginning and mention that I was born on Whit Sunday 21st May 1893, and Blondin, the great tightrope walker was performing in the Botanical Gardens . I was later Christened with Jordan water brought by my grandfather from Palestine where he had recently been touring; Esmond has suggested that the Jordan water Christening may have some bearing on the long periods I have spent in the Near and Middle East, whereas he, Christened in water from the Don, stayed at home. On my fourth birthday Queen Victoria came to Sheffield to open the new Town Hall and I swear to this day she looked up and smiled to me, sitting in a window on the procession route.

Regarding the Botanical Gardens mentioned, these were one minute's walk from our home in Rutland Park and very pleasant they were too, before they became public gardens; when I knew them they were open to subscribers only, bicycles were allowed and you could walk on the grass, and there was a private tennis court, there was a fairy wishing well in the lower woods and bear pits in the upper woods, but the bears had gone long before I played there. Rumour has it that the bears were got rid of after a baby had fallen over the top and been devoured, this is highly improbable. The upper woods were a grand place for playing at Indians. Going back to street lighting - I really believe one got more variety forty years ago than now, and it was a wonderful sight to see all the varieties of arc lighting which could be used in one street. In Sheffield there is a long straight road called the Moor stretching west for over a mile from the centre of the town; from the upper deck of a tram it was fairy like. Arc lighting was the predecessor of electric lighting and the slight different tinge of the bowls gave every shop a different soft colour, so you saw puce, blue, green and yellow stretches of colour, broken here and there with the old naked gas jets, which some conservative shops still retained.

After leaving school it was always intended that I should enter the family Cutlery business of "John Nowill and Sons", as your Uncle Esmond who had been to a much better school than I, was considered the clever one and would be more likely to make his mark in the World on his own without the support of a family business, but in spite of going to the famous Tilley Institute at Berlin where he learned fluent German, a stay in France where he properly learnt French, a year or so at Sheffield University to get his BSc but where he passed Matriculation only. So as he failed in further examinations I suppose my parents' finances could not be stretched further and he was forthwith put into the family business, so I entered Hadfields Steel Foundry Co. Ltd. later known as Hadfields Ltd. One of the Directors was very keen on getting a few well educated boys of good family into the business with a view to training them to become executives and familiar with all the departments. I was one of them and Frank Nicholls who had been at Westbourne Road School with me was another, he was killed in the Great

War; we both started about the same time at a salary of five shillings a week, which after a year was increased to ten shillings. On that I was supposed to do a man's work. I started in the Cash & Books Dept. And gradually passed through other offices after a few months in each, these included the Time Office where I learned to speak broad Sheffield, Drawing Office, Tramway Track, Costs, Estimating and Order Office, and eventually to their Paris Office where they provided me with a bedroom and expected me to live on £100 a year.

I fed pretty well the first few days of every week and starved for the rest. My Chief was a young man Stanley Else who was decidedly clever, we were good friends and we had some good times together. Once at the races I backed a horse ridden by a jockey called 'Lancaster' - it came in second at forty-to-one. I was keen on a girl called Kitty Lancaster at the time, and as there were several good horses like Lanchester, Lancastrian, etc. being raced at that period, I backed them all and did pretty well. I started betting fairly early whilst at Hadfields, my first shilling bet came home a winner and I never stopped betting until I went permanently abroad. I think I broke even on the whole and went to most of the courses in the North. In July 1914 my chief went home on leave so I was left in charge of the Office and then war broke out. There were wild scenes in Paris those days, cheering, processions, one particular one in which I joined as a possible recruit for the Foreign Legion was headed by a very fat little man on a bicycle shouting till he was purple in the face "a Berlin, a Berlin". I eventually put myself down for the English Section of the Foreign Legion and promised one hundred francs towards its equipment; but before I could implement this promise I was recalled home, so handed in all the books to the Bank for safekeeping, collected all the gold I could, and packed my bag leaving behind my dress suit and my ebony elephant and my 'Vie Parisienne' pictures. I was careful to take my dressing gown with me; I recovered everything at the end of the war with the exception of the pictures, which a friend pinched.

Contributed by Lavinia Phillips

BOOK LIST

How our ancestors lived by David Hey

Published by the Public Record Office

ISBN 1 903365 21 X. Price £19.99

This book combines material from census returns and contemporary pictorial and written sources to paint a vivid picture of life in England and Wales during the latter part of Victoria's reign and into the first decade of the twentieth century.

Ebenezer Elliott: Corn Law Rhymer & Poet of the Poor by Keith Morris & Ray Hearne. Price £7.50. Published by Rotherham Library.

It includes some notes aimed at family historians. Elliott lived in Sheffield for 22 years. Born in Rotherham in 1781 he died in 1849 and is buried in Darfield near Barnsley.

The Wentworths of Wentworth: The Fitzwilliam (Wentworth) Estates and the Wentworth monuments. By Geoffrey Howse

ISBN 0 9543066 9 4. Price £12.95

This is an account of the buildings and monuments of the Wentworth Woodhouse estate and of some of the people who influenced the development of the estate and the surrounding villages.

All royalties from the sale of the book will be donated to the Fitzwilliam Wentworth Amenity Trust to assist in the future preservation of the estate monuments.

Balby Beginnings. The Launching of Quakerism by Richard Hoare

A history of Quakers around Sheffield, Doncaster and Thorne from 1651 to 1730 – with some of their dissenting neighbours.

The book includes a guide to surnames in the Quaker registers and other sources.

Price £10 inc p & p from Richard Hoare, 25 Moor Oaks Road, Sheffield D10 1BX.

BACK COPIES FREE TO NEW MEMBERS

If you are interested in owning back copies of *The Flowing Stream* The Society has a limited number available free to new members. The journals are from 2001 and 2002.

To receive journals as available please send a large self addressed envelope and 9 x 2nd class stamps to the editor:

Mrs D. Marsden, "Lee Moor End", Storrs, Stannington, Sheffield S6 6GY.

Unused stamps will be returned.

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, Chesterfield, 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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THE SOCIETY WEBSITE www.sheffieldfhs.org.uk

Have you looked at it yet?

If you haven't you will not have found

- A message board where members and non-members can post their messages and receive replies.
- A list of members' interests.
- A section where you can ask for help with your research.
- A way of reaching both members and non-members.

